

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Veterans Day 2018

Towns County Veterans Day service will be held this year on Saturday November 10, 2018. Our beautiful and unique Towns County Veterans Memorial Park will be the setting at 11 AM. Veterans Day is usually celebrated on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month every year. As the calendar changes annually this year that solemn day occurs on a Sunday. Therefore in order to avoid conflict with our Sunday church worship our leadership decided Saturday would be more appropriate for our local recognition of ALL those who have served our Republic in uniform.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



Commander John Harkins American Legion Post #23 with respect to an often overlooked but critically important segment of American culture decided that this year's much needed honor would be the recognition our women who have served our nation and done so since our War for Independence. As such Brandy Creel USAF Veteran will be our keynote speaker. Undoubtedly all who attend will enjoy meeting and listening to Brandy's speech. She is a crackerjack and continues to serve our Towns County community in many ways. Everyone is invited to please attend.

We will also honor those who sponsored their Towns County Veterans who passed away with the official "unveiling" of those names etched upon our Veterans Memorial Wall. Again we honor those fine ladies and families who miss their loved ones.

We also need never forget the many wives, mothers, sisters, aunts, nurses and others such as the ladies who became "Rosie the Riveter", without whom America simply just wouldn't exist. They too deserve the honor, love, respect that all who served in uniform deserve. Think how they sacrificed and indeed suffered through trying times. Think about our own Zadia Cunningham who has awaited and continues to push through the bureaucratic red tape for the return of her half-brother Grover Clyde Cunningham's remains. He gave his life with many of the 2nd Marines in November, 1943 alongside 500 on Betio Island, Battle of Tarawa and is listed as MIA. Zadia is an iconic figure for so many fine American ladies who stand strong for our men and women in uniform. They indeed, as the old saying goes, "keep the home fires burning". They have to be tough but gentle and caring at the same time. They are tasked with a burden that many of us male counterparts often lack the skills to accomplish. Together, with our different genders combined energy, love, strength, respect and God-given faith our America flourishes still!

Let us also not forget our birthday celebration for our USMC 243rd birthday on Saturday November 10th. Daniel's Steak House will host this event beginning at 5:30 PM. It will be a Meet and Greet event and a nominal cost of only \$15 per person will go to support our Unicoi Detachment 783, Marine Corps League, PO Box 701 Hiawasse, GA. Walt Scott is accepting calls at 706-897-9610 for any questions.

If you cannot attend please make a donation to this wonderful group of American Patriots.

Semper Paratus

Georgia Prescribed Fire Council

In September each year since 2007, the Georgia Prescribed Fire Council has held its annual meeting in Tifton where 300 or so foresters, landowners, consultants, and others who use prescribed fire to manage their forests gather to share experiences and learn about new techniques for managing fire in their woodlands. Fire is a natural phenomenon that has occurred in our forests since the beginning of time and maintains a natural balance in the environment.

RC&D
Frank Riley
Executive Director



Some of our well-intentioned ancestors decided that they knew better how to maintain the environment than mother nature, so they created programs to extinguish all fires in the forest. Smokey Bear was the main culprit and used to say, "Only YOU can prevent Forest Fires!" and our firefighters worked hard to extinguish all fires in the forest which has led to build up of fuels that contributes to the out of control wildfires that we have today. Only recently has Smokey Bear changed his motto to "Only YOU can prevent Wildfires!" and now promotes the use of intentionally set fire to get the forests back the way nature intended it to be. In some areas such as parts of California changing the message is too late and now with the build-up of years of fuels, they are experiencing the largest, hottest, longest, and most expensive wildfires in history.

The Georgia Prescribed Fire Council members promote the wise use of planned and controlled fire to get our forests back in line with the way nature intended it to be. The mission of the Georgia Prescribed Fire Council is: To protect the right, to encourage the use of, and to promote public understanding of prescribed fire. Prescribed fires are used by such a variety of individuals, agencies, and organizations throughout the state that the Southwest Georgia Prescribed Fire Council was established in 2002 in a regional effort to encourage the exchange of information, techniques, and experience among practitioners. In January of 2007, the steering committee, working with all partners, decided to expand and become the Georgia Prescribed Fire Council. This platform allows the council to be engaged in prescribed fire advocacy across the state. Forest lands constitute significant economic, biological and aesthetic resources of statewide importance. Frequent fires, set by lightning strikes and Native Americans, have shaped Georgia's ecosystems for thousands of years.

