

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Notice the Notices

On Sunday, April 22, 2018 we celebrated the life of a wonderful member of our VFW and American Legion Auxiliaries, Rita Smith. Rita was called home on March 24, 2018. She was only 73 years young. We love her and her loving husband Marion Smith also of our Veterans community. May her smiling soul filled with positive energy rest at the right hand of our Supreme Commander forevermore. Might I add that this remembrance was sponsored and organized by our ladies Auxiliaries, without which our various VSOs would suffer. The ladies of America provide so much for all of us.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



Memorial Wall Committee will once again hold meetings for those who wish to sponsor their beloved Veterans of Towns County to be remembered on our Towns County Memorial Park wall. The first of our five summer meetings will be Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 3 till 5 PM at VFW post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee. We have volunteers from our many Veterans organizations who often commit to projects concerning our park. One of which is our Memorial Wall Committee. Began shortly after 2012, we had many meetings with Mr. Kendall trying our best, ironing out any kinks and removing obstacles from our primary objective of inscribing deceased Veterans names, who currently were Towns County residents upon the one lone remaining granite wall, which had gone unused for years. Our current Towns County Commissioner, Cliff Bradshaw supports our Veterans community in this effort.

Requirements thus became:
 1- Must have served in one of our primary branches of the armed services, A - US Army; B - US Navy; C - USMC; D - USAF; E - USCG.

2 - The Veterans surviving sponsor must have proof of residency at time of passing and provide proof of military service and discharge under honorable conditions.

3 - The proposed Veteran must have no criminal record.
 4 - There should be no duplication of Veterans names which are already inscribed upon, thus recognized upon the original existing walls of honor.

5 - Name and branch of service to be inscribed, no rank or other recognition is available.

6 - Time of passing of said Veteran should be after January 1, 2012, or the sponsor will be told their loved one will go on the "waiting list" to be decided upon by the last public meeting in September of each year. This is based upon space available on the small granite wall of that specific year and upon annual basis. Thus far, this has worked out well, for all.

7 - Sponsor must provide a check or cash for covering the cost of engraving only. The fine, dedicated volunteers who chair our five summer month meetings to meet with sponsors will be at our VFW Post #7807 upstairs in back from 3 till 5 PM on Saturdays typically the first Saturday of the month excluding holiday weekends.

Finally, don't forget about our upcoming Memorial Day event on Monday, May 28, 2018 at 11 AM to be held at our beautiful Towns County Memorial Park.

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

Fighting Alzheimer's

Dear Editor,

My 86 year old Mother has Alzheimer's and I took care of her for 9 years before moving her into a personal care home. We need to change the way we think about this disease. Too often Alzheimer's is treated as an aging issue ignoring the fact that someone in the U.S. develops this disease every 65 seconds. Two-thirds of its annual costs are being borne by Medicare and Medicaid. As one of the 527,000 caregivers in Georgia of someone living with Alzheimer's, I understand the disease's impact and the physical and emotional costs.

Congress has a chance to take decisive action passing the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (S. 2076/H.R. 4256). Endorsed by the Alzheimer's Association, BOLD would create an Alzheimer's public health infrastructure across the country implementing effective interventions; increasing early detection and diagnosis, reducing risk and preventing avoidable hospitalizations. Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in the U.S. costing more than \$277 billion a year!

Join me in asking Sen. David Perdue and Sen. Johnny Isakson to fight for the millions of Americans affected by Alzheimer's by sponsoring the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act.

Sincerely,
Connie D. Mitchell

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, 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.

Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!

Contact us at 706-896-4454

Deadline for the T.C. Herald is Friday by 5 PM

American Tree Farm System

What is Certification? Forest certification is the certification of land management practices to a standard of sustainability. A written certification is issued by an independent third-party that attests to the sustainable management of a working forest. Forest certification gives consumers assurance that products they purchase originate from sustainably managed forests that protect economic, social and environmental benefits. A forest's certification is shown exclusively through listing in the ATFS Verification Database.

RC&D
Frank Riley
 Executive Director



The American Tree Farm System certifies forest management to eight standards of sustainability.

What is Third-Party Certification? Third party certification is the auditing of a forest certification system by an outside, accredited certification body.

Each American Tree Farm System Region, Independently Management Group program, and individual third-party certificate holder is required to undergo an audit by a certification body accredited by an International Accreditation Forum (IAF) member organization such as the American National Accreditation Board (ANAB) or the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). Audit teams from these certification bodies will be examining on the ground conformance to the AFF Standards of Sustainability.

