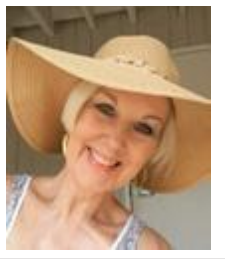


# Editorial page

## Nolia's Notes

### Chur

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



I glanced at Dwaine's phone. His phone said the temperature was 36 degrees. I said, "Wow, it is really chilly out this morning."

Dwaine said, "What do you mean?"

I said, "Well, your phone says that it is 36 degrees outside."

"Oh," Dwaine said, "That is in Chur."

I said, "Chur, what?"

Dwaine did not skip a beat and said, "Chur, Switzerland!"

I asked in surprise, "What the heck is Chur, Switzerland, doing on your phone, and what happened to Lincolnton, Georgia?"

Dwaine calmly said, "I dunno, Chur, just pops up every now and then on my phone." These phones have a mind of their own.

I said, "Gimmy your phone." I looked at his phone and said, "Hey, guess what...Chur has had an avalanche! There is also a report of some folks hit by sliding snow and ice from their rooftops but thankfully no one was hurt."

I was really getting into this far away news that had nothing to do with COVID, until I came back to reality and realized the crazy problem at hand.

Lincolnton, Georgia stats were missing from Dwaine's phone, but he had tons of info on Chur! Later on, he glanced at his phone and

said, "I sure am getting tired, looks like it is getting kinda late!"

I asked, "Well, what time do you think it is?"

Dwaine said, "Well, it is almost midnight in Chur, and that makes me tired."

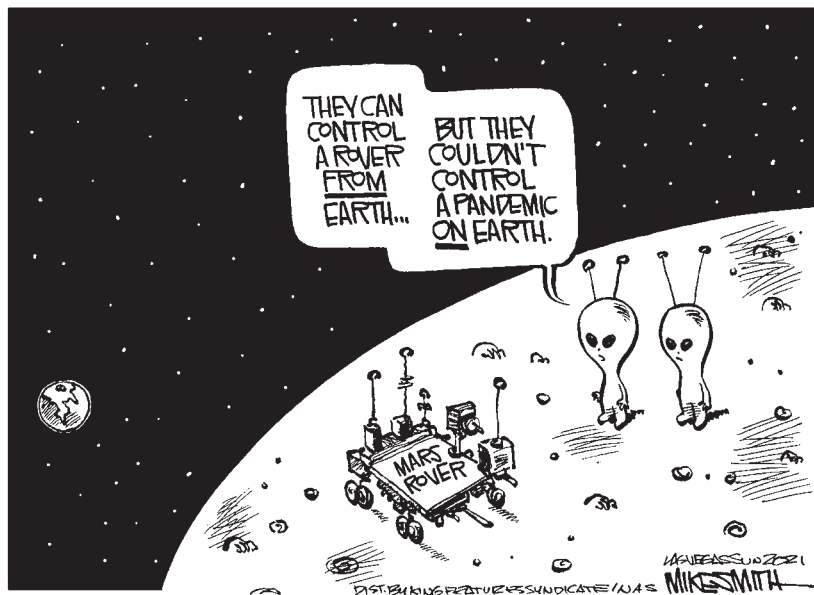
I asked my husband, "Are you coming back to Lincolnton, from Chur, anytime soon?"

"Maybe," he said, casually, "I am thinking about it, but, I kinda like Chur."

So, every now and then, we look at his cell phone and check out how things are doing in Chur. We have never been to Chur. We have never even been to Switzerland, but we are learning a lot about the area and might actually plan a trip there. After all, we are beginning to feel right at home with the area.

Chur is an Alpine city and the capital of the area of eastern Switzerland. Chur sounds lovely, full of snow, ski slopes, the oldest city in Switzerland and the most authentic, they say. The city of Chur is a car-free mountain city in the heart of the Alps.

Humm...right about now I am looking in our stack of DVD's for The Sound of Music! I am just in a Chur, Julie Andrews kinda mood! Not really a bad mood to be in until we get into spring! Just s



## 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.

### Gardening Tips

**Revive geraniums:** Begin feeding and watering geraniums, major and other annuals that you kept indoors through the winter. Move them to brighter light, too. The objective is to coax them into producing healthy new shoots, which can then be cut off and rooted to form this spring's new plants.

**Sow sweet peas:** Sweet peas planted now will begin germinating while it's still cold, but the seedlings are remarkable cold hardy. Besides, if you wait until spring to plant them, hot weather will seriously shorten the bloom time of these cool-season plants.

**Repot African violets:** African violets are ready to come out of their winter rest, so it's a fine time to get them settled in clean pots with a fresh supply of soil. Clip off any leaves that turned brown because they were too close to a cold window, and use warm water to gently rinse the root ball to clean away accumulated salts.

