

Editorial page

Nolia's Notes

Want to be a Millionaire?

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



Hear me out. Remember when we first began hearing about this COVID thing? People on the news were talking about this world-wide pandemic. That just seemed like a nightmare and it has been.

First we were glued to the television trying to gain insight about what was happening in our world. We saw medical experts come on the news several times a day.

At first, we were told not to panic. We were told basically there was nothing really we should do.

We had all seen people in Japan wearing masks in the past on subways and in crowds before even hearing about COVID. They had no problem wearing masks in public for health reasons and I had even seen some foreigners wearing masks in the Atlanta airport in previous years. This practice just did not seem to be American.

People were irate that anyone would suggest having to wear a mask in public. Friends, think about it. Why sneeze into a Kleenex? Why cough into your sleeve as we were told to do when the flu season was here? Because, genius!

1. Germs are in your mouth and nose.

2. When you are sick and cough and sneeze, you expel germs into the air.

3. People breathe air, thus inviting said germs into their body! Duh!

I am sorry to say this but you really do not have to be a medical genius and have a bunch of degrees to know this.

This, along with washing your hands, is taught in preschool people, for gosh sakes! Fast forward to the next set of directives.

Now these experts say, "Wearing a mask is good. Everyone should wear a mask."

Then, recently we were told on the news to wear two masks by the same experts who had first said that no mask was really needed! I ask, "Why not three or four masks?" Stay tuned, friends.

Now, back to my millionaire scheme.

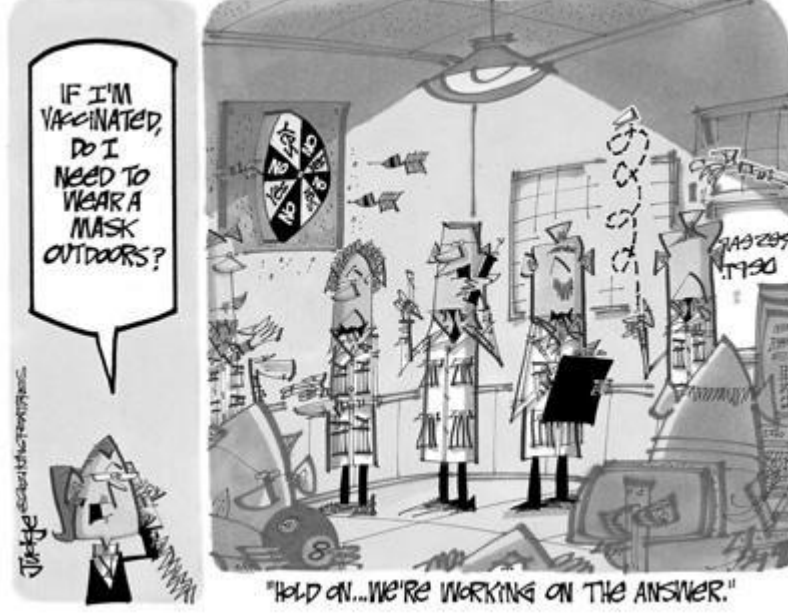
Remember when you couldn't find a face mask anywhere? People were sewing masks in their homes. There was a face mask shortage even in the medical facilities.

I am now hearing about the "murder hornet." They are Asian giant hornets (go figure) no surprise there, huh? Some have been spotted in North America...so... I figure we should invest in really good bee keeping attire!

Think about it, friends. We would make a fortune if this murder hornet thing takes flight so-to-speak. There is sure to be a shortage of bee keeping equipment. And who knows... Dr. Fauci might even suggest everyone should wear two suits for extra protection and that would really mean a financial boost for us!

People, this is just a friendly tip. Don't say I didn't let you in on a possible financial scoop of a lifetime. Key word here is possible.

Then again, there is bug spray, which might undermine my great idea!



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: I heard that sunflowers always face east. Is this true?

A: During the early stages of the plant's growth, buds will face the direction of the sun throughout the day; starting at the east and ending in the west. At night, the buds typically maintain an eastern or sometime neutral position. When a sunflower head reaches full bloom, it generally fixes itself in an eastern direction.

Q: I saw a vine growing in the treetops that has yellow and brick-red tubular flowers. The leaves are in pairs. Do you know what it is? Is it suitable for growing in a garden or is it one of those wildflowers that will not perform well in cultivation?

A: It sounds like crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*, sometimes listed as *Anisostichus capreolata*). Crossvine is a Georgia native that blooms in the spring. It does quite well in cultivation. It is a beautiful, durable, tolerant vine that deserves to be planted more often. Many garden centers and nurseries are carrying it now. There are even a few different varieties including a red one and an orange one. Crossvine can be used for covering a chain-link fence or on an arbor or trellis.

Q: What is a hectare?

A: A hectare is unit of surface measured in the metric system, equal to 10,000 square meters. One hectare = 2.471 acres.

Q: How do strawberries get their name?

