

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY
OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Mass exodus from traditional political parties

As a former Republican I have observed a mass exodus from the Republican Party as well as the Democrat Party. People throughout America are becoming conservative independents. They are seeking leadership that supports the Constitution, liberty and the foundation set forth by the Founding Fathers. America desperately needs a non partisan conservative "National Party" that is in touch with Americans. The Tax and Spend politicians have to be voted out, no matter what party. They have to be replaced with principled fiscal conservatives marinated in common sense. In case you haven't noticed, our country is bankrupt and our economy and job situation is growing worse as each day passes. This problem is not being resolved as the masses continue to lose irreplaceable jobs and their homes. There will not be enough tent cities to contain them. The career politicians need to be sent home the next election. The days of all talk and little action are coming to an end.

Together we can help save America.

May God guide us,
 Nighta Davis, Hiawassee

Georgia
 Mountain Fair
By Charles Duncan
 T.C.Herald Editor

The Georgia Mountain Fair is winding down but as Hall of Famer Yogi Berra said, "It ain't over until it's over."

The 59th annual event is headed into the home stretch and what an event it has been. Anderson Music Hall was graced with a lineup of Country Music Hall of Famers.

The Pioneer Village was packed with incredible artisans and their extraordinary art works and crafts. Once again, the carnival atmosphere came complete with incredible rides and adventures for children of all ages. And let's not forget, there were two days of free rides.

Most impressive was the lineup of Country Music acts. This year has been a who's who of Country Music. John Conlee, T.G. Sheppard, Janie Fricke, Joe Diffie and of course Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers.

Ironically, the best may have been saved for last. The 59th event goes down in the books as the Bellamy Brothers bade the Fair adieu. The legendary duo has 14 No. 1 hits over the years and they aren't done yet.

I grew up going to the Georgia Mountain Fair. It was one of the rites of summer getting to go to Hiawassee and go to the Fair. I remember a lot of exhibits, many of which are still around today.

The Georgia Mountain Fair isn't just a tourist attraction. It's a bird's eye view of the Mountain way of life once employed by our ancestors. As a native of these mountains I'm proud to say that while our way of life may not have been the best, we lived by the code of an honest day's wage for an honest day's work.

We weren't rich in terms of dollars, but we raised our families in a wholesome environment; we lived off the land and we prospered the best way we knew how.

Today, folks come from miles around and pay good money to see how we made soap, bread, baskets and yes, even a little moonshine. Some even envision building a home in these mountains.

Bottom line, the Georgia Mountain Fair is our annual showcase of our community and thanks to Hilda Thomason and the fine folks that make up the Towns County Lions Club, we come off looking pretty doggone good.

Even in bad economic times, a family can come to the North Georgia Mountains, have a good time and go home with a smile on their face. We're proud to have played a small part in that adventure.

We look forward to the upcoming festivals and music events offered in 2009 at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

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.

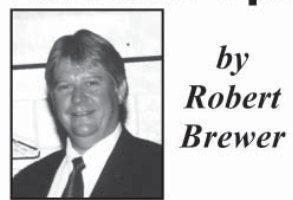
Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*

Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.



"Legislative furloughs are a great idea. Too bad they didn't do that when the General Assembly was in session!"

Extension Tips



by
Robert Brewer

Controlling mosquitoes in your home and on your premises

Mosquitoes can be quite vexing and sometimes a serious problem. In the home, about the yard and in public parks, they can interfere with man's chores and spoil his enjoyment of leisure time. Some species of mosquitoes are able to transmit diseases such as malaria to man, various types of encephalitis to man and horses and heartworms to dogs.

Breeding Habits - In most parts of the United States, mosquitoes breed during spring, summer and fall. In warm, southern areas, they may breed throughout the year during warm wet spells.

Water is necessary for breeding. Female mosquitoes lay their eggs on water or in places that later become flooded. There are over 50 species of mosquitoes in Georgia, but fortunately only 10 or 12 are pests to man. Different species require different types of water habitats. Examples are salt marshes, swamps, woodland pools, artificial containers such as tires, polluted water in ponds and ditches and tree holes.

Biting and Fight Habits - Most female mosquitoes seek a blood meal at evening and dawn, but there are exceptions. The yellow fever mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, will bite during the day - more commonly in shaded areas.

Most mosquitoes can fly about a mile from their breeding area to seek a blood meal, but again, there are exceptions. Salt marsh mosquitoes may fly 25-35 miles from their breeding site, while *aegypti* and *albopictus* fly only a few hundred feet.

Disease - Female mosquitoes suck blood and spit saliva (to keep the blood from coagulating) in a different host each time a blood meal is needed to lay her eggs. The mosquito is thus a "flying syringe" which can pick up a disease from one host, if it is infected and carry it to another. Yellow fever, dengue and malaria were once common diseases in Georgia in the past, but they have long been eradicated. The mosquitoes that carried disease are still present, but in the absence of the disease agent, the only discomfort to us now is the

bite itself.