Our forest ecosystems evolved with fire and continue to need the strategic application of fire that mimics this natural cycle. The plants and animals of the pine woods are accustomed to frequent fires and depend on these fires for their survival. Fire is as natural as sunshine, rain and wind in many plant communities including upland pine, pine flatwoods, marshes and wet prairies. Fire also benefits many of the rare animal species in our state that are declining. Some of these declines are caused almost totally by fire exclusion. Frequent fires prevent the build-up of flammable fuels in the forest that set the stage for destructive wildfires when ignition does occur. "Prescribed burning means the controlled application of fire to existing vegetative fuels under specific environmental conditions and following appropriate precautionary measures, which causes the fire to be confined to a pre-determined area and accomplishes one or more planned land management objectives, or to mitigate catastrophic wildfires." Georgia Prescribed Burning Act, 1992.

Prescribed burning is carried out by experienced, trained, and certified land managers on both public and private lands throughout Georgia. These professionals assess forest conditions, determine the type of fire needed, and then write a "prescription" for the application of fire. Prescribed burns are permitted by the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) District Offices depending upon predicted weather conditions and safety measures to be used. GFC also offers a Certified Burner Manager Program that serves to enhance the skills of land managers and acquaint burners with regulations and offer opportunities for more advanced training. Smoke from prescribed fires is a sign that certain lands are being cared for properly. Great care is taken by prescribed fire managers to minimize any temporary inconveniences created by smoke. Smoke management plans for prescribed burns are designed so that smoke-sensitive areas like roads and residences, etc. are not negatively affected by the burn. Smoke from prescribed fires does not contribute appreciably to air quality issues since the practice typically avoids times of stagnant summer air. However, uncontrolled wildfires usually occur during the summer when there is already a bad urban air quality problem. We can reduce the risk of wildfires and the resulting smoke or air quality problems with well-timed prescribed fires. No other tool can so effectively remove the hazardous buildup of woodland fuels and help maintain our forests.

Since some land management professionals don't want to drive to Tifton for our meetings, we will have a North Georgia Prescribed Fire Council meeting at the Chattahochee Technical College in Jasper, GA on February 7, 2019. Anyone interested in forest health and prescribed fires is welcome to attend. Check our website www.chestchatred.org for registration information.

A Tale Told by an Idiot

"[Politics is] but a walking shadow, a poor player, That struts and frets his hour upon the stage, And then is heard no more. It is a tale Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing."

By the time you read this, the election will be over, and we can all breathe a collective sigh of relief. Granted, we still have to endure the hindsight, the analysis and the spin. The winners will celebrate; the losers will recriminate. Football and the holidays will bring a welcome, if temporary, remission. When it's needed, a new drama, a scandal or a disaster will be presented for our consumption, and then comes the next election cycle and the long crescendo of sound and fury until 2020, when it all starts over again.

If you've studied marketing or been involved in sales, you understand that marketing is a form of conditioning. Technology has enabled non-stop saturation by marketing, and we are well-trained to respond in predictable ways. (Keep in mind that marketing, politics and propaganda are all first cousins.)

Media companies have always known that pouring gasoline on fires is profitable, and social media, well, that, my friends, is a magnifying glass on an ant hill on a sunny day. We are inspired, frightened, angered, but always confounded and often burned. We've been feeling the heat for a long time now. Think about this while the memory of the most recent campaigns is still fresh in your mind. Try to hang on to this memory through the coming distractions. Remember all the promises from our politicians telling us we aren't going to take it anymore, that it's different this time, and they are going to create new solutions to our problems while they repeat the speeches we've heard all our lives. Yet we take their words, and words about their words, so personally.

Unless they are self-deluded (as some clearly seem to be), politicians know very well that we will forget their promises as soon as the next drama is presented for our consumption. We could stand on the deck of a ship, blowing on the sails, and have as much chance of altering its course as the speeches by our professional windbags have of affecting our future.

This is truth, but in the aftermath of a bitter and disgusting election cycle, it will be the losing team that first comes to recognize it. Let the winners celebrate while they can. Their elation will be short-lived. Ilana Mercer wrote, "The glue that allowed so lofty a debate throughout early America is gone (not to mention the necessary gray matter). The Tower of Babel that is 21st century America is home not to 6 million but 327 million alienated, antagonistic individuals, diverse to the point of distrust. Each year, elites pile atop this mass of seething antagonists another million newcomers."

