

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## We cannot know them all...

However it is incumbent upon all who truly love our Sovereign Republic to know OF them and what each and every man and woman who has served honorably in any of our military services has done for and sacrificed for each and every one of us. Our nation would not exist without them and especially the abuse they have endured from certain political ideologies of America. The following news release was publicized by several venues very recently. Believing events as this demonstrates, at least to a very small degree that which families and all of us need to be aware of, and in the spirit of our smaller but sacred, "POW-MIA LOST BUT NOT FORGOTTEN" flag outlined with a black border, please read on:

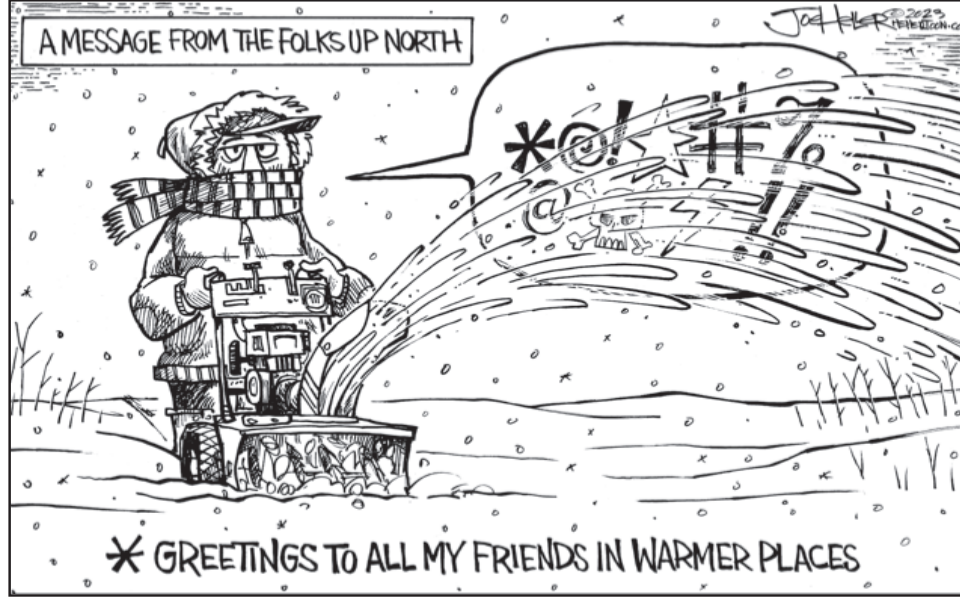
**The Veterans' Corner**  
**Scott Drummond**  
 USCG Veteran



The USS Albacore was lost at sea in 1944 after stopping for fuel at Midway Island. The wreckage of lost U.S. submarine from WWII has been found off the coast of Japan. The NHC, Naval History and Heritage Command confirmed that a sunken craft off the coast of Hokkaido, Japan is the wreckage of the USS Albacore — a World War II-era U.S. Submarine. Already known to Americans and sadly to the families of their loved ones aboard the Albacore, those great patriotic men were lost. At least now any surviving family members know where their permanent graves are located. Much work and long hours documented by Dr. Tamaki Ura with the Tokyo University was required, thus further proof of our abiding allied friendship with what once was our fantic enemies of Japan. Ura worked from records obtained through the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records concerning a United States Navy submarine sunken off the coast of Japan. "As the final resting place for Sailors who gave their life in defense of our nation, we sincerely thank and congratulate Dr. Ura and his team for their efforts in locating the wreck of Albacore," retired U.S. Navy rear admiral and NHC Director Samuel Cox said." The USS 218 Albacore sunk ten or more enemy vessels and earned 9 battle stars before being sunk in 1944.

Remember always, none amongst us can know them all, however we can love and honor them all and their families, who in many cases, such as this, have suffered and grieved for their family members who GAVE ALL FOR ALL OF US!

-Semper Paratus



## Pollinator Gardening

Even though we've had some warmer temperatures lately, real spring is still a little way off. That means it's still a good time to dream and plan for your garden. Let's talk about pollinator gardening, and some of the things to include in a good pollinator garden.

