

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Her Daddy

Who is she? You need to know her Daddy first! Lesley M. Jones; B: 1906, Independence, AL. D: 1986,

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



Montgomery, Al. Volunteered for U.S. Navy on October 25, 1942, with basic training in Norfolk, VA. He was attached to one of our often over-looked, often ignored but a most valuable asset to America, our SEABEES.

He served until October 7, 1945 and left the Navy, Honorably as a Chief Carpenter's Mate (CCM). One does not achieve that rank in that short time period without being very smart and very valuable! Lesley served in Saipan, the Philippines and briefly in Hawaii.

According to history, "SEABEES are only supposed to fight to defend what they built." However, SEABEES committed to many acts of bravery, earning 33 Silver Stars and 5 Navy Crosses during WWII. Lord, it was a heavy price for our SEABEES, with 272 enlisted and 18 officers KIA! [honor virtutis praeium!]

Jones quit school in the 8th grade for employment with the Alabama Highway Department as a ditch digger. His dad kicked him out! Unknown to his dad, he sent money home to his mother for years, afterwards. They all lived "dirt poor".

At age 36, Jones decided to enlist in the Navy, by which time he was a Resident Engineer in Montgomery, AL with the Alabama Highway Dept. Due to his age, all the other men in his Navy detachment called him "the old man". From what I'm told he loved it with no resentment whatsoever.

His daughter said that her Dad did not tell her much about the war when she was little, except for "diving for cover under anything he could find, when the bullets started flying."

After the war, Jones then became an owner of his own road construction company and built many major bridges throughout Alabama. As well, he also taught his daughter marksmanship, how to shoot, plus made sure she had ballet lessons.

For a fact, after seeing his picture in his full dress white Navy uniform, he was also a "movie star handsome" guy!

The SEABEES are our Navy's engineers, possessing skills from carpentry, plumbing, welding, large equipment operators, excavating, architects, designers, electricians, communications, etc. SEABEES are capable of building anything, anywhere on planet earth.

However, they are also very skilled at destroying anything or any facility that may be used by those who hate us enough to kill us, and/or other assorted evil intentions. God Bless our SEABEES, as of March 5, 2022 they became 80 years old.

Now who is "she"? None other than our own TCH copy editor, Shawn Henrikson, an extremely HONEST and apodictic lady, who has been very generous to our Veterans community. Shawn has been a very valuable asset to our community with a behind the scenes job, that is ALSO often ignored. And from her words, to my ears, "My Daddy loved and influenced me for all I have learned and am worth!"

Now, knowing a bit of her Dad's history, that's certainly an understatement! -Semper Paratus



Spring Peepers

As we move from winter into spring, the nighttime seems to come more alive. More and more animals will be roaming around, and insects start to show back up outside. One of the earliest heralds of spring are the spring peepers. These little guys start coming out in February to let us know that warmer temperatures are not too far away. Let's talk about who these spring peepers are and why they are peeping.

UGA extension
Watching and Working
 Jacob Williams



The scientific name for the spring peeper is Pseudacris crucifer. They are a small frog that measures from one to one and a half inches long. They weigh in at about two tenths of an ounce. These tiny guys are still able to make some pretty serious noise. Their peep is high-pitched, which means that it can be heard from a mile away. I've heard the sound described like the chirp from a baby chick. The trill is brief and repeated at about one second intervals. A large number of peepers peeping at the same time is called a chorus. Large choruses can sound like sleigh bells. The males are the ones making all the noise, as they are trying to attract a mate. Their peep can become more for aggressive sounding as they compete with other males for better spots to attract the females.

These little frogs are abundant in Georgia. Their skin color ranges from tan to brown to gray. Their most distinctive feature is the dark X on their back. This is also where they get their species name, crucifer. At this time of year, they start coming down from the woodlands to find a mate near a water source. Once a mate has been found, the female will lay eggs in the water that hatch into tadpoles in one to two weeks. They prefer shallow, semi-permanent pools of water. These pools are less likely to have predatory fish in them. After about two to three months, the tadpoles will undergo metamorphosis and change into a frog. These little frogs live for about 3 years. Most of their lives are spent in the woods where they eat insects. They'll consume beetles, ants, flies, and spiders. They only come down to the water's edge during their mating season.

Before coming out for mating spring peepers are in hibernation. They like to hibernate under logs and loose bark. In the winter their body fluid will freeze.

Spring peepers are hard to spot because they are so small and like to spend their time down in the brush. They have large pads on their toes for climbing, but they rarely climb very high. Most of time they do their insect hunting at night. However, if they are living in a dense, damp forest they may hunt in the day and at night. The reason for this is that frogs must be careful to avoid their skin drying out.

If you have questions about spring peepers or other wildlife, contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

One Last Time

I've known Shawn Henrikson through at least three presidential elections, a score of storms and disasters, and a pandemic. Now that she is leaving the Towns County Herald for greener pastures, I feel like I'm saying "so long" to a war buddy.

This will be the last Monday morning I'm privileged to get up early to send her my column and engage in mutual harassment and good humor over coffee.

Shawn has helped keep this paper worth reading at a time when Americans increasingly do not, or cannot, read much more than the contents of a tweet or text. Independent newspapers are scarce and precious.