A: No one is 100 percent sure how strawberries got their name. The name certainly does not come from the practice of mulching the plants with straw. They were being called strawberries long before anyone was cultivating them. A widely accepted theory is that the name derives from "strew" because the berries appear to be strewn on the ground, a contrast to other fruits that grow on shrubs, vines or trees.

The strawberry may have been named for its lowly position scattered on the ground, but in the kitchen it is among highest-rated of all fruits. Strawberries are valued for their fragrance, color, versatility,

flavor and sweetness. And because they are the first fruit of the season, they are beloved as embodying the full essence of spring.

Q: What type of license do I need from the Georgia Department of Agriculture to be a dog trainer or groomer?

A: You would be required to have a kennel license. The Georgia Animal Protection Act defines a kennel as "any establishment, other than an animal shelter, where dogs or cats are maintained for boarding, holding, training or similar purposes for a fee or compensation."

Q: Is it true that radish seedpods are edible?

A: Yes. Pods must be harvested when young and tender. They are eaten as snacks or used in salads. They may also be steamed or stir-fried. As pods mature, they will become hard and too hot for eating. In fact, the 'Rattail' radish variety does not produce an edible root, but is grown specifically for its long, slender seedpods. Another variety, 'München Bier' (Munich Beer), gets its name because the plump seedpods are served raw as an accompaniment to beer. It also produces an edible white root. The seedpods of any variety may be eaten, however.

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.

Sunday services

Blessed Hope Bible Baptist meets at the Presbyterian Church on Sundays at 11 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for prayer meeting. Come join us. For more information call 706-359-6759.

Revival services

Morningside Baptist Church Revival Services will begin on Sunday evening, April 18 at 6 p.m., Mon.-Wed. night at 7 p.m. Rev. David Spears will be bringing the messages.

Mail in tithes

Price Grove Baptist Church members are reminded that they are able to mail in their tithes to Price Grove Baptist Church, P.O. Box 916, Lincolnton, GA 30817.



What about lawns?

By Robyn Stewart
Lincoln County Extension Service



If you've been reading my column for some time now, you may have heard me talk once or twice (or perhaps more often!) about cool season grasses, especially as it relates to winter grazing. I had some grading work done on my property in the fall and we used an annual ryegrass as a ground cover, but as April fades into May, it's time to start thinking about establishing a more permanent lawn.

Most lawns in Georgia are going to be warm-season, perennial grass species. Warm season grasses grow best during the spring, summer, and fall when temperatures are between 80-95°. They can be annual grasses that die off after a season but the most common lawn species are perennial, which will persist over time. Warm season grasses turn brown and go dormant in the winter and in cooler temperatures.

There are four warm season grass species that are recommended for lawns in our area of Georgia. The first species is Bermudagrass, which can be common or a hybrid variety. Some of the benefits of bermudagrass are its tolerance of heat, drought resistance, fast establishment, and tolerance of a variety of soil types and textures. Common bermudagrass can be established from seed, while most hybrid varieties need to be established using vegetative methods like sod, sprigs or plugs. The hybrid bermudagrass varieties offer greater disease and weed resistance, a finer texture, and better turf density than common bermudagrass does. The biggest downfall to bermudagrass is that it is not shade tolerant and the common variety is susceptible to disease issues.

Another popular species is Zoysiagrass. There are a wide array of varieties and cultivars of Zoysia available in Georgia, which means there is some variation in color, texture, and adaption to different regions. Benefits of Zoysia include its dense, fine blades, tolerance of shade and a wide soil pH range, and ability to be propagated with either seeds or vegetative means. The biggest downfalls to Zoysia are that it is slow growing which requires more investment on the front end to develop and maintain the lawn and its tendency to produce high amounts of thatch.

The third species for our region is Centipedegrass. Centipede is one of the lowest maintenance grasses on the list, and requires little pH and fertility management once established compared to other species.

Festival entries wanted

The American Legion Post 194 and Classic South Quilt Guild is looking for entries for their upcoming quilt, craft and sewing festival scheduled for June 12-13. If you have quilts, sewing crafts, or toys, novelty items, ceramics, paintings, jewelry, etc., please contact Linda Buesching at 706-359-1572 or Al Ewing at 661-666-3749 for more information on entering your items.

BOE meeting dates

The Lincoln County Board of Education 2021 meeting dates are follows: May 11, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, and Jan. 11, 2022.

The meetings will be held at 7 p.m. at the Board of Education Administration Offices Building at 423 Metasville Rd.

Centipede produces a bright green, medium leafed turf, performs best in full sun but is tolerant of some shade, and is established from seed or sod. Unfortunately, centipede is subject to some transitional issues in the spring, diseases, and overall decline if not managed properly.

The last grass species is St. Augustinegrass, which is more popular in South Georgia. Benefits of this species are its fast growth rate, coarse, dense blades, and tolerance for heat, salt, and drought. St. Augustine can only be established by vegetative methods and is not tolerant of any wear or compaction. It is also a cold-sensitive species, so planting it in Lincoln County might pose a risk of cold damage or dieback in some of our harsher winters.

