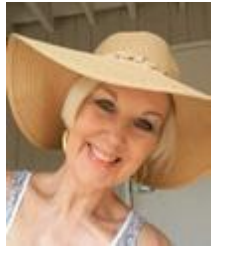


# Editorial page

## Nolia's Notes

### Lyrics on my Mind

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



Oh my goodness, what a year! Last year, like most folks, we dealt with a lot. I am taking this year, one day, one hour, at a time.

Right now, we are on a list for the COVID vaccine. We are hopeful that it will do the trick and rid us of all the pandemic issues. What will be next?

On top of the virus, last year, Dwaine and I had several untimely deaths in the family, and then there was the surprise of my cancer.

There are many blessings to acknowledge, too. Blessings are easy to dismiss, when there are so many worries around.

I have been trying to go across the street every day when weather permits, to walk a bit. While walking, I concentrate on how the sky looks. Are there clouds? Is the sky light blue, dark blue, or stormy? Is the wind blowing? Is it a sharp icy wind or mild? Is the bunch of mistletoe still hanging in the top of the leafless tree by the track?

While walking, I have time to pray. Words kept popping into my head. So much so, that I was compelled to write them down. I sent them to my friend Cheryl Palmer,

who has a Christian music ministry, and it did not take her long to present me with beautiful music with the words I had sent. She put it on FB and if you do FB look up Cheryl Palmer from Kentucky, and you can hear her sing the song. I hope you get to hear her sing, but if not, I hope you enjoy the lyrics and I hope the words give you comfort today and in the days to come.

*Are There Angels in the Wind?*  
There are blessings in the shadows, Blessings in the dark of night. Sometimes you try to see them, But they are out of sight! When the storms of life surround you, And you think that there's no end, Just remember this to ponder, Are there ANGELS in the wind?

*There are mysteries all around us, And things we can't control. Many questions go unanswered, Questions asked by young and old. When the storms of life surround you, Things you cannot comprehend, Just remember this to ponder, Are there ANGELS in the wind?*

*If we depend on only eyesight, We are missing much my friend. There are blessings all around you, Look for angels in the wind!*



## 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: My wife is trying to find a recipe for "tom-tom," a condiment her grandmother made. It sounds similar to "chow-chow," but my wife says that tom-tom has a vinegar-spice flavor while chow-chow has a sweeter flavor. She recalls it containing red peppers, onions, pears (or apples), cabbage, vinegar and salt. She does not believe it contained tomatoes. Her grandmother lived near Canton in Cherokee County most of her life. Does anyone know this product or have a recipe? It is not the tomtom recipe made with tomatillos; my grandmother never heard of tomatillos.**

A: We have not been able to find a recipe for what you are describing in our cookbooks, on the internet or from asking around. If anyone is familiar with tom-tom, please send us the recipe or information about it to: Georgia Department of Agriculture, Arty Schronce, Agriculture Building-Room 128, 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Atlanta, 30334 or via e-mail at [arty.schronce@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:arty.schronce@agr.georgia.gov).

The holidays are a good time to share and discuss recipes with family members, especially the older members of your family. Old recipes are not just instructions for

preparing food; they are pieces of our history! Let's work to preserve them. Take the time to ask, record and even stand alongside during preparation to learn. You may not consider yourself much of a cook, but one day you may take a greater interest in cooking and have more time to do it. Also, your children may have a greater interest than you and will appreciate having a recipe handed down from their grandparents or great-grandparents.

**Q: What are chitterlings?**  
A: Chitterlings are more commonly known as "chitlins." They are the large intestines of swine.

**Q: Should water chestnuts be avoided by someone with an allergy to tree nuts?**

A: The Chinese water chestnut (*Eleocharis dulcis*) is not a nut; it is a corm – an underground bulb-like structure of a type of water plant. It is safe for someone who is allergic to tree nuts. The seeds of two other water plants (*Trapa natans* and *Trapa bicornis*) are sometimes called water chestnuts. They, too, should not pose a problem to someone with a tree nut allergy. These also go by the names "water caltrop" or "trapa nut."

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](mailto:arty.schronce@agr.georgia.gov)) or visit the department's website at [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov).

## This weeks tips from the BBB

If you are decluttering your home by selling unwanted items online, be on the lookout for buyers wanting to pay you more than the listed price. If the offer seems "just too good to be true," it probably is.

