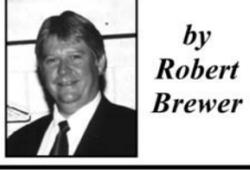


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Extension Tips



by
Robert Brewer

Gardening tips for June

June is a great time to plant! Plants and trees that provide color in the month of June include Azaleas, Hydrangeas, Rhododendrons, Spireas, Butterfly Bush, Mock Orange and Golden Rain Tree. Visit your local nursery and see these beautiful plants in bloom.

It's a great time to plant annuals, perennials and all trees and shrubs. Nurseries have many beautiful annuals to choose from, including Geraniums, Impatiens, Marigolds, Petunias, Vinca, Salvia and many other plants. Perennials that provide interest in the month of June include Daylilies, Astilbe, Rudbeckia, Yarrow, Foxglove and much more.

We recommend fertilizing annuals, perennials and flowering shrubs and trees with a slow-release plant food that contains nitrogen, sulfate of potash, iron and other micro-nutrients for overall plant growth and development.

We recommend feeding all your evergreens (Hollies, Boxwoods and Yews) and deciduous trees (Maples, Oaks and Ash) with tree & shrub food.

Check all plants, especially newly planted ones, for water on a regular basis. Water deeply and thoroughly as needed.

Gator bags provide a great way to keep trees watered during hot and dry months. These bags, which can hold up to 20 gallons of water, are secured to the trunk of the tree, where they release the water slowly to the root ball over the course of 15-20 hours.

Now is a great time to install a water garden. Water features will allow you to enjoy the soothing sights and sounds of water.

Spruce up your summer landscape with beautiful color in containers. Be sure to use potting mix when planting and a water-grabbing polymer such as Soul Moist to reduce the frequency of watering.

Pest control: Various pest problems can occur in May. If you have plants that you suspect may be facing a pest problem, bring in a representative sample to your local county Extension office agent and they will help diagnose the problem and recommend the appropriate control.

Fruit trees should be on a regular spray program. See your local Extension website for tree spray program bulletin.

Search engines like Google.com can help you find your local educational facility site to help you with answers that are least likely to harm the environment to solve pest problems, with specific control recommendations.

Be on the lookout for these pests: Bagworms, Borers, Gypsy Moths, Lacebugs, Scale, Spider Mites, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Caterpillars, Japanese Beetles.

Fruit and vegetable gardens: It's a great time to plant ap-

ple, pear, peach and all other fruit trees. Fruit trees require two different varieties to pollinate properly. Be aware of this and ask a nursery professional to guide you in selecting varieties.

You can also plant vegetables in containers and grow them on decks, patios or other small spaces. Use potting mix when planting.

Fruit trees need to be sprayed on a regular schedule, although you do not spray your fruit trees when the blossoms are wide open.

It's a great time to plant strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and blackberries.

Fertilize fruits and vegetables with a good quality, slow-release vegetable food such as Osmocote.

Time to stake tomatoes and spray them if necessary to prevent disease problems.

Lawns: To prevent the summer crop of crabgrass, apply a second application of pre-emergence control such as TEAM (if you have not seeded the lawn recently) or TUPERLAN (if you did seed the lawn recently. Note - if you applied barricade earlier this spring, you do not need a summer application of crabgrass control.

June is the time to apply fungicide to the lawn to control turf diseases such as brown patch, dollar spot and others. Use Bayleton or Daconil.

Apply Perk-Up to the lawn to keep it nice and green throughout the summer months. This product contains 10% iron, which gives added color without excessive growth.

If needed, apply a weed control to the lawn to kill actively growing weeds. Use Dragon Lawn Weed Killer or Ortho B Gone.

Tips on applying weed killer: Do not apply weed controls on newly seeded areas.

Do not apply weed controls on windy days.

Do not apply weed controls near or on the edge of waterways.

Do not allow children or pets to play on lawns freshly applied with weed controls. It is best to wait one week.

Do not apply weed controls when temperatures are above 85 degrees F.

ALWAYS follow the label directions.

House plants: You can move houseplants outside to the deck or patio and enjoy them outdoors for the summer. It is best to gradually introduce them to more direct sunlight to prevent the leaves from being burned.

Feed houseplants with a good quality indoor plant food such as Osmocote (slow release granular).

