

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Thanks to Army 76 years ago

Who filmed this historic event 76 years ago? A lifelong friend and family member, a Cold War US Army Veteran brought this to my attention, just this past week. He and his buddies visited there while serving America in an Army unit facing down the Communist Russians, during what's known as our "Cold War". More on his very interesting bio in future editions of Veterans Corner. A very historic silent video from World War II is a massive swastika being detonated in Nuremberg, Germany, symbolizing the end of the bloody European conflict. The explosion happened on April 22, 1945, a few weeks before the Nazis surrendered to Allied Forces on May 7, 1945. See video here: youtu.be/FFiek8IWu9U.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



He that comes to me I will in no wise cast out

John 6:37

National Day of Prayer
 - May 6 -

Buttercup (Bittercup) Control

Buttercup is a longstanding problem for many pastures. Fields of yellow can be beautiful to look at when driving down the highway, but large populations of buttercup creates problems for livestock that are trying to forage. Let's talk about these weeds and what can be done to control them in pastures and hay fields.

Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



There are several different common names for buttercup. I've heard folks call it bittercup. It has a bitter taste that makes livestock not want to eat it. I've also heard it called bitter sneezeweed. That is a common name for a different plant that also has yellow flowers. The scientific name for buttercup is Ranunculus. There are actually different species of Ranunculus. Some of them are ornamental flowers that we like to see and grow. The plant that

The massive marble swastika had huge influence on the Nazis as it overlooked Zeppelintribüne, Adolf Hitler's powerful pulpit at the Nazi party rally grounds. From here Hitler delivered evil, Satanic anti-Semitic rants and radical sermons to 200,000 NAZI faithfuls. Located within Zeppelinfeld stadium, built in 1934 by Nazi architect Albert Speer. Just three days before the detonation, the Army's Third Division invaded the stadium, holding an award ceremony honoring five men for their actions of valor by giving them the Medal of Honor. Our Army troops covered the swastika with a large American flag. Army engineers placed explosives around that evil emblem on April 22 and destroyed it. At a projected cost of \$95 million, lawmakers agreed to preserve the dilapidated building as a reminder of past wicked historical events, hopefully never to be repeated.

Present that day was combat cameraman, L. Bennett "Elby" Fenberg of the 163rd Division of our Army's Signal Corps. In a 2005 interview, with his nephew, Steven, "Erby" stated that "I kept my finger pressed on the trigger of the camera, and I had my eyes closed the whole time"; The explosion was so huge, a piece of metal about ten feet long dropped right in front of me. If it had hit me, it would have cut me in half. About a dozen fellows got injured from the flying metal". He was another one of thousands of unsung heroes who like every Honorable Veteran who has ever served our Sovereign Republic deserves our undying respect.

I'll state again, our WWII generation are amongst the greatest Americans. Our US Army, our nation's FIRST military branch represents the core of our nation's military services, and combined with our other extremely important branches, are the exclusive reason we still exist as America. All Five branches participated in saving the globe from tyrannical terror in WWII. All five branches have participated in every war and "police action" ever since. If we, as a nation chose to keep them strong and honor them, perhaps they'll not have to sacrifice so much again.

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

Globull Warming

Dear Editor,

In honor of Earth Day, President Biden held a global climate summit at which his climate czar, John Kerry, announced that getting to net-zero CO2 emissions "was gonna be hard, really hard... but even if we get to net-zero, we still have to get carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere." Really? This policy goes against basic environmental science, as CO2 plays an essential role in our environment. As he should have learned in his high school botany class, carbon dioxide is critical for many plant and animal processes such as photosynthesis and respiration. It seems that Kerry is forgetting that without CO2 to fuel photosynthesis, there would be very little or no oxygen remaining on our planet. The fake climate change liars think everyone is too stupid to realize CO2 is essential for life. I didn't think it was possible, but Kerry's idiotic statement about removing a life-sustaining gas from the atmosphere tops even the biggest gaffes by China Joe or AOC. Lest we forget, Kerry is perfectly comfortable sitting back in his private jet and leaving everyone else to do their part to "save the world." If Kerry stopped exhaling it would cut down on CO2 emissions, just a thought.

Tim Groza

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
 P.O. 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.

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Wildland Fires are a Force of Nature

Wildland fires are a force of nature that can be nearly as impossible to prevent, and as difficult to control, as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. Wildland fire can be a friend and a foe.

