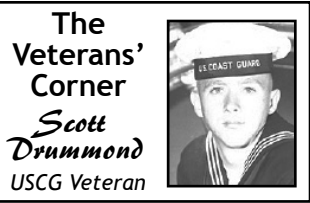


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Let us Never Forget

September 11, 2001, at 8:45 AM only 16 short years ago, marks the deadliest attack upon innocent Americans since December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor. Both acts of terror, preludes to war, were committed by fanatical fascist ideology driven zealots who never hid their theocratic philosophies, beliefs and intents from our civilized world. Once again our precious United States of America and our greatest dedicated young men and women were called upon to sacrifice for the freedoms and liberties of which our enemies abhor.



The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran

Where were you on this fateful day? I certainly remember where I was on my job, in a secured area analyzing a telecommunications network via my computer, when I received a call from my dear wife, informing me of what was occurring. This is indelibly printed upon my mind, heart and soul. To this day, I simply cannot watch any of the many videos of that day without severely tearing up and becoming mute.

Did you know that on that day, 343 firefighters in NYC were killed? About three thousand of our fellow citizens, innocent Americans had their lives snuffed out as our Twin Towers, the World Trade Centers were destroyed by hi-jacked civilian airliners, and then one hour later, another attack in the same cowardly fashion on our Pentagon, another 125 military personal and civilians murdered along with 64 more innocent passengers aboard American Airlines Flight 77. Not to mention the economic damage and untold sicknesses, deaths and grief thereafter.

United Flight #93 was also skyjacked from Newark International Airport en route to California. During the delayed takeoff due to the previous attacks, the passengers aboard Flight 93 devised a plan, well aware their plane too was hijacked probably leading to their deaths, formulated a courageous all American plan. Under the leadership of Todd Beamer, Jr. several passengers counter attacked the hijackers, resulting in the plane flipping upside down and crashing into a rural farm field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania at 10:10 a.m. The 45 innocent passengers who died there probably saved our US Capitol from the Islamic terrorists, which was included in post attack theories. Other potential targets include our Whitehouse.

Remember how our American people responded? Solidarity as Americans, regardless of race, status, wealthy or poor. Flags flying everywhere! How long did that last? In spite of disagreements, that love of country should never ever be abandoned or disrupted. Here's a fact: the stronger our nation's people are, the more bonded we are as one America, the odds are reduced for something like this ever occurring again.

And to finish this short overview, our military forces, need to be maintained at a high level with all we can give them. Our military presents a solid wall of force to the perpetual forces of actual haters, who oppress and wish to destroy anything that is not like them. Our men and women in uniform, our people when strong, and God are our only defense against those who wish we weren't who we are.

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to "letters to the editor" printed in the TCH stating the need for a national commission for the purpose of determining the truth about racism. The letter promoted many other initiatives including reparations and determining what portion of the wealth of our nation was contributed by the slave institution.

This letter was a reply to an earlier letter regarding Confederate Statues being moved, etc.

The solution of a commission, determining the wealth creation of the slave institution, and reparations are old bromides and would be more divisive than in the past and would bring more contention than peace.

The writer mentions Native Americans and the underclass, subhumans, poverty and other topics which I assume were thrown into his letter to incite.

A variety of immigrants and cultures went into the building of this country and its wealth. The railroads which opened up this country to growth and wealth were built by immigrant labor. This was also true about mines, lumber mills, etc. Many employers, from beginning of time, have taken advantage workers. This has been addressed by many solutions like unions, social programs, poverty programs, etc. None have been perfect and most have had unintended consequences but they were certainly better than a national commission on slavery or reparations.

I do not condone slavery, racism, bigotry and the like. I also would not support a commission on slavery or reparations.

It is my belief that the growth of single parent or dysfunctional families, lack of respect for authority, Drugs, Wall Street's intensive focus on quarter to quarter results, greed in general as well as entitlements have had more impact on today's divisiveness than any lack of a national commission for the purpose of determining the truth about racism.

Ron Palmich

Letter to the Editor:

I see by the letter printed last week that the silly season is upon us again. Every time there's a hurricane, drought or wildfire the finger of blame is pointed at modern man's fossil fuel use. Never mind that scientists on all sides of the debate acknowledge that there has been no long term increase in either the frequency or severity of hurricanes or tornados, or that Harvey broke a rare 12 year period without a major hurricane (Cat. 3 or above) hitting the U.S. It is also ironic that what made Harvey severely damaging was an upper level trough of unusually cool air which kept it in place. Normally, hurricanes are quickly propelled inland by warm atmospheric currents where they go to die.

