

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

In Case You Didn't Know

Veterans Day is often confused with Memorial Day according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. To add to the confusion, some Americans do not understand why we commemorate our Veterans on November 11.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



It is of utmost importance to understand this history so we can honor our former members of our armed forces properly.

Formerly known as "Armistice Day," originally was deemed a US legal holiday to honor the end of WWI. That would be November 11, 1918. However, in legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I Veterans.

Then in 1954 after WWII and Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the insistence of our VSOs changed the word "Armistice" to "Veterans" and November 11 became a day to honor all Veterans of all wars.

Forward to 1968 when Congress passed the "Uniform Holiday Bill," insuring government employees got four three day weekends, including Veterans Day, it was moved to the fourth Monday in October. Several states rebelled, ignoring this law and continued celebrating Veterans Day on its original date. I would say confusion and discontent brought on by politicians, trying to be "friends" with everyone, as is their usual, huh?

Finally on September 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of Nov. 11, beginning in 1978. Since then, the Veterans Day holiday has been observed on Nov. 11.

Thank you President Ford for determining and officially restoring this honorable day to what it was originally intended to be by our many Veterans Service Organizations. Please note that if November 11 falls upon a Saturday or Sunday, the holiday is observed by our federal government on Monday if the eleventh is on Sunday and Friday if on Saturday. Hope this doesn't confuse things any further.

The difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day
 Memorial Day honors service members who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle. Deceased veterans are also remembered on Veterans Day but the day is set aside to thank and honor living veterans who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime.

We are blessed here in Towns County, GA to have had two county commissioners who honor our large percentage of Veteran residents who either by birth or choice of making Towns County their home, reside here.

We also have a small but beautiful Towns County Memorial Park created over thirty years ago by Mr. Bill Kendall and currently honored by Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw with his willingness to assist our Veterans community concerns with Towns County Memorial Park.

Let us count our blessings to be here and honor our Veterans always. Hope to see you there at our Veterans Day Services on November 11, 2017 at 11 AM!

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

One of the most interesting parts of the *Towns County Herald* to me is Letters to the Editor. However, it seems either not enough local people are sending in letters or the newspaper staff is not selecting them for print.

I think that Letters to the Editor should be about local issues, not national issues. I urge more readers to send in comments about issues that concern them, even though they may seem trivial. I hope the Herald will print more letters if readers will send them in.

Let's make Letters to the Editor an interesting part of our weekly reading!

Jerry Carnes

Thoughtfully Choosing a Candidate

Dear Editor,

As the election day for mayor and city council in Hiawassee draws closer, I trust the registered voters in the city are preparing to vote, they have researched these candidates carefully, and will cast their vote to elect the candidates who will move our city forward.

From my perspective as a part of the Board Team in charge of Hamilton Gardens, this is a pivotal year for us and other businesses in Hiawassee and Towns County. The outcome of this election will be a determining factor in the success of our efforts to continue the restoration of this local garden treasure; a major goal of our strategic plan.

Tourism is the driver of our total economy; any effort to improve our city adds value for those who visit and spend money here.

At the gardens, we are frequently asked "where to eat, where to shop, where to stay". Being able to direct visitors to Hiawassee for quality food, lodging, and a safe place to shop is the best possible answer. By our best count, approximately 6,000 visitors have been to the gardens so far, this year. Most are not from the immediate area, and therefore are searching for other services and amenities in Hiawassee.

A mayor and city council who are committed to the Comprehensive Plan, working in concert with the county and Young Harris, will provide a roadmap to a vibrant future.

When you are considering your vote, and when candidates call at your door, or on the telephone, ask the questions they were asked at the recent Candidates Forum. 1. What are your two major goals for the City in the next 5 years, based on the Comprehensive Plan? 2. How do you see the County and two cities working together to bring economic development to the area? 3. What are your qualifications for serving in an elected capacity, i.e. experience and skills for the job?

This is an important election for all of us.

Cast your vote for the candidates with demonstrated leadership abilities who believe in the future of Hiawassee and have the skills and experience to make it happen!

