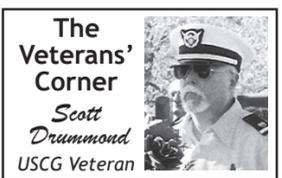


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Welcome Charlie and Julie Andrews

Charlie was born in Sarasota, FL qualified to be a true "cracker". After graduation from Sarasota High School in 1973 Charlie enlisted in the United States Navy. He was thrilled at all the opportunities afforded him such as travel, adventure, unlimited educational opportunities and the challenges of an exciting career. And what a career it turned out to be! Serving aboard many different types of U.S. combatant ships, sailing around the globe, learning of new cultures, and of course making new friends, as he has done here. After time in rank as a Chief Petty Officer, Charlie decided to apply for Commission, and excelling throughout the intense and very competitive process was commissioned as a Chief Warrant Officer, Permanent Grade, by President George Bush, Sr. The remainder of Charlie's USN career was spent doing "sea time" as well as shore commands around the world, thus was awarded numerous commendations and decorations for his dedication and service to our nation. Among those are the Navy Commendation Medal, with Gold Star, Navy Achievement Medal with three Gold Stars, Combat Service Ribbon, Presidential Unit Ribbon, National Defense Service Ribbon with Bronze Star, Sea Service Ribbon with Silver and Bronze Star, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, and Surface Warfare Specialist Insignia. Retirement in 1996 brought Charlie back to Sarasota as a "Sand Crab".



The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran

He became very successful, creating Windward Transport Inc., a non-medical, non-emergency secure transport for wheelchair and stretcher transportation; he was notorious for keeping costs down and passing along the savings to his clients. This led to many long-term contracts, and a huge growth for his business model. After deciding to sell his company, he did a little remodeling of oceanfront properties.

Charlie is married to Julie Salerno Andrews, also of Sarasota, and they have two sons, one daughter, six grandchildren, four girls and two boys. Julie is a very energetic and outgoing lady, always cheerful and full of humor. After moving to Hiawassee, GA, several years ago, they both do a lot of volunteer work within our beautiful, peaceful mountain community, in particular our Veterans organizations. They attend church at the "Dwelling Place", Pastor Dwight Moss.

Julie serves as one of our representatives for the Women's Auxiliary for Veterans of Foreign Wars, Towns County Chapter, and is actively seeking donations to assist in supporting their many volunteer projects. She is also instrumental in an upcoming fundraiser at Lakeside Pickleball Courts, 02 April 2016 from 10 AM till 2 PM. A raffle, Pickleball events with Veterans, a bake sale, silent auction and more. Donations and volunteers needed, call Julie at 941-914-0699. You may not know this but from the inception of "Pickleball", here in Towns County, they have been very supportive of all our Veterans, organizations and events.

In closing, Charlie's own words, "Hiawassee, GA is the best place in the world to plant your roots and thanks for all the warm welcomes."

Semper Paratus

Balancing the Moments

Time behaves strangely when we lose a friend or a loved one. Memories crystallize from our streams of consciousness that are otherwise liquid and flowing in the flood of countless moments that make up our days and nights. A coffee cup sits empty, still warm, placed politely in the sink by the friend who just left to meet his fate a few blocks away. A jar of homemade soup, put on the shelf by the loving hand of a grandmother with a thought for the future, catches the morning sun shining in through the kitchen window on the morning of her funeral. A four leafed clover marks a bible passage, left there by a mother, now departed, who liked to leave little surprises.

The last time I saw our friend, Niota Nations, she laughed at me trying to step over her pet gate carrying a big bag of cat food. I don't think we ever saw her that she didn't find something to smile about, and she never failed to make us smile. Isn't that just the kind of thing that we never seem to notice until someone is gone? Niota fed our cats and watched our house for us when we were away from home. She gave us the freedom to travel, through all the declining years of my parents when we needed to be there for them, for doctors' appointments and business trips, and for those much needed escapes from the burdens of care giving.

Though she lived alone, she always seemed to know everything that was going on in the valley, and so over the years she became a kind of touchstone for us when we were away from home. When we were home, Niota was the destination that inspired the bike ride that unwound the tension of sitting too long in front of a computer. Her front porch looked out over a green valley rolling up to distant mountaintops. It was decorated by myriad items artfully re-purposed. In the warm months she was surrounded by flowers and the buzz of hummingbirds. During the holidays you could see her Christmas lights from far away. Her wind chimes made a soothing background music when the afternoon breeze came down from the mountain.

Now that she is gone, I realize that I don't know much about her life outside of our own interactions. She didn't offer to tell and we didn't ask. She was a very private person. Too late to tell her, I see now that hers was a pure form of friendship, unburdened by the kind of judgments and assumptions that can come with too much personal history. We all took each other at face value, and our friendship was buoyant, and self-sustaining.

