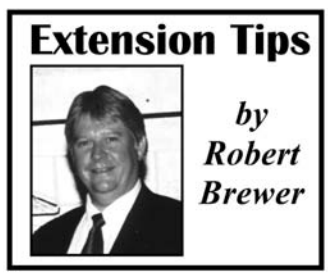
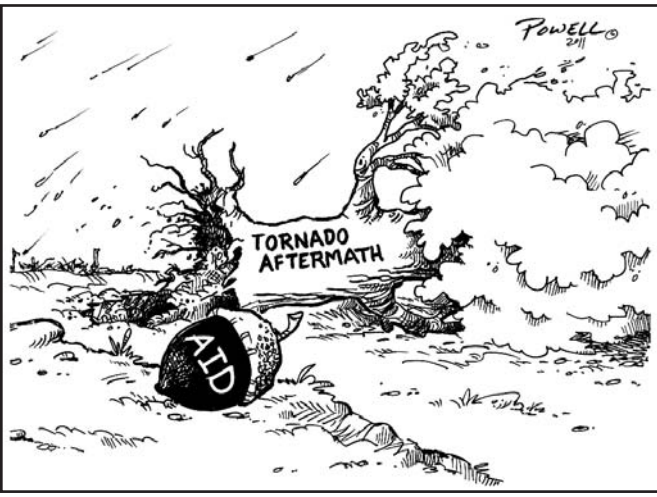


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



Extension Tips

by **Robert Brewer**

Tips for the landscape and garden

Some trees that are messy and weak-wooded include silver maple, hybrid poplar, mimosa, weeping willow, black cherry, and Eastern cottonwood. Better choices are Chinese elm, Japanese zelkova, pin oak, red maple, river birch, tulip poplar, and willow oak.

Prune out winter-killed wood on trees and shrubs by cutting back to green wood after new growth begins.

If you love to garden, but don't have a lot of time, choose plants that are easy to maintain. Plants that do not need Adeadheading@ include begonia, Impatiens, coleus, alyssum, ageratum, lobelia, Vinca and salvia.

Caladiums need generous amounts of water and fertilizer to encourage continuous productions of new leaves during the summer. Apply a light, side dressing of 5-10-5 fertilizer every two weeks, and water thoroughly to encourage bright-colored foliage.

Pinch back annuals when 4 to 6 inches high to promote bushy growth. Some that require pinching are zinnias, petunias, and salvia.

Impatiens are the most satisfactory annual for use in shady areas. Begonias, coleus, ageratum, salvia, and Vinca prefer light shade (5 to 6 hours of sunlight).

To grow annuals in pots on the patio, use a light-weight soil mixture. Keep the plants well watered, as container-grown plants dry out fast. Apply water soluble fertilizer according to package directions every two weeks.

The Peace rose cultivar is the flower-of-choice for special Peace Gardens being built around the world. Introduced in the United States 50 years ago after being smuggled out of France in a brief case, this rose stood as a symbol of

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 EMAILED 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.*

hope and has become one of the world's most favorite roses.

Watch for and control black spot and powdery mildew on rose foliage.

Lacebugs feed on azaleas, pyracantha and other woody plants, causing a gray, blanching or stippled appearance on the upper surface of the leaves. Take steps to control them as soon as you notice the damage.

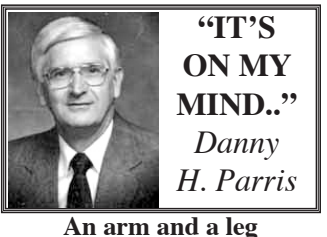
Mid- to late-June is an excellent time to take softwood cuttings of shrubs to start new plants. Some shrubs propagated in this manner are spirea, boxwood and azalea.

The use of milky spore disease (*Bacillus popilliae*) for Japanese beetle control is most effective in neighborhoods where most residents use it. Otherwise, Japanese beetle larvae hatching in other yards will reinfest your property.

The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

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"IT'S ON MY MIND.."

Danny H. Parris

An arm and a leg

There's an old joke that has been around since creation about an arm and a leg that has taken a new twist lately. It's often been circulated that Adam told God that he was lonely and needed someone for companionship. God said, "Very well," "I am going to give you the perfect woman. She is going to be beautiful, intelligent, loving and gracious. She will cook and clean for you and never complain." Adam said, "That sounds good but what will it cost me?" God said "an arm and a leg." And Adam said, "What can I get for a rib?" Well, with the price of gasoline today someone borrowed Adam's joke and displayed on their service station marquee these prices: Regular gas \$3.95, Premium - an arm, Super Premium - a leg. I guess the price of regular represents what you can get for a rib. A fellow driving his BMW at a high rate of speed lost his car in a curve and just before going over a cliff he bailed out. However, his arm was caught in the car door and ripped from his body and he watched his car and arm plunge to the bottom of the cliff bursting into flames. A passerby rushed to the wounded man and could hear the bleeding man screaming, "oh, my car, oh, my brand-new BMW!" The Good Samaritan said, "Fellow, you have lost more than your car, you have lost your arm!" Then the man started screaming "Oh no, it's even worse, I've lost my Rolex!" It's probably true that we know the price of everything, but the value of nothing. I recall

seminary days when I served a church 80 miles from seminary and worried about being able to buy gas for my VW. The capacity of the gas tank was only ten or twelve gallons and the price of gas 19 cents to 25 cents per gallon. Not only was it cheap but when you "filled up" you received a free glass. (Your choice of clear or blue.) By the time we left seminary my wife had accumulated enough glasses to almost pay for a seminary education (and this is no Mickey Cummings story). Those days and prices are forever gone and I have no solution to share in order to reduce gas prices. But let me tell you how valuable your life is to God. You are so precious that God gave His Son to die on the cross to pay for your sins and for the sins of the whole world (I Peter 1:18-21). We all have been bought with the precious blood of Christ (I Cor. 6:20; 7:23). My redemption and your redemption from the slave market of sin cost God more than an arm and a leg; it cost Him the death of His Son! I really am concerned about the price of gas and the hardship that it is placing on our population but my deeper concern is the price tag that many individuals place on their lives and souls. Like Esau, they sell themselves for a "bowl of beans." Sinful pleasures offered by alcohol, drugs and sex puts the value of your life way down in the basement as worthless. Worldly treasures that attach themselves like leeches to your life only suck the life blood from you and evaporate into dust. Jesus said, "For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mk. 8:36-37) Read Isaiah 55:1-3.