**Watching and Working**  
**Jacob Williams**



Pollinators play a very important role in our food production and ecology. When we think about pollinators we often think of honeybees and butterflies. They are very important for pollination, but the truth is that there are also tons of other critters that are important pollinators. Bats, hummingbirds, native bees, wasps, moths, and more all play an important role in pollination. Since we have such a diverse group of pollinators, it's important that we have a diverse habitat in our pollinator garden for them.

Most pollinator plants like full sun. Full sun is at least 8 hours of sun each day during the summer. If you don't have full sun in your spot then the plants that you choose will need to reflect that. Many pollinators like to spend some time basking in the sun with some protection from the wind. A soil test is also a good idea before starting a pollinator garden to see if you need to add any lime or fertilizer to the soil. A well-drained soil is also ideal.

Native plants are the best choice for your pollinator garden. They tend to be better adapted to our soils and our native pollinators. It's important to have a diversity of plants in your pollinator garden. Different flower shapes, flower colors, plant size, and plant shade are all important. It's important to have a diversity of plants so that you have blooms for Spring, Summer, and Fall.

There are a ton of different plants that you could put in a pollinator garden, so I can't mention them all here. It is important to make sure that the plants you choose are well suited to your site for sunlight, water drainage, and USDA zone. Here are some plants that I would recommend.

Some good spring blooming plants are wild indigo, Bee balm, lyre leaf sage, bearded tongue, tulip poplar, serviceberry, sweetshrub, eastern redbud, fringe tree, Carolina silverbell and bottlebrush buckeye. Many of these plants are more trees and shrubs. As I mentioned earlier you want a diversity of plant size too.

Summer blooming plants are easier to find that spring blooming. Cosmos, blackeyed Susan, coneflowers, coreopsis, St. John's wort, sweet pepperbush, milkweed, yarrow, passionflower, mountain mint, and sourwood. This list has a mixture of perennial and annual. Many pollinator plants are able to reseed themselves. For some, if you give them a little help dispersing the seed, they do even better.

Fall blooming plants are very important as pollinators try to store up that last bit of energy before the frost comes. Goldenrod, asters, joe-pye weed, and ironweed are all some important fall bloomers. Goldenrod, joe-pye weed, and ironweed have beautiful blooms and are often seen along the roadside. These have the misfortune that they are thought of as weeds by some people, but really, they are great pollinator plants.

One challenge with native pollinator plants can be finding seed to plant. Work with other plant lover neighbors to see if they have plants that you like and if they would be willing to share seed with you. If you have questions about a pollinator garden contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

## Learn and Burn Workshops

The Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D's mission is to help the citizens in the 13 Northeast Georgia counties it serves find ways to make their businesses, farms, and lives more productive and improve their way of life. Here is something that fits that bill, a Seasonal High Tunnel and is a project for farmers or anyone who has a few acres and wants to get serious about growing things such as vegetables, flowers, fruit, or any high value crop that can be grown in a confined area.

**RC&D**  
**Frank Riley**  
 Executive Director



A seasonal high tunnel system is a polyethylene covered structure that is used to cover crops to extend the growing season, also known as hoop houses or cold tunnels. They are used to extend the growing season for crops by approximately 2-3 weeks on each end of the season by increasing the temperature surrounding the crop and minimizing heat loss during the night. Temperatures in the high tunnel during the growing season are controlled by using manual roll-up side vents and by opening end doors to provide ventilation.

Unlike greenhouses, seasonal high tunnel systems as indicated by their name are seasonal and are considered temporary structures although they are firmly anchored to the ground. Crops can be grown either in the natural soil profile or by installing permanent raised beds.

The National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial assistance thru EQUIP for qualified farmers for seasonal high tunnels as part of a three-year national trial to determine their effectiveness in conserving water, reducing pesticide use, maintaining vital soil nutrients, and increasing crop yields.

