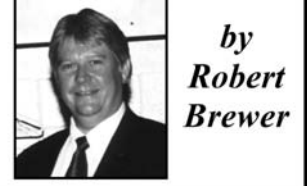


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Extension Tips



by Robert Brewer

Take care to avoid tick bites outdoors

Avoiding ticks outdoors is challenging. Around your home, though, you can maintain your lawn to be inhospitable to them. Hot, drying sunshine is deadly to ticks. Keeping your lawn closely mowed will reduce their numbers.

Spraying the yard with an insecticide often makes the problem worse. Insecticides kill predatory insects that help keep tick numbers down.

If you want to apply a pesticide to your pet, check the product label to make sure it kills ticks. Compounds registered for fleas aren't always effective against ticks.

Ticks are found mainly on low-growing plants along paths and trails, waiting to snare a passing host by hooking their legs into an animal's leg hair or on a human's pants cuff.

Havens for ticks

Avoid tall grass and brushy or weedy areas as much as possible. Walk in the middle of trails to avoid brushing against surrounding vegetation. And don't sit down on the ground.

Protecting yourself from ticks includes wearing clothing that limits their access to your skin, applying appropriate repellents and performing daily tick checks.

Wear long pants where ticks are around and tuck your cuffs into socks to keep them from crawling under the pant leg. For the best protection, tape the top of your socks over your pant legs, then twist the tape and make one wrap with the sticky side out to trap ticks. It's easier to spot ticks on light-colored clothes.

Be careful

You can apply products containing DEET to your skin. Apply products such as Permethrin, which contain permethrin, to clothes but not to skin. Spray these products on your clothes and allow them to dry overnight before you put them on. Permethrin will kill

both ticks and mosquitoes that land on treated clothing.

A tick takes a day or two to secrete a feeding tube before it can begin to suck blood. So daily tick checks can keep them from feeding and transmitting diseases. Look and feel for ticks carefully, especially in hair-covered places.

Examine Fido

Check your pets after they've been outside, too. Destroying ticks before they can feed not only protects pets from diseases but reduces tick reproduction.

To remove a tick, use tweezers, grasping the tick as close to the skin as you can. Pull slowly and firmly, without twisting or crushing the tick.

A tick is like a balloon attached to a hypodermic needle. Squeezing its body forces material through its mouthparts into your bloodstream, increasing the risk of infection.

It's a good idea to keep the tick in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for a few weeks. If the person bitten later develops symptoms of a tick-transmitted disease, it can be tested to determine the causative agent.

Vigilance

Be especially watchful for the first two weeks after a tick bite. If flu-like symptoms, headache, fever, lack of balance, skin rashes, muscle or joint pain or nausea develop, see a doctor.

The most common tick in Georgia is the lone star tick (the female has a white dot on the middle of her back). American dog ticks are common and can transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia. Black-legged ticks, or deer ticks, carry Lyme disease.

Of the dozens of tick species in Georgia, the brown dog tick is the most troublesome household pest. It doesn't attack humans. But it does transmit some canine diseases.

The six-legged seed tick attaches to a dog and becomes bluish-gray, engorged with blood. It molts and becomes a larger, eight-legged, reddish-brown nymph. After engorging with blood again the nymph, now dark gray, molts and becomes a reddish-brown adult.

When it engorges yet again on the dog's blood, it's bluish and about a third of an inch long. The adult female lays 1,000 to 3,000 eggs.

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Headlines around the U.S. recently have been celebrating the death of Osama bin Laden. Anyone currently serving on active duty in the military along with their families and friends, anyone who is a veteran or anyone who knows one, is probably feeling a sense of understandable pride in the success of Seal Team 6 (not a real unit but rather a name used for reference purposes) who in 40 minutes completed a job that was begun a decade ago. Families, friends and co-workers of the almost 3000 who died in the September 11th attacks are experiencing both the satisfaction and the renewed grief of remembered pain that occurs when a murderer is brought to justice.

We needed this. We needed a victory, even a symbolic one, after our ten year investment of American blood and treasure to fight an enemy with no home country and no professional army - an enemy that, for millions of Americans, bore the visage of Osama bin Laden. Had we achieved this victory ten years ago, the history of the past decade would be quite different.

