

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Human Faces of War

Once upon a time, not long ago, a soldier, perhaps against his wishes was serving in an evil, but extremely popular political leader's army. This soldier was a NAZI invader who was in the Netherlands as the quest to own the Dutch nation was of utmost importance to Hitler and his cronies. As this lone soldier patrolled the streets of Eindhoven, North Brabant province of southern Netherlands he encountered a fine devout Christian lady who was carrying her small sleeping child in her arms. This soldier with his tall blackened jack boots, brightly adorned uniform, weapons and long rifle on his shoulder, began aggressively motioning this mother to hand over her child. She didn't understand German, was terrified, but the soldier finally reached in his left breast pocket thus producing a picture of his own young child at home in Germany, thereby convincing this young mother to relinquish her young daughter. The soldier stood there for a few minutes, holding and caressing the very young girl with "tears streaming down his face." He then thanked this mother and child, handing baby back, never to be seen again.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



Germany invaded the Netherlands, 10 May 1940, to possess seacoast access and extremely productive agricultural aspects. Meet the "infant" Miep (Vanderburgt) Noon, born 27 March 1938 who now resides at Brasstown Manor and only knows of this incident because her mom told her of this story many times since that horrifying day. She amazed me with this story of being held by a crying lonely soldier, just this week.

Miep married her husband, Terry Noon, the father of her American born children at age 19, who was beginning a 30 year career in our USAF in Germany. She moved to Long Island NY, 1959 became an American citizen and reared their children, supported her husband's military career until Terry was called for his final "flight" to serve with our Supreme Commander in 2002. As a military wife, she has moved over 22 times and lived all over our USA.

Miep knew about our North GA mountain community from a vacation they had all taken earlier and returned here to "look around". She decided to settle here for her final home.

You would never know the hardships she has endured by her very upbeat, cheerful, positive nature. From a devout Christian family she remembers her mother hiding an "Englishman" and Jews, during many German inspections; remembers bombings by German aircraft; holes in concrete sidewalks; where afterwards kids would play with round doll parts, which were blown apart in the destroyed doll factory, rolling them into those round holes; remembers fear of those German soldiers posted all over her homeland. And told me of her uncle and ten year old cousin who were killed by German bombers when they bombed her family's dairy farm.

Miep loves America, is very happy to be here, loves Hiawasse, and glad she took care of her USAF husband and children.

Semper Paratus

Fire Adapted Communities and Fire Learning Network

The Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council is a non-profit organization located in Northeast Georgia that covers the 13 counties in that corner of the state. Included in the working area are the Blue Ridge Mountains that are part of the Appalachian mountain chain that stretches from Georgia north. Chest/Chatt has always been in the forefront with projects and programs that bring new ideas and businesses to the citizens that it serves. In 2013 Chest/Chatt was chosen as one of the original 8 Pilot hubs for the Fire Adapted Communities project and since then has worked hard with its partners to make this program the best in the east and now has 18 Firewise Communities in Towns County alone with 10 more in the works and is the leading Firewise program in Georgia. There 91 Firewise communities in Georgia and Towns has 18 of them!

RC&D
Frank Riley
Executive Director



Our Wildfire education program is driven by a group of dedicated citizens that make up the Towns County Citizen's Coalition. This coalition meets monthly and keeps the Firewise message out in front of their friends, neighbors, and colleagues who live in these mountains and are not aware of the risks of wildfire around them where they live.

The Citizen's Coalition is dedicated to making the area safe from wildfire and to keep the mountain landscape pristine which is the draw for people visiting and settling up here. They know that if these mountains burn, no one will want to come here to visit and the landscape that drew them here will be no more. The results of the Towns Coalition's efforts over the past 3 years is a 40% drop in wildfire calls the first year and 90% drop the second year and this year is on track to be even better. All of these results prove that the Fire Learning Network concept which uses Peer to Peer communication works and our results prove it.

Last April, Tony Tooke, the new USFS Region 8 Forester, visited Towns County to see for himself what we had been doing with our programs. For the past 9 years Mr. Tooke had worked with the Forest Service in Washington and when he saw what our group is doing, his comment was "this is exactly what Washington wants to see happening out in the field". His next comment was "I would like to see this program move all the way up the Appalachian Mountain chain to Virginia, can you do it?" Our answer was, "Yes Sir, it only takes money and a lot of dedicated people". The dedicated people are in every community in the Appalachian area and the trick is to find them and organize them into what we have here in north Georgia.

We realized that my fellow RC&D Councils fit the bill perfectly to develop and spread this concept in the areas where they live and serve. RC&D's have been managing projects of this kind since 1962 with great success.

There are 5 RC&D councils along the string of Appalachian Mountains from Georgia to Virginia. Some have even been involved with wildfire programs in the past, and they all are looking for programs that will help keep them in business. These councils can help spread our Firewise programs and meet Mr. Tooke's challenge. The string of 5 RC&D's from Georgia to Virginia covers a continuous area of Appalachian Mountains where everybody lives in the Wildland Urban Interface and are in need of what Firewise and Fire Adapted Communities have to offer, a safer place to live. We are forming a Firewise group with these 5 RC&D Councils that will be called the Appalachian RC&D Coalition whose mission will be to spread the good things that Firewise has to offer to citizens that live in the Appalachian Mountains Wildland Urban Interface and Chest/Chatt will be the lead RC&D and administrator for the group. The good news is that Mr. Tooke held up his part of the bargain and has awarded our RCD Coalition ample funds to start our trek thru the Appalachians spreading Smokey's message that "Only You can Prevent Wildfires!"

