

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY
OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Lowe's, Why here? Why now?

I am writing this letter at the insistence of my long time customers.

Just who do Mayor Barbara Mathis and Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall work for? Certainly not the small business owners of Towns County. What have Mayor Mathis and Commissioner Kendall given away that the citizens of this county will have to pay for in order to get this big box store located here? Why do we need it? There is a Lowe's in Murphy and another in Franklin. There is also a Home Depot in Blairsville. Do we really need to put Ace Hardware out of business, and any number of other small businesses?

They talk about jobs. Ask Union County how many full time, health-care-paying jobs Home Depot has given to Union County citizens. Is Lowe's willing to sign a pledge to supply 75 full time jobs to the citizens of Towns County? What will the true cost to the citizens of Towns County be? I and many others think we have a right to know this cost before we allow this store to be located here.

Citizens let your voices be heard!

Respectfully,
 Michael J. Grassi, Citizen of Towns County

Ham Field Day in Blairsville

Per my telephone conversation with a member of your staff on Thursday, June 11, there is an article (page 7A, center of the page) titled "Emergency communications demo" which invites the public to a demonstration of "Field Day", or the operation of ham radio equipment during an emergency. The article states that "Local hams" will present this demonstration at the Senior Center picnic shelter on June 27-28". Since this article was published in the Herald, it infers that this demo will be at our Senior Center and presented by "local" hams.

As the Amateur Radio Emergency Coordinator for Towns County Red Cross, GA ARES, FEMA, and GEMA, I am the person responsible for such activities in Towns County. Due to recent surgery, I was not able to organize OUR local hams to participate in this years event.

However, please print a correction to the effect that this event is to be held in Blairsville. Also, you might mention that the Towns County Hams, sponsored by the Towns County Red Cross, conducts weekly practice sessions or "Nets", during which all our operators check in by radio to our "Net Controller". We also have monthly meetings during which technical classes, at a beginner's level, are conducted. These are temporarily suspended due to my surgeries, but I hope to start them again soon. Anyone in Towns County seeking information about Amateur Radio, or becoming a "ham", can call me at 706-896-9614. We welcome both newcomers and already licensed hams to join our group.

73 (ham slang for "Best Regards")
 Alton Higgins, W4VFZ

Thank you Sponsors and Volunteers

The Republican BBQ on the square in Hiawassee this past Saturday, June 13, was a tremendous success. A crowd of 500 - 600 enjoyed Daniel's BBQ and baked beans and Dan Bond's cole slaw and Brunswick stew, plus those who came just to meet and greet those candidates running for office in 2010.

A big "Thank you" goes to all the many sponsors who donated gift certificates and articles for the Silent Auction, and the many volunteers who made the event go like clockwork.

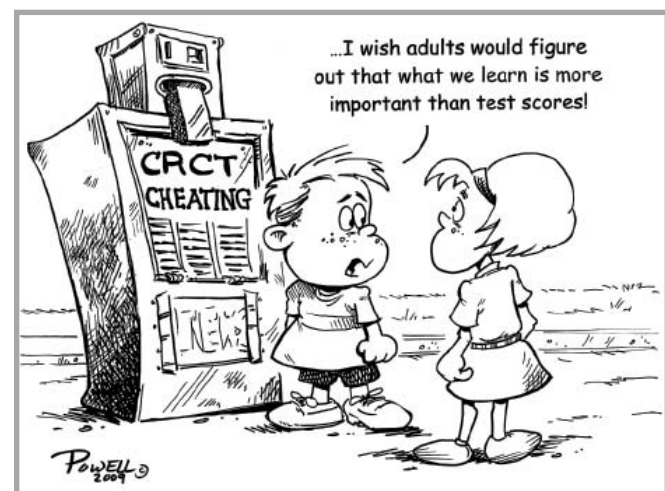
The Towns County Republican Party will make a difference, not only in the county and the state, but in the nation. Please join us in this effort by attending meetings and getting involved. We meet on the first Tuesday in each month at Daniel's Restaurant.

Darrell Barrett, Chairman
 Towns County Republican Party

Thank you Sheriff Clinton

As local residents and members of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association, we would like to extend thanks to Sheriff Clinton from those members he led on a very scenic ride this past Thursday evening. Despite a scheduling mix-up, which caused a minor delay at the start, the sheriff pulled everything together, enabling all of the participants to enjoy the safety of law enforcement protection at crucial intersections.

We were told everyone thoroughly enjoyed the ride and that all members of the Gold Wing Riders Association had a great time here in Hiawassee. We're looking forward to next year when GWRRA returns for the 2010 rally.
 June and Jack Gottlieb



Towns County Herald
 Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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Every Green Herb
 By Janice Boling



Ylang-ylang for aging skin

Ylang-ylang essential oil helps improve the structure and appearance of aging skin. Ylang-ylang has a toning effect and can balance the production of sebum. It is antiseptic and a sedative. Ylang-ylang can be used on all skin types and is helpful when treating stubborn boils, acne, eczema, and other skin irritations.

When used as a facial toner, best results are achieved by combining ylang-ylang with seaweed extract. When used as a moisturizer, ylang-ylang essential oil may be mixed with almond oil and rose water (rose essential oil is even better but very costly).

Ylang-ylang essential oil is often used to relax the nerves. The scent helps the body to overcome stress, frustration, anger, panic attacks, anxiety, fear, and shock by balancing the blood pressure, decreasing adrenaline production, and regulating breathing patterns. Ylang-ylang essential oil counteracts depression, stabilizes mood swings, and can bring about feelings of euphoria.