In the right place at the right time, wildland fire can create many environmental benefits, such as reducing grass, brush, and trees that can fuel large and severe wildfires and improving wildlife habitat.

In the wrong place at the wrong time, wildfires can wreak havoc, threatening lives, homes, communities, and natural and cultural resources.

The Forest Service has been managing wildland fire on National Forests and Grasslands for more than 100 years, but the Forest Service does not – and cannot – do it alone. Instead, the agency works closely with other federal, tribal, state, and local partners. This is more important than ever because over the last few decades, the wildland fire management environment has profoundly changed, longer fire seasons, bigger fires, and more acres burned on average each year with more extreme fire behavior, and wildfire suppression operations in the wildland urban interface (WUI) have become the norm.

To address these challenges, the Forest Service and its other federal, tribal, state, and local partners have developed and are implementing a National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy that has three key components: Resilient Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities (FAC), and Safe and Effective Wildfire Response.

The strategy that we work with here in North Georgia most often is Fire Adapted Communities. Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D is the Georgia Firewise Liaison, the Southeast FAC network member.

Wildfires do not stop at property boundaries. More than 70,000 communities and 44 million homes are at risk from wildfire in the wildland urban interface (WUI) – where vegetative fuels and the built environment meet.

Over the last ten years, more than 35,000 structures were destroyed by wildfires – an average of 3,500 a year. Pre-fire risk reduction, on a variety of fronts, can help communities adapt to wildfire.

Fire adaptation means communities take mitigation actions so they can live with wildfire without harm and without extensive wildfire suppression efforts. The U.S. Forest Service developed, supports, and promotes community fire adaptation.

A key component of community fire adaptation is that there is not one silver bullet that reduces risk; there are many tools that, when used together and strategically, reduce risk. And it is not the responsibility of one agency or group to mitigate; it is the responsibility of everyone who lives and works in the community.

Fire adaptation happens when local multi-jurisdictional stakeholders work together to identify risk, mitigate it, and maintain the work overtime. Fire adaptation is not a recognition program, and it is not a checklist, and a community does not achieve "fire adapted community" status or certification because the work to reduce wildfire risk never ends, it becomes a way of life for those who live in the WUI. Foundational tools of fire adaptation include: A local multi-jurisdictional mitigation group to share risk reduction responsibility in the community. This core group teaches, mentors, and develops trusted relationships with local residents and other stakeholders to foster on-the-ground mitigation.

A community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) which identifies where wildfire risk exists, outlines ways to reduce or mitigate that risk, and helps do the risk reduction work on the ground.

It is not enough to have a CWPP, it must be updated and implemented.

The risk reduction tasks must be accomplished and maintained. Hazardous fuels treatment inside and around the community on public and private lands. This means the landscape can experience wildfire and its benefits without the threat of catastrophic wildfire.

A volunteer or career fire department or fire protection association plays a big role in reducing risk from wildfire and being ready to respond should a wildfire occur. Research shows that firefighters are a local trusted authority in delivering the mitigation message and in helping stakeholders do mitigation. More information at Ready, Set, Go!

Defensible space around structures means flammable fuels like leaf piles, unmown dry grass, lawnmowers and gas, lawn furniture, propane tanks and wood piles, leaves and needles in the gutters and on the roof, and flammable trees too near the home are removed or stored in more appropriate places.

This defensible space provides a fuel buffer for the structure and a place for firefighters to do structure protection if the home is defensible. More information at Firewise and Living with Wildfire.

Resilient structures are less susceptible to ignition from embers – the primary cause of structure loss. A resilient structure, for instance, is constructed of less flammable materials, has a class "A" roof (not a cedar shake roof or siding), has metal screen over eave vents, and under decks.

For more information on Fire Adapted communities go to: fireadaptednetwork.org/ - Ready Set go to: www.wildlandfirersg.org/ - Firewise: go to www.Firewise.org.

Implementing these programs can help you buy time for the fire department to arrive to protect your property when a wildfire strikes. Help them help you!

RC&D

Frank Riley
 Executive Director



I am referring to has small yellow flowers that range in size from dime to quarter sized. The flowers have a glossy look to them. For most species of buttercup, you'll see three leaves coming out of one spot. Each of those leaves will have three lobes on it. Generally, if you see those groups of three, that's a good indicator that it's buttercup. Some other plants like clover also have groups of three, but clover's leaves don't have lobes in groups of three on them.

