

Yard Sale...from Page 1A

enjoy going to yard sales and seeing the different things that everyday people have to offer from their homes. I have found a few neat things here that people have, and it is really cool.

"It is not every day that you get to have yard sales like this by just normal people. Usually, you have to find them out on the roads or in the middle of nowhere. I think a lot of people that come here come because of that. It is free and open for people to just get rid of some of their household goods."

The Yard Sale welcomed vendors from around the area, with a few selling specific items such as wooden crafts, soaps, and other household items. One popular vendor had Chris McLaughlin, an artist for more than 50 years, making drawings of known buildings and landmarks.

And Harland Fisher was at the event performing blacksmithing demonstrations and preparing materials for upcoming fairs and festivals.

With the overwhelming success of the Yard Sale, the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds has high expectations for other events this year, including this weekend's Memory Lane Classic Car Show, which is a fundraiser to aid in replacing the seating in Anderson Music Hall.

The two-day joint Car Show will take place at both Memory Lane Classic Car Museum and the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Each venue will come with its own \$10 entry fee on Friday, April 30, and Saturday, May 1, with children 12 and under getting in free.

Thomason is anticipating a high turnout and hopes to see the community getting out and supporting the event alongside people from out of town.

"We have never done anything like this, so it is hard to tell what we are going to bring in," Thomason said. "I have people coming from everywhere, and we are really excited for the event. There could be as many as 700 to

900 cars we are expecting. It is definitely going to be the biggest event in the area so far."

The Car Show will feature an auction for a 1981 Cadillac donated by Ernie and Donna Lopez, owners of Atlanta Paving, with the auction starting at \$3,000.

Cost estimates to replace the seating inside the Music Hall is around \$500,000, which is a considerable goal to reach. Fortunately, event preparations have already seen around \$43,000 being raised, and Thomason estimates the joint Car Show could take in \$100,000 by the end.

Donations can also be made to the Fairgrounds, and seats are being dedicated to loved ones for the price of \$300 apiece.

Volunteers are still needed for upcoming events, including the Car Show, to run different stations and help get people through the gates. For more information, visit GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com.

North Georgia Master Gardeners Plant Sale May 8th

North Georgia Master Gardener Plant Sale, Saturday, May 8, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Fannin County School System Agricultural Center, 43 Station Road, Blue Ridge, GA. On Highway 515 heading west-southwest toward Highway 5,

exit right on turn lane past the overpass west-southwest of Windy Ridge Drive.

Native and non-native plants, perennials and annuals, plants for sun and shade, Master Gardeners available for advice. Cash or check only, please. Proceeds fund commu-

nity projects, including scholarships for Fannin County and Copper Basin high school seniors entering botany related college programs.

For more information, contact the Fannin County Extension office at 706-632-3061. NT(Apr28,Z3)CA

Smokey Bear – Guardian of our Forests since 1944

The guardian of our forests has been a part of the American scene for so many years, it is hard for most of us to remember when Smokey Bear first appeared. Dressed in a ranger's hat, belted blue jeans, and carrying a shovel, he has been the recognized wildfire prevention symbol since 1944.

To understand how Smokey Bear became associated with wildfire prevention, we must go back to World War II. On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor. The following spring, in 1942, a Japanese submarine surfaced near the coast of Southern California and fired a salvo of shells that exploded on an oil field near Santa Barbara, very close to the Los Padres National Forest.

Americans throughout the country were shocked by the news the war had now been brought directly to the American mainland. There was also fear that enemy incendiary shells exploding in the timber stands along the Pacific Coast could easily set off numerous raging forest fires in addition to those already being caused by people. Protection of these forests from uncontrolled fire became a matter of national importance, and a new idea was born. If people could be urged to be more careful, perhaps some of the fires could be prevented.

For many years, the nation had known that forest fires presented a serious threat. In 1939, a poster showing a forest ranger who looked like Uncle Sam pointing to a raging forest fire stated, "Your Forest-Your Fault-Your Loss."

Statistics showed that nine out of ten of the fires were person-caused and, thus, preventable. In 1942 the Forest Service organized the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Program with the help of the Wartime Advertising Council. The Wartime Advertising Council was composed of people experienced in the business of advertising who donated their talent to the U.S. Government to get important

messages to the people. Posters and slogans were created through the Wartime Advertising Council, including "Forest Fires Aid the Enemy," and "Our Carelessness, Their Secret Weapon." By using catchy phrases, colorful posters, and other fire prevention messages, the CFFP Program encouraged people to prevent accidental fires and help with the War. Walt Disney's motion picture "Bambi" was produced in 1944, and Disney authorized the CFFP Program to use his creation on a poster. The Bambi poster was a success and proved that using an animal as a fire prevention symbol would work. The Forest Service needed to find an animal that would belong exclusively to the CFFP Program. It was finally decided that the Nation's fire prevention symbol should be a bear.

On August 9, 1944, the new fire prevention symbol was agreed upon by the Forest Service and the Wartime Advertising Council. The first poster of Smokey Bear showed a bear pouring a bucket of water on a campfire. Smokey Bear soon became very popular, and his image began appearing on fire prevention materials.

"Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires" was first used as a slogan in 1947. One spring day in 1950 in the Capitan Mountains of New Mexico, an observer in one of the fire towers spotted smoke and called the location into the nearest Ranger Station. The first crew to arrive discovered a major fire being swept along by strong winds. Word spread rapidly and more crews were called to help. Forest rangers, Army soldiers, New Mexico State Game and Fish Department employees and civilian volunteers worked together to control the raging fire. During one of the lulls in the firefighting, there was a report of a lonely cub seen wandering near the fire line. The little cub had been caught in the path of the fire. He had taken refuge in a tree that was now nothing but a charred, smoking snag. His climb had saved his life



Frank Riley
Executive Director of RC&D

but left his paws and hind legs badly burned. The firefighters removed the little bear cub from the burned tree, and a rancher, who had been helping the firefighters, agreed to take the cub home. The cub needed veterinary aid and was flown to Santa Fe where the burns were treated and bandaged. The news about the little bear spread swiftly throughout New Mexico. Soon the United Press and Associated Press picked up the story and broadcast it nationwide.

The State Game Warden wrote an official letter to the Chief of the Forest Service, offering to present the cub to the agency with the understanding that the small bear would be dedicated to a publicity program for fire prevention and wildlife conservation.

The go-ahead was given to send the bear cub to Washington, D.C. Once there, he found a home at the National Zoo and became the living symbol of Smokey Bear. Smokey died in 1976 and will be 77 years old on August 9, 2021. Smokey's new slogan is "Only you can prevent Wildfires!" and he will always be the leader for fire prevention in the forests. I am honored beyond words to have received the 2021 Silver Smokey Bear Award and it is one of the highlights of my 50-year forestry career, but I cannot take all of the credit for our programs success, because it is a team effort with each team member across 4 states adding to the success of Firewise and Fire Adapted Communities to educate residents on how to reduce the risk of wildfire in their communities... I am just the quarterback.

For more information check out - www.smokeybear.com/ - www.facebook.com/smokeybear/ NT(Apr28,Z14)CA

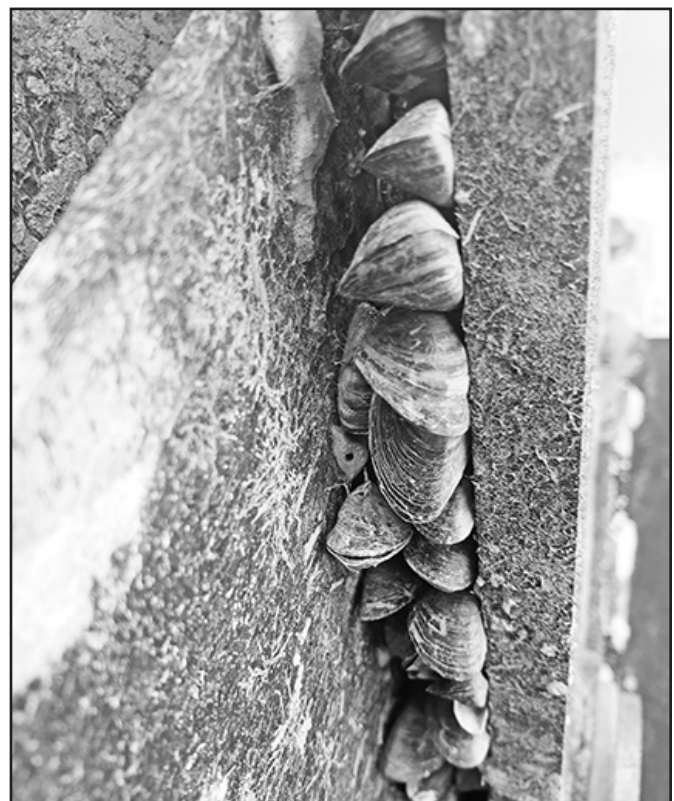
DNR urges boat owners to watch for zebra mussels

With zebra mussels found on a boat in the Lake Lanier area, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is urging boat owners to CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY their boats, and be aware of the potential for transferring these invasive mussels from waters in other states.

Owners of a boat taken to Lanier after being used on the Tennessee River near Chattanooga, TN, recently spotted zebra mussels on the boat and called DNR.

Staff from the agency's Wildlife Resources Division removed about 1 gallon of dead mussels from the boat and worked with the owners to ensure the vessel was drained, properly cleaned and thoroughly dried. DNR commended the owners for recognizing the issue and taking the necessary steps to report it.

Zebra mussels, a species native to eastern Europe that has spread to many U.S. waters, including the Tennessee River, pose a significant risk to Georgia. If established here they could spur major ecological and economic damage. Zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species can cause millions of dollars in damage to boats and water intake pipes, while undermining native mussels and other aquatic species.



Zebra mussels found on boat that had been on the Tennessee River.

established population in Georgia. However, in March zebra mussels were found in Georgia pet stores attached to moss ball plants being sold for aquariums.

For more information on these aquatic invaders and how to report them, as well as how to properly CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY vessels, visit georgiawildlife.com/ans. NT(Apr28,F1)SH

Bluegrass musicians wanted

Open Bluegrass jam in Hiawassee, Tuesdays 6-9 p.m. All skill levels welcome. Traditional acoustic BG instruments: banjo, guitar, mandolin, fiddle, bass, autoharp,

dulcimer, dobro. Purpose is for musicians to meet, play with and for each other - not a public performance. Please, no amps, no alcohol. Call Greg 770-374-2025. NT(Apr28,F1)SH