When others see what you go after here, they can usually tell where you'll go hereafter.

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to make local residents aware of an Unsung Hero that works behind the scenes for all of us.

I often wonder if the residents of Towns County do everything they can to keep our mountains beautiful. Do you recycle all that you can? Do you encourage others to do the same? Do you belong to organizations that toss those aluminum cans into the "trash" or do they recycle as they should? Are you part of the solution or part of the problem?

Are you aware that many people have set up recycling awareness programs for us to use? Leslie George is one of those "recycling gurus" who consistently try to increase the environmental awareness of our residents. Leslie is the director of North Georgia Resource Management Authority and also works with the Keep Our Mountains Beautiful campaign. Leslie is a member of the Community Council and the Education Committee at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center. She works closely with Commissioner Bill Kendall to keep Towns County "in the recycling loop". Leslie and members of her staff also teach classes for most of the 2,900 students that attended activities sponsored by the GMRE Center last year. Towns County students receive the services of all of these program.

We are very fortunate to be the recipient of the services of Leslie and her organization.

*Peggy B. Schneider
Education Chairperson
Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center*

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
By Don Jacobsen

Q: Dr. Don, are you as concerned about the morals of today's young people as my husband and I are? We have two children in Middle School and if things continue the way they have been going for the last few years I don't know what their world is going to be like.

A: Well, I don't know how concerned you are, but I can tell you I think I'm probably concerned enough for both of us.

Today's kids have exposure and access to stuff that is unprecedented in the history of our world. Immorality has been with us from the beginning, but we've never had the possibility of piping it into a child's bedroom, or bringing it up on the screen in his pocket until now. Thanks for your question because it gives me an opportunity to say what I believe needs to be said.

Some argue that it doesn't make all that much difference, kids are going to be exposed to it anyway, so what's the big deal? There are numerous answers to that question, but since I know I'm talking primarily to parents and educators let me give you my perspective: I assure you it does not auger well for the health of

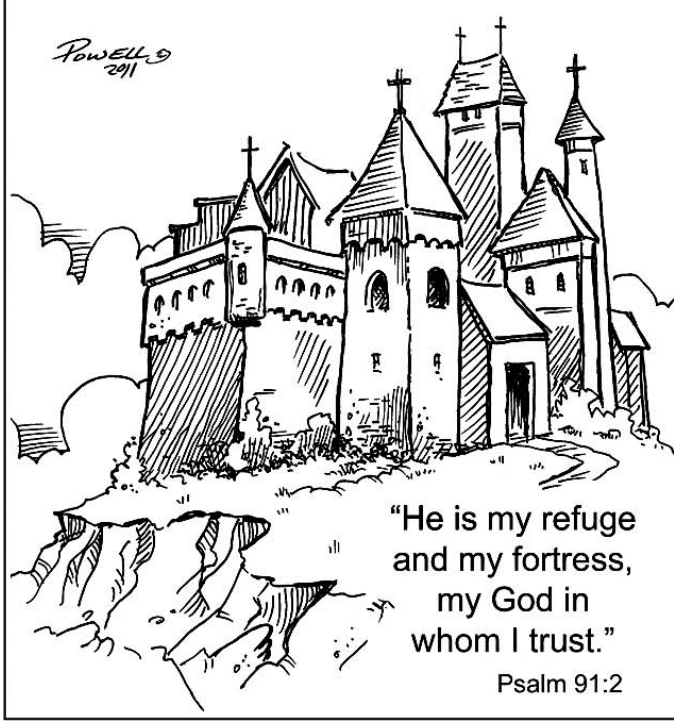
America's families in a new generation.

Intimacy between a husband and wife has to be one of the most unique and precious gifts ever given to the human family. To cheapen it by promiscuous disregard of its meaning is to violate its sanctity and steal from it that which can never be replaced.

Married sex, for many, loses its mystery and its appeal and becomes boring when the partners have already discharged its magic in meaningless settings. Any influence that compromises its exclusiveness is a destructive force in our culture, in our families, and especially in the lives of our kids.

Looking back over the history of nations, none has ever long survived whose morals collapsed in debauchery and promiscuity. All of us who value the future of our children and of their children must take determined steps to rebuild an atmosphere of purity, unselfishness, and honor in our youngsters and in every influence that touches them.

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



"He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust."
Psalm 91:2

Be part of the National Day of Prayer
◆◆◆
Thursday May 5th

Community Calendar

Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 6 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 3rd Thursday of every month. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.
Towns County Republican Party meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Daniels Steak House. Dinner at 6 p.m., 706-896-7281.
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 Hiawassee 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 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 Recreational Dept. Call Eden at 706-896-6921.
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. and the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregarts-craftsguild.org. mtnregarts-craftsguild@hotmail.com.
VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 p.m., \$9 a plate, all you can eat.
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/blueridgemountains.
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.
Chattage 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.

Towns County Herald
Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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