

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

73rd Anniversary of Battle of Iwo Jima

Open to all, please plan on attending, Monday, February 19, 2018 at 10 AM. Towns County Convention/Recreation Center, Foster Park, Hiawassee, GA. Guest speaker will be Colonel Howard M. Lovingood, USMC (Ret) accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Betty Lovingood.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



A brief history of Iwo Jima will be recited by Martha Warth USN, WWII Veteran. We will be honored to have several Iwo Jima survivors with us on this momentous day, meant to celebrate America and the tremendous deeds those who serve our nation always rise to the occasion in order to accomplish in selfless fashion. We will have a plethora of Veterans circulating amongst us from all eras of service and ages. In attendance will be Iwo Jima survivors: Mack Drake, USMC; Phil Gamache, USMC; Todd Kimsey, USN; Joseph Tedder, USMC; Jack Rhoads, USMC; and of course, C.E. "Bud" Johnson, USN. For more information please call Walt Scott, 706-897-9610 or Bud Johnson 706-970-0195.

Very brief historical overview:
 The Battle of Iwo Jima from February 19, 1945 to March 26, 1945 marks one of the key offensives by American forces to achieve victory in our WWII effort against the Japanese. This Japanese island is located 650 miles from Tokyo, midway between Japan and US bomber bases in the Marianas. The strategy anticipated was to allow for landing strips on Iwo Jima to accommodate escorts for our long range bombers, en route to bombing missions in Japan, to be defended from Japan's air assault by short range escorts.

American naval forces, 450 ships had the island surrounded as never before, yet the Japanese, numbering approximately 22,060, were entrenched in over 16 miles of underground tunnels and interlocking caves. Even though our naval and air forces had commenced heavy shelling and bombing of the island on 15 June 1944 and continuing through the morning of 19 February 1945 our 30,000 Marines of 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine divisions encountered very heavy resistance. We had committed more than 60,000 US Marines, several thousand US Navy Seabees, alongside our US Navy, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guardsmen who represent to this day the very best of American determination and love of country.

Mount Suribachi, on the south end of this small island where our Marines raised the first flag on this rough volcanic island is often thought of as the final chapter of this horribly expensive piece of real estate, wasn't the final task of our Marines and our entire amphibious landing forces tough mission. The Motoyama Plateau on the northern end was yet heavily defended and had to be taken.

These young men of the Marines, Navy, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard, well aware of these hardships in advance, were not deterred, knowing they were there for our USA, you and I. Never, ever forget them; always honor our men and women of our armed forces.

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

At It Again

Dear Editor,
 Some may recall that Mr. Tim Groza wrote a letter published by this newspaper on 8-23-17 questioning those purveyors of political correctness who demand that statues and other memorabilia of southern heritage be removed or demolished and Mr. Groza concluded that letter by saying, "Where will it stop?" A subsequent writer censured Mr. Groza for that 8-23-17 letter. In a letter published by this newspaper 10-14-17, and in support of Mr. Groza, I facetiously and satirically remarked that perhaps when Col. Sanders could no longer be the spokesperson for KFC. Well, folks, they're at it again and the "Dixie Stampede" in Pigeon Forge is now simply the "Stampede". So I suppose Winn-Dixie, Dixie Cups and Dixieland music are next.

Claude Spears

Good Loser?

Dear Editor,
 One of my former coaches once stated that the manner in which you accept defeat says a lot about your reputation as a sportsman. Last Sunday night, Tom Brady, five time Super Bowl winner, lost. He was outplayed by the Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Nick Foles - a second string quarterback. For those who watched the Super Bowl game, one would have thought the natural thing for Brady to do at the end of the game would have been to look for Foles and congratulate him. Not so.

Instead, Brady jogged off the field in disgust, not giving Foles a second thought. That was it. Brady has always been a gloater when he wins. But a good loser he is not.

Tim Groza

A Healthy Balance

Dear Editor,
 TV news is a useful source for the United States and beyond. The *Towns County Herald* is a comfortable and relaxing weekly routine of keeping up with more direct activities. We can see the good things instantly which influence our lives within this lovely water-mountain area.

When I took my first look at this week's February 7 issue, I decided to share with you one important, nice thing about your newspaper. There it was. Right on the front page.

You placed, at the top, the happy success of the TCHS Academic Bowl Team with picture of excited young women and men, our future leaders. A little bit front-page-lower you pictured, with a nice article, energetic young men and women, again, our future. Deeper into your newspaper appears an excellent accounting of athletics, the sports section. This is as it should be. It is true that it is extremely important for our bodies to receive regular physical exercise. We also know that regular mental exercises are very, very important toward formation of total, sound points, of effective leaders.

My main point is that your newspaper has a healthy balance of displaying our youth which cleverly encourages and inspires our developing younger persons toward growing into the proper mental and physical stamina needed to lead society to meaningful, productive levels.