**Bring in forced bulbs:** Bulbs planted in containers and kept out in the cold can be brought inside now, where warmth will quickly coax them into bloom. For a continuous show, bring in one pot each week. Water lightly but frequently to encourage slow, steady growth of buds and foliage.

### Q: Can Meyer lemons be used like regular lemons?

A: Yes. They are used like other lemons. Meyer lemons have a thinner peel and a smoother skin than standard lemons. Their skin is the color of an egg yolk. Their flavor is often described as being a little sweeter, less acidic and more floral than that of a regular lemon. Meyer lemons are believed to be a hybrid between a lemon and an orange. Some people claim they are the perfect lemons for lemonade.

### Q: What is potlikker?

A: Potlikker is the broth created when boiling meat or vegetables, especially greens such as collards,

turnip greens, mustard greens or kale. It contains the water, juice from the leaves, and the flavor from the ham hock or other meat or seasoning that the cook has added. It may be consumed with the greens if they are served in a bowl, or the greens may be drained and the potlikker served later as a soup. Southern diners often like to dip or crumble cornbread in their potlikker. "Pot liquor" appears to be the spelling preferred by linguists, but "potlikker" has its proponents and wide acceptance among Southern cooks.

### Q: Someone left the refrigerator door open overnight. Is the food safe to eat?

A: If you can't tell what the temperature is in the refrigerator and the food feels warm, discard perishable items as you would in a power outage. If the refrigerator door was slightly open for a few hours or overnight, the unit was operating and the temperature stayed at 40°F, all the food should be safe to use. When in doubt, throw it out. A grocery bill is cheaper than a hospital bill.

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.

## City council meetings

The Lincolnton City Council meeting dates for 2021 are as follows: Feb. 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7. All meetings are held at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Super Crossword  
Answers

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

## This weeks tips from the BBB

There are always a lot of moving parts when it comes to planning a wedding. Add a pandemic to the mix, and it can easily feel overwhelming. That said, many couples have proven that with a little ingenuity, flexibility, and a few precautions, it is possible to pull off a beautiful and safe wedding, even in the face of extremely challenging circumstances.

You too can make a success of your wedding during COVID-19. To do so, BBB recommends the following tips.

### COVID-19 Wedding Planning Tips

- Follow government guidelines. When making important decisions on how to keep your guests safe, read Centers for Disease Control's Considerations for Events and Gatherings and Travel During COVID-19 for guiding principles to help you make wise decisions for you and your guests. Don't forget that each state may have its own guidelines and restrictions on quarantine, travel, and gatherings. Use the CDC's directory to find the link to your state's Department of Health for the latest news on restrictions regarding travel and social events.

- Come up with a COVID-19 plan. You want your wedding to be memorable and fun, but most importantly, you want it to be safe. Right away, decide how to protect the most important people in your life by setting up some clear guidelines and then stick to them. Take the time to sit down with your partner and make tough decisions about social distancing, how many guests to invite, and whether to wear masks.

If you need to dramatically reduce your guest list, think about what workarounds you might be able to implement.

- Come up with a "Plan B." Despite your best laid plans, things may still go awry with ever-changing restrictions. Come up with a plan B you really love. For example, many couples have chosen to have a tiny backyard wedding with immediate family members while planning a larger gathering for later. Other couples, who don't want to skip the big wedding, have decided to get legally married now and celebrate later or simply postpone their wedding to a future date.

- Hire an event planner. Event planners can be invaluable at this time. They have open lines of communication with wedding vendors and venues, they keep local restrictions in mind, and likely already have experience planning a COVID-19 wedding. Get recommendations from friends and family who have used a wedding planner in the past or look up wedding planners on BBB.org to find local event planners. Be sure to research each company's business rating and read consumer reviews.

- Always read the contracts.

Reading contracts is critical during a pandemic. Fortune.com reminds brides- and grooms-to-be that in today's fluid situation, it's important to check with vendors and venues to find out "what the cancellation and rescheduling policy is, when you have to make the decision, and whether your deposit will transfer over to the new date."

- Communicate with your venue and vendors. With florists, photographers, DJs, caterers, venue staff, and many other vendors to take into account it's important to make sure everyone is on the same page when it comes to your big day. Only hire vendors who have good communication skills and talk about the big what-ifs up front. What will the vendor do to ensure everyone's safety? What is their reschedule policy if you or your partner are exposed to COVID-19? What is the vendor's backup plan if they are exposed to COVID-19? What will happen to your deposit if governmental restrictions force you to reschedule? Make sure you understand and feel comfortable with a vendor's answers before you hire.

- Order everything you need well in advance. The pandemic has affected shipping times for many companies, so if you'll be doing the bulk of your purchases online or at stores that need to place an order, start early. Experts recommend ordering wedding dresses, for example, at least six months early, which will allow plenty of time for a return, exchanges, and/or alterations.