For more information on the Appalachian RC&D Coalition, contact Frank Riley 706-897-1676 or info.ccrd@gmail.com.

Cultural Literacy

There is a similar dynamic at work in the rise of Trump, the move in the UK to exit the EU, protests in Paris and unrest in other parts of the developed world. That dynamic is a growing dislike of a kind of globalism that, independent of the political affiliations of our leaders, has nevertheless resulted in the most extreme wealth inequality. In the United States we have not seen this level of inequality since 1928. Historically this level of inequality has almost always resulted in revolution and/or war.

Fears of race and religion (and immigration by those of different races and religions) are not, I believe, at the root of the problem but rather are manifestations of the problem, and exacerbated by the problem, which is basically one of economics.

In our country, though Bush 1, Clinton, Bush 2 and Obama seemed very different on the surface, an agenda which was independent of party moved forward during those administrations, and that agenda was one of global trading networks and consolidated power. The existence of some "global conspiracy" is not required for this to have happened, when the networks of social and financial connections which produce the vast majority of our leaders, exist in plain sight.

Our "deep state" intended to give us a choice between Bush 3 and Clinton 2 in this election. Wall Street would have been happy with either, but people rejected another Bush outright, and chose Trump instead. Trump is the manifestation of the anger and frustration of frightened people who are open to suggestion as to who they can blame, and he is adept at tapping into that anger. Unfortunately, Trump also seems like a "safe choice" for the deep state agenda. He is so outrageous and polarizing that he almost makes the corrupt and discredited Clinton look like a rational choice. The nomination of Trump as the republican candidate would almost guarantee a Clinton victory - unless, of course, Trump wins. I think the dynamic is similar to what is threatening the EU right now.

Pundits and politicians went to bed last Thursday night thinking that there was no threat to the global order in the Brexit vote. The polls showed a strong swing towards a "Remain" vote. Much to the surprise of many, the people of Britain decided that they did not need, to quote John Rappoport, the "bloated super-structure of support" which the EU represents to many. As we are slowly coming to realize here in the age of information, a poll can be used to influence a vote, but a poll is not a vote. Currently the polls show Clinton with a substantial lead over Trump.

Last Friday, the "deep state" lost hundreds of billions of dollars while \$2 trillion in virtual "wealth" disappeared. By the time this goes to print, I think more wealth will have disappeared. I don't think that this was according to plan, or that Cameron would have allowed a Brexit vote if anyone thought that the result would be "Leave."

Markets will be volatile for some time to come. Other European nations may add to the turmoil by demanding their own referendums. Protests will continue and unrest may increase in places. As unrest increases, the state will offer again to step in to protect us from ourselves, increasing its coercive power, giving us more of what caused the unrest in the first place.

Appalachian Drug Task Force

In the last two years the former Appalachian Drug Task Force has grown from the original four counties and now covers a much larger area of Northeast Georgia. The new partnership includes the sheriffs offices of Towns, White, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, and Habersham Counties, Georgia State Patrol, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, District Attorney's Offices of the Enotah, Mountain, and Piedmont circuits, as well as the cities of Cleveland and Toccoa.

The Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office is one of three Georgia Bureau of Investigation supervised RDEOs in the state. The other two cover the Savannah/Chatham County area and West Metro Atlanta area. It is worth noting that even though Appalachian RDEO is new and half of the agents are newly employed as agents, Appalachian RDEO has more than kept pace with the other two RDEOs in the number of cases worked and arrests made.

At the ARDEO we are committed to taking criminals off the street. All agree that the expanded area being covered helps the investigative process. In Towns County, we have been very successful in taking local drug dealers off the street and a lower crime rate has proven our point that crime revolves around the drug trade. The ARDEO has extended the reach of our investigations and we are able to assist in dismantling the supply lines, making it harder for the drugs to reach our community in the first place.

Crime and criminals don't respect county or state lines. We have developed good relationships with the authorities in neighboring North and South Carolinas. Together, we are making a serious impact on the drug trade and the numbers show it. Just this past week we were able to stop drug traffickers who intended to supply methamphetamine, heroin, pills, and marijuana in Towns County. These individuals are connected to a group responsible for the distribution of multiple kilos of these illegal drugs in multiple counties and states over the past six months. Because of our partnership with these other agencies, this particular shipment will never hit the streets here in Towns County. I am thankful for that fact.

Heroin has been responsible for a growing number of overdose deaths lately and I am committed to doing everything we can to stop drug dealers that would poison our children and harm our community. I am very thankful for the partnerships that have been developed and maintained over the past several years. By working together with these other agencies, we can continue to have an impact and send a clear message to drug dealers that they are not welcome, not only in our wonderful county, but in our region. I am confident that our partners would agree with me in saying this is about protecting our children and not about who gets credit for the arrest.