The goal of the initiative is to assist producers in extending the growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. EQIP participation requires applicants to meet specific eligibility requirements, and the high tunnel must remain on the land enrolled in EQIP for a minimum of four years. The land submitted for the program must be currently in cultivation or presently be capable of being planted to a crop. Land presently in permanent cover such as hay, pasture, brush, or forest does not qualify.

This program is especially important for organic production systems due to restrictions on chemical vegetation control options. The high tunnel frame shall be constructed of metal, wood, or durable plastic and be at least 6 feet in height. The plastic cover must be, at a minimum, a 6-mil greenhouse-grade, UV resistant polyethylene. Under EQIP, contract payments can be made on seasonal high tunnel systems installed on cropped areas of up to 2,178 square feet. Structures can be larger; however, contract payment is limited to 2,178 square feet per producer. Basic kits usually include the frame structure and assembly hardware; polyethylene cover with roll-up or drop-down side assemblies and heavy duty ground posts.

Seasonal high tunnel systems should be placed perpendicular to prevailing winds to insure proper ventilation and if possible, with the long axis oriented in a north-south direction to provide more uniform sun exposure to plants and minimize plant shading. Systems should not be located in areas prone to shade or wind gusts, but on sites with topography that allows for adequate drainage away from the structure. Because irrigation will be required inside the tunnel availability and source of water must be considered when deciding where to place the system.

We constructed 2 high tunnels, a few years ago, on our Mountain Scene Farm that are 72' x 30' and have 2 drip tape lines for irrigation on each of the 6 hills that are in the floor of the structures. Rainwater for irrigation is captured from gutters on our farm house and on the barn and piped into two 1,000 gallon underground storage tanks near the high tunnel. The water is then pumped up into four 300 gallon raised tanks where the water flow can be controlled down a series of pipes into the drip tape in the beds of each house. The results are amazing, we have tomato plants that are 7 feet high and since the environment is controlled, we have very few weeds and insects (if we stay on top of controlling these pests), and we can work in the garden rain or shine. A high tunnel grows vegetables very well, but if left unchecked it also grows weeds just as well.

Check seasonal high tunnels out if you have a patch of usable land and are willing to work in the dirt with your hands. The results can be amazing.

Chestatee-Chattahoochee also receives funds from the state to build smaller high tunnels at schools and community centers to encourage youth and others to learn more about where our food comes from. It's not just the grocery store, there is a whole industry before it gets to the shelves our stores. We have constructed 64 Seasonal high tunnels around north Georgia in the past 5 years and hopefully our children are learning about what it takes to have healthy food on our table.

For more information on high tunnels, contact Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D, USDA NRCS, or UGA Cooperative Extension.

## 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.

## Spring of Deception

We are blessed with more than just four seasons here in the Southern Appalachians. We've already had Winter, Fool's Spring, and Second Winter this year, and now we are nearing the end of Spring of Deception. What follows next will be a brief Third Winter, and then, sadly, The Pollening.

This is one of Tracey's favorite times of year. The promise of Spring is peeking through here and there with bits of green and a blossom or two. It's still "winter," but warm and comfortable for those winter cleanup chores outside.

"Have you noticed how nice everyone has been lately," she asked after a recent grocery gathering and bargain hunt. I had noticed. We're not sure why, but we have theories. The weather is nice. The traffic is light. The tourists and part timers have not yet arrived and it's "just us folks," who grew up here or chose to grow their homes here. Without the distractions of the busy season we get a chance to know each other better again, and remember that we like each other some.

It's a curiosity this time of year when the date on the calendar unsteadies the hand that reaches for the thermostat to turn on the AC. We don't really need air conditioning right now, and if we do switch it on we'll turn blue from the cold, but if we leave it off we'll turn green from the humidity, like Stephen King in the meteor segment of the movie, "Creepshow."

I do not know why the high tech and sophisticated materials surrounding us in this encapsulated, climate controlled modernity are so vulnerable to humidity. This was never a problem in my grandparents' house, still standing not a quarter mile away. Windows were open much of the year, and doors that slammed with a screen, and yet there is not to this day a speck of mold to be found on anything.

