

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

August garden chores from your Master Gardeners

By Anne Allen,
Master Gardener
Extension Volunteer

Plant garlic in August for harvest early next summer. Cucumbers and squash can still be planted. It is too late for corn, lima beans, okra, pole beans, and tomatoes this season. They will not have enough time to mature before cold weather.

Summer heat may cause some of the blooms on your vegetable plants to drop. The plants will hold the blooms again once the weather is cooler. To reduce some of the effects of the heat, apply a three inch layer of mulch around the plants and water regularly.

Prune overgrown blueberries after harvest. Shorten tall central stems to encourage more horizontal branches.

Test your soil now and you will have time to improve it, if necessary, before next spring's planting season. Your county extension agent has soil testing instructions.

If your older peony plants had diminished flowers this past spring, dig, separate, and replant them.

Water plants several hours before applying insecticides so the insecticide will not burn them. When applying insecticides, always follow label directions.

Fertilize chrysanthemums and fall blooming asters regularly until the buds show color. Divide and transplant daylilies, Shasta daisies and iris.

Brighten up your hanging baskets by clipping out dead leaves and flowers and fertilizing with a slow-release fertilizer. Water regularly and replace any plants that have died with new plants.

Be on the lookout for poison ivy along the ground and climbing up trees. To control it, spray with a non-selective weed killer, always following label directions.

Plant your fall vegetable garden now: collards, kale, mustard, spinach, beets, onions, turnips, broccolis, and radishes. Plant mid-to-late August.

To prevent insect and disease problems in your vegetable garden, remove plants when they have finished bearing.

Cut back annuals, such as begonias, petunias, impatiens, and geraniums when they get "leggy". Water them well and lightly fertilize. This will encourage compact growth and more blooms in about three weeks.

Harvest squash, okra, and cucumbers regularly so your plants will continue producing. Use a sharp knife with a narrow blade to avoid damaging the plant.

Remove weeds before they make seeds. Begin propagating outdoor herb plantings for an indoor winter herb garden.

If your clematis vine has turned completely brown, do not dig it up. Prune out dead stems and leave it alone and it may sprout new growth next spring.

If shrubs need pruning, only lightly prune them early this month so new growth will have time to mature before cold weather arrives.

Remove crape myrtle seedpods as they form to encourage late summer bloom.

Place a garden bench in a corner of your garden so you can sit and enjoy the summer evening sounds.

Collect hosta and blackberry lily seeds to save for planting next spring.

Fertilize roses with 10-10-10 fertilizer, 1 tablespoon per foot of height. Begin planting fall blooming bulbs.

Patio plants and window boxes dry out quickly. Check their watering needs daily.

Root 4" cutting of coleus in water. After roots have formed, plant them in a pot and enjoy them indoors for the winter.

Remove faded bedding plants from your garden and reseed with marigolds, cosmos and zinnias to provide color during the fall months.

Cut faded blooms from roses so your plant's energy will be directed to producing new flowers instead of seeds.

Fertilize annual bedding plants that are in bloom; follow label directions.

Check houseplants summering outside for pest problems and treat promptly.

Tools of the trade

"Wildfire" is the term applied to any unwanted, unplanned, damaging fire burning in forest, shrub or grass and is one of the most powerful natural forces known to people. While sometimes caused by lightning, nine out of ten wildfires are human-caused.

Why has the number of acres burned nationally remained high over the last few years? Many factors are involved and include: 1. Past fire suppression policies which allowed for the accumulation of fuel in the form of fallen leaves, branches, and excessive plant overgrowth in forest and wildland areas. 2. Increasingly dry, hot weather; 3. Changing weather patterns across the US. 4. Increased residential development in the wildland/urban interface.

National wildfire policies need to change from suppression which costs billions of dollars annually, to more prevention and education such as the National Firewise program, Ready Set Go, and others. The Chastatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council is now the Georgia Firewise Liaison and will administer the Firewise program for the entire state of Georgia. That means we can spread our wildfire safety education methods developed up here in the mountains all across Georgia and help save everybody their hard earned dollars. Our Firewise program here has resulted in a 75% reduction in wildfire calls over the past 5 or 6 years - that is money saved for homeowners and governments alike and it's a lot cheaper to prevent wildfires than to put them out!

