

John Nix and the Country Cousins at the Old Courthouse on the Square



John Nix

Originally named, "The Nix Brothers and the Country Cousins," this Union County group of musicians has been a part of the Sorghum since its beginnings, and is a vital part of Union County's musical history. With the demise of the other brothers, John is left to carry on by himself, and the band is now called John Nix and the Country Cousins.

The Union County His-

torical Society is pleased to have John Nix and the current edition of the Country Cousins perform in concert at The Old Courthouse on the Square at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 13.

The band was started with the Nix brothers performing at home. There were four brothers in the beginning: Homer, Clayton, Cranford, and John. Homer dropped out fairly, and since then a number of country cousins have performed in the band. John is the only brother left, but he still carries on the tradition.

John and the Country Cousins have been honored by the Union County Historical Society with a program about the band and its longevity. Throughout its long tenure, the band has had many members with most of them truly being cousins.

There is no admission charge to programs presented by the Union County Historical Society. The musicians donate their time and talents. Voluntary donations to the maintenance fund are welcomed and appreciated.

Local author Peter Lee to hold book signing September 21

Peter Lee is a Towns County High School/Young Harris College graduate whose book, *Spectacular Bid: The Last Superhorse of the Twenti-*



Peter Lee

eth Century, is now available, published by the University Press of Kentucky. The book is about Spectacular Bid, a racehorse who just missed a Triple Crown when he stepped on a safety pin the morning of the Belmont Stakes. He went on to go undefeated during his 4-year-old season and is listed by *The Blood-Horse* as the 10th greatest Thoroughbred of the 20th century.

Mr. Lee will be holding a book signing at the Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 10:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information go to: www.spectacularbidbook.com.

UCSO Arrests...from Page 1A

end of the county, where we located the vehicle," Osborn said. "After establishing a perimeter around the residence and obtaining a search warrant, we entered the residence, and Green wasn't located."

Further investigation revealed that Green was hiding out in a Blue Ridge hotel, and the Fannin County Sheriff's Office "greatly assisted us" by taking Green into custody at about 9 a.m. last Friday, Osborn said.

The captured fugitive is facing several charges in connection with this incident, including a felony terrorist threats charge for allegedly threatening a Union County deputy, Osborn said.

"We take threats to our officers seriously," Osborn said.

Green has also been charged with three counts of obstruction, fleeing or attempting to elude an officer, possession of marijuana (less than an ounce), possession of drug-related objects, reckless driving, and driving while license suspended or revoked, all misdemeanors.

While under investigation by the Narcotics Division, Green was wanted on a parole violation warrant.

Speaking on behalf of the Union County Sheriff's Office, Osborn said he would like to thank fellow law enforcement officers in Fannin County and



Mary Beth Larkin

in Cherokee County, North Carolina, for continuing to cooperate with Union County to keep these mountains safe.

Friends of Union County Library upcoming events



Advocating for Libraries, Literacy, and Lifelong Learning

The program Genealogy and Family Heirlooms: Writing Their Stories will take place at Union County Public Library on Wednesday, September 18, at 2 PM in the Community Room. This is a free FOUCL-sponsored presentation by Jo Carolyn Beebe, who you may know as a writer and genealogist who has taught at the Institute for Continuing Learning (ICL) in Young Harris.

Jo Carolyn was born in north Mississippi in the foothills of Appalachia. Many of her stories are from memories told to her by relatives who lived in the days of the antebellum South. She will be sharing how she combines her genealogy research and love of writing to create stories based on family heirlooms, bringing along some of her heirlooms (and their stories) to inspire us.

Jo Carolyn graduated from Miami University, Oxford OH majoring in Religion



Jo Carolyn Beebe

and Creative Writing. She has been published in numerous anthologies. She lives, with her husband John, in the Hiawassee area.

The second event you will want to know about is our 2nd Everything Christmas sale, returning this year on November 1 and 2 in the Community Room at Union County Public Library. FOUCL will officially begin collecting donations in early October so now is a good time to begin going through your holiday decorations and putting aside those items that are ready to be shared with a new family.

Suggested items for donation include miscellaneous holiday decorations, wrapping paper and gift bags, unused boxed holiday cards, baking supplies such as cake and cookie pans, Christmas dishes of all kinds, holiday collectibles, Christmas crafts and fabrics, greenery, centerpiece, candles, holiday-themed books, movies, music, ornaments – in fact, just about anything you might have related to Christmas (except actual full-size Christmas trees due to space limitations).

A box for donations will be placed outside the Friends Room at the library beginning October 1; FOUCL volunteers will also be available at the library to receive donations in person from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Thursdays and Saturdays in October.