Nevertheless, we do not lose a friend without some sense of regret for things left unsaid or undone. It saddens me that she died alone, though I cannot say that someone as independent as she would not have preferred it that way. I wish we had called her one more time. We were away from home when she died, and normally we would have talked more often, but being preoccupied we took it for granted that she would be there when we did call.

I think we all took it for granted that she would be there. None of us knew of any health problems. Niota walked every day, rain or shine, and she always exuded vigor. Her passing reminds me again of how thin the line is that separates life from death. Her passing reminds me, again, to never take anyone for granted.

When we lose a friend or a loved one, I think we all experience similar regrets. We tell ourselves that now we will live our lives with renewed appreciation, and that we will never take anyone or anything for granted again. Yet over time, the flow of events speeds up again and we find ourselves heading downstream, once again unaware of so many of the moments passing by. Perhaps this is necessary, for to dwell too long on our mortality is to become morbid. So we do the best we can, to find that balance between the moment we have now, and that unanticipated last moment that we will all eventually face.



The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Lawn Maintenance

With this beautiful weather, plants are popping up all over the place! For the most part this means beautiful tree blossoms, dazzling daffodils and lush, green grass. However, to the lawn-conscious homeowner, it means one thing: weeds.



UGA Extension
From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee

It has only been a few weeks but I've already seen dandelions, henbit and other weeds everywhere. Though the appearance of plants such as these means it's a little too late for a pre-emergent herbicide that will halt broadleaf weed development, there is still a small chance to head off crabgrass by spreading a granular weed grass pre-emergent, such as pendimethalin. If you apply pendimethalin or another pre-emergent to your lawn, it's important to not apply any seed for six months. Homeowners in South Georgia and Florida can get away with seeding soon after weeding because of their tolerant warm season grasses such as zoysia and St. Augustine, but the cool season grass mix so many of us have here in the mountains is very susceptible to many preventative herbicides. Established lawns can handle this treatment, but new seeds will not be able to sprout.

To deal with established broadleaf weeds, it is best to use a post-emergent (herbicide that kills weeds that have already sprouted) throughout the spring and summer as needed. One suggested post-emergent is a formula that contains Quinlorac, 2,4-D, and Diacamba. These are all effective herbicides and the combination of all three provides a powerful treatment that targets both unwanted grasses such as crabgrass and broadleaf weeds, while leaving your lawn unharmed. You can find this and pendimethalin wherever lawn care products are sold.

While it's important to kill the weeds in your lawn, it's also important to feed the grass that you actually want to grow. Spring and fall are prime times to fertilize cool season grasses, but remember: get your soil tested! It's recommended that you take lawn soil samples once every two to three years, so if you haven't submitted one in a while, I suggest you do so. This will give us the best idea of what your lawn needs to thrive this year and when to apply it.

If you're planning to seed this year, stop applying post-emergent in August. Then, in September, aerate your lawn to loosen the soil. Crabgrass and weeds often become a problem when grass and soil become compacted. Aerating your lawn helps give your grass a boost and allows it to out-compete other plants that may try to establish. This is a great time to seed any cool season grass mix if you want to touch up your lawn (usually some ratio of fescue, bluegrass and sometimes ryegrass). This will allow the seeds to germinate and grow through fall, winter and early spring and by the time the heat arrives, your grass will be mature and more heat tolerant than if you had planted it just before summer.

Another lawn enemy to be on the lookout for is voles. Voles, unlike moles, will come to the surface to graze. Because of this they are significantly easier to deal with than moles. You can address your vole problem by placing snap traps baited with peanut butter and sunflower seeds or oats all around your property. They won't be able to resist this tasty (but deadly) trap!

If I've piqued your interest and you'd like to know more about how to get the most out of your lawn, the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center Community Council is hosting a seminar on lawn maintenance Friday, March 25th at 10 a.m. RSVP to GMREC at (706) 745-2655.

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

Towns County should be proud
The Northeast Georgia Mountain Travel Association held its semiannual conference last week at the Ridges Resort and Marina on March 6 and 7. The conference is made up of Travel and Tourism professionals from not only the Northeast Georgia counties (17 in total), but the Northwest Georgia counties (17 in total) and professionals from all over Georgia. The reason I am writing this letter is to tell you how blessed you are to have such a wonderful facility in the Ridges Resort and Marina and the staff lead by Hayley Burch and Lori McClure were outstanding and very accommodating. I would be remiss if I didn't brag on one of the best chamber presidents I've had the pleasure to work with, Ms. Candace Lee of Towns County. She is your best cheerleader and one that genuinely cares about her county and the Northeast Travel region. She always puts her best foot forward and ensures that no rock is left unturned. She was the conference chair for this year and put together the best conference we have ever had. Great job Towns County, you should be proud. We will be back.