Thank you for what you do.

Sincerely yours,
 W. Franklin Boulineau
 Chemistry Teacher/Principal (Ret.)

Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D

Resource Conservation & Development Councils (RC&D) are 501c-3 non-profit organizations that administer projects, programs, events, and workshops to help citizens improve their communities, conserve natural resources, and improve the standard of living. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is a government agency within the US Department of Agriculture that helps farmers and landowners improve their farm and land operations with cost share programs and expert advice to conserve the natural resources and improve the water quality on the land. Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D (CCRCD) along with 374 other organizations across the country was once imbedded in the NRCS and had no worries because operating funds flowed down from the NRCS to the RC&Ds.

RC&Ds acted as the community outreach for the NRCS. The RC&Ds facilitated projects, events, and programs with guidance and oversight from a NRCS Coordinator. The coordinator was an NRCS employee within each RC&D who was the link between the non-profit and the government. The grants, contacts, and funds were channeled down to the RC&D to do the work in the communities. Since RC&Ds are non-governmental they were not bound by the same strict rules and regulations that NRCS was, so programs were put into motion much faster than the government could with all the red tape required. This partnership began in 1961 and continued all the way until 2011 when NRCS pulled the plug on RC&Ds, took all their equipment and coordinator away, and left the RC&Ds standing alone as private non-profits to make it on their own.

Most of the RC&Ds were not prepared because they had never had to worry about funding and when the end came, they acted like baby birds, sitting there with their mouths open waiting for someone to bring a worm but there were no worms anymore. Most of the 375 RC&Ds across the country closed their doors instead of trying to find a way to survive. Our RC&D, Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D was one of these organizations that operated in the 13 counties of Northeast Georgia. When NRCS defunded the RC&D program in 2011, CCRCD like most of the other RC&Ds fell into a death spiral only surviving on the funds left in the bank with no income so the end was in sight.

In 2012 I was hired as Executive Director of CCRCD because they needed someone who could think outside of the box and I like a challenge, so I jumped in to try to keep CCRCD's alive. Soon after I started, the long-time Executive Assistant and the EPD contract coordinator both quit, and I was alone with an organization I knew nothing about. I was like a pilot in a steep dive with no way to slow down, but with help from our partners and many long hours at meetings we finally started pulling out of the dive. We scraped the ground a couple of times but began to pull up and now are on a slow steady rise. Hard work, dedication, a hard head, and never giving up have always been my strong points and it is working.

CCRCD has been awarded NRCS out-reach grants and contracts to facilitate events and programs, hire employees, facilitate EQIP contracts, and other services about agriculture, forestry, water, and other subjects. We were able to hire an Executive Assistant a couple of years ago and have facilitated 33 NRCS events and programs in the past 18 months using local partners to make the programs successful.

We have built 21 Seasonal High Tunnels in the 13 counties at schools, senior centers, and community gardens. CCRCD is the Firewise Liaison for the state of Georgia administering the Firewise program for all the state. CCRCD developed and administers the Appalachian RC&D FAC Coalition a group of 6 RC&DS in Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia whose purpose is to spread the Firewise program through the Appalachian Mountains.

The purpose of the program is to educate citizens living in these communities about the wild fire risks all around them and what they can do themselves to minimize these risks.

In the first 10 months of the project, our group has presented 311 programs to 6,345 people, and we have only just begun! This Appalachian project was developed from a request from the US Forest Service to duplicate the very successful Firewise program we developed in Towns County and spread it up the Appalachians and the Towns program is the pattern we use.

CCRCD is one of the original 8 national Fire Adapted Communities pilot hubs. We use local citizens to spread the word through their grass roots chain of communication from neighbor to neighbor which is a lot more effective than a power point. I don't live in these communities, so the face of the program must be local to make it be successful. I have presented our wild fire programs to many audiences across the country in the past 5 years, in Colorado, New Mexico, California, Tennessee, Idaho, Oregon, Virginia, Nebraska, North Carolina, Georgia, and later this month in Reno, NV (4th time).

CCRCD is here to help our citizens and we always welcome suggestions for new programs and events that will draw a crowd. Contact us for more information at: www.chestchat-tred.org, www.appcfac.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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.

RC&D
Frank Riley
 Executive Director



Southern Pine Beetles

The North Georgia Mountains are renowned for the beautiful fall color of their hardwoods, but pine trees and other evergreens are also an important part of the Appalachian ecosystem. Drought and storm damage have provided major stress to these trees over the past few years, and such stress leaves them susceptible to secondary troubles such as infections and pests. Some of these pests are collectively known as Pine Beetles, which are made up of Black Turpentine Beetle, Ips Beetles, and Southern Pine Beetles.