If needed, re-pot root bound houseplants to a larger plant. Use potting mix when re-potting houseplants.

Hibiscus, Jasmine, Oleander and Mandevilla are just some of the flowering tropical plants you can add to your deck, patio or balcony.

These tips are only of a general nature. Plants and climate will greatly differ wherever your garden may be. Always check these suggestions against your local Extension office's advice.

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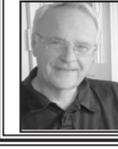
Letters to The Editor

Editor:

Thank you for your recent recitation of applicable Georgia Law regarding BOE executive (i.e., secret) sessions. I am keenly aware of similar laws and they are perfectly constitutional when it comes to the decision-making process (much like secret jury deliberations). But I, as a lawyer for the past 40 years, suggest it is unconstitutional if the affected party in a personnel matter is not allowed to be heard during the fact-finding process (much like a trial where witnesses, to include the actual parties, are allowed to testify), absent a waiver of that due process right by that affected party. My question is (and has been) what happened during the recent process pertaining to the affected educator, i.e., was he afforded due process under the Georgia and federal constitutions?

Finally, your readers should note that the applicable Georgia law allows (but does not require) closed BOE sessions under the applicable circumstances. I further suggest that, in the spirit of open government and considering the widened public interest, the community should have been permitted more participation. Expediency should never be a substitute for our "We the people" system of justice and democracy.

Chuck G. Spears



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Q: Our oldest son is just entering middle school and his dad and I are not very happy about the kids he is spending time with. Should we be worried, and is there something we should do about it?

A: I hear this a lot from parents, and here is how I answer. First, "worried" is maybe not the term of choice. "Aware" may be a better one. In middle school we need to know where our kids are and who they're with. Worrying about it is not as important as knowing about it.

As you know, the typical response from a 14-year old may very well go something like, "C'mon, Dad, it feels like you don't trust me." Dad might answer, "Well, we trust you as much as you trust yourself. As you know and we know, growing up is a lot about getting to know yourself, about where you're weak and where you're strong. As your parents, part of our job is to help you grow in the weak spots. We do that by being watchful. The more you demonstrate that you are making smart choices the less you'll feel as if we're breathing down your neck."

Will that solve the problem? Not likely. But these suggestions should help.

1. At the right moment - not in the heat of a pitched battle - have a talk about friends and the important influences they have in our lives.

2. Let your kids know you believe there are probably a lot of their schoolmates for whom they can be a positive influence, and you believe they will.

3. Let them know they can always quote you, Mom and Dad, as the reason they give their friends why they can't participate in some behavior they don't feel good about. "Naw, I can't do that - my Dad would tear me up," may help take off some of the pressure.

4. Get acquainted with as many of your kids' friends - and their parents - as you can. Invite them over and do stuff at your house. Help their peers understand why your kids have such high respect for you.

One of the exciting parts of this strategy is that this is going to give you, as Mom and Dad, a whole new group of kids to bless that you likely wouldn't have met if they hadn't been hanging out with your kids.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.



"IT'S ON MY MIND.."

Danny H. Parris

Bumfuzzled Fathers

The annual recognition of fathers has arrived. This Father's Day finds more "Bumfuzzled Fathers" than at any other Father's Day in history. First of all, let me tell you that you probably won't find "bumfuzzled" in Webster's Dictionary, nor in any other dictionary for that matter. However, bumfuzzled is a very important word for any educated person's vocabulary. Growing up here in the mountains if you wanted to express your feelings of total frustration, complete bewilderment, being puzzled, baffled and absolutely at your wits end, not knowing what to do, the word that best defined that feeling was bumfuzzled. When Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt and found himself looking into the Red Sea with mountains and desert on either side and Pharaoh's army breathing down his neck, I believe Moses must have looked up at God and said in Hebrew, "Lord, I am bumfuzzled." When Jonah rebelled and ran away from God and ended up in the great fish's belly, don't you think ole Jonah might have said, "Lord, I am bumfuzzled." When Daniel was thrown into the lion's den don't you suppose he may have said, "Lord, I am bumfuzzled." When Paul and Silas were thrown in jail at Philippi, they probably said in Greek, "Lord, we are bumfuzzled." Fathers, when you are bumfuzzled the solution is to pray. One father was really bumfuzzled. He had just spent several thousand dollars on his daughter's wedding and then read in the paper "the father GAVE the bride away."