Sincerely,
Jerry Brown
President of the
Northeast Georgia Mountain Travel Association

To the Editor:

The Los Angeles Guitar Quartet charmed an enthusiastic audience on the campus of Young Harris College Friday evening, March 18. Their program was wide-ranging, showcasing the quartet's world-class musicianship and talent. Their encore performance of "Farewell to Stromness" by composer Peter Maxwell Davies brought tears to the eyes of a number of audience members.

The Rollins Student Center provided an excellent venue for the performance - a fine example of the many benefits of having this beautiful campus in the community. Congratulations to YHC and to Dr. Richard Knepp, head of YHC's guitar program, for bringing us these world-famous recording artists.

Bob Moffitt

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 that would make important 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@brmcmc.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.)

RC&D Spotlights White County, Georgia

Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council's work area covers the 13 counties of northeast Georgia from Union down to Forsyth over to Hart and up to Rabun. This week the spotlight is on White County.

White County, the 123rd county formed in Georgia, was created in 1857 from a part of the original land lot county of Habersham. Two previous attempts to pull land from Habersham County to fashion a new county had failed. It was not until State Representative David T. White of Newton County lent his support to the cause that the legislature at last agreed to organize the county. In appreciation, residents named the county in White's honor. The county seat, Cleveland, is named for Colonel Ben Cleveland who fought in the Revolutionary War.

In the broad Nacoochee Valley of White County, archeologists have found remains of Gauxule, an ancient Cherokee Indian town and a site visited by Hernando De Soto. The area also houses other artifacts that researchers attribute to an ancient, unidentified race. The highest point in White County is 4,430-foot Tray Mountain, shared with Towns County to the north. Tray is the 6th-highest mountain peak in Georgia. Another very prominent White County peak is Yonah Mountain, also known as Mount Yonah. This 3,143-foot peak, located between Helen and Cleveland, is rimmed by sheer cliffs and is the highest point on Georgia's Piedmont Plateau. In early times, the area of White County formed a transitional boundary between the Cherokee and Creek Native-American nations. White County was once a part of the Cherokee Indian Nation. The Indian Mound at the intersection of Highways 17 and 75 is one of several known mounds in the area and is one of the most recognizable landmarks in the state.

Gold was discovered in the Duke's Creek area in 1828, beginning the Great Georgia Gold Rush, which led to the removal of the Indians via the Trail of Tears. Gold was found in White County in the late 1820s on the Nacoochee River, then known as Duke's Creek, touching off the Great Gold Rush of that century. Gold mining operations are still found today along the banks of the Town and Tesnatee Creeks in western White County. The Chattahoochee River has its headwaters in the northern portion of White County and winds its way south to metropolitan Atlanta and points beyond. Landmarks such as Chattahoochee, Sautee, Nacoochee, and Yonah are examples of White County's historic past. Growth in White County has been 53 percent in the last ten years and is expected to continue to rise in the next decade. White County still has a lot of farming; and, the pastoral views of stands of corn and rolls of hay in the fields, along with the mountains, rivers and streams, is one of the advantages of living here. Another advantage would be in White County's proximity to the metropolitan areas of Atlanta, making it the best of both worlds and many citizens make the trek to work in the metropolitan areas and escape back to the tranquility of the mountains at days end.

White County includes 41,533 acres of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. The Forest is named for the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River and is home to a section of the Appalachian Trail. White County is home to the Alpine Village of Helen which draws many tourists and visitors year 'round to browse the many shops and attend the unique events, festivals, and activities that happen all during the year in and around the town. Tubing down the Chattahoochee is a favorite pastime for old and young alike during the hot months of summer. Hot air balloon races to the east coast start in downtown Helen and attract many colorful balloons that create an awesome sight when they lift off at sunrise to catch the winds and attempt to be first to reach I-95. The world renowned Babyland General Hospital birthplace of the Cabbage Patch Kids is in Cleveland and the county has eight premier vineyards and wineries representing the heart of Georgia's Wine Country, and Southern Appalachian folk potters such as Lanier Meaders make White County home. White County is also developing the next Fire Adapted Community to help make its citizen's homes safer from wildfire.

For more information on White County or any of the programs provided by Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D contact Frank Riley, Executive Director at: info.cccrd@gmail.com.



RC&D
Frank Riley
Executive Director

Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
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Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
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Mtn. Amat. Radio	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
Alzheimer's Supp.	McCConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall	5:30 pm
Young Harris Coun.	YH City Hall	7 pm
Quilting Bee	McCConnell Church	10 am
Stephens Lodge	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
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.	Courthouse	7 pm
School Board	Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Caregiver support	Brasstown Manor	3 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild	Calvary Chapel	6 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Mtn. Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
Basket Weavers	SC Fire Hall	10 am
Board of Elections	Old Rock Jail	4 pm
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	5 pm
Square Dance Club	Rec. Center	7 pm
Red Cross DAT	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Republican Party	New Senior Ctr.	6:30 pm
Square Dance Club	Rec. Center	7 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 subscriptions must be paid in advance by cash, check or credit card. **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

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