So let's talk about how to control it. There are three ways to control it. Growing a good stand of grass that outcompetes the weeds, mowing buttercup before it flowers, or spraying it with herbicide before it flowers. Growing a healthy stand of grass that is able to outcompete weeds requires regular fertilizer applications, checking soil pH and adding lime as necessary, and managing the number of cattle grazing a field. Fields that are overgrazed will be more prone to weeds growing. Heavily grazed grass won't be able to grow back as quickly because its energy storage down in the roots is depleted. If grass is growing healthily, it will be able to outcompete many weeds, buttercup included. Mowing is another option for buttercup control. Buttercup is a short-lived perennial. If you mow before it flowers, you eliminate the seed production for that plant. This is a strategy that takes several years to become fully effective.

In some cases, forage stand management and mowing are not going to be enough and an herbicide must be used to effectively control buttercup. 2,4-D or an herbicide containing 2,4-D is the best option. Because buttercup is a perennial, a pre-emergent like Prowl, won't be effective. For the 2,4-D to be effective the timing of the application is critical. If you see buttercup flowers, it's too late. The 2,4-D application must be done when the buttercup plant is still small. Ideally, you want daytime temperatures to be 50 for two or three consecutive days. 2,4-D does have haying and grazing restrictions. Generally, you must wait 30 days before haying after spraying, and wait 14 days before grazing lactating dairy animals. As always, follow the label. A common weed that may be confused with buttercup is field mustard. Field mustard also has yellow flowers. Field mustard is an annual plant that usually flowers before buttercup. Because it is an annual you can also use pre-emergent herbicides on it. Like buttercup, field mustard is not good for livestock to eat.

If you have questions about buttercup, identification or control contact you County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

A Well-Built Quilt

If you've spent even a little time in "Them Tar Hills" popularity in the art of quilting is nothing new. I call it art because it Hoover Dam sure is, but it is so much more. As a child my parents loaded our 1951 Studebaker, fondly called The stud-buster, with commercially produced, cholesterol and sodium laden snacks in a bag, my sister, me and a bitch cocker spaniel. My dad bordered on constantly complaining about being outnumbered by females. If I heard it once, I heard it a hundred times, "Why can't you all go at the same time?" Over the river and through the woods to Granddaddy's house we went. Old men are set in their ways. Habit serves when senses fail. My first remembered visit to my grandfather's strange world was bedtime. His house could have been an igloo. When my mother heaved the brightly colored quilt, retrieved from a trunk, over my sister and me, it was like breathing under wet sand.

"I'm gonna die under here" I warned my mother. She assured me that I would not and that I'd appreciate mammoth cover sometime in the night. My mother was right about both.

Aside from preventing blood-freeze and frost bitten toes during The Ice Age, quilt making was a communal bonding activity. The waste not want not adage was adhered to strictly before The Fit quilt Age entered. As saved scraps were snipped in shape to fit quilts tops, memories of well loved and well worn articles of clothing, table linens, and even cotton undies flitted across minds. Making quilts is laborious and before the advent of peddle sewing machines, completely done by hand. Many hands were needed so families and neighbors pooled time, skills, and gossip at quilting bees.

Specific patterns have been created for quilts to designate occasions, events, and stories which have become traditions, history preserved through textiles (sort of like hieroglyphics in caves but warmer and softer) which are treasured and "passed down".

As technology advanced, you could count sheep happy that their fleece no longer had to be carded for liners. With the upswing in polyester farms, ovine herders were able to concentrate on cheese, sweaters and First Lady Pat Nixon's serviceable wool coat

I'm grateful for women relatives who were hard working, capable, and wonderful. There were men too, but wonderful comes in different flavors. While attending, by force, the just for fun, not necessity quilting bees with my mother and The Ancients, I didn't know what gifts those gatherings were to become. Those passed down quilts are with me now. I don't consider them mine. I'm just the keeper. I mentioned to my aunt that my children would have frozen if they'd had to depend on me for warmth. "They did depend on you" I was told. "Just in a different method."

The early quilters in my family would be pleased as punch to quilt with super updated devices. To them all days were good. Past and present. Thanks to you who keep the quilting art alive.

See You Around Towns!

Around Towns

Dale Harmon



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