

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Quilt presentation at Brasstown Manor

A Quilt of Valor/Quilt of Honor presentation will take place next week, 25 August 2016 at Brasstown Manor, time: 2 PM, thanks to Teresa (Barrett) Anderson, Activities Director and her outstanding staff who work extremely hard for our older folks, and have done an outstanding job researching and pursuing the trail of documents required for Misty Mountain Quilts, thus insuring validity and no duplicates of these prestigious honors and well deserved hand made quilts. Each and every quilt is unique. Many thanks to the highly skilled quilters who volunteer their time, ingenuity and artistic abilities to make these absolutely beautiful quilts! Misty Mountain Quilters' Guild is our local affiliate registered with the national QOVF (www.qovf.org). As this is typed there have been 142,428 quilts awarded by this dedicated foundation. Misty Mountain Quilters' Guild meets on the first Thursday and third Wednesday of each month at Coosa United Methodist Church in Blairsville.



**The Veterans' Corner**  
Scott Drummond  
USCG Veteran

Our Veterans, who have given so much of themselves, deserve no less. There will be family members present from out of town/out of state. There will be music and a fitting ceremony, as well as members of our local VFW Post 7807 and American Legion Post 23 and Auxiliaries attending. The Veterans who will receive the Quilt of Honor are as follows: John Fowler, US Army, Vietnam; George Goins, US Army, Korea; Gordon Allison, US Army, Korea; Oliven Cowen, USAF, WW II. The Quilt of Honor will be presented to John Maynard, US Navy. These are all great men who have served America with Honor. Many thanks to Teresa, another wonderful Towns County native, and the fine dedicated people and entire staff of Brasstown Manor who have gone "above and beyond" to insure this event happens.

Also! Two of our local and well known Veterans have been diagnosed with serious health issues. USAF Captain Jim Coker and his daughter Cindy, who inherited her dad's tenacity and dedication, need our thoughts and prayers as they struggle with his life threatening affliction. "Captain Jim" served in WW II and flew many dangerous missions deep into Germany. "Lady Godiva" was Jim's Flying Fortress B17 and was rebuilt two more times after being severely damaged by Germans, one of which resulted in Jim losing his co-pilot, engineer, and two other officers. Jim flew missions out of Poltava, Russia; Teheran, Iran; Cairo, Egypt; Marrakesh, Africa; Casablanca, enduring a 17% survival rate.

Another humble, cheerful Veteran of our USAF, Korean War Era, and Vince Miller has been diagnosed with an aneurism of a large artery. He and his wife, Charlotte need our thoughts and prayers as they await a call from the surgical center for repair of this dangerous condition. Vince has survived much in his lifetime, including being told he would never walk again when he fell from a high telecommunications pole while serving our USAF. Vince is always a welcome face. Please pray for God's Divine Blessings for both these fine men and their families.

*Semper Paratus*

## The sweetness of a home garden

It's August and the sweet corn is ripening as fast as we can pick it. We planted "Aunt Mary's" this year, an heirloom from the mid 1800s, and we'll be saving seeds from this one. The taste is great; not as sugary sweet as some of the hybrids, but perfect for those of us who don't think of corn as a dessert. The ears are smaller than some of the hybrids, but there is more corn and less cob, so the yield is about the same. Our Aunt Mary's developed a strong root system that held up to the windy summer storms. It tolerated the heat and dry spells we endured this year, and with the help of an electric fence (that will curl your hair), our bear and deer had to look elsewhere for their sweet corn this year.

For the many of you who garden, we are preaching to the choir on the benefits of the home garden today, but our discussion is in part an answer to the naysayer who is always compelled to raise the question, "Why do you work so hard in that garden when it is so much easier to buy produce at the grocery store?"

It's a fair question, but one that misses the point (several points, actually) of the home garden. The first and most obvious answer, of course, is flavor. If you have not tasted an organically grown tomato that was ripened on the vine (not just labeled "vine ripened" after being gassed with ethylene in the warehouse), then you are far from experiencing the full potential of the tomato tribe.