With same sex marriages, artificial insemination and cloning some radical feminists

are saying that men are no longer needed to propagate the human race. With all of this talk of political correctness and tolerance it seems the only two unprotected groups are fathers and Christians. There are some radical voices in our society who are advocating doing away with a national Father's Day or Mother's Day because it offends children who have two moms or two dads! Indeed, the roles of men and fathers have been muddled by a Godless society. Any man or father who lets society tell him who he is will be bumfuzzled from the cradle to the grave. The Bible says "God created them, male and female created He them." And may I add that all the king's horses and all the king's men will never change that. God has a Divine Design and the father has been blessed with the precious privilege to be the head and leader of the family. Fathers, read the Bible and know who you are, not by society but spiritually through God's revelation. God bless you dear, Godly fathers. May the humor from a young boy brighten your Father's Day.

"When Pop's down at the office He's a mighty 'portant guy, He growls his orders, loud and fierce, An' makes his 'plovees fly. He's yessed by 'al, just like they think Whatever Pop does is right. When Pop's down at the office He's a man of main and might. But when Pop's home, he's diffrunt; He hasn't much to say. An' does just what mom tells 'im, An' does it my mom's way. Mom contradicts him quite a bit, An' keeps Pop on the hop. Pop's a "big shot" at the office But at home he's just a "pop."

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.

Let the Herald work for you! Contact us at 706-896-4454

Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 p.m.

Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-8387 for details. We need your support!

Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building.

Mountain Community Seniors meet the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 2 p.m.

Towns County Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5 PM at the Senior Center. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.

Towns County Republican Party meets at 6: 30 PM the 2nd Thursday of each month at Daniels Steak House. For more info call 706-379-1371.

Towns County Planning Commission is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse.

Towns County Commissioners meeting is the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse.

School Board Meeting, 2nd Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

Hiawassee City Council 1st Tuesday of month 4 p.m., at City Hall.

Young Harris City Council, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 p.m., Young Harris City Hall.

The Hiwassee River Valley Kennel Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. the 1st Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 828-835-1082.

The Unicoy Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Stephens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris.

Board of Voter Registrars meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.

Towns County Board of Elections holds its monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Elections Office (Old Rock Jail).

Towns County Historical Society meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org

Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Recreation Dept.

Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregartscraftsguild@hotmail.com.

Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Goolsby Center at YHC. Q & A at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

FPL Retirees Breakfast will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Hole in the Wall Restaurant on the square in Blairsville at 9 a.m.

Chattahoochee-Nantahala Chapter, Trout Unlimited meets 2nd Thursday of each month at Cadence Bank in Blairsville. 5 p.m. Fly Tying - 7 p.m. General Meeting. Everyone welcome. www.ngatu692.com.

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call John Quinlan at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridge-mountains.

Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church office at 706-745-2469 for more information.

Chatuge Regional Hospital Auxiliary on the 3rd Monday of each month, except the months of July, October and December, in the hospital cafeteria at 1:30 p.m.

Mountain Magic Table Tennis

Club meets 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.

We do Family Oral History of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded and would like to do so, please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060.

Prostate Cancer Support Group meets the 3rd Monday of every month from 5-6 PM in the Cancer Treatment Center Auditorium in Blairsville. For more info call Steve 706-896-1064.

GMREC Native Plant Garden Tours: Mondays 9 AM-1 PM. May-Sept. (except holidays). 706-745-2655.

The Humane Society Mountain Shelter Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Cadence Bank in Blairsville.

The Towns County Alzheimer's Support Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the Family Life Center of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church. Caregivers or family members of those with dementia are encouraged to attend. For further information, call Carol at 706-896-6407.

The Appalachian Shrine Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Allegheny Lodge in Blairsville. For more info call William 706-994-6177.

Georgia Mountain Writers Club meets at St. Francis of Assisi Church the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 AM.

VFW Post 7807 will have their all you can eat fish fry on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month from 4:30 to 7 PM. \$9 a plate. See you there!

GMREC Garden Tours every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Shooting Creek Basket Weavers meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. All welcome. For more info www.shootingcreekbasketweavers.com.



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Towns County Herald

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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.