What is PEFC? The American Tree Farm System has been endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification systems (PEFC) since 2008. PEFC is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 1999 which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third-party certification. PEFC provides an assurance mechanism to purchasers of wood and paper products that they are promoting the sustainable management of forests.

PEFC is a global umbrella organization for the assessment of mutual recognition of forest certification systems in various countries around the world. There are 25 PEFC endorsed forest certification systems covering more than 200 million hectares of certified forests, making PEFC the world's largest forest certification system.

Forest certification systems must go through a rigorous assessment process involving public consultation and the use of independent assessors to be considered for endorsement. Final endorsement is subject to a vote taken by the PEFC general membership. ATFS received its vote for endorsement for the PEFC membership on August 8, 2008.

Affiliation with PEFC benefits certified Tree Farmers by opening doors to certified wood and forest benefits markets.

Certified Tree Farmers meet the following criteria: Own 10 acres or more; Manage the property under a written management plan that accounts for water quality, wildlife habitat, soil conservation as well as forest product production; Protect the land from fire, insects, disease and destructive grazing.

The Five Steps to Certification. You are a good steward with 10-10,000 acres of woodlands. You care about your woods and manage for the long term health of your land.

You contact us to request more information to see if you meet the ATFS eligibility criteria (between 10 and 10,000 acres and have a plan that meets our standards). All Certified Family Forest owners have a management plan that addresses air, water, soil quality, wildlife, special sites, invasive species and integrated pest management as described in the ATFS Standards of Sustainability.

Request a property inspection with one of our ATFS trained inspecting foresters. Normally this is done through the State Committee. You can find the contact information with one of our ATFS trained inspecting foresters. Normally this is done through the State Committee. You can find the contact information to request an inspection here.

An ATFS inspector will visit your property and verify that your land management activities meet the ATFS Standards of Sustainability.

If approved for certification, post your ATFS sign with pride! You have been recognized for your good stewardship and your commitment to sustainability on your woodlands. We will keep you up to date with all the latest best practices and any subsequent changes to the Standards.

Standards for Tree Farm Certification. Below are ATFS' current standards, guidance on implementation and the top things to know about the current standards.

Standards Documents: 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification: All properties certified under the three certification options must meet these standards. This document includes examples and information on how to implement the standards on the ground.

What is Certification?; What Certification options do I have?; State Program Certification; Group Certification; Individual Certificate Holder; Is Certification right for me?

Five Things To Know About ATFS Standards. 1. Designed for small woodland owners: These standards were developed to be appropriate for the type of management practiced by family woodland owners. 2. Management plan: The management plan streamlines the process for Tree Farm owners to participate in USDA conservation incentive programs and US Forest Service forest stewardship programs. Learn more and download our template. 3. Protecting special sites: The 2015-2020 Standards require the maintenance of special cultural and environmental sites (historical, archaeological, geological, biological and ecological). Check out our website just for woodland owners, MyLandPlan.org, for tips on preserving special sites. 4. Monitoring your woodlands: The periodic monitoring requirement encourages landowners to watch their woodlands for changes that could interfere with their management objectives. Things to be on the look out for include pest outbreaks (pine beetle, emerald ash borer), invasive plants (kudzu, Canadian thistle) and indications of trespassers.

Many landowners are already doing things like walking their boundaries and checking new plantings for invasive species.

5. Combating invasive species: Tree Farmers are encouraged to make practical efforts to prevent, eradicate or otherwise control invasive species using integrated pest management methods. Integrated pest management methods may include pesticides, physical removal methods and preventative methods.

Watermelons and Canines

"Now chicken and gravy may taste mighty fine but there ain't nothing better than a watermelon vine. So just plant a little watermelon on my grave and let the juice (insert an unspellable juice-sucking noise here. Repeat.) run through."