"But what about all the hard work and sweat, the searing heat, the sunburn and the bugs in the miserably hot summer we just had?" It is often difficult for the outdoorsman to explain the virtues of outdoor life to the sedentary or to the urban cliff dweller. Most home gardeners work early in the morning or in the cool of the evening; beautiful times of day ideal for soul-soothing quiet and peaceful reflection. And the bugs? Well, the blend of essential oils in the secret recipe of our homemade bug repellent works wonders. When time constraints put you in the garden during the heat of the day, you wear long sleeves and a big hat. You rest in the shade and dip your hat in the creek to cool off. I occasionally like to point out the cost of that health club membership to the naysayer who must drive across town to run on a treadmill and sweat in a steam room. Personally, I prefer gnats to traffic anytime.

For me, I think that only swimming works more muscle groups than gardening, and I must admit that I enjoy having my wife note with appreciation the advance of my forearms toward Popeye-like dimensions during the season of the shovel and hoe. Hothouse yoga has nothing on the bending and stretching a summer garden can provide, and as a former health club trainer, I'll match a wheelbarrow full of rocks going up (or down) a hill against any machine or free weight.

Do not let the talk of hard work deter you from enjoying your own garden. We gardeners, like anyone else devoted to a favorite hobby, can also indulge in a bit of hyperbole from time to time. Nevertheless gardening, especially organic gardening, can be labor intensive, but if you are wondering whether you are up to it, you might consider the number of octogenarians in our area who are still vigorously enjoying their gardens at an age when many have become sedentary.

There is a very good chance that these good folks are still vigorous at their age precisely because of the kind of benefits they extract from their gardens, along with their prize winning pumpkins.

The truth is, when age and observation are applied to work, we learn to work smarter. After years of struggling with various tillers, I eventually discovered the Mantis, and while I don't usually bother with endorsements of any kind, I'll make an exception for this lightweight little power house. It really is as good as its marketing claims and it will provide significant savings of time and effort.

There are other secrets to successful organic gardening that will save labor and increase yield. Learn the art of companion planting and green manures. Companion planting stimulates growth and deters pests. Mulching is excellent, but allowing a green cover between the rows saves labor and is just as effective in preserving moisture.

There are "weeds" that we normally try to eradicate in our bare earth gardens that, if left alone, will attract bugs to the exclusion of most of your crops. Alas, the poor eggplant is so tasty to our local bugs that regular applications of insecticidal soap and garlic/pepper spray are necessary to keep it healthy. Dust your tomatoes and corn silks with diatomaceous earth to eliminate hungry pests (but avoid the blossoms to help your hardworking pollinators).

In our age of uncertainty, the "survival" garden is a popular meme. Personally I hope that I will never have to produce the bulk of the food we eat. Those of us who remember our grandparents' stories should have no illusions about what it takes to be truly self-sufficient. There is, however, comfort in knowing what we could do if we had to, and every good year of gardening still surprises me with the volume of fresh, organic, non-GMO food we can eat and preserve.

We will be canning tomatoes soon, and there will be no thought of the amount of work involved when I'm watching my mother's old pressure canner steaming on the stove and remembering my grandmothers' good advice for getting the best results. I'll be remembering my grandfather as he stood in his garden at 90, leaning on one hoe while he chatted with the other. I'm beginning to understand what he thought of as he often stood there in silence, looking at the mountain.



## Mosquito control

If you've had a cookout, attended any outdoor events, or worked in your gardens lately, surely you have heard the familiar high pitched buzzing of mosquitoes. Though they are small in size and weak flyers, they have an excellent sense of smell that helps them to find any nearby animals so they can get their much desired blood meal. You can find many products that claim to repel mosquitoes, but the best way to get rid of mosquitoes is to make sure that your property is free of sites where they like to gather.

