

Editorial page

Nolia's Notes

Southern Summers

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



"Hey! How y'all doin'?" I brought y'all some tomatoes." This is the typical greeting of folks during southern summers.

Folks in the south readily share from their gardens and fruit trees. Already this past week, Dwaine has brought home some home grown tomatoes from friends in the community. Yesterday, I was at a meeting and the Donahoes brought a bag of beautiful red home grown tomatoes to share with anyone who wanted some.

People in my south are kind, generous and eager to share. People have sent fresh corn, wonderful squash and peppers and other delicious treasures fresh from their gardens. My friends, Pat and Don even make their own ketchup from their garden gifts.

Southern folks have always relied on their farms and gardens to provide. Folks in the city might laugh at what we consider a meal here in the country. I often prepare a meal of stewed tomatoes, maybe a bowl of butterbeans, and cornbread for Dwaine. He loves it and it is what his mama often made for supper. We take anything grown and throw it into a soup for winter months.

The other day I tried something new. Pat gave me some whole okra. I love fried okra and Dwaine's mama would take the pods, cut them in little wheels and roll them in meal, then fry. Well, that is a real

mess if you have ever done it. For one thing, I hate to mention it, but okra is a bit slimy inside and by the time I slice it and prepare to fry those little wheels I have a goopy mess that sticks all together.

Well, I just took the whole pod of okra, rolled it in egg, then rolled it in House of