The aggregate average temperature on the planet increased by about 1 degree Cent. during the 20th century, well within natural variability. Scientifically accurate surface temperature measurements only go back to 1979 with the advent of satellite technology. We know that there's been no significant atmospheric warming since 1998, almost 2 decades ago. CO2 remains just a trace gas (about .04 percent) in the atmosphere and has not been proven empirically to cause climate change. Yet, the alarmist prescription is always the same: let's just grow more government control and strap our people with higher energy taxes and all will be fine.

Yes, mother nature will have her way with us and the climate will always change, as it has for some 4.5 billion years of the earth's existence, but it is the ultimate hubris to believe man has anything to do with it. The hysteria over climate change is as predictable as the autumn leaves.

John DiChiara

Single Engine Air Tanker - SEAT

Most little kids like me have stopped along the highway to watch an agricultural aerial applicator (Crop Duster) zoom in at crop top levels across fields pulling up at the last minute before crashing into trees at the end of the field or flying under power lines. Growing up in middle Georgia, we really had "dusters" using J3 Piper Cubs with a dust hopper and applicator chute in the front seat with the pilot flying from the back seat. This Cub duster had a 65 hp engine flying 70 mph at best and could barely get out of its own way. It worked well and many acres of cotton were saved from the boll weevil by this local air force dusting the cotton fields with DDT and other "horribly Toxic" chemicals.

We sprayed DDT in our neighborhoods to get rid of mosquitos and lived to tell about it! A good friend ours lived at the end of a cotton field and when the duster was in the field he would circle the house and give it a shot of DDT to keep the bugs away.

I heard a farmer ask a crop duster pilot if he could get in a small field to dust and Luther replied, "it rains in there don't it?" No GPS or instruments, just seat of the pants flying with cotton stalks and limbs hanging on the landing gear and wings. Today things are different with all the technology we have at our disposal so the days of crop "dusting" is a far distant memory. The ag planes of today are high powered, fast, attack machines where the spray is calculated exactly for the most efficient and safe application of chemicals on crops.

One of the most notable of these is called the Air Tractor AT-802 (SEAT) which is an agricultural aircraft that can be adapted to fire-fighting and also an armed versions for close support fighting. In the U.S., it is considered a Type III SEAT, or Single Engine Air Tanker.

A number of aircraft have been converted to the Fire Boss aerial firefighting configuration, which utilizes amphibious floats, so that it can land on a traditional runway or on water. The Fire Boss (SEAT) can scoop the 820 gallons of water from a lake or river for use on a fire. From a nearby water source, the SEAT can deliver up to 14,000 gallons per hour for extended attack or ground support.

Powering the SEAT is a turboprop engine with 1600 horsepower which gives it power to cycle loads of water when time is of the essence. Fire agencies around the world are boosting firefighting capability by combining SEAT aircraft as coordinated flight groups of 4 or more aircraft. It's an effective, cost efficient strategy for quickly containing a fire. A flight of four land-based SEAT air tankers can deliver 3,200 gallons to contain small shrub-fueled fires with one round of retardant.

Larger fires can be contained with four SEAT aircraft if roads or natural breaks can be incorporated as containment lines. These fire response flight groups enable fire agencies to adjust their response level to the fire size and behavior. The SEAT is built for battling fires large and small—not only as an initial attack firefighter, but also for extended duties supporting ground crews.

The turbine engine allows the SEAT to ferry between the fire and the airfield at speeds approaching 200 mph. Swift transit times coupled with the flexibility to operate from remote airstrips, dirt roads, or small airports near the fire, allow the SEAT to make an impact on a fire very rapidly.

Once over the fire line, the SEAT slows things down—dropping its payload low, slow, and right where it's needed to knock down brush and grass fires or suppress fires in heavier canopies. The SEAT's maneuvering agility, speedy climb rates and compact size make it ideal for mountainous terrain, narrow flight corridors, and wildland-urban interface areas.

As the firefighters like to say it "puts the wet stuff on the hot stuff!" and does it quickly and efficiently helping the ground crews contain the wildfire.

