

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Humor for Vets and Families

Dedicated to ALL Veterans who may or may not find some humor in this observation I just very recently discovered in a copy of Military times.

The Veterans' Corner Scott Drummond USCG Veteran



There are certainly things/issues on this list I haven't thought of in my past decades since my exit from military service. However I am reminded by the kind lady, Sarah Sicaud who compiled this humorous list, of things that I've lost, discarded and from an emotional perspective, wish I still had in my possession.

In the back of every veteran's closet, you're likely to find some old uniforms, dusty caps, a stack of medical, training, and discharge records... maybe a few ribbons or medals.

An incessant need to roll socks

Bad knees

The misguided idea that ibuprofen and fresh socks will cure any ailment

Tinnitus. ZNNNNNNNNNG.

The ability to sleep anywhere

The plight of not being able to sleep at all

Old combat boots. They're great for mowing the lawn or a trip to Home Depot.

Fear of tape tests

Issues with authority figures

Back pain

T-shirts from strange events and places they don't remember going

A woobie that has seen better days.

A swearing problem that is FUBAR

A love/hate relationship with acronyms

Total disdain for PowerPoint

Scars from barracks shenanigans gone awry

A few ugly divorcees

A truck they bought after gaining some sense and selling that Camaro they financed at 27% APR

Some weird strip club stories

Sleep apnea

Bad tattoos that seemed like a really good idea at the time

Boxy brown t-shirts that somehow have sweat stains in a different, more gross shade of brown

A deeply stained, never-before-washed coffee mug that they tell everyone is "seasoned" - Semper Paratus



Hay Testing

Hay testing is an important part of any livestock management program. If you feed hay, it's important to know the quality of the hay.

Watching and Working Jacob Williams



Feeding hay that is poor quality can lead to an impaction in the animal's stomach. Essentially, what happens is that the hay fed to cattle has a lot of fiber in it. Lots of fiber in hay without nutrition means that the cattle can't properly digest the forage.

getting an impaction can range from calving issues, to diarrhea, to weight loss, and even death.

When cattle start to die because of poor quality hay, usually you will have at least a few cattle go down. Forage quality issues can be made worse if they are combined with supplements that stimulate forage intake, because then cattle are eating more of the low quality hay.

Body Condition Scoring (BCS...not referring to college football) also shows how important hay quality is. BCS is an index that measures the health of the animal based on how fleshy or boney the animal is.

We have three main tests for hay. The basic one costs \$15 and will tell the moisture, fiber, crude protein, lignin, total digestible nutrients, and give you a relative forage quality (RFQ). The RFQ is an index that will give you a number to give you a reference on the quality of your hay.

A single hay test can cover an entire hay lot. A hay lot would be all the hay from a particular field at the same cutting. I have a hay probe in my office and I would be happy to come out and collect the hay sample for you.

Quality forage when grass isn't growing is a big part of any livestock operation, not matter how big or small. If you have questions about hay testing contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Silver Smokey Award

Our wildfire team here in Georgia has added another Smokey Bear award. The team now has 5 Smokey Bear awards. 3 Silver; Mike Davis USFS FMO 2014, Frank Riley Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Executive Director, 2021, and now Mark Wiles, Georgia Forestry Commission 2022; 2 Bronze; Eric Mosley GFC, and Thomas Black USFS.

RC&D Frank Riley Executive Director



Smokey Bear Awards are reserved for individuals, teams, and organizations that provide outstanding service with significant and sustained program impact in the wildfire prevention arena.

The award levels are Gold - This is the highest honor given to organizations or individuals for outstanding wildfire prevention service that is national in scope over at least a two-year period. A maximum of three Gold Smokey Bear awards may be given annually. Silver - This is the highest honor given to organizations or individuals for outstanding wildfire prevention service that is regional (multistate) in scope over at least a two-year period. A maximum of five Silver Smokey Bear awards may be given annually; Bronze - This is the highest honor given to organizations or individuals for outstanding wildfire prevention service that has impact within a state over at least a two-year period.

"The partners behind the wildfire prevention legend Smokey Bear and his public service advertisement campaign—the longest running in United States history—are pleased to announce the 2022 national Smokey Bear Award honoree. In the world of wildfire prevention, there is no greater honor than to receive a Smokey Bear Award. From the 1950s to today, the Smokey Bear Awards program has been managed by the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), the Ad Council, and the USDA Forest Service.

"The 2022 Smokey Bear Award winner is being honored for the dedication, innovation, and energy he brings to wildfire prevention," said USDA Forest Service Chief Randy Moore.

"For many years, we have bestowed these awards on only the most deserving people, who like him, show up with the passion and desire to make a difference year after year. We thank him and all of those who continue their dedicated and outstanding work in preventing human-caused wildfires."

This year's Silver Smokey Bear Awardee is Mark Wiles, a wildfire mitigation specialist for the Georgia Forestry Commission. Throughout his 31-year career, Mark Wiles has been dedicated to wildfire prevention awareness. As the leader of several federal Fire Prevention Education Teams (FPETs), Mark has utilized digital billboards, movie theater advertising, social media memes, and strategic in-person Smokey Bear appearances to significantly reduce human-caused wildfire starts in communities across the country.