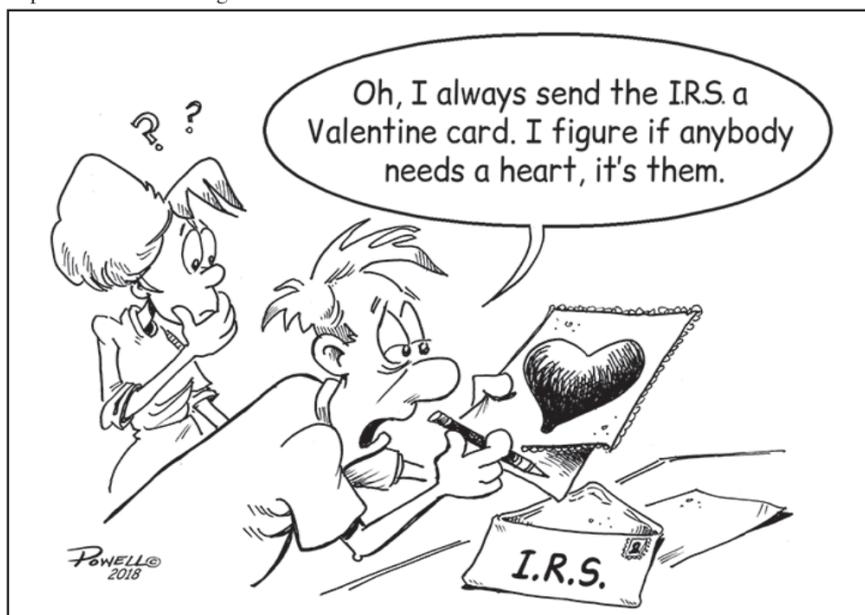
Black Turpentine Beetles are the largest species. They are a quarter of an inch long, their abdomens is rounded and they are a dark reddish brown. Usually, you will see turpentine beetle damage on the bottom eight feet of the tree. As they feed on the tissue, the tree will secrete large tubes of pitch. Black turpentine beetles feed under the bark of stressed or weakened trees. If a pine tree is not completely girdled, or surrounded, by turpentine beetles feeding on its phloem, it is likely that it will survive the infestation.

Ips Beetles are also small, pine-feeding insects, but their size is variable by species. Adults are a dark brown or black and can be the same size as the black turpentine beetles or as small as one tenth of an inch. The end of their abdomens appear flattened or "scooped out," compared to other pine beetles. Like turpentine beetles, Ips Beetles feed just under the bark on the phloem of the tree, obstructing the flow of nutrients. Their feeding also causes the tree to secrete pitch tubes, but these tubes are very small (usually less than a half inch) and a creamy white color. If you peel the bark off of a tree with an Ips Beetle infestation, you will see galleries, or trails, in the shape of a Y or H. The beetles make these as they try to find mates and food within the tree.

Finally, Southern Pine Beetles are the most damaging species. The adults are about an eighth of an inch long and have rounded abdomens like the turpentine beetles. They are difficult to assess because they attach trees from about halfway up to the lower crown. Southern Pine Beetles create S shaped galleries as they feed beneath the bark. These beetles often build up large populations and can kill thousands of trees in a given area. Usually, the attacks will move in one direction and you can see a pattern of dead or dying trees.

While South Georgia has been hit for its large scale timber production, North Georgia can still be susceptible to pine beetle infestations. For this reason, it is important to be on the lookout for dying pine trees and destroy infested wood to prevent the spread of pests.

Union and Towns County Extension will be hosting two production meetings over the next month. We have our North Georgia Vegetable Production Meeting on February 28th at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We will also be hosting the Northeast Georgia Corn Production Meeting March 13th, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center. Pesticide credit will be available for license holders, and dinner provided at both of these events, but ONLY to those who pre-register by calling Union County Extension at 706-439-6030 to reserve a plate. Both of these events are free of charge courtesy of the sponsorship by Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District.



Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
	Every Tuesday:	
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	Every Wednesday	
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Every Thursday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	Every Friday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Every Sunday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Second Wednesday of each month:	
Basket Weavers	SC Fire Hall	10 am
Board of Elections	67 Lakeview Cir., Ste. A	4 pm
	Second Thursday of each month:	
CVB Board	Rec Center	9 am
Awake America Prayer	Civic Center	Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center	1 pm
	Third Monday of each month:	
Hospital Auxiliary	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Water Board	Water Office	6 pm
	Third Tuesday of each month:	
YH Plan Comm.	YH City Hall	5 pm
Co. Comm. Mtg	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Blairsville store	5:30 pm
	Third Wednesday of each month:	
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Jack @ 828-321-2896	
	Third Thursday of each month:	
Friendship Comm.	Clubhouse	6 pm
Republican Party	Civic Center	5:30 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	6 pm
	Third Saturday of each month:	
Goldwing Riders	Daniel's Restaurant	11 am

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Towns County Herald

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