The Georgia Forestry Commission has recently purchased 2 SEATs to control wildfires in Georgia. When fire season is over, the SEAT is ready to go back to work – not back into the hanger. The same qualities that make the SEAT a superior aerial fire fighter also make it perfectly suited for forest restoration in the wake of wildfires. Its 800-gallon capacity, speed and maneuverability help to make quick work of hydro-mulch application or reseeding for erosion control.

From Crop dusters to High Tech firefighting, aircraft have come a long way. Imagine what the next ten years will look like!

For more information on SEATs contact Chestatee-Chatahoochee RC&D - www.info.ccrd@gmail.com or call 706-894-1591.

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@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.

John DiChiara



RC&D
Frank Riley
Executive Director

Fruit Trees

With fall quickly approaching, many of us are ready and raring to go harvest some ripening fruit from our trees. Whether you want something fun for the grandkids to pick, or you want something for your own enjoyment, there are a variety of fruit trees that do well in our area. The major steps to having a productive fruit harvest are the three p's: picking, pollination, and pruning. If you know the basics of these three important characteristics, you will have plenty of fruit for yourself, your family and even your neighbors!



UGA extension
From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee

The most common fruit trees I see up here are, of course, apples. A wide variety of apple trees do well in the North Georgia mountains, but red cultivars are the most resistant to diseases such as cedar apple rust. Apples ripen throughout late summer and early fall, and are perfect to pick when their color has peaked and they are easily plucked off the stems. Though it may be tempting to prune your apple trees after the fruit and leaves have dropped, the ideal pruning time is in early February. Remove any diseased or dead wood and any branches that are rubbing against each other. You always want to take back about one third of the tree's volume to allow for air flow and to maintain structural integrity. Finally, always make sure you have multiple apple trees that flower at the same time. If you only have one tree, you will not have any fruit because it will not be pollinated.

Pears are also a common tree grown here. Unlike apples, they need to be picked before they are ripe. A good rule of thumb is to pick them when you can see little brown dots (lenticels) appearing on the skin. Early February is also the best time to prune these trees, and you will definitely need to prune them because their branches grow almost straight up and form narrow crotches. Just like with all trees, you want good air flow through the canopy to prevent disease. Even if a pear may be advertised as "self-fertile", it is good to have at least two that flower at the same time to increase your fruit yield. More pollination always means more tasty fruit!

Despite the fact that North Georgia is not traditionally considered a suitable site for fig trees, I have seen several varieties such as Hardy Chicago, Celeste and some Brown Turkey do well in the area. Figs ripen throughout the warm summer months into fall, depending on environmental conditions. Again, late winter is the ideal time to prune as figs typically yield better when they are kept a little short instead of growing into a large tree. February is also a great time to make cuttings. If you are unsure of what variety to get, the best thing may be to ask a friend or neighbor with a successfully producing fig tree if you can take a cutting to propagate your own tree. Cuttings should be made from one year old wood and should be about eight to ten inches long. If you already have a fig tree and it is not producing, there could be a few reasons. Dry, hot weather can stress some figs and prevent them from fruiting. Also, because the flower is located inside the fruit, it requires a visit from a specific wasp. Finally, it might just not be old enough. Figs take a long time to mature and bear fruit.

For more information on other fruiting trees to plant, contact the extension office



Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday:	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Bingo		Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday:	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday:	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Bridge Players	Every Thursday:	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.		Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Friday:	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday:	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Chamber Board	Second Monday of each month:	1411 Jack Dayton Cir.	8 am
Historical Society		Old Rec. Center	5:30 pm
Mtn. Comp. Users		www.mcug.org	6 pm
Planning Comm.		Civic Center	7 pm
School Board		Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic		Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Caregiver support	Second Tuesday of each month:	Brasstown Manor	3 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild		Mtn. Regional Library	4 pm
Lions Club		Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Mtn. Coin Club		N. GA Tech	6 pm
Basket Weavers	Second Wednesday of each month:	SC Fire Hall	10 am
Board of Elections		67 Lakeview Cir., Ste. A	4 pm
CVB Board	Second Thursday of each month:	Rec Center	9 am
Awake America Prayer		Civic Center	Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors		Senior Center	1 pm
Hospital Auxiliary	Third Monday of each month:	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Water Board		Water Office	6 pm
YH Plan Comm.	Third Tuesday of each month:	YH City Hall	5 pm
Co. Comm. Mtg		Courthouse	5:30 pm
Humann Shelter Bd.		Blairsville store	5:30 pm

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Towns County Herald

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