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The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

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Mummy Berry

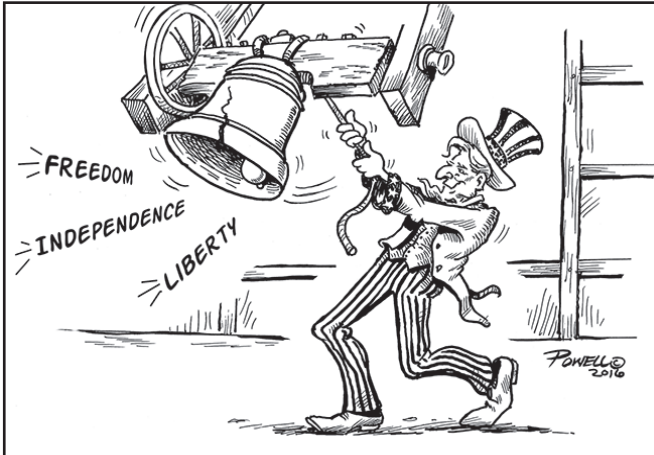
While some of us are watching our nice juicy blueberries ripen in the warm summer weather, others are inevitably watching their crop shrivel and drop. This disease is called mummy berry and is caused by the fungus *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*. Once it presents itself in a blueberry crop, there is no way to save it. However, there are many options for removing the infection after harvest and preventing it from establishing in your bushes next year.

Berries that are infected with the fungus were actually infected by dead berries (called mummies) from last year's crop. The mummies overwinter on the ground below bushes and break dormancy right around bud swell. About one month later, cup-like structures grow out of the mummies and produce infectious spores during cool, wet weather. The spores are carried on air currents up to the buds and infect new shoots. These infected shoots will produce leaves covered in secondary spores called "conidia." The next stage of infection occurs at bloom. Once the flowers open, air currents once again spread the conidia to the developing fruit within the flower, causing the shriveled berries we now see. Instead of turning a rich blue color, berries will begin to turn cream colored, shrivel up and immediately drop on the ground where they will overwinter as mummies and infect next year's crop.

Because mummy berry infections can ruin most of the berries on a bush, it is important to take four main steps to prevent the disease from establishing.

1. Keep it clean. After your winter pruning, make sure to remove all dead and cut wood surrounding the bush. Once the wood is removed, thoroughly rake under your blueberry bushes to remove any infected mummies remaining from last year. This will prevent any of the previous season's mummies from infecting the current year's shoots in the spring. 2. Cover it up. Once you have removed all potential sources of infection from your bushes, put down a thick layer of mulch to cover any small mummies or twigs that you may have missed. Pine bark mulch is usually recommended for blueberry bushes. Always make sure the mulched area is at least as wide as the crown of the bush. This way, anything that may have dropped from the plant is completely covered and cannot be transferred by the wind. 3. Protect your plants. There are multiple options for chemical treatments of blueberries. However, since there are two potential stages for infection, it is important to treat in the appropriate window of time. Captan is currently the most effective option for controlling mummy berry infections. Spraying with captan at budbreak and at first flower, when your plants are most vulnerable, will provide the greatest protection. There are also alternatives such as Serenade MAX (a *Bacillus subtilis* product) and lime sulfur. However, captan is the most effective treatment currently approved for use against mummy berry. 4. Maintenance. Though all of these steps greatly reduce the chance of mummy berry infection, they do not guarantee protection. In severe cases, it may take more than one year to completely get rid of the mummies and spores. If you follow all of the steps listed above and still have a mummy berry issue, replace the mulch after pruning and repeat the cycle again.

Sanitation is without a doubt the most important part of preventing this fungal disease from damaging your plants. Even if you spray fungicides appropriately, if mummies are still under your bushes, you are still going to have a mummy berry problem. Blueberry bushes in clean areas will without a doubt be the healthiest.



Towns County Community Calendar

Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Bridge Players	Village Commons Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Every Tuesday:		
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Every Wednesday:		
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Every Thursday:		
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Every Friday:		
Bridge Players	Village Commons Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Every Sunday:		
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
First Monday of each month:		
Mtn. Amat. Radio	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
First Tuesday of each month:		
Alzheimer's Supp.	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall	5:30 pm
Young Harris Coun.	YH City Hall	7 pm
First Wednesday of each month:		
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
First Thursday of each month:		
Stephens Lodge	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Second Tuesday of each month:		
Caregiver support	Brasstown Manor	3 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild	Calvary Alliance Chapel	6 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Mtn. Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
Second Wednesday of each month:		
Basket Weavers	SC Fire Hall	10 am
Board of Elections	Old Rock Jail	4 pm
Second Thursday of each month:		
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	5 pm
Fourth Monday of each month:		
Red Cross DAT	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Fourth Tuesday of each month:		
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Fourth Thursday of each month:		
Republican Party	New Senior Ctr.	6:30 pm
Fourth Friday of each month:		
Square Dance Club	Rec. Center	7 pm
Last Thursday of each month:		
Humane Shelter Bd.	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

Towns County Herald

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