Many female mosquitoes need to drink blood in order to make eggs, making them excellent transmitters of disease. Hours after a female fills her stomach with blood, she begins producing eggs. In about three days, she will lay those eggs in stagnant water. This water could be anything that does not have a current such as the edge of a lake, rainwater in old tires and cans, and sometimes even water that has collected in leaves of plants, among other places. Once the eggs are laid, they hatch within one day. The larvae that hatch out of the eggs attach their breathing tube, or "siphon," to the surface of the water. Because the siphon is on the tail end of the larvae, the young mosquitoes hang upside down. This allows them to stay completely submerged in the water while still being able to breathe. As larvae, mosquitoes feed on particles in the water that they sift through their simple mouths. After about seven to ten days, depending on the weather, the mosquitoes enter a "pupal" stage that looks like a tadpole. They do not eat during this stage, but two days later they move to the surface of the water and turn into adults which then fly off to mate and find food.

Male mosquitoes never drink blood, but instead feed on nectar. In fact, in some species of mosquitoes, neither the male nor the female ingests blood and the females can still produce eggs. However, many of the female mosquitoes that we have around here still require blood. Because they have terrible eyesight, mosquitoes rely on their strong sense of smell that can allow them to detect the carbon dioxide that we breathe out as well as other odors that our skin releases. Once a mosquito finds a host, it takes about five minutes for her to completely fill her stomach and ingest enough blood to produce one clutch of eggs.

The best way to cut down on any mosquito problems would be to get rid of as many sources of standing water as possible. Bird baths and kiddie pools are perfect breeding grounds for these insects, so emptying them and replacing the water every few days will prevent the larvae from developing in them. If you have a water source that cannot be emptied, a very thin layer of oil at the top can prevent the larvae's siphons from attaching to the surface of the water, causing them to drown. Make sure your yard is clear of debris such as buckets, tires, cans, and anything else that can hold water.

If you have taken these measures and still have mosquito problems, the best way to protect yourself is with a spray containing DEET. Also, campfires and torches can repel mosquitoes to some extent because they do not like smoke or extreme heat. Finally, think about purchasing a fan for your porch. Mosquitoes can only fly about two miles per hour, so they will not be able to fight the air currents.



**From the Ground Up**  
Melissa Mattee

## Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:

I was shocked and then saddened to read about the conflict of interest and ethical violations of four Young Harris council members. How can an elected official vote on issues related to their place of employment? As educators, do they feel that modeling this unethical behavior is showing their students that being unethical and violating a code they swore to uphold is acceptable? They need to recuse themselves when issues concerning Young Harris College come up before the council or they should resign. Rewriting the code ordinance to accommodate clear conflicts of interests is just diluting the council's ethical responsibilities.

*Sincerely,  
Liza Strub*

Dear Editor:

Monday, July 26th, our neighbor appeared at our door as we were just finishing dinner. Much to our surprise, smoke was billowing from the roof of the garage! I immediately called 911 and told them the situation - 2 cars in the garage and no hydrants in our community, so send pumper trucks. The Towns County Fire & Rescue responded within 5 - 10 minutes and took all necessary steps to extinguish the fire, which had started in the engine compartment of our 2011 Honda Pilot. The Pilot, the other car, the garage and its contents all suffered extensive damage prior to Fire & Rescue's arrival. But, thanks to their promptness and competence no one was injured and we are in the process of salvaging some of our belongings. We are forever grateful to Chief Copeland and his crew, as well as to our neighbors, Patty and Mike, for their quick actions.