As with any agriculture endeavor, if you are looking at establishing a new lawn or overseeding an existing lawn, be sure to soil test and make any amendments well before trying to add warm season grasses. If you need help selecting a grass species or preparing your soil, let us know at uge3181@uga.edu or 706-359-3233.

Registration opens for adult softball at recreation dept.

The Lincoln County Recreation Department is hosting "Summer Slugfest," an adult softball league. The season will run June 15-July 22, with games held every Tuesday and Thursday.

Teams can be co-ed or all men with a \$250 registration fee per team. Registration will run from March 15-May 31 at the recreation complex.

League rules include: all team members must be in uniform (jersey); have 15 players to a roster; use 44 core and 375 compression balls; no illegal bats; five homeruns per game; any homerun after five changes the inning.

The end-of-season tournament will be held July 31.

For more information contact LCRD Director LeTrellis Glaze or Lisa Willingham at 706-359-2236.

Church anniversary

Observance of the 148th anniversary of Newberry Missionary Baptist Church will be held in the church parking lot Sun., May 16, at 9:30 a.m. The anniversary sermon will be delivered by their pastor, Rev. Willie J. White.

Mother, daughter paint class

'Paint it Right' will sponsor a mother and me painting class on Sat., May 8, 3 p.m. at the Dova Partridge Annex. Cost is \$50 per mother/child, and includes all supplies. Register early as space is limited. Contact Tootsie Wright at 910-224-4756 for more information.

Celebrate Recovery Thursday

First Assembly of God hosts Celebrate Recovery every Thursday evening at 6:30 pm with a light meal followed by large group worship at 7 pm and small groups at 8 pm. First Assembly is located on the Thomson Highway. Call the church office at 359-7237 for more information.

This weeks tips from the BBB

Yes, Publishers Clearing House imposters are back at it again. They never really left, but consumers are again hearing, "You've won - a new car! Millions of dollars! Cash for life!" The crazy thing is you don't even recall entering the contest. Con artists continually pose as Publishers Clearing House and other sweepstakes and lottery companies to play on our desire to "get rich quick."

Here's how the scam works. You receive a phone call, text message, email, social media message or even a letter in the mail claiming you've won millions of dollars or another high value prize through Publishers Clearing House. The correspondence seems real. It's complete with official seals and contact information for the contest organizer. It typically lists affiliation with legitimate organizations, such as Better Business Bureau, the IRS, the FDIC, and major retailers.

The catch? You are responsible for paying shipping and handling, insurance, taxes, and other fees before you can claim your prize. Scammers may pressure you to pay quickly, claiming that if the fees aren't paid in this specific way and right on time, you'll forfeit your prize money.

A few thousand dollars may not sound like much compared to the millions you've just won. However, con artists keep asking you, the "lucky winner," to pay again and again. But it's never enough to get the funds transferred. Of course, in the end, your prize money never existed.

The real Publishers Clearing House is a BBB Accredited Busi-

ness with a good rating, and it never asks people to pay upfront fees for anything. The company is frequently mimicked by scammers because of its reputation for real prizes.

Tips to avoid these scams

- Reach out to Publishers Clearing House: If you are contacted by a scammer impersonating PCH, report it by calling (800) 392-4190. Also, PCH provides a tollfree customer service number (800-645-9242), which consumers can call at any time to check on suspicious behavior.

- Be wary of unsolicited correspondence. If you receive a notice out of the blue and can't recall entering the contest, it's likely a scam. Look for typos and misspellings. They are tell-tale signs of a scam.

- Never pay fees to claim a prize. You should never have to pay any fees upfront before receiving winnings. Not even taxes.

- Never wire money or use prepaid debit/gift cards. If you are asked to use these transfer methods in order to get a prize or any other large sum of money; that is a major red flag. It's difficult to track these types of transactions, so you will have little to no way of getting your money back.

- You have to give personal information. Anytime someone tries to get your bank account number, Social Security Number or other sensitive information, that should be an automatic red flag. There is also no need to access financial information, like a credit card number in response to a sweepstakes promotion.

- Don't fall for 'too-good-to-be-true' prizes. When you are offered a large sum of money, there is always a catch. Scammers attempt to make it sound easy to claim your prize. The reality is it is very unlikely that someone will give away large sums of money with no strings attached.

- Keep track of any contests you enter. You can't win a contest you didn't enter. If you often enter contests and sweepstakes, keep track of them and check them out thoroughly. This will help you spot a fake.

You can find more information on spotting a Publisher Clearing House scam on their website's fraud information center at info.pch.com.

To learn more about sweepstakes scams and how they work, see BBB's study on these scams at BBB.org/ScamStudies. If you've been the victim of a scam, please report it to www.BBB.org/ScamTracker. By sharing your experience, you can help others avoid falling victim to similar scams.

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