The United States today is less a nation than it is an economy. We are no longer united by common ideals and purposes. It is our patterns of consumption that bind us, that direct the action on the stage. It's time we learn to understand what builds and maintains that stage.

History is moved by forces that are much less dramatic than our headlines, though quite extraordinary in their effects. It is energy, more than any other single factor, that decides economies. It is economies that decide history. This interaction draws the boundaries within which we strut and fret our hours on the stage. No matter how enlightened the ideal or passionate its devotees, there is no political philosophy, no social movement, that can bring peace and prosperity unless there is energy to fuel it and money to pay for it.

If we look at the history of world energy consumption and pay particular attention to the transitions from wood to coal to oil to natural gas, we begin to see the shape and the dimensions of our theater. Periods of peace and stability tend to occur when, and arguably only when, the energy supply is plentiful and affordable. When the energy supply is tight, the economy behaves in unexpected ways - unexpected because we insist on trying to understand history in social and political terms. The world supply of energy has been tight for some time, but a growing debt bubble has delayed the consequences.

People who follow markets often say that a rising tide lifts all boats. When the tide goes out, everything sinks. Some things sink faster than others. Debt can temporarily keep peace and prosperity afloat (think of the remarkable story of American energy, which has been almost entirely fueled by debt). Debt is the star of the show on the world stage now, and the curtain is just about to go up. Debt patches but does not repair, delays but does not resolve. It creates wealth disparity, and the greater the debt, the wider the distance between the haves and have-nots. Debt bubbles always burst, eventually, and when they do, there is always pain. Economic depression and war are common symptoms of debt bubbles collapsing - debt bubbles caused by tight energy supplies and transitions.

If you're pleased by the results of the election, enjoy your moment, but it's probably not a good idea to celebrate by borrowing money to make a major purchase. If you're grieved by the election, you won't have to endure the celebration of the other team for long. I realize there is little comfort in the cold equations governing the forces that make history. But there may be some practical value in breaking the spell that has mesmerized and transformed almost half the nation into political devotees, stirred the pot of hatred and mistrust and weakened our civil society. No political party, and particularly the democrats and republicans, have any long term solutions to the problems that affect us the most.

If you are reluctant to believe that energy is the main driving force behind history, or if you seek more information, a good place to start is an article by Gail Tverberg, "Oil Supply Limits and the Continuing Financial Crisis." Remember, it's all about energy, and the human energy we've wasted on politics and media can be better applied to a stage where we can be more effective. After the votes are all counted, it's past time to get our personal houses in order. We would be well advised to reduce debt. Learn to live within our means. Disconnect from the echo chambers of politics and media. Concentrate on our families and our local communities. Do not neglect the faith and the spiritual growth that gives meaning to our lives and fills the void that we seek to fill with consumption and distraction. Doing this will not alter the course of world history or prevent energy transitions and collapsing debt bubbles, but it will make our personal journeys safer and more comfortable.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Wild Pigs

Wild pigs go by a couple of different names, but any way you spell it they are trouble. They are a prevalent problem throughout Georgia and without proper management will only get worse here in the mountains. They do a lot of damage to farmers' crops and to homeowners' lawn and gardens. Let's talk about where these pigs came from, the damage that they cause, and what can be done to control them.

Pigs were originally brought to this side of the world by the Spanish explorers back in the 16th century. They used them for food during their long voyage, and once they arrived on this side of the Atlantic. Once here, their population quickly exploded. Some European settlers would practice free range farming allowing the pigs to roam as they pleased, this furthered the feral population. When the Great Depression hit in the 1930s many pigs were released as farmers migrated to the city to find work.

Wild pigs can be found in 45 of the 50 United States. It's estimated that the current wild pig population is about 6 million in the U.S., with 200,000 to 600,000 residing in Georgia. It's estimated that wild pigs do 150 million dollars in damage each year in Georgia. About a third of that is done to homeowners. Nationwide it's estimated that the annual damage done by wild pigs is \$1.5 billion. From these numbers it's clear that we don't want their populations rising here in the mountains any more than they already have.