### How the Scam Works

You post an item for sale online (BBB is seeing a lot of recent scam reports that mention Facebook Marketplace, but this applies to other services, as well). It might be clothes, a vehicle, electronics, or another item. You are contacted by a buyer who seems trustworthy, nice even. They offer you more money than what you are asking for. The reasons vary. The scammer may claim they want to cover shipping or other fees for you "because you've been so helpful." Or they may overpay through a digital wallet, such as PayPal or Cash App, claiming it's a policy of the service. Or they may mail a check for more than the asking price and then insist it was by mistake.

In any case, once you are overpaid, the buyer will ask for their extra funds back. After you've returned their money, you'll likely find the initial payment was false – the check will bounce, or the buyer's

online payment will be denied. You will have lost the money you "returned" along with the item you sold.

### How to Avoid Online Selling Scams

- Don't ship an item before you receive a payment. Make sure any payments you receive are legitimate before you ship your item to the seller. If you ship before they pay, you will have no way to get your item back.

- Don't believe offers that are too good to be true. Unless you are selling a rare or highly desirable item that several people are bidding on, you should not expect anyone to offer to pay more than what you are asking. If someone tries to overpay you, consider it a red flag.

- Look out for counterfeit emails. Scammers are skilled at imitating emails from popular payment services, such as Venmo or PayPal. Examine all emails carefully. If an email comes from a domain that isn't official or contains obvious typos and grammatical errors, it's probably a scam.

- Report scams to the online marketplace. Be sure to report suspicious activity including dishonest buyers or sellers to whatever forum you happen to be using.

- You can report suspicious activity to Facebook, see their Tips for Buying and Selling Responsibly on Marketplace, and review their guidelines when making sales in their help section.

Read the BBB Tip: Selling Used Items Online and get informed about fake check scams on BBB.org. If you come across a scam, report it at [BBB.org/ScamTracker](http://BBB.org/ScamTracker). Even if you didn't fall for the scam, your report can help protect others from scams.

### Super Crossword

#### Answers

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

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## Kettle Creek Battlefield designated as Affiliated Area of National Park Service

Congressman Jody Hice announced last week that Kettle Creek Battlefield, a historic Revolutionary War site located in Wilkes County, Georgia, has been designated as an "Affiliated Area" of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS). Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior David Bernhardt approved the designation, signing the decision memorandum, on January 14.

"I am thrilled to announce that Kettle Creek Battlefield is now an affiliated site of the National Park system," Hice said. "The American Revolutionary War battle at Kettle Creek on February 14, 1779, was the first major victory for Patriot forces in Georgia and had a critical impact on the course of the war, demonstrating conclusively that the British forces could never pacify the South's frontier backcountry."

With this designation, the NPS recognizes the national significance of the Kettle Creek victory and makes a commitment to preserve this important history for future generations. With the anniversary of the battle approaching in just over two weeks, Hice said he hopes the news will help spark renewed interest in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution.

"This is an enormous win for all of us who have spent years working towards this goal, and I want to extend a special 'thank you' to the many organizations who helped make this happen, including Wilkes County, the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, the American Battlefield Trust, the Georgia Battlefields Association, the Georgia Piedmont Land Trust, and the Watson-Brown Foundation," Hice added. "Their years of hard work and the tremendous way in which the community came together to host NPS Acting Director Dan Smith in May 2019 made it possible for Kettle Creek Battlefield to finally receive the

recognition it deserves."

Efforts to have Kettle Creek Battlefield made into a national park date back nearly 100 years. On multiple occasions, U.S. Senator Richard Russell pushed for acquisition of the property. Throughout the 1970s, Georgia Representative Robert Grier Stephens, Jr. and Georgia Senator Herman Talmadge introduced bills to establish Kettle Creek as a national monument. Beginning some 10 years ago, the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association (KCBA) was formed to help manage and promote the buildup of the site. More recently, Rep. Hice introduced legislation (H.R. 306) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the battlefield. The bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives on December 3, 2020.

KCBA founder Dr. Joe Harris, current Chairman Walker Chewning, and President Ruthie Clements were the first to hear the news from Hice on Thursday, January 21.

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## Seed starting for Spring

By Robyn Stewart  
Lincoln County Extension Service

A home gardener may choose to grow any number of plants from seed. Two benefits of seed starting, or propagating, are how inexpensive seeds are compared to their already-started or mature counterparts, and the broad variety of plant types you can get as seed but may not find otherwise.