Various types of a virus encephalitis occur mainly in birds and small mammals. The transmission of encephalitis is eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) which sometimes attacks the central nervous system of horses and very rarely, humans in Georgia.

Mosquitoes (or any other insect), do NOT carry the AIDS virus.

Control - Since many mosquitoes can fly long distances, many communities in Georgia have an organized mosquito control program to give area wide control. Support of your local program, if you have one, is your best option. There are more than a hundred programs in Georgia.

Many mosquitoes that bite you may be breeding in your own yard. If mosquitoes are biting you during the day, you probably have *Aedes aegypti* or *albopictus*. Since they don't even fly very far from their breeding area, you could be raising them in your own yard.

Methods you and your neighbors can use to reduce mosquito breeding: Clean out eaves, troughs and gutters. Remove old tires or drill holes in those used for playground equipment to allow them to drain. Tires are very attractive breeding sites for several mosquitoes that bite humans. Cover stacked tires with plastic or store under a shelter to avoid rain filling them with water. Turn over or remove plastic pots. Pick up broken, unused or discarded toys. Pick up all beverage containers and cups.

Check tarps on boats or other equipment that may collect water in pockets or indentations. Replace water in birdbaths at least twice a week. Replace water in pet or other animal feeding dishes or troughs at least twice a week. Dispose of broken or unused kiddie pools. Pick up plastic wrappers used for food or other products; mosquitoes can breed even in a discarded potato chip bag that has collected water. Don't leave garbage can lids lying around upside down. Change water in bottom of plant containers, including hanging plants, at least twice a week. Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent the flow of water. Fix dripping outdoor faucets that create pools of water.

You can avoid or repel mosquitoes by the following: Wear protective clothing, long pants, long-sleeve shirt, shoes and socks during times and in locations of high mosquito incidence. Mosquitoes are less attracted to light clothing than dark.

Be aware mosquitoes can bite right through t-shirts and other lightweight, tight-fitting clothing. During periods of extremely high mosquito incidence, stay indoors as much as possible. Use an insect repellent before going into high-risk areas or when outside during high-risk times. The most effective protection may be obtained through the use of products containing at least 20 to 30 percent of N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide (DEET). Follow the instructions carefully and do not over apply. Mosquitoes will bite unprotected skin, so apply repellent to all exposed areas of the body as well as to your clothing (using deet in an aerosol). Don't allow repellent to get in your eyes, mouth or nose. Permethrin is another repellent that is used on the clothing only. It not only repels but also kills and is longer lasting than deet. The best protection is to use deet on the skin and Permethrin on the clothing.

Do not rely on electronic bug killers or ultrasonic (sound) repellents for protection. They have not been shown to be effective. Keep window screens and screened rooms in good repair. Screen doors should open outward and have automatic closing devices and latches to prevent them from being accidentally left ajar. Mosquitoes don't like strong wind currents. Sitting by a fan will repel them. Call the environmental health unit of your county health department to find out if there is a mosquito abatement program (spraying) in your area. If not, extra care in following these recommendations may be warranted.

There are a variety of methods to kill mosquitoes: Pyrethrin aerosols will kill mosquitoes in the house. Burning mosquito coils, usually containing pyrethrin, at a stationary location outside can give relief in the immediate area. Hand held fogging devices using a pyrethroid insecticide may be purchased from hardware and garden shops to give temporary control outdoors. Goldfish in ornamental ponds will feed on the mosquito larva. One tablespoon of salt or two squirts of dishwasher detergent in an automobile tire will kill the mosquito larvae.

Summary

The greatest importance mosquitoes have in Georgia is the discomfort from their biting. By reducing the breeding sites on your own property and taking a few precautions, you can greatly reduce the problem.



Q & A Column from John Oxendine
 Georgia's Insurance and Fire Commissioner

Q: I've heard that my boat might be covered under my homeowners policy. Is that true?

A: The personal property coverage of your primary or secondary homeowners policy (if you have a separate policy on a waterfront vacation home) might cover a small boat for \$1,500 or less in physical damage. However, coverage for your liability risk is limited. Insurers generally provide liability insurance on small sailboats (26 feet or less) and powerboats with small motors (50 hp for inboard and inboard/outboard and 25 hp for outboard motors). However, a boat of any significant size will be excluded from your homeowners policy for both property and liability coverage. Read your homeowners policy carefully before you put your boat in the water.

Personal watercraft will likely require a separate boat insurance policy. You might be able to purchase this policy from your

homeowners insurer or you might choose to use an insurer that specializes in boat insurance. Get quotes and compare policies from several different places to get the best deal.

Some important questions to answer before you head out on the water: Are you insured if someone other than yourself is operating your boat or personal watercraft? Are there legal age restrictions on who may operate the boat or personal watercraft? Is towing skiers or inner tubes covered by your policy?

Please send your insurance questions to: Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine, 716 West Tower, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. Or call 404-656-2070 (toll free at 1-800-656-2298), from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, for assistance with an insurance question.

Website www.gainsurance.org.



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