

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Little Known Hero

Thanks for a gentle reminder from fellow Coast Guardsman, Ron Willis.

As Americans it is virtually impossible to know all those who have died for the precious freedoms and liberties we are blessed with. Therefore

it is in our best interests to learn and honor their history as our real American heroes and to honor and thank all those that have served our nation with honor and doing whatever they were given to do with the best of their abilities. In mankind's history, freedom has never been free and never will be.

Sunday, 27 Sept 1942, 76 years ago, nine months after Pearl Harbor, our nation was at war. This is only a small part of our USCG history. A twenty two year old US Coast Guard First Class Signalman, Douglas Monro gave his life for others under intense fire in the bloody Guadalcanal conflict.

Monro was OIC of a detachment of landing craft and had already landed US Marines ashore in order to push back the Japanese assault. As happens far too often in the chaos and fog of war, conditions were far worse than anticipated and our Marines were in danger of being totally annihilated. Once the actual reality was known there were ONLY two options.

1- Abandon our five hundred Marines to certain death. OR 2- An almost suicidal attempt at rescue the same way they came ashore, by boats. Doug Monro volunteered to lead this extremely hazardous mission. Doug was successful in bringing all our boats ashore under heavy fire, and proceeded to evacuate our Marines from the beach. Towards bringing out our last few Marines, the situation turned even worse, especially for the remaining Marines. Doug, not relenting to danger, placed his boats as cover for the last remaining Marines to be brought to safety and escape the hellhole known as Guadalcanal. Amongst the last Marines was none other than Lt. Colonel Lewis B. "Chester" Puller, then in command of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines.

As this was taking place Doug Monro received a mortal wound and as he lay dying, his last words were, "Did they get off?" Please reread that!

He, like so very many of America's real heroes gave his life for others. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, our only US Coast Guardsman to do so. Doug Monro's devotion to God, Duty and Country is not that much different from anyone else, man or woman who has served honorably in any of our military services. The only difference is that he was there when the chips were down and like most who have served he did what he had to do. As most of us would have done. You just do the best you can with what you have!

To further your knowledge and appreciation of America please read, "Guardian of Guadalcanal" written by Gary Williams, and released on September 27, 2014.

Never forget!

*Semper Paratus*

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



## Conservation Innovation Grants

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Program is managed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and supports market-based solutions to resource challenges and the tools, technologies and strategies for next-generation conservation efforts on America's working lands.

For more than a decade, CIG projects have addressed a wide diversity of topics and resource concerns, including soil health, irrigation efficiency, wildlife and pollinator habitat, water and air quality, greenhouse gas markets, on-farm energy use and conservation finance. Program Eligibility CIG applications are accepted from state or local governments, federally-recognized American Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations and individuals in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) and the Pacific Islands Area (Guam, American Samoa Pacific Islands Area). CIG funds innovative, on-the-ground conservation projects, including pilot projects and field demonstrations. Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D (CCRCD) provides local leadership needed for developing, making necessary amendments to and carrying out a plan for the orderly development, conservation improvement and wise use of the area's natural resources and to educate, collect, coordinate and disseminate information for development of human resources, thereby improving the economic opportunities of the people within the Chestatee-Chattahoochee Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. That is a mouthful but to put it simply, CCRCD administers projects in communities that will improve the way of life for the citizens living in the community by conserving natural resources. CCRCD was recently awarded a contract to perform a Conservation Innovation Grant (GIG) for the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC). CCRCD gets to do the fun part, select the site, prepare the land, plant the seed, (drive the tractors), and harvest the crops produced by the CIG project (oh pleeeze Brer Bear, don't throw Brer Rabbit in dat Briar Patch!) and GSWCC gets to write the reports and deal with regulators. We needed 4 acres quickly because the planting window for the fall was rapidly closing, so we approached Gilbert Banks at White County Farmers Exchange about our plans for the CIG and the need for 4 acres of land, and he immediately knew the perfect spot, North Georgia Technical College (NGTC) in Clarksville. We approached NGTC about using 4 acres for our 2-year conservation project and they gave us our choice of any of their farm lands that one day will be where agricultural students at NGTC will learn about agriculture. NGTC has plans to start an agricultural program soon and our CIG is the first step in starting their ag program. We will use NGTC students for data collection and other analytical projects during the 2-year project. We divided a 4-acre block into four 1-acre strips and planted 3 of these strips with different mixes of cover crops to test the effect each of these has on fertility and productive capacity of the land. One of the strips will have no treatment and will be the standard for comparison with the others in-order to determine the effect our mixtures have on soil productivity. We terminated the grass and weeds

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



## Soil Testing

Soil testing is a very important part of growing a quality crop, having a good looking garden, or having a quality lawn. Soil testing gives you an insider look at what is going on in your soil. Without a soil test you can't know what exactly is happening in the soil. Let's take a look at what a soil test can do for you and why it's a good idea to have your soil tested.