Here we're tied to a ritual annual enrichment of the power company. We open the windows and turn on the attic fan to let in the fresh air. It's not healthy to breathe only the recycled contaminants of modernity. The fan and the cross breeze fill the house with refreshing, life giving air...and humidity. We close the windows and run the AC or the heat, depending on where we are in our 12 seasons, to draw the humidity back down, or else the closets start to smell musty and Tracey's leather shoes need shaving.

Power bills aside, it is with growing anticipation that I look across my cup of coffee this morning, over the tops of sprouting seedlings in a south facing window and beyond to the garden waiting for my attention. It will be hand tools and boots for a while yet. I will not be deceived by the Spring of Deception into sinking my tractor tires into the soft ground. Some calendars include "Mud" between Spring of Deception and Third Winter.

Mud it is, but I'm content with mud. I hear the rush of the creek and know the water table is high. The plump and peach trees I planted will not need watering for a long time yet. A picture of smoke from the 2016 fires is on my desk to inspire humility and remind me to be grateful for mud.

Tracey is up now. She's turned on the television to catch the morning weather. Television, where deception springs eternal. Ah, she found the mute button. Time for a second cup of coffee.

## Outside The Box

By: Don Perry  
[worldoutsidethebox.com](http://worldoutsidethebox.com)

## Letters To The Editor

### It's a New Cold War Jungle

Dear Editor,

Latest Ukraine War - UN peace proposal: the U.S. has invested over \$150 billion in Ukraine War military and economic aid. Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022 to support and provide protection to Russian-speaking Ukrainians and in opposition to neo-Nazi white nationalist Ukrainian militias. Weapons, training and intelligence are being provided by U.S./NATO, with threats of nuclear warhead-tipped missiles deployed on Russia's border and minutes from Moscow. Where is the UN call for ending this U.S./NATO proliferation of weapons of war for use against Russia, which is an existential threat to the Russian homeland? Germany is busy sending Leopard tanks to Ukraine, harking back to the Third Reich invasion during World War II, from which Russia suffered some 30 million deaths.

Meanwhile, climate change caused by burning fossil fuels goes unaddressed as imperialist wars for oil and gas rage on, fueling the refugee, energy and food crises. Nothing poisons the earth's atmosphere like armies clashing on the battlefield, not to mention, the threat of nuclear war to end civilization as we know it.

The war is in stalemate, as death-and-destruction profiteers and military-industrial-security state actors' salivate all the way to their offshore hidden bank accounts. Meanwhile, "peaceful co-existence" means bloodied and battered Homo Sapiens going back to the world of the jungle.

Lance Jobson

## Towns County Community Calendar

<b>First Monday of each month:</b>	School Board... HS/MS Media Center	6:45 pm
<b>Every Tuesday:</b>	Storytime for Children... TC Library	10:30 am
<b>First Tuesday of each month:</b>	Hiaw. City Council... City Hall	6 pm
	YH City Council... YH City Hall	7 pm
<b>Second Tuesday of each month:</b>	Conventions & Visitors Board... Civic Center	8 am
<b>Second Wednesday of each month:</b>	Board of Elections... Elections Office	4 pm
<b>Third Monday of each month:</b>	Planning Commission... Temporary Courthouse	6 pm
<b>Third Tuesday of each month:</b>	Commissioner's Mtg... Courthouse	5:30 pm
	City of Young Harris Planning Commission...	
	Meeting Room in City Hall	5 pm
	Water Board... Water Office	6 pm

The Towns County Herald is an independent and non-partisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

## Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

**Kenneth West** Owner/Publisher  
**Derek Richards** Advertising Director  
**Shawn Jarrard** General Manager/Editor  
**Jordan Hyatt** Office Manager

**Todd Forrest** Staff Writer  
**Lowell Nicholson** Photographer

**Publication No: 635540**  
 Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.  
**Towns County (1 Year) \$30. Out of County (1 Year) \$40.** Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawasse, 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, Hiawasse, GA 30546.  
 Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 3 "The Mall", Hiawasse  
**Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: tcherald@windstream.net**  
**Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawasse, GA 30546**