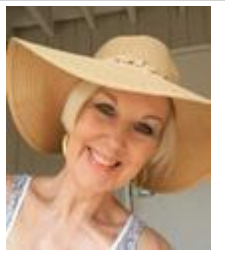


Editorial page

Nolia's Notes

Pah-Kahns

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



One of my fondest memories of my mother-in-law, Loudelle, is her shelling butterbeans in the summer and shelling pah-kahns in the winter.

My earliest experience with pah-kahns was visiting relatives in Cairo, Georgia, as a child. My grandfather had a large pah-kahn tree in his yard. I usually visited in the summer when the huge tree was full of green leaves, no nuts to be seen, but there were stories from my mamma about gathering the pah-kahns for pies and other southern dishes.

Toasted pah-kahns are a staple in a silver dish at all southern weddings. I always loved the tasty nuts and my mamma used to toast them to perfection. She would take the fresh shelled nuts and toss them in a bowl of melted butter until they were coated. She would spread the nuts on a cookie sheet and sprinkle with salt. She would slowly roast the nuts on low heat in the oven, tasting every ten minutes until they had a snap and a crunch to the bite. She always said that those nuts would burn in a skinny minute and one had to constantly taste while roasting to ensure perfection! If there was any soft center to the roasting nut, it was not done!

There were other ways to prepare the delicious nut, too. They are delicious dipped in caramel or a vanilla sugar coating, and of course, a chocolate or cinnamon coating is wonderful. There is nothing more southern than a delicious pah-kahn pie. There are recipes galore for that type of pie, all of them delicious!

The best big secret to a delicious pah-kahn pie is tons of pah-kahns in the mixture. Do not skimp on the amount even though the nuts are pricey if you buy them!

You are probably wondering

about the word pah-kahn by now. Well, my mother was a southern lady and would never call her beloved southern nut a pee can! She would never admit to eating or putting anything in her mouth that had anything to do with pee or a can!

I have heard people ask, "Do you say, 'PEEcan or peeCAN?"

Then there of those who pronounce the beloved southern nut as a PEE-kahn, or a pah-CAN! I, like my mom, use the term pah-kahn, but have been known to say it in all the ways listed above.

Over the years, I have learned the names of different types of pah-kahns. There are Paper-shells and Stuarts, and others. They are a bit different in taste and shape, but all are delicious.

I am hoping that none of you are allergic to these nuts because if you are, you are truly missing out on one of the most wonderful blessings of the south.

We have been picking up nuts for the last few weeks. They seem to be plentiful this year. There are gizmos that you can roll along the ground that will pick up the nuts so you don't have to bend over, but some of those work better than others and the leaves on the ground often hide the fattest nuts, so I find it best to just bend over and look for the nuts as if they are Easter eggs.

It is best to gather the nuts after a windy day so the wind can knock down most of the nuts hanging on the branches. We have gathered most of our nuts and now I am looking at many upcoming winter hours of picking out these nuts to be used for a number of tasty dishes to come!

By the way, FYI, I am tasting as I shell to make sure these nuts are good ones!!!



Consumers get answers from Ga. Department of Agriculture

Consumer Q's is a weekly question-and-answer column by Arty Schronce at the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Please share your thoughts, questions and suggestions with him by phone, mail or email.

Q: What are some vegetables I can grow in pots on my deck?

A: Almost any vegetable can be grown in a container if you keep it watered. Due to the limited root space, the plants are going to dry out more quickly than those planted in the ground. They will probably also need more fertilizer. The best options for growing in containers are vegetables with smaller fruits or those that have a smaller stature and don't spread out much. Some good possibilities include leaf lettuce, radish, eggplant, garlic, carrot (round or short-root varieties), tomato (determinate varieties will stay shorter), hot and sweet peppers and bush varieties of summer squash and cucumber. Use the largest containers possible as they will provide more root-room and make the plants less vulnerable to drying out or getting blown over.

Q: I saw a 'Flying Dragon' tree with lemon-like fruits in a catalog. Is it hardy in Georgia? Is the fruit edible?

A: 'Flying Dragon' is a variety of trifoliate orange (Poncirus trifoliata), the most cold-hardy member of the citrus family. It will grow throughout Georgia and even farther north. Unlike the regular form of trifoliate orange, 'Flying Dragon' has spiraling stems and curved thorns that give the appearance of a Chinese dragon taking flight.

Trifoliate orange is almost exclusively grown as ornamental for its dark green thorny branches, white flowers and attractive fruits.

Although the fruit is fragrant and citrusy, the pulp is extremely sour and chock full of seeds. We have heard of people using the fruit to make marmalade but have never tried it ourselves.