If you have a garden at your house it's a good idea to have your soil tested every other year. A soil test will show you the pH, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, and manganese levels in your soil. These are essential elements for plant growth. Nitrogen is also a very important nutrient for plant growth. However, nitrogen is very mobile in the soil. Therefore, you could test your soil and by the time that you receive your soil results back from the lab the amount of nitrogen in the soil could be drastically different.

The ideal time to take a sample is a couple of months before you plant. This way you have time to work on the recommendations provided in the soil sample before you plant. When taking a sample for your lawn, a depth of 4 inches is appropriate. If you're taking a sample for gardens, ornamentals, mixed fruit trees, and wildlife plots sample to a depth of 6-8 inches. The sample width should be about the diameter of a quarter. When you take the sample it's best to take multiple samples from around the plot that you are interested in. This way you'll get an average of the area that you're sampling and a better representative sample. Using a trowel or small shovel, take 8-10 samples and mix them together in a bucket. From that bucket you can take the sample that you'll bring into the Extension office so that we can send it to you'll labs. Make sure that you get enough soil so that the lab can test properly. A sandwich bag full of soil is what is needed.

If you're sampling from an area that has mulch or grass on top of it push that material away so that you penetrate down to the soil. Pull out any rock or roots that you get with the soil sample and throw them away. When you take the sample, spread the wet/damp soil on a newspaper and let the soil air out overnight before bringing it in to the office, so that it dries down some.

When deciding how many samples you need to take, look at the area and determine how many different types of conditions you have. For example, if you have a low lying spot, a steep slope, and a wooded area, each one of these would need a unique soil sample done. When you receive the results from the lab they will have recommendations for you based on the types of plants that you have growing.

Bring soil samples into your local county Extension Office. For Union County, you can bring them Monday through Friday from 8-5. In Towns County, you can bring the samples in Tuesday morning or Thursday. Soil samples will take 7-10 business days to process. We will collect samples throughout the week until shipping out on Friday at 2:00 pm. A basic soil sample cost \$10.00. Cash or checks only.

If you have questions regarding the soil sampling or the results you can call your local Extension office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

**UGA extension**  
**Watching and Working**  
**Jacob Williams**



## Letters to The Editor

### Be Informed and Vote

Dear Editor,

As we approach this crucial election in November, may we pray that our beloved country might have a new birth of freedom; not a freedom from God, which always leads to license of ultimate slavery. But rather a freedom built upon God and His commandments, apart from which any nation will eventually perish.

And let's never forget those 56 fearless men who met on that hot summer day July 4th, 1776, in Philadelphia, and signed that historic document, the Declaration of Independence. Those 56 fearless men considered liberty was so much more important than security that they pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honors. They fulfilled their pledge, they paid the price, and freedom was born.

To keep that freedom alive, we must elect men and women who can and will lead our communities, states and nation according to the precepts of the Bible. To do that, we must be informed and vote. To vote, we must register, which is now easy to do. For without registering and voting, there can be no freedom. So, please register and vote so we may never face the question, from our children and grandchildren, "Where were you the day freedom died in America?"

Rev. Charles Sutton - Tamarack Christian Missions

### Miracle Man

Dear Editor,

I love to read the stories of Jesus' miracles that He did while here on earth, though it has been 2,000 years or so since Jesus performed a miracle on the Jericho Road while walking with His disciples and a crowd following as well.

We all need help, whether it be physically, mentally, emotionally or spiritually at times in our struggles, and Jesus Christ is our answer to all of the above.

A blind man named Bartimaeus had heard about the healing that Jesus had done, so he cried out, Son of David, have mercy on me! And Scripture tells us Jesus stood still. What would it take for Jesus to stand still for you today? What cry of plea would make Jesus take notice of you, notice enough to stand still and listen to a heart in need? When Jesus commanded the blind man to come, those around him said: Be of good courage. Rise, for Jesus calls you, and casting off his garment, he came.