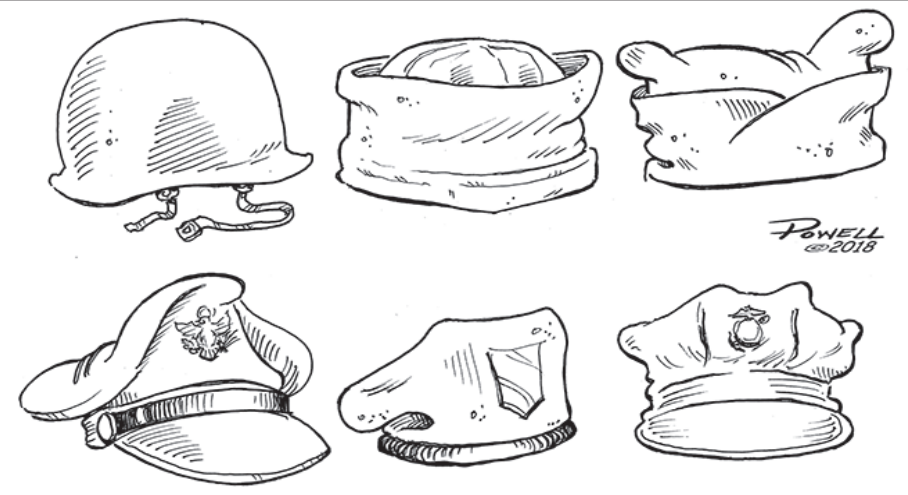
Wild pigs are highly adaptable to a wide variety of environments. The females are capable of having 6 piglets in a litter twice a year. They will consume just about anything that they come across. There are not many natural predators to pigs, and their familial groups keep predators from having access to the young. All of these are reasons for why wild pigs can become a huge problem.

So how can you control wild pigs? There is no silver bullet when it comes to wild pig control. Using fencing to exclude wild pigs from an area is possible but this is really only practical for small areas. Usually wire mesh and electric strands are used.

Due to their adaptability, and destructive nature, lethal control is often the only viable option when it comes to controlling wild pigs. In Georgia you are allowed to shoot wild pigs year round, there is not a wild pig season. Hunting wild pigs with dogs is a popular option, but not a very effective one. You may remove a couple of wild pigs, but the bulk of the family will remain unscathed. Baiting and shooting is also popular. This is more effective than hunting with dogs. The bait will draw in the wild pigs and then you can remove them from a tree stand or on the ground at a distance. Trapping is the most effective means of removing wild pigs. Corral traps with drop doors are the most popular. Some of these traps are quite high tech with you being able to activate them from your phone. These are effective, but also expensive. Once you have trapped the wild pigs you must kill them. It is illegal to transport wild pigs. Please abide by hunting and firearm regulations to make sure that you are hunting in a way that is in compliance with the laws.

If you have more questions about wild pigs please contact your local Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

UGA extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



HATS OFF TO THEM
Remember Veterans Day - Nov. 11

Towns County Community Calendar

Activity	Time
Bridge Players	Every Monday: All Saints Lutheran 12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday: Old Rec. Center 4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday: Red Cross Building 7 pm
Bridge Players	Every Thursday: All Saints Lutheran 12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Thursday: Old Rec. Center 4 pm
Movers & Shakers	Every Friday: Sundance Grill 8 am
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Friday: Red Cross Building 7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday: Red Cross Building 7 pm
Alzheimer's Supp.	First Tuesday of each month: McConnell Church 1:30 pm
American Legion	First Tuesday of each month: VFW Post 7807 4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	First Tuesday of each month: City Hall 6 pm
Young Harris Coun.	First Tuesday of each month: YH City Hall 7 pm
Quilting Bee	First Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church 10 am
Stephens Lodge	First Thursday of each month: Lodge Hall 7:30 pm
Chamber Board	Second Monday of each month: 1411 Jack Dayton Cir. 8 am
VFW	Second Monday of each month: VFW Post 5 pm
Historical Society	Second Monday of each month: Old Rec. Center 5:30 pm
School Board	Second Monday of each month: Auditorium 7 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Second Monday of each month: Lodge Hall 7:30 pm
Conv./Vis. Bureau	Second Tuesday of each month: Civic Center 8 am
Gem & Mineral Club	Second Tuesday of each month: Senior Center 1:30 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild	Second Tuesday of each month: Calvary Church 4 pm
Lions Club	Second Tuesday of each month: Daniel's Restaurant 6 pm
Mtn. Coin Club	Second Tuesday of each month: N. GA Tech 6 pm
Basket Weavers	Second Wednesday of each month: SC Fire Hall 10 am
Hiaw Writers	Second Thursday of each month: Hiaw Pk. Comm. Rm. 10:30
Awake America Prayer	Second Thursday of each month: Civic Center Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Second Thursday of each month: Senior Center 1 pm
Democratic Party	Second Thursday of each month: Civic Center 6 pm

Towns County Herald

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