The thorns of trifoliate orange are formidable. Back in the 1980s Fort Bragg was planting them as a barrier. We haven't heard how successful the effort was, but a hedge of trifoliate orange is a lot more difficult to get through than barbed wire and would give even Brer Rabbit pause. Removing a thicket of trifoliate orange would be like going into battle against a syringe laden army of octopuses.

'Flying Dragon' would be less dangerous since the thorns do not stick straight out, but it still needs careful handling.

Trifoliate orange is listed as an invasive species in some areas – a scary thought if you've ever accidentally bumped into one. For more information see the Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States www.invasiveplantatlas.org.

On a lighter note, branches of standard form of trifoliate orange are used in Christmas decorating to make gumdrop trees. The decorator removes the needle-like tips and sticks gumdrops on the thorns. The branches of the standard form and the contorted 'Flying Dragon' may also be used (with care, of course) in Good Friday and Easter floral arrangements to signify the suffering of Jesus.

If you have questions about agriculture, horticulture, food safety or services or products regulated by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, write Arty Schronce (arty.schronce@agr.georgia.gov) or visit the department's website at www.agr.georgia.gov.

Brigdon named as Presidential Scholar at Univ. of Georgia

Rebecca Brigdon, daughter of Don and Beth Brigdon of Lincolnton, has been named a Presidential Scholar at University of Georgia and has maintained the Zell Miller Scholarship her entire college career and is on track to graduate with honors in May 2021, and attend graduate school to pursue her Doctorate of Physical Therapy in the Fall.

The University of Georgia has recognized those students who have distinguished themselves academically for Fall 2020. The University encourages excellence in scholarship and gives recognition to students whose work is superior. Presidential Scholar designations are generated at the end of each semester to students who have achieved a grade point average of 4.00, and earned at least 14 hours during the semester.

Miss Brigdon was enrolled in 18 credit hours while also maintaining an active extracurricular schedule in the Redcoat Marching Band, the Guide Dog Foundation, ASL Dawgs (a service organization for American Sign Language), and working part time as a Physical Therapy aide.

UGA extension
Farm Succession Planning
By Robyn Stewart
Lincoln County Extension Service

Most family farm founders dream of handing down the operation to future generations - yet very few of these operations are successful in doing so. Transitioning a first-generation farm to future generations requires a good succession or ownership transition plan. Talking about and planning a farm ownership transition can be a stressful and confusing experience for many farmers. A successful farm transition plan accounts for several critical issues such as planning for shifts in management styles and techniques between generations, transitioning assets and ownership, and anticipating events that could change the succession plan entirely.

There are several ways that a succession plan can account for changes in management through the generations. One of the best ways to mitigate this is to develop a farm management team of diverse individuals. The farm management team should focus on developing managerial skills, emphasize cross training and education, have effective and consistent communication, and provide regular feedback to the rest of the operation.

The farm management team should also consider what individuals are able to make decisions - which can be a complicated topic when there are various stakeholders to please. Another goal of the farm management team is to facilitate discussion and problem solving for when there are disruptions - for example, a premature death, a dissolved marriage, or simply fundamental disagreements on the future of the operation.

The farm management team is also responsible for ensuring fair compensation for stakeholders, evaluating and appraising the assets and value of the operation, and encouraging retirement of senior individuals.

The second thing to consider is the transfer of assets and ownership.

Typically, the first thing to transition is labor and income, followed by managerial power, and ending with the transfer of land and other assets.

During discussions around asset transfer and ownership, it is important to consider the financial needs of both the predecessor and successor. There are a variety of different ways to transfer ownership including gifting the assets, selling them outright, a gradual sale or installment sale, a lease, or other options.

Each asset has its own impact on cash flow and financial standing both during and after the transition, so the goal should be to make everything equitable and fair for all parties. The transference of land can be a bit different, with ownership options including partnership, gifting, contracting, tenancy, and others. The best way to know what transfer strategy is right for you is to consult with your financial planner.

Finally, consider events that may change the succession plan. Each party involved in a farm succession should understand that it will take both contributions and sacrifices to help maintain the operation into the future.

COVID-19 is a great example of an event that impacted succession plans. Instead of a traditional, gradual transition of ownership, some operations had to transition quickly due to unexpected loss of a stakeholder. A carefully considered and well-established plan can help mitigate any issues with unexpected changes in the succession timeline and provides a framework for an effective transition.

UGA Cooperative Extension can help provide resources for those interested in evaluating an existing succession plan or preparing a new one. If you'd like more information, let us know at age3181@uga.edu or 706-359-3233.

This weeks tips from the BBB

Most people get help filing their taxes, either from computer software or a professional tax preparer. In addition, some filers may have questions regarding COVID-19's impact on their personal taxes.