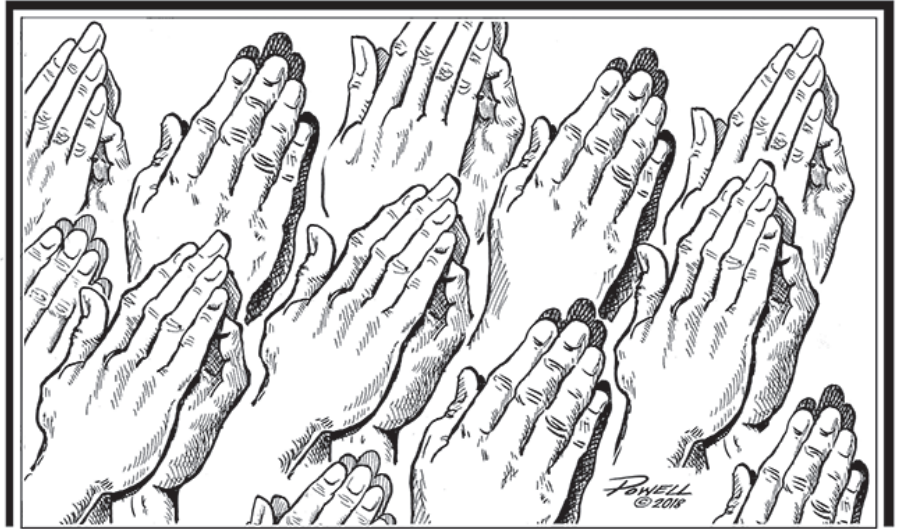


This little song had not entered my mind in at least half a century.

You may remember that in 2017, Tornado Emma blew into Towns damaging a number of trees in Hamilton Gardens so badly that they had to be removed. So sad. The swath left after the removal is known as Emma Alley. When the trees were felled, wedges were cut into the trunks to aid taking down the trees. An ever-so-clever person (you know who you are) gathered the wedges and painted them to look like servings of watermelon. The plan for the watermelons was to randomly place them on stumps and other spots in Emma Alley as smile inducers. That plan changed. While spiffing up the gardens for the opening day of A Blooming Affair, a need arose to spread straw in an area that was just shy of lovely. The wind kicked up and the straw became uncooperative. Another clever Hammie suggested that the watermelon wedges would make nifty straw tamers. With the straw encircling the sweet-smelling potted Dianthus and the colorful, fun watermelons keeping everything in place, the less than grand spot had become a stand-out. It looked like a perfectly executed feature and not an improvised fix. Heavens, I know some smart people.

The come-to-the-rescue watermelon wedges also reminded me of the Tom T. Hall song, "Old Dogs and Children and Watermelon Wine". I was asked by a garden guest who was reading the No Dogs Allowed In The Gardens sign, why Hamilton Gardens is not pet friendly. Not pet friendly? Most all of the Hammies share their homes with canines, felines, and/or other pets. A very dear friend and I walk together almost every day. We enjoy each other's company and being outside. My friend is interesting, curious, and loving. She is also compelled to chase small rodents and relieve herself when the urge strikes. I would not change one thing about her. Why in the world should the dog be taken out of a dog? I know my friend Ziva would love the sights and scents in The Gardens and I would love to share them with her. Although I don't know how, some people don't like or are afraid of dogs. Out of respect for these people, Ziva will never be taken to Hamilton Gardens. Out of respect for the people tending The Gardens, many of whom are my friends and all of whom I admire, I want no surprise puppy patties waiting for them. Dog urine can yellow and even kill plants. Pets for me are comfort, amusement and love. It is the responsibility of their humans to keep them safe and not let them intrude on other peoples' space. Pets are often blamed and resented because we were too selfish to consider the welfare of all.

To my garden-structure-painting cohort: Just where on your person did you find black enamel paint? Linda Grace, you got some splainin' to do.



UNITY SOMETHING TO PRAY FOR
 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER - MAY 3

Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
	Every Tuesday:	
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	Every Wednesday	
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Every Thursday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	Every Friday:	
Movers & Shakers	Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Every Sunday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	First Monday of each month:	
Mtn. Amat. Radio	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
	First Tuesday of each month:	
Alzheimer's Supp.	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall	6 pm
Young Harris Coun.	YH City Hall	7 pm
	First Wednesday of each month:	
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
	First Thursday of each month:	
Stephens Lodge	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
	Second Monday of each month:	
Chamber Board	1411 Jack Dayton Cir.	8 am
VFW	VFW Post	5 pm
Historical Society	Old Rec. Center	5:30 pm
Planning Comm.	Civic Center	7 pm
School Board	Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
	Second Tuesday of each month:	
Gem & Mineral Club	Senior Center	1:30 pm
Caregiver support	Brasstown Manor	3 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild	Calvary Church	4 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Mtn. Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
	Second Wednesday of each month:	
Basket Weavers	SC Fire Hall	10 am
Board of Elections	67 Lakeview Cir., Ste. A	4 pm

Towns County Herald

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