*Jim & Lynn Soltys*

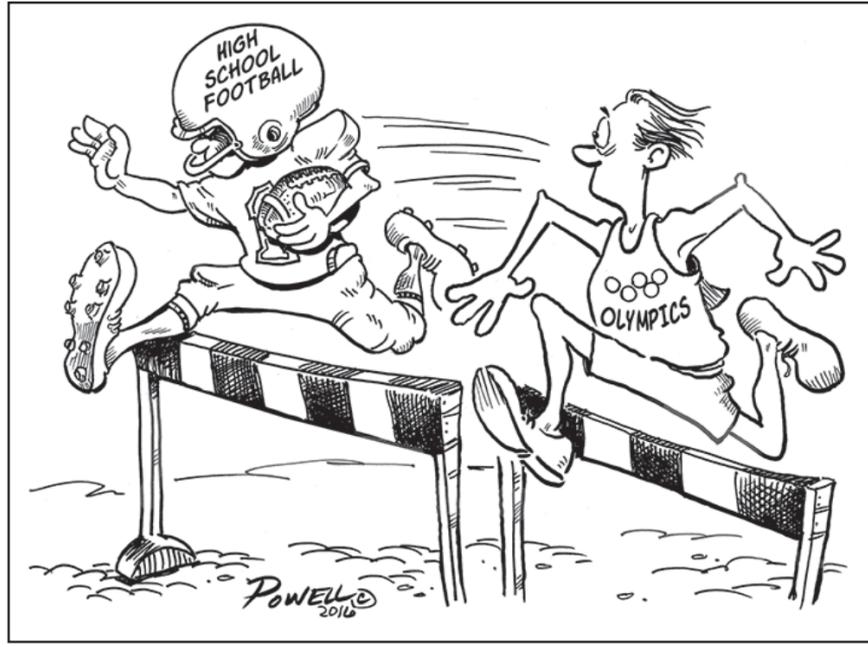
Dear Editor:

My wife and I were recently in your community, July 27 - 31, 2016 - attending the Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruise-In Car and Truck Show. On July 28, as we began to participate in the cruise through your beautiful mountains, I encountered a broken gas pedal. I quickly pulled out of line and stopped on the side of the road. Immediately, one of your sheriff's deputies was there to help with traffic safety as I received help with my predicament. He gave me directions to a nearby NAPA Service Center to make sure I did not have any further problems with the gas pedal. They were not able to assist me at that time and suggested another repair shop - Arrowood's Auto Service. As I approached his place of business, I realized that Mr. Arrowood was a "car guy" because he was working on a hot rod. His son waited on us and secured our gas pedal. He was very accommodating.

Later, while visiting Brasstown Bald, we encountered another problem with my truck. It would not crank. The employees at the top of the mountain were very helpful. Since the cell phone reception was limited on the mountain, I was able to use their land line to call Leon Arrowood for his assistance. He sent a wrecker to rescue us and take us to his garage. After determining that it was carburetor problems, he was able to get the part needed to replace it. In the meantime, he offered his pickup to us so that we could get a meal and go back to our cottage to wait until he repaired my vehicle. Late that evening, as I returned to this shop, he was completing the repair. My wife and I appreciate the Arrowoods' immediate attention, their professionalism, and kindness in our time of need. Their assistance allowed us to attend the car show for the next two days.

I want to thank all of the people (I wish I had gotten their names) who showed their kindness and hospitality while visiting your lovely area. We are looking forward to visiting Hiawassee again.

*Sincerely,  
Terry and Lisa Cox,  
Aberdeen, MS*



## Towns County Community Calendar

	<b>Every Monday:</b>	
Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
	<b>Every Tuesday:</b>	
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	<b>Every Wednesday</b>	
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	<b>Every Thursday:</b>	
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	<b>Every Friday:</b>	
Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	<b>Every Sunday:</b>	
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	<b>Third Monday of each month:</b>	
Hospital Auxiliary	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Water Board	Water Office	6 pm
	<b>Third Tuesday of each month:</b>	
YH Plan Comm.	YH City Hall	5 pm
	<b>Third Wednesday of each month:</b>	
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Jack @ 828-321-2896	
	<b>Third Thursday of each month:</b>	
Co. Comm. Mtg.	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Friendship Comm.	Clubhouse	6 pm
	<b>Third Saturday of each month:</b>	
Goldwing Riders	Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
	<b>Fourth Monday of each month:</b>	
Red Cross DAT	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
	<b>Fourth Tuesday of each month:</b>	
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
	<b>Fourth Thursday of each month:</b>	
Republican Party	New Senior Ctr.	6:30 pm
	<b>Fourth Friday of each month:</b>	
Square Dance Club	Rec. Center	7 pm
	<b>Last Thursday of each month:</b>	
Humane Shelter Bd.	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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## Towns County Herald

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