If only it ended here. If only by killing one person whom we have named the personification of evil could we eliminate evil itself and go on about our business as usual. If only by declaring anyone evil who opposes us, whether they are devoutly (if insanely) religious zealots willing to sacrifice their lives in any attempt to do us harm, or patriotic citizens of other countries whose governments are opposed to our own or whose business interests run contrary to ours, could we guarantee the participation of the Almighty in furthering our own cause.

We should know by now that things just aren't that simple. To invoke "evil" in any conflict is to cease trying to understand cause and effect and it is to abdicate any responsibility for the circumstances which led to the conflict. The circumstances of our conflict with Islamic fundamentalists can be traced from the main streets of Hiwassee and Young Harris all the way to Constitution Avenue in Washington and indeed, to all the capitols of the developed world.

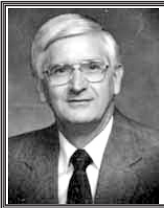
Please don't misunderstand me. We are not the "Great Satan" either. We are an enterprising and industrious people and we have been incredibly successful. However, the phenomenal growth of our population and our affluence was fueled by oil, and the largest deposits of oil in the world just happen to exist in the middle of the area which hosts three of the world's largest religions. In order to guarantee our oil supply, we have manipulated events, staged coups, supported dictators and fielded armies in this area since World War One. Long memories of oppression and exploitation

magnified by religious zeal have produced, and will continue to produce, enemies with which we must contend.

War has always, at its root, been primarily a conflict over resources and economic power. Religion and nationalism and the conflict between good and evil inspire the troops and mobilize the citizens, but these things are the public face of the conflict more than the genesis. We are entering a transitional phase in the history of the world where the ability of the planet to support its burgeoning population in the lifestyle to which the western world has become accustomed, is declining. Competition for hydrocarbons, oil, coal, natural gas, will continue and escalate, but our lifestyle is also dependent on other commodities as well - steel, copper, concrete, lumber and rare earths, not to mention food, and, at the center of the next resource wars, water.

Conflict is inevitable. As a simple but devastating proof, I offer an example provided by Jeremy Grantham, Chief Investment Strategist of GMO Inc. Using ancient Egypt, with 3000 years of history, as an example, suppose we gave every Egyptian 3000 years ago 1 cubic yard of material wealth. Then for the sake of argument, let's say that we grew that economy at a compounded interest rate of 4.5%, which is a number popular with American economic planners today. How much wealth would Egypt have 3000 years later? The answer might astound you, but that amount of material wealth would not fit within our solar system, nor a billion more like it.

In conclusion, Osama bin Laden is gone, but as population growth leads to privation and privation inspires religious fundamentalism, there will be more just like him. We may call them evil, but the true enemy is compounded growth and a culture that is geared to growth rather than sustainability.



"IT'S ON MY MIND.." Danny H. Parris

Death ends it all

In his eulogy at the funeral of Gracie Allen, George Jessel said, "The hope of mankind must be in the faith that the play is never over - When the curtain falls, it rises again. If we don't believe this, then it has all been a big gag and the punch line is futility." Life teaches us that as soon as a person is born he is old enough to die. In fact, the first recorded death in the Bible was not a mother or a father but a child. Death teaches us to deal with the question, "What shall I do with my life?" Until a person has settled the "death question" he is not prepared to live. But when you have dealt properly with the death issue, you can live life with zest and enthusiasm, free from the fear of dying. Death, as we know it, is the cessation of the physical life. From the Christian point of view, life has not ended except from a physical stand point. Physical death as defined by the Bible is the separation of the soul from the body. When physical life has stopped, ended, ceased, the soul moves out of the old house (body) that is deposited back to earth to rot and decay. The soul, spirit, personality, the real person has gone to be with God to await the resurrection when they will receive a new body in which to live (II Cor. 5:1-8). The same God who created man from dust in the very beginning will raise him from dust in the resurrection (I Cor. 15:42-58). The truth of the matter is that when you die physically, you do not cease to be. What has happened is that a transformation has taken place. The person who dies has left time and space and gone into eternity. The Bible teaches us that