Out west, Mark has led FPET deployments that created and distributed stickers, digital media, and various print materials that brought prevention messaging to "Burning Man" participants in Nevada, backcountry hikers in Wyoming, and people experiencing homelessness throughout Washington and Oregon. Mark was also featured in two recent NPR news stories about wildfire prevention in the U.S. and is the go-to wildfire prevention spokesperson for the Georgia Forestry Commission. Mark provides us with a terrific model for developing wildfire prevention programming," said NASF President and Connecticut State Forester Christopher Martin.

"He has used social media memes to appeal to younger generations and created targeted messaging for non-English speakers. He shows us that taking the time to understand the needs of a community, and to build relationships with that community's influencers, makes a real difference in reducing human-caused wildfires. We commend Mark on this accomplishment and thank him for his valued contributions to wildfire prevention."

"Mark's creativity and passion truly embody Smokey Bear's message of wildfire prevention," said Ad Council Chief Campaign Development Officer Michelle Hillman. "Now, as wildfire prevention is more important than ever, we thank Mark for his work in helping keep our forests safe from unplanned fires and congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition." Way to go Mark!

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Letters To The Editor

Climate Change Crusaders

Dear Editor,

In response to the recent editorial on climate change, I would say we need much more oil and gas production and efficient distribution of these vital commodities in the United States, not less! The need is immediate, as the current administration is literally choking off new exploration and production of oil and natural gas used to heat our homes, power our vehicles, and drive our commerce.

I've heard all the climate alarmism since I was in college in the early '70s. I remember the first Earth Day when the "experts" were warning the world of the coming ice age. As I aged through the 1980s and '90s, I noticed the barrage of misinformation from the "experts" who told us the oceans were dying and the country was running out of oil and gas reserves. Moving along into the early 21st century, I vividly recall Al Gore giving a speech on global warming during a blizzard. As the decades progressed, the "experts" could no longer sell the global warming narrative to the public, and so we were subjected to the new narrative of climate change so that any weather phenomenon could be covered under this all encompassing umbrella. From the minute the narrative switched to "climate change," the country has been subject to pure political propaganda.

The term "climate change" is intellectual garbage. The late great Rush Limbaugh in his concise, articulate, straight to the point opening monologues characterized these zealous climate change crusaders as part of the ever-expanding band of government bureaucrats who use the religion of climate change to regulate everything and everyone in this country and elsewhere. Rest assured that when they have bankrupted our vital industries, wrecked the economy, and stripped us of our individual liberties, these ruling class bureaucrats and Hollywood elites will still have their private planes, expensive cars, and well-heated mansions, while those of us that shoulder the burden of never-ending inflation will be reduced to the role of government dependents. All in the name of climate change. Wake up, America!

Kevin P. Cannon

Pet Friendly? Seriously?

Dear Editor,

In a recent article in the Towns County Herald, a statement was made that the Hamilton Gardens is now pet friendly. Seriously, a state-recognized botanical garden is pet friendly? Botanical gardens do not allow pets for the simple reason that dog urine kills plants. Plus, who wants to wander a garden and worry about stepping in dog poop? I suppose tobacco products and smoking are also allowed? This, when tobacco products can carry diseases that are harmful to plants and smoking is a fire hazard.

If Hamilton Gardens is further damaged or lost, the blame will lay with the current management and Towns County Government.

Linda Jones

Habitat for Humanity

If you follow our posts on Facebook you saw that I requested to hear from our community. Our Facebook group is, "Habitat for Humanity of Towns & Union Counties." I posted a question to community members, and I asked for as many answers as I could get from the question, "What does Habitat for Humanity mean to you?"

Habitat Happenings Madelyn Bailey



Habitat for Humanity organization works through many different programs within our community. Therefore, the basis of Habitat for Humanity means different things to different people in our community. I believe it is important to recognize the impact that Habitat for Humanity has, and to evaluate the community perception of Habitat. We are always working to bring about community betterment and to ensure affordable housing, safe living environments, individual empowerment and commitment to community getting involved.

Jason Annis responded to my question, "What does Habitat for Humanity mean to you?" He stated that, "To me Habitat for Humanity means a community coming together to do God's work." I had to share this response because I believe it sums up everything we do here perfectly. Above all else we are Christian, and our goal is to be God's hands and feet, helping those in need and empowering them to help others. Here at Habitat for Humanity we are always working to initiate the chain reaction of caring for others. If we are not, then we are not doing our jobs or our organization justice. We are always striving to be the best we can for our community members, bringing about improvement, and change to our guidelines.

In addition, I also received a message from Jane Danforth in answer to the question of "What Habitat for Humanity means to you?" Jane stated that Habitat for Humanity, "Means helping people have a better life." I love this response as well because at the heart of everything we do is people. If we can provide the means to help others and bring about better living, we are happy to. Sometimes in life all it takes is a caring person with the means to provide a helping hand to uplift and change your life forever. We are happy to change lives here at Habitat. We are so thankful for the amazing people we meet through this process.

Habitat for Humanity works to empower our community to be apart of what we stand for and do for others. Thank you for submitting your answers on Facebook, if you are wanting to be quoted in another one of my pieces follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on our posts.

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