This time of year is typically when you should start your seeds if you plan on transplanting them to their permanent locations in the spring. Several methods exist for propagating seeds. You may sow seeds directly into the container or space in which they will grow, or you can start them in one container and transplant them after they have become seedlings. For the purposes of this article, we will focus on seeds that you intend to transplant.

There are a lot of things that will influence your success in starting seeds. Before your purchase your seed, make sure to do some homework. The variety of plant you select will rely on several things like our climate, your planting site, growth habit and size, and any treatments you may need for disease resistance.

Once you have your variety selected, make sure to buy quality seed from a reputable dealer in order to ensure it's the correct variety and free of contaminants like weeds or insects. It is also recommended that you only purchase enough seed for the current season - while you can store seed from year to year, the germination and vigor of the seedlings will decline. If you do have excess seed, store it in a tightly sealed container in low humidity at approximately 40 degrees F.

Prior to starting your seeds, review the seed packet for information on when the seeds were packed, how you should plant them (row space, depth) and their expected time to germination.

Once you have your seeds, there are a few materials you will need to start them successfully. Any container can be used to start seeds as long as it has good drainage, is deep enough for root development, and is sanitized prior to use. You can buy commercial containers or make your own. Using a container with a lid is ideal as it stimulates a greenhouse-like environment with high humidity that promotes plant growth.

You will also need to consider your growing media. Any sterile, soilless

potting media without fertilizer is acceptable for seed starting. Typically, this type of media will be free from weeds and disease, be lightweight, and have good drainage.

Avoid using garden soil or anything similar as it is heavy, holds a lot of water, and may contain weeds or other diseases. A DIY mixture might consist of 4 qts shredded sphagnum peat moss, 4 qts fine vermiculite, 1 tbsp superphosphate, and 2 tbsps ground limestone. After mixing, wet the mixture thoroughly and leave it to drain for at least 1 week prior to planting. Then, you can plant your seeds at an appropriate depth (reference your seed packet) in the medium. Once you have your container and medium ready, be sure to place it in a warm location with bright, indirect light and good air circulation.

A final few notes on thinning, transplanting, and hardening off to follow. Many times, you will plant several seeds in one space to ensure that you grow the final number you desire. Ultimately, the seedlings will crowd each other and compete for water, light, and nutrients. If you have several seedlings in one spot, remove any small or weak ones by snipping them at the level of the soil.

Once your seedlings have developed their first true leaves, they can be transferred into an intermediary container. Create a hole in the media of the new container and using a pencil, gently lift the seedling from the germination container and place it in its new home. Avoid planting the seedlings too deep or shallow, and do not move them by grabbing their stems.

When they are ready to move outside, you will need to slow their growth and thicken their cell walls via hardening off. This should be done 1-2 weeks prior to transplanting to the outdoor garden. To harden off your seedlings, move them outside to a shady location, gradually increasing the amount of sunlight they receive and length of time you leave them out. This allows the plants to acclimate to the brighter, drier outdoor conditions. Plants that are not hardened off before transplanting can experience slow growth and death.

If you have questions on seed starting, please let us know at [uge3181@uga.edu](mailto:uge3181@uga.edu) or reference the UGA Bulletin #1432: Starting Plants from Seed for the Home Gardener.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Rep. Hice should resign

### TO THE EDITOR

Georgia's factually fair and factually honest elections were run by strong Republicans to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for putting duty, principles, and country over party. Since the November election, however, Representative Jody Hice has earned no such gratitude.

Representative Hice has shown his true nature, time and time again. He voted against the military funding bill, against the CARES Act, against increasing the \$600 payments in the CARES Act to \$2,000, and he signed on to the Texas Attorney General's attempt to subvert the will of Georgia voters and throw the presidential election to the rightful loser.

How on Earth could a good man be willing to hock his Christian soul and toss fealty to our country and our constitution out the door, and instead tie his coattails to a malign Pied Piper

and to the outrageous lie that Georgia's presidential election was stolen? Are votes in District 10 that important to him?

Our representative stood on the floor of the House after the capitol riots and brazenly argued yet again in favor of that lie. He would have succeeded had Senator Loeffler not regained her moral compass that night. She renounced seconding in the Senate what Mr. Hice and his five cohorts planned to do in the House, which was to contest Georgia's election. Astoundingly, when it was time for Representative Hice to vote to accept the results of the Electoral College, he voted 'no.'

Rise in support of Susan Abramson's Letter to the Editor, dated January 14, 2021, demanding that Representative Jody Hice resign. He is no longer a patriot!

DEBORAH LOFTISS

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