those who die in the Lord go to be with God. Those who die having never received Christ, God's Son, will inhabit a place that is Godless, Christless and that can only be defined as a place that is called Hell. Now death is like life, it is one of those common denominators. You see, all of us are born alike. We all come into this life through the channels of a woman's body. We leave this physical life through death. All of us are born alike and all of us die alike. As Daniel Webster once wrote, "One may live as a conqueror, a king, or a magistrate: but he must die as a man. The bed of death brings every human being to his pure individuality, to the deepest and most solemn of all relations - the relation between creature and Creator." If death ends everything, if there is no final accounting of life, if there is not a brighter and better day, life here would have no rhyme or reason and would end in a hopeless, confused state. Death does end it all in a sense. For the Christian death brings to an end all of the suffering, heartache, pain, disappointment, separation, sin, sorrow and death. The Christian has found death to be the vehicle to the perfect life. However, let me hasten to say that death ends it all for the unbeliever. Death ends your opportunity to ever again hear the gospel, to experience answered prayer, to go to church, to listen to the praises of God, or to ever have any hope of forgiveness. If you die without Christ and your family members (mother, dad, spouse, sisters, brothers, cousins) are Christians, you will never again have the glorious privilege of being with them. For the unbeliever, the Bible teaches that physical death (separation of soul and body) leads to the second death (eternal separation from God). If you are born only once (physically), you will die twice. If you are born twice (physically and spiritually) you will die once (John 3:1-21).



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Recently Ruthie and I were flying from Auckland, New Zealand, to Brisbane, Australia, for some speaking appointments. We were seated very near the back of the airplane and I was in the window seat. Not my favorite seat on an airplane, but I thought, Look, it's only a three-hour flight, so make the best of it. I have to admit though that I was a bit irritated when a very large gentleman came down the aisle and sat in the center seat beside me. I could tell this was going to be a long three hours.

Before we had been in the air very long my attention was distracted by the tragedy that was unfolding in the row ahead of me. There was a dad and mother, and a daughter whom we judged to be about twelve. One of the movies on the in-flight menu was R rated and left nothing to the imagination. Nothing. The 12-year old turned to the channel and sat transfixed. I kept waiting for dad or mom to change the channel. They never did. I kept waiting for dad to lean over and explain to their daughter why this kind of programming violated their family's values

and that it was not the kind of program they watched. He never did.

I kept waiting for mom to lean over and help her beautiful 12-year old understand how the things happening on screen were sacred between husband and wife, and for the world to watch, and certainly not for 12-year olds. She never did.

I forgot about the big man who was protruding into my space. I wished I could get up and talk to mom and dad and ask them if these were the kinds of loose values they wanted to approve for their pre-teen. I wanted to say to the daughter, "Honey, wait. Don't be caught up in this. This isn't how it is supposed to be. This is not the path to purity. This is not the path to happiness. Your mom and dad are letting you down. Someday they will be desperately sorry for what they are teaching you right now." I think all three of them watched the whole thing.

Pressed against the window, all I could do was pray.

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, Hiwassee, 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

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 Hiwassee at 2 p.m.
Towns County Democratic Party meets the 3rd Thursday of every month. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.
Towns County Republican Party meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Daniels Steak House. Dinner at 6 p.m., 706-896-7281.
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.
Hiwassee 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 Hiwassee River Valley Kennel Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. the 1st Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 828-835-1082.
The Unicoy 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.

Board of Voter Registrars meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.
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 Senior Center in Hiwassee at 5 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiwassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org
Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Recreational Dept. Call Eden at 706-896-6921.
Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiwassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregarts-craftsguild.org, mtnregarts-craftsguild@hotmail.com.
VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 p.m., \$9 a plate, all you can eat.
Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Goolsby Center at YHC. Q & A at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.
FPL Retirees Breakfast will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Hole in the Wall Restaurant on the square in Blairsville at 9 a.m.
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 John Quinlan at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.
Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church office at 706-745-2469 for more information.
Chatuge Regional Hospital 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.
Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club meets 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.
We do Family Oral History of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded and would like to do so, please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060.
Prostate Cancer Support Group meets the 3rd Monday of every month from 5-6 PM in the Cancer Treatment Center Auditorium in Blairsville. For more info call Steve 706-896-1064.
GMREC Native Plant Garden Tours: Mondays 9 AM-1 PM. May-Sept. (except holidays). 706-745-2655.

Towns County Herald

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