The scent is soothing with a floral base note that becomes more powerful when mixed with other oils. A recipe for beautifully scented facial cleansing oil combines one cup of apricot kernel oil, one half cup of walnut oil, one tablespoon of avocado oil, and one half teaspoon of ylang-ylang essential oil. Shake gently and apply to face (with cotton ball) using upward strokes.

Ylang-ylang is also used as an aphrodisiac. It

can help rejuvenate and restore passion. Ylang-ylang calms the heart and helps stop palpitations. It reduces fever, balances hormones, encourages hair growth on the scalp, fights dry skin, clears oily skin, and is a good treatment for postnatal depression.

Ylang-ylang is excellent in massage oil. Use after a caesarian delivery and on the stomach during recovery from food poisoning. Ylang-ylang massage oil can also help improve the circulatory and lymphatic systems.

Filipinos mix the flowers of the ylang-ylang tree (Canaga odorata) with coconut oil and use the thick paste as protection against saltwater and snakebites. In Indonesia, ylang-ylang flowers are spread on the bed of newlywed couples.

Ylang-ylang trees flourish in the tropical regions of Java, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Madagascar. They grow in full or partial sun, and prefer the acidic soils of native rainforests. Ylang-ylang trees can be cultivated in temperate climates under greenhouse conditions but full potential should not be expected in these conditions.

Ylang-ylang leaves are long, smooth and glossy, and the branches droop like a willow. The evergreen trees bear exotic yellow flowers that produce an extraordinary scent. The sweet, sensual ylang-ylang essential oils are extracted by steam distillation for use in aromatherapy, perfumes (including Chanel N. 5), and fine cosmetics. Ylang-ylang is known as the "flower of flowers".

* Overindulgence can bring on headache or nausea - use in moderation. As with all herbal and over-the-counter products, discontinue use if irritation develops. Ylang-ylang essential oil may be used neat as a perfume, but keep away from the eyes. Always consult with a healthcare professional before using any herbal remedies especially if pregnant, nursing, or taking other medicines.

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 Towns County Herald
 706-896-4454

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@brmemc.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.**

Extension Tips



by
Robert Brewer

Have you ever driven along a Georgia country road or visited a state park and a beautiful blooming shrub or tree caught your eye? Chances are you were looking at one of the thousands of plants native to Georgia.

As a University of Georgia Cooperative Extension horticulturist, I am constantly amazed by the low number of native plants available for sale. Have no fear though, if you know where to look you can find some amazing native species for your landscape.

Native plants often get a bad reputation for one reason: gardeners assume they can be planted anywhere because they are native. This couldn't be farther from the truth. Just like other plants, native plants have specific light and water requirements. They are no different than non-native species sold at retail garden centers.

Before planting any plant, remember this golden rule: right plant in the right place.

For example, if you plant the non-native lace cap hydrangea (Hydrangea macrophylla) in a dry and sunny location, you are not going to be impressed with its performance. Likewise, if you plant a native oak leaf hydrangea (Hydrangea quercifolia) in a dry and sunny location, you will not be impressed with its performance either. The na-

tive can, however, withstand drier soils than its non-native cousin.

Here are a few native suggestions for shady sites that don't get too dry: native azaleas (there are hundreds of cultivars), Virginia sweetspire (Itea virginica), serviceberry (Amelanchier arborea), redbud (Cercis canadensis) and anise (Illicium floridatum).

Here are a few suggestions for those sunny, dry locations: wax myrtle (Morella cerifera), trumpet vine (Campsis radicans), Carolina jessamine (Gelsemium sempervirens), fringe tree (Chiocanthus virginicus) and beautyberry (Callicarpa americana).

Did you know that our state flower, the Cherokee Rose, is not a Georgia native? It was named the state flower in 1916. This just points to a century-old trend of using non-natives in our landscape.

While there is nothing wrong with using non-natives, you may want to step back in time to the pre-antebellum days when landscapes were predominantly filled with native plants. There are native species that will fit any growing environment.

If you've never planted a native plant, you may want to start with the Christmas fern (Polystichum acrostichoides). It was named plant of the year by the Georgia Native Plant Society. To learn more about it and other native plants, go to the Web site www.gnps.org.

For those of you who love the outdoors and love to get your hands dirty, GNPS hosts plant rescues on development sites across Georgia. I can't think of a better way to get to know natives and meet fellow gardeners.

Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!
 Contact us at
 706-896-4454

Deadline for the T.C. Herald is Monday by noon



Community Calendar

Towns County Water Board Meeting 4th Monday of each month at 7 pm in the TC Water Office Building.
Towns County AARP Chapter 1859 meets the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 2 p.m. Luncheons are held at 1 p.m.
Towns County Democratic Party meets at 5:30 every 2nd Thursday of the month at Crossroads Restaurant. Meeting begins at 6. Please call Kim Bailey, 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747.
Towns County Republican Party meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 5 p.m.-6 p.m. Dinner at Daniels Steak House, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. meeting, 896-9021.
Towns County Planning Commission is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 pm in the Courthouse.
Towns County Commissioners meeting is the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 pm 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 pm, at City Hall.
Young Harris City Council, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 pm, Young Harris City Hall.

The Hiawassee 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.
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 Hiawassee at 5 pm. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 932, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 pm on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Health 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), Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregartscraftsguild.org. mtnregartscraftsguild@hotmail.com.
VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 PM, \$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 pm, meeting at 7 pm.
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. 5pm Fly Tying - 7pm 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/blueridge-mountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.