Any community which is served by one of these last vestiges of the Fourth Estate is fortunate, because the dismal alternative is the manipulative and partisan same-speak the political industrial complex wants us to hear.

Every year more independents close their doors or are eaten by larger entities. The hometown newspaper is an endangered species.

The math is simple. Newspapers are sustained by a combination of subscriptions and advertising revenue. As fewer people read, less demand means fewer dollars available to stay open, or pay the salaries to retain the best people.

Many local papers which moved online to stay alive are now forced to put up a pay wall, and the age of information has become the age of information if you can afford it.

I'll miss my Monday morning chats with Shawn and the good humor we have shared over the years.

Somehow she has managed all this time to help me forget that the research and effort which goes into these articles is done for free. Shawn once told me that I would be a bargain at twice the price. I think our readers may be one of the last generations able to do that math.

Good luck to you, Shawn. Thank you for the laughs, and for helping keep our hometown paper alive.

Outside The Box
 By: Don Perry
worldoutsidethebox.com

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.

Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!
 Contact us at 706-896-4454
 Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM



The Towns County Herald is an independent and nonpartisan 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.

guys are still able to make some pretty serious noise. Their peep is high-pitched, which means that it can be heard from a mile away. I've heard the sound described like the chirp from a baby chick. The trill is brief and repeated at about one second intervals. A large number of peepers peeping at the same time is called a chorus. Large choruses can sound like sleigh bells. The males are the ones making all the noise, as they are trying to attract a mate. Their peep can become more for aggressive sounding as they compete with other males for better spots to attract the females.

These little frogs are abundant in Georgia. Their skin color ranges from tan to brown to gray. Their most distinctive feature is the dark X on their back. This is also where they get their species name, crucifer. At this time of year, they start coming down from the woodlands to find a mate near a water source. Once a mate has been found, the female will lay eggs in the water that hatch into tadpoles in one to two weeks. They prefer shallow, semi-permanent pools of water. These pools are less likely to have predatory fish in them. After about two to three months, the tadpoles will undergo metamorphosis and change into a frog. These little frogs live for about 3 years. Most of their lives are spent in the woods where they eat insects. They'll consume beetles, ants, flies, and spiders. They only come down to the water's edge during their mating season.

Before coming out for mating spring peepers are in hibernation. They like to hibernate under logs and loose bark. In the winter their body fluid will freeze.

Spring peepers are hard to spot because they are so small and like to spend their time down in the brush. They have large pads on their toes for climbing, but they rarely climb very high. Most of time they do their insect hunting at night. However, if they are living in a dense, damp forest they may hunt in the day and at night. The reason for this is that frogs must be careful to avoid their skin drying out.

If you have questions about spring peepers or other wildlife, contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Have you met our Staff?

Have you met our staff here at Habitat for Humanity? I am excited to introduce to you, our staff members. The amazing people behind the scenes working to benefit our community.

Habitat Happenings
 Madelyn Bailey



Thanks to our amazing staff we can work diligently towards our mission of reaching out to our community members in need and offer a helping hand.

Charlotte Randall is the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Towns/Union Counties. Charlotte was born and raised in Chattanooga Tennessee. She received her bachelor's degree in History, enjoys yoga, being outdoors, and remodeling homes. She is a mom of 2 boys, JR and her newest edition, as of this past November, her youngest son Knox.

Charlotte started her career here at Habitat as a ReStore Manager in November of 2019. Now, as the new Executive Director, she oversees operations of Habitat constructions, development, Helping Hands projects, volunteers, community outreach, and important ReStore decision making.

Charlotte stated that her favorite part about working at Habitat for Humanity is her team. "I love my employees! We are a family here at Habitat. I love working together in helping those in need and brainstorming new ideas to continue the overall success of the Towns Union Habitat."

Here at Habitat, we are always looking towards the future. Always working to do better and bring about further success in our mission of making sure everyone has a decent place to call home.

Charlotte has big plans for 2022. She plans to have the 20th home build completed for the Snow family. She would also like to focus on establishing the Habitat of Towns/Union Counties into an irreplaceable position in our community, and further develop a promotion of kindness, and empathy within our community through the morals, projects, and dedication of Habitat for Humanity. In addition, bring about a bigger awareness to the things that we do here at Habitat, while bringing in more support from surrounding areas, as we grow to be more and more successful in reaching those in need.

Charlotte has been with Habitat for approximately 3 years now and has worked at Habitat with different roles to play over the years. She believes there is always something to learn and grow from. Looking back, she reflects, "Doing good for others is contagious; in a time that we all struggle, positive and kind energy is what communities need to survive"

Stop by the Habitat for Humanity ReStore at 225 Wellborn Street, Blairsville, meet our staff and shop in our ReStore. All purchases from the store go towards our community through our mission.

We are so thankful for our customers, volunteers and employees for their dedication!

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 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 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, 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

Legal Organ of Towns County

Kenneth West

Owner/Publisher

Derek Richards

Advertising Director

Shawn Jarrard

General Manager

Editor

Shawn Henrikson

Copy Editor

Todd Forrest

Staff Writer

Lowell Nicholson

Photographer