Respectfully,
Grace Howard
 Hamilton Gardens Board Team

FAC Coalition - 1 Week in October

The Appalachian RC&D FAC Coalition (ARFC) is made up of 6 RC&D Councils that cover 55 counties in the Appalachian Mountains from our corner of northeast Georgia thru Western North Carolina and into Southwest Virginia. The ARFC's purpose is to spread our successful Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) way-of-life that we have developed in Towns County across these 6 RC&D work areas (55 counties) in the Appalachian chain. Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D (CCRCD) has been the coordinator of the FAC development work in Towns County since FAC was started in 2013. CCRCD was one of the original 8 organizations chosen nationally to develop the FAC concept.

RC&D
Frank Riley
 Executive Director



In 2015, Tony Tooke (now Chief of the Forest Service) asked us if we could take our nationally acclaimed FAC program through this area to spread our success in communities that are at risk from wildfires. CCRCD developed the ARFC to meet Tony's challenge. The U.S. Forest Service provided funding and CCRCD is the administrator of the project. This will be a snapshot of one week (8 programs in 7 days) in the life of ARFC and CCRCD working with communities and partners to spread FAC.

CCRCD & ARFC and its partners have been busy in the pre-fire season in the mountains of North Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia. CCRCD presented the FAC message in 6 programs a week ago and presented 2 programs today: *CCRCD participated in a for-Credit course for landscapers with the NC Cooperative Extension in Boone, NC. ARFC used Firewise and defensible space landscaping guides to teach the landscapers landscaping methods that create landscapes that are more fire resistant. CCRCD is in the process of developing a landscaper program to use in the mountain area of North Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia and this was a first test of the program. 40 attendees; *CCRCD participated in a county-wide Homeowner meeting in Linville Falls, NC, "How to prepare your home ahead of the upcoming wildfire season" facilitated by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) along with US Forest Service (USFS), and NC Forest Service (NCFS). 20 attendees; *CCRCD sponsored (with CCRCD & NRCS funding) a forestry field day for the Greene-Morgan Forest Landowners association near Greensboro, GA. We had field demonstrations of wildfire mitigation methods, prescribed burning, wildlife management, and fire prevention in-the-forest and-on-Farm was the theme. CCRCD collaborated with USFS, GFC, and other agencies to produce the event. 100 attendees; *CCRCD sponsored a community fire prevention program in Blairsville. Union county is one of our emerging FAC projects. 40 attendees. *CCRCD presented the wildfire education program to the Pelohi Cove HOA meeting in Bryson City, NC.

Pelohi Cove had a major fire in 2009 that the residents have not forgotten and are ready to become Fire Adapted. 35 attendees. *CCRCD participated in a county-wide community meeting in Rabun County GA, that was the scene of the 28,000-acre Rock Mountain fire in the Fall of 2016. The residents are reminded of this event daily and many are ready to adopt the FAC way-of-life and reduce their risk of wildfire. We have held three organizational meetings with the Rabun County fire department, USFS, and Georgia Forestry Commission to organize a FAC program in Rabun County. 20 attendees. *CCRCD presented our FAC successes to the Southern Cherokee FLN kickoff meeting at the Ocoee Whitewater center in Ocoee, TN. State, federal, local, and private agencies, and organizations concerned with wildfire were in attendance. The meeting was facilitated by TNC. 18 attendees. *CCRCD presented FAC to a multi-community

home-owner meeting in Brasstown, NC where attendees participated in a discussion with NCFE, USFS, CCRCD, and ARFC to learn how to become more Fire Adapted. 65 attendees.

The CCRCD and the Appalachian RC&D FAC Coalition has been very busy developing our team of wildfire collaborators in the Appalachian region and are gathering more partners every day to promote the FAC way of life in the region. In one week and one day we have presented 8 programs to emergency agencies and landowners to learn about how to become fire adapted. It takes time to change public opinion and habits, but slowly and surely, we are spreading the FAC message that wildfire is a natural event that those of us who live in the Wildland Urban Interface must learn to live with and become more Fire Adapted to protect our communities and local infrastructure. If we burn these beautiful mountains, people will go somewhere else for recreation and second homes. Do your part to help us become Fire Adapted - Be ready, be Firewise, and be Safe.

For more information on Appalachian RC&D Fire Adapted Communities Coalition or Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D contact us at: info.ccrd@gmail.com and check our websites www.chestchattred.org or www.appcofac.org.

GUEST COLUMNS

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc.

Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*

Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

Fall Color

Without a doubt, one of my favorite times of year in the mountains is the beginning of autumn when the air begins to turn crisp. Festivals are every weekend, the air has a nice spice to it, and the trees begin to look like watercolors across the skyline. While we are never wanting for scenic views, some years offer more vibrant fall color than others. We achieve peak color when we have bright sunny days, cool nights, and the perfect amount of rain.

UGA extension
From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee



Though most plants, including evergreens, do have a fall leaf or needle loss, it is only deciduous trees that offer us a striking color show. This is because deciduous trees such as oaks, maples, birches and poplars all have what is called an abscission layer on the stems of their leaves. As day lengths shorten and temperatures drop, the cells in the abscission layer cut off nutrients to the leaves so the tree can store them for the winter. Chlorophyll, which gives leaves their green color, quickly breaks down and is no longer replaced as it has been throughout the spring and summer. Chlorophyll is important because it absorbs light and aids in creating much needed sugars. However, there are several other pigments in leaves that also assist in this process.

Carotenoids and Xanthophyll pigments are two other leaf components that help to create food for the plant. Beta-carotene is the most common carotenoid and gives leaves a brilliant yellow and orange-yellow hue. Lutein is a common xanthophyll pigment and produces the bright yellow seen in plants such as common sweetshrub. These pigments also break down as the abscission layer closes off the leaf from the rest of the tree, but they do so much slower than chlorophyll, causing the color gradient that autumn is so well known for.

Tannins are also present in deciduous trees and shrubs. These are the substances that give coffee and tea their bitter flavor. They are found in many plants and are used as a defense against deer and other creatures that would nibble their leaves and cause stress. These are responsible for a golden color, such as early autumn witch hazel, and the brown color found late in fall because they take the longest to break down.

Finally, anthocyanins give us the bright reds and purples seen in many of our maples and oaks. They are anti-oxidants and protect leaves from light damage. They are made from the processing of stored glucose in leaves and break down faster than tannins.

The wide variety of plants and their pigments contributes greatly to our colorful landscape in late October and early November. While they have gone relatively unnoticed during the green seasons of spring and summer, with the breakdown of chlorophyll, the yellow, orange, gold and red pigments finally have their chance to shine.

For more information on native trees, fall colors, and how to landscape for maximum fall color, contact your local extension office.



Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:		
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm	
Bingo	Brasstown Manor		9:30 am
	Every Tuesday:		
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center		4 pm
	Every Wednesday		
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building		7 pm
	Every Thursday:		
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm	
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center		4 pm
	Every Friday:		
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building		7 pm
	Every Sunday:		
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building		7 pm
	First Monday of each month:		
Mtn. Amat. Radio	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.		6:30 pm
	First Tuesday of each month:		
Alzheimer's Supp.	McConnell Church		1:30 pm
American Legion	VFW Post 7807		4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall		6 pm
Young Harris Council	YH City Hall		7 pm
	First Wednesday of each month:		
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church		10 am
	First Thursday of each month:		
Stephens Lodge	Lodge Hall		7:30 pm
	Second Monday of each month:		
Chamber Board	1411 Jack Dayton Cir.		8 am
Historical Society	Old Rec. Center		5:30 pm
Mtn. Comp. Users	www.mcug.org		6 pm
Planning Comm.	Civic Center		7 pm
School Board	Auditorium		7 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Lodge Hall		7:30 pm
	Second Tuesday of each month:		
Caregiver support	Brasstown Manor		3 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild	Mtn. Regional Library		4 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant		6 pm
Mtn. Coin Club	N. GA Tech		6 pm
	Second Wednesday of each month:		
Basket Weavers	SC Fire Hall		10 am
Board of Elections	67 Lakeview Cir., Ste. A		4 pm
	Second Thursday of each month:		
CVB Board	Rec Center		9 am
Awake America Prayer	Civic Center		Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center		1 pm
	Last Thursday of each month:		
Humane Shelter Bd.	Cadence Bank		5:30 pm

Publication No: 635540

Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.

Towns County (1 Year) \$20. Out of County (1 Year) \$30. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points. The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. **Postmaster:** Send change of address to: Towns County Herald, P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546.

Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiawassee
 Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: tcherald@windstream.net
 Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Kenneth West Owner/Publisher	Charles Duncan Editor	Shawn Henrikson Copy Editor	Lowell Nicholson Photographer
Derek Richards Advertising Director	Shawn Jarrard Staff Writer	Lily Avery Staff Writer	Website: townscountyherald.net