- Go virtual. One way to keep your guest list large without endangering anyone's health is to host a virtual wedding. Virtual parties are gaining in popularity as the pandemic drags on and can be a fun and safe way to celebrate your marriage with the ones you love.

- Keep your guests in the know. Let your guests know about any changes to your wedding plans as soon as possible. In addition, be completely transparent about the number of guests that will attend your wedding as well as the safety precautions you'll be implementing during the ceremony and reception. This will put your guests at ease and give them the information they need as they decide whether or not they will attend.

- Stay positive. The pandemic hasn't been easy on anyone, so if you start feeling down when you have to change your plans yet again, know that you aren't alone. According to The Knot's Official Guidebook for COVID-19, 35% of couples who had upcoming weddings have postponed. Remember, your wedding is just the beginning - you still have plenty of meaningful milestones ahead that you will be able to celebrate with all your friends and family.

## Weed Identification

By Robyn Stewart  
Lincoln County Extension Service

Every plant and animal possess unique characteristics that can be used to identify its species or name. While specifying the name of every plant on your property is usually not necessary, sometimes weeds can become an issue if they are dangerous, out of control, or simply not welcome. Correct weed identification is important in developing effective methods of control and management.

All species have a variety of names. The first name given is typically a scientific name in Latin that describes the genus and species of a particular weed. The second name in plain English, or the common name, is typically easier to pronounce but can be less precise or specific than a scientific name. For an example, you may have heard of common lamb-quarters, which is scientifically known as Chenopodium album. The good news is that there is not always a reason for a homeowner or layperson to have to know or use the scientific name - for most of our weed identification purposes, an accurate common name will do just fine.

If you happen upon a new weed or one you aren't familiar with, there are several things you can look at to help you identify it. First, I like to consider general growing environment. Is this a weed a recurring perennial weed that comes out at a specific time each year? What time of year do we see it grow, and when do we typically see it go dormant? Is this an annual weed that only grows one season before dying? If it's an annual, when do we see it emerge and grow? Other environmental things may be whether this weed grows in full sun, well drained areas

or shaded, water-holding spaces. Anything you can identify about how and where the weed grows is useful to identifying it.

In addition to environmental conditions, I like to look at the plant itself to help identify key characteristics of it. I generally start with the leaves - identify how they are arranged on the stem. Are they opposite one another or staggered at different intervals? Are they simple (one leaf) or compound (multiple leaves) and what shape are they?

After taking a look at the leaves, move on to the flowers. What color, shape, and size are they? How are they arranged - single flowers or groups of flowers on one stem? Are there seeds, fruits, or other identifying things like thorns?

What about how the weed is growing? Is it close to the ground and sprawling, or more erect in nature? The more identifying characteristics that you see and can identify, the closer you will get to a correct ID on the weed.

Once you've done some homework, there are a few things you can do to help identify the weed. You can contact us at the Extension office and we are happy to come to your property at no charge to help identify what you might be dealing with. There are also a variety of great weed identification resources such as reference books, dichotomous keys, or interactive keys. My personal favorite is the Weed ID Guide from the University of Missouri Division of Plant Sciences. Once you have an accurate weed identification, you can accurately determine what steps you need to take for effective control (and Extension can help with that too!).



## Stewart speaks at PNGC meeting

The February meeting of the Pine Needle Garden Club was held at 7 p.m., on February 22, 2021, at the Lincolnton Library Annex. Robyn Stewart, (pictured), Lincoln County's Extension Coordinator, shared information about pollinator space projects and how pollination works. She explained how important the honeybee population is and how they feared to be extinct in a few years. We all enjoyed learning about what we can do to help build habitats for pollinators.

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on March 15, at the Lincolnton Library Annex.

## The Lincoln Journal

Established in 1893  
The Official Organ of Lincolnton and Lincoln County  
(USPS 313-660)  
Published every Thursday in Lincolnton, Georgia  
Peachtree Street, by Wilkes Publishing Co., Inc.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE

One year in Lincoln County - \$26.00  
Wilkes, Taliaferro Counties - 26.00  
Outside three-county area - \$41.00  
(includes 8% state and local sales tax)

Periodicals postage paid at Lincolnton, Georgia  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
The Lincoln Journal, P.O. Box 399  
Lincolnton, Georgia 30817  
706-359-3229  
Email us at: journal@nu-z.net  
Visit us online at www.lincolnjournalonline.com

## One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel

Introducing the INOGEN ONE  
It's oxygen therapy on your terms

No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can go virtually anywhere — even on most airlines. Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

Reclaim Your Freedom And Independence NOW!

inogen

Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit

1-855-769-6057

© 2020 Inogen, Inc. All rights reserved. MKT-P0108