If you have questions about the Everything Christmas sale, reach us through our website Contact page at www.foucl.org or by using our email address: friendsofthelibrary@windstream.net.

We look forward to seeing you at the library, where there is something for everyone. NT(Sep11Z1)CA

Towns Union Master Gardeners to hold Plant Sale

Fall is a good time, maybe the best time, to plant perennials, trees, and shrubs. Cool weather reduces stress on leaves and stems while still-warm temperatures give plants time to establish strong root systems before winter's freezing weather.

With summer's successes and near-misses fresh in the minds of gardeners, autumn is a good time to pinpoint where a dash of color or other inspiration may be helpful. Perhaps some native species or other plants that are attractive to pollinators, hummingbirds and butterflies would be a good choice. For those who are unsure which plants to choose or have a difficult time locating true natives, or for those people interested in adding some good, healthy plants to their gardens, answers may be found at the Towns Union Master Gardeners Plant Sale to be held Saturday, September 28 from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m.



The brilliant red blooms of the cardinal flower attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

Master Gardeners will be available to help answer questions and advise good choices for sun and shade, soil types, and placement. There will be a variety of plants such as natives, perennials, ground covers, herbs, shrubs and trees.

The TUMGA plant sale will be held Saturday September 28 next to the Union County Cannery at the Farmers Market rain or shine. Proceeds from the sale are used to fund master gardener projects

in Towns and Union counties and to provide scholarships for area youth with aspirations to be involved in agriculture. Cash and checks accepted, no credit cards. The time is 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., but for best selection, come early, get a jump on spring!

The Master Gardener Extension Volunteers are grateful to all of our patrons as well as to Mickey Cummings for providing the space for the plant sale. See you there! NT(Sep11A)JSH

Close connections in the plant world: Parasite Plants

By Geri O'Brien
Preservation Committee

At the mention of "parasite," chiggers, tick and fleas are likely to come to mind. Probably not buffalo nut, dodder and mistletoe, three of the 4,000 species of known plant parasite.

Of the three, mistletoe is the most familiar. These native evergreen shrubs grow on a variety of deciduous hardwoods and are quite visible in the top limbs of oaks in North Georgia during winter. Botanically, they are a partial or "hemiparasite" because they have chlorophyll and carry out photosynthesis, taking only water and mineral nutrients from the host plant. Highly toxic to humans, it nonetheless has been used in medicine by Europeans and native Americans. A very ancient plant, it has a rich history in legends, including the holiday one of kissing under the mistletoe.

Whereas mistletoe is a stem parasite, buffalo nut, is a parasitic shrub that grows on roots of deciduous hardwoods and some conifers. Less conspicuous than mistletoe, it is a puny looking understory shrub that reaches about six feet in height and spreads by thick lateral stems on top of the ground. It is also a hemiparasite native in parts of nine states from Pennsylvania to Alabama. Interestingly, it is known as an exotic invader in New York. Georgia does not list the conservation status, but it doesn't seem to qualify as an "invader" here in the hills, appearing in places where forests were disturbed in the past, such as old roadbeds and long-deserted hog lots. It could eas-



Dodder: a parasite that wires plants together

ily go unnoticed were it not for the occasional little green fruit that shows up in late summer. The fruit is highly toxic to humans, though deer and other animals safely ingest it. Buffalo nut, too, had a role in herbal medicines of early colonists and the Cherokee.

In contrast to mistletoe and buffalo nut, dodder is a holoparasite, a plant that is completely dependent on other plants. It is a stem parasite of many hosts, and its species are found in temperate and tropical zones of the world. Dodder consists of yellowish orange stems that wind around the host plant, sometimes in netlike masses. Here in the mountains it might be seen along field edges or roadsides, but may enter the garden and attack ornamental plants, becoming a major pest of crops. An annual, dodder reproduces by minute seeds formed by tiny white flowers in late summer. The seeds can lie dormant for several years, but when they germinate, the seedlings must find a host within a day or two. Research indicates that dod-

der uses airborne chemicals to locate a proper host, somehow "smelling" those tomatoes, chrysanthemums and petunias. These stringy, leafless twiners have been used in herbal tonics and in poultices to treat pain of joints and muscles.

Parasitic plants are not likely to be on the favorite plants list, but whether one considers them a blessing or a curse, they are naturally occurring oddities in the wonderful world of plants.

For information about the Preservation Committee and Volunteer opportunities, contact Clare Johnston at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center (706-745-2655) or visit www.gm-rec.uga.edu. NT(Sep11Z)CA

S.A.F.E. Board meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of S.A.F.E. (Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc.) will be September 17, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Call 706-379-1901 for location. NT(Sep11Z22)CA