But horror stories in the media about tax service rip offs and scams have some consumers concerned about who they can trust with their financial data and private information.

A paid tax return preparer is primarily responsible for the overall, substantive accuracy of your tax return(s). If there is a problem with your return or you are audited by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the tax preparer can help you address the issue and can often represent you. The preparer is required to sign your tax forms (paper or electronic) and provide their preparer tax identification number (PTIN), a number assigned by the IRS.

Better Business Bureau advises taxpayers to be extra cautious when choosing a tax preparer, since that person or company will have access to your personally identifiable information (PII). Here are some BBB tips to help you find a tax preparer you can trust.

- Get Referrals. To find a tax preparer, start by asking friends and family for recommendations, then check BBB Business Reviews at bbb.org.

- Look beyond the letter grade; complaint details and Customer Reviews will tell you about others' experiences.

- Make sure they are properly registered. A tax preparer must obtain a PTIN from the IRS. Never let someone work on your taxes unless they have this number. Don't

be afraid to ask about this or other qualifications; a capable professional does not mind questions.

- Look for credentials. Anyone with a PTIN can prepare your tax forms for you, but some tax preparers have more training and qualifications than others. Enrolled agents, certified public accountants (CPAs) and attorneys have unlimited rights to represent their clients to the IRS on all matters. Other preparers can help you with forms and simple IRS matters, but are limited otherwise, and they can't help you if they didn't prepare your form. Learn more about tax preparer credentials on the IRS website.

- Keep a watchful eye for promises. Be wary of any tax preparation service that promises larger refunds than their competition and avoid tax preparers who base their fee on a percentage of the refund. Also be wary of "refund anticipation loans," which can take a hefty chunk of your refund in commission.

Refunds are processed quickly these days, so it's a better bet to just wait for the real thing rather than pay a premium to get it now. Refund Anticipation Loans also created some delays for many individuals receiving stimulus payments within the last year.

- Search for free tax programs. There are several free government programs that prepare taxes free of charge if you meet an income requirement; go to the IRS's Free File page for more information. Most will also file your state return as well. If not, check with your state's Department of Revenue to find out about their programs.

- Tax Software and Apps. If you plan to file yourself, use tax software or an app that provides both excellent data security and good customer service. Some of the top names in tax prep software are BBB Accredited Businesses, so check with bbb.org first.

New tax laws can help create confusion that dishonest preparers will capitalize on, so taxpayers should always review their return before signing, ask questions on entries they do not understand. Also be sure to get a copy of the return for your records. Finally, do not ever sign a blank tax form or one filled out in pencil!

For more trustworthy consumer tips, visit BBB.org.

Super Crossword

Answers

S	C	A	M	P	I	M	A	M	S	S	W	I	M	B	L	A	B
T	I	B	I	A	N	A	B	E	S	W	O	R	E	R	A	C	E
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M	I	S	O	F	O	R	A	F	R	E	I	G	H	T	T	O	N
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S	E	T	H	T	A	R	P	F	R	I	A	N	K	T	I	R	E
E	I	S	O	S	L	O	E	S	I	A	L	S	A	R	I	D	E

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The Lincoln Journal welcomes letters to the editor on matters of public affairs. It is the policy of this newspaper to be available as a forum for any opinion or point of view concerning issues of general interest.

Letters must be signed and must include a valid address and telephone number. However, addresses and phone numbers will not be published unless specifically requested for good reason. Addresses and telephone numbers will be used for verification purposes. Letters may be accepted by email but an original signature is still required on a hard copy.

Names may be withheld from publication upon reasonable request. For example, a fear for one's personal or family safety, a fear for one's job, or a fear of other retaliation may be grounds for withholding a name.

Letters must be limited to 500 words or less unless specific arrangements for compensation are made in advance with the editor of this newspaper. Letters of more than 500 words may not be considered for publication and may also be edited for length.

No letter writer may have more than two letters published in any 30-day period. Libelous or unsigned letters will not be considered for publication at all.

The editor of this newspaper reserves the right to edit all letters for length, clarity, spelling, and grammatical correctness. However, occasionally letters are submitted in which meanings and/or intent are unclear. In such an instance, no editing will be done and the letter will appear verbatim as submitted. Letters deemed "in bad taste" or those dealing with private, personal or family matters will not be published. **LETTERS ATTEMPTING TO CIRCUMVENT THESE OR OTHER POLICIES OF THIS NEWSPAPER WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.** The editor further reserves the right to cut off any series of letters dealing with a single subject.

LETTERS FROM OR ENDORSING INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL CANDIDATES OR PARTIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Priority for publication will be given to letters concerning local issues. Letters should be addressed to: Editor, *The Lincoln Journal*, P.O. Box 399, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

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