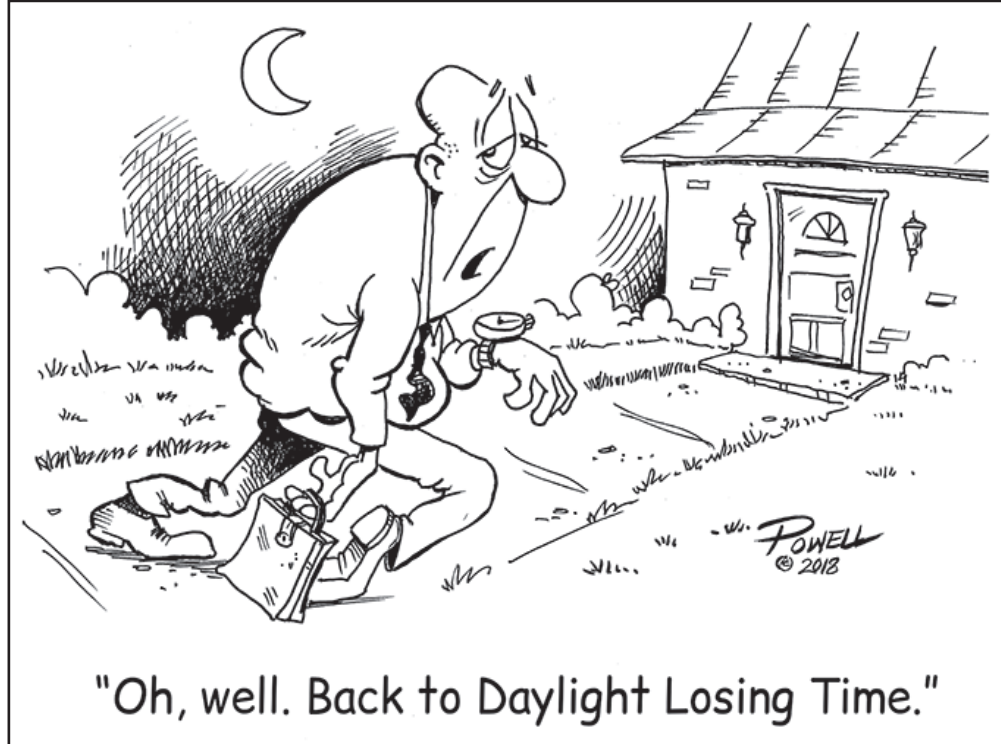
Jesus said to Bartimaeus: What do you want Me to do for you? And the blind man said: Lord, that I might receive my sight. Jesus replied: Go your way, for your faith has made you well. And immediately, he could see and followed Jesus on His way. Oh, to be a little fly on Bartimaeus' shoulder and hear him rejoicing and praising his Lord and Savior for a miracle from God.

Have you ever experienced a miracle from God? Actually, we all have when we were born. When we came out screaming and crying for the breath of life, even in our daily walk, we see the miracles of God in all of His creation, and we marvel at the wonder of it all.

God cares for humanity and He wants to have a personal relationship with those who choose to come as you are and let God's miracle of mercy, grace and love be upon you in your time of need. It is thrilling to think that Bartimaeus followed Jesus now with his eyes wide open, yet in a few days he would see Jesus dying on the cross.

Are you blind? Or have you, too, seen Jesus dying for you? If you don't know Him as your Savior and miracle worker, He awaits to hear your cry for help in times of need. What can Jesus do for you today? Amen

Frank F. Combs



Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Program is managed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and supports market-based solutions to resource challenges and the tools, technologies and strategies for next-generation conservation efforts on America's working lands and develop market-based solutions to resource challenges. CIG projects inspire creative problem-solving that boosts production on farms, ranches, and private forests - ultimately, they improve water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat. We will report the results or our tests in the spring.

For more information on CIG and CCRCD to go www.chestchattred.org or on Facebook Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D.

### 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.**

## Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
	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 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
School Board	Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
	Second Tuesday of each month:	
Conv./Vis. Bureau	Civic Center	8 am
Gem & Mineral Club	Senior Center	1:30 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
	Last Thursday of each month:	
Humane Shelter Bd.	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

Publication No: 635540

Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.

Towns County (1 Year) \$25. Out of County (1 Year) \$30. 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

<b>Kenneth West</b> Owner/Publisher	<b>Shawn Jarrard</b> Editor	<b>Mark Smith</b> Staff Writer	<b>Lowell Nicholson</b> Photographer
<b>Derek Richards</b> Advertising Director	<b>Shawn Henrikson</b> Copy Editor	<b>Todd Forrest</b> Sports	