Some of the equipment used in fire suppression today has changed over the years, while others have not. High tech equipment and new computer technologies allow fire teams to have better and quicker information on fire mapping, satellite imagery, accurate weather forecasts, and fire behavior modeling. Improvements in aircraft systems for cargo, fire-retardant chemicals, water delivery systems, and firefighter clothing have likewise evolved with the safety of the firefighter and the public in mind. However, the main tool is still the firefighter with hand tools such as Pulaskis, shovels, and adze hoes. Bulldozers and tractor plows are tracked vehicles with plows for clearing vegetation and mechanized equipment and can build a fireline or firebreak faster and more efficiently than human firefighters in terrain that allows equipment use. Air tankers are large planes fitted with tanks; provide direct support to firefighters on the ground by dropping up to several thousand gallons of water or chemical retardant ahead of an advancing wildfire. As the fire hits the wet area or retardant, it goes out. Even the Air National Guard helps out with the Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems (MAFFS) and there are also many other aircraft used in fire suppression including some 747s and DC10s fitted with large tanks and delivery systems that

Executive Director of
RC&D

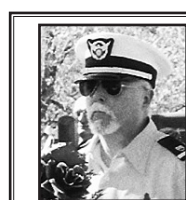
Frank
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can drop huge amounts of water with retardant on a fire. Helicopters fitted with fixed tanks or suspended buckets that range in size from 100 to 2,000 gallons support firefighters on the ground by dropping water, foam, or retardant on or near the flaming trees, brush, and structures to cool hot spots and prevent a fire from spreading. A bambi bucket is a collapsible bucket slung below a helicopter, used to dip water from a variety of sources for fire suppression. A Pulaski is a combination chopping and trenching tool. A Pulaski combines a single-bitted axe-blade with a narrow adze-like trenching blade fitted to a straight handle. Useful for grubbing or trenching in duff and matted roots, it is also well-balanced for chopping.

All wildland firefighters wear flame resistant clothing made of a special high-strength, synthetic material known as Nomex. A fire shelter is an aluminum tent offering protection by means of reflecting radiant heat and providing a volume of breathable air if the firefighter gets trapped by the fire. The firefighter can get in the shelter for protection until the fire passes. A fire line is a linear fire barrier that is scraped or dug in mineral soil to prevent or deter the advancement of a wildfire. All of these tools cost money so the best solution is to not let the fires start in the first place by using prevention education.

For more information on wildfire suppression and prevention education, contact your local Georgia Forestry Commission office, US Forest Service office or the Chastatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council office frank.crcd@gmail.com.



The Veterans' Corner

By
Scott Drummond,
USCG Veteran

Another forgotten war

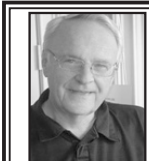
Our men and women who serve America in the best of times and in the worst of times never know when they are going to be called upon to go into harm's way; however when they are, they do! As it was in 1965 when our Marines and Army were sent ashore southwest of Santo Domingo in order to put down the attempted Communist takeover of the Dominican Republic, just southeast of Cuba. Lyndon Johnson, famed for his micro-managing and mismanagement of our Viet Nam War, called this "another Cuba", and it was no coincidence that his back and forth wavering and insane ROE (Rules of Engagement) almost resulted in more loss of American lives and total failure of our efforts to end the Communist assault thus resulting in failure, as the more socialist political class of leaders are prone to do. It was only due to our dedicated military folks' skill, flexibility and determination that we were able to stabilize this nation and prevent a Communist takeover.

It would be easily conceived that the whole island would've become a chaotic, impoverished, and hostile area as is the western portion known as Haiti were it not for our military's abilities and dedication. Today the Dominican Republic is a popular tourist resort, and peacefully co-exist with Western civilization. It is a prosperous and basically peaceful country, especially in close proximity to Haiti and Cuba. As an aside, our men and women in Viet Nam, also won every single major battle over in Southeast Asia,

while that total war effort was wasted by, once again, the politicians (who always start these things), combined with those who here at home effectively donned the "wrong uniform" and turned their angst on our returning Veterans, just to put it very mildly.

Our true military leaders, followed by our honorable men and women in uniform understand for a conflict to be won, with set goals, we must strike with instant, unyielding, swift and deadly force, without wavering back and forth between being "peacekeepers" one day and fighting "just a little bit" the next according to non-sensible, politically correct ROE, always resulting in more loss of life to our fine men and women who go forth for their brothers in combat, you and I. Our fine folks in the Navy, Marine Corps, Army and Air Force were able to accomplish this mostly forgotten victory in spite of the common political foolishness, just as the obvious political mismanagement we see so much of today. Our true and fine leaders of our military forces versed in very politically incorrect knowledge of undeniable facts and history concerning good versus evil understand the meaning of Si vis pacem, para bellum. As do our Veterans who have been there! For more detailed history on this not so far away conflict against the ever advancing evils of Communism please go here: www.jacobinmag.com/2015/04/dominican-republic-occupation-united-states-1965/ OR the book: Leavenworth Papers #15, "Power Pack" by Lawrence Yates.

Semper Paratus



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Q: Our little boy, he's ten, has begun having a very hard time in school, when exams are given. He is a healthy kid and he does okay in his classes, but when there is a test coming he just seems to freeze up. His teachers said it's a common problem they call test anxiety. They told us just to ignore it and it would go away, but I can't do that because I know it really worries him. I would take the tests for him if I could. What advice do you have?

A: Dear Worried Mom, he's the one in the third grade, not you. It wouldn't help him if you took the exams for him even if it was legal, unless you intend to follow him around the rest of his life and every time he comes to a little hill you plan to get behind and push.

From the wording of your question I get the sense that maybe you feel obligated to make life easier for him at every opportunity. Don't. We generally grow best through struggle. Give him some affirmation and assure him that you believe in him. Don't set the bar too high, just tell him you know he'll do his best and that's all that's important.

We have a friend who is dean of a dental school not far from where we live. He told us that it has become somewhat common for dental applicants to bring their parents along when they sit for the entrance interview to the dental program. Frankly, I don't want a dentist working on my molars who has his mommy sitting beside him assuring him that he can do it. Granted, your 10-year old isn't applying for dental school, but part of his early education is to help him develop the skills and the self-confidence that will help him meet the unknowns of life.

I would suggest that you not make the issue an on-going topic of conversation, in your family or even with your son. Don't allow it take on the status of a crippling mental disorder. "Lots of people worry about their tests, honey; I did when I was in school. You're a good student and I know you'll do fine." Then change the subject and move on. Make the hill a little one and then you won't need to feel obligated to help him over it.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.

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 EMAILED 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.**



Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-8387 for details. We need your support!

VFW Fish Fry April - October on 2nd & 4th Fridays each month from 4:30 - 7. \$10 per plate.

Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building.

Mountain Community Seniors meet the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 1 p.m.

Towns County Republican Party meets at 6:30 PM the 4th Thursday of each month at the new Senior Center. For more info call 706-994-3919.

Democratic Party of Towns County meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. at new Senior Center. Newcomers welcome. Questions please contact the T.C. Dem's at Townscountydemocrats@gmail.com.

Towns County Planning Commission is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse.

Towns County Commissioners meeting is the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse.

School Board Meeting, 2nd Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

Hiawassee City Council 1st Tuesday of month 4 p.m., at City Hall.

Young Harris City Council, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 p.m., Young Harris City Hall.

The Uncioy Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Stephens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris. Sat. morning breakfast 2nd Sat. of each month from 8 - 10:30 AM. \$6 adults, \$3 12 & under.

Towns County Board of Elections holds its monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Elections Office (Old Rock Jail).

Towns County Historical Society meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the old Rec Center in Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m. 706-896-1060,

www.townshistory.org

Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Rec Center.

Mountain Regional Arts & Crafts Guild meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Calvary Chapel on Hwy. 76 in Hiawassee. All local artists and crafters are welcome, for information call 706-896-0932.

Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. Details can be found at www.mcug.org.

Chattahoochee-Nantahala Chapter, Trout Unlimited meets 2nd Thursday of each month at Cadence Bank in Blairsville. 5 p.m. Fly Tying - 7 p.m. General Meeting. Everyone welcome. www.ngatu692.com.

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call Gary at 706-896-4308 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.

Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.

Chatuge Regional Auxiliary on the 3rd Monday of each month, except the months of July, October and December, in the hospital cafeteria at 1:30 p.m.

The Humane Society Mountain Shelter Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Cadence Bank in Blairsville.

The Towns County Alzheimer's Support Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the Family Life Center of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church. For more info call Kathy at 706-896-6407.

The Appalachian Shrine Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6 PM at the Shrine Club, Industrial Blvd., Blairsville.

GMREC Garden Tours every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Shooting Creek Basket Weavers meets 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreekbasketweavers.com.

Friendship Community Club meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76. 706-896-3637.

Goldwing Road Riders meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee. We eat at 11 and meeting begins at 12.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meets every Wednesday evening at 7 PM at the Red Cross building on Jack Dayton Circle.

Caregiver support group meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m. at Brasstown Manor, located at 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.

Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Towns Co. Rec. Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch.

Brasstown Woodturners Guild meets 1st Saturday of month at 9:30 AM in HHS shop. For more info call J. C. at 706-896-5711.

Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC) meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiawassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.

The Board of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce meets the second Monday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris.

The Quilting Bee at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Family Life Center, Room 216. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10 AM - 3 PM. Bring a sack lunch. For more information call Kathy at 706-835-6721 or Marilyn at 706-897-4367.

Mountain Coin Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the North Georgia Tech campus in Blairsville. Guests are welcome. For more info, call 706-379-1488.

Monday morning BINGO at Brasstown Manor every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Players meet in the Bradford. Questions 706-896-4285.

Towns County Lions Club meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Daniel's Restaurant, 273 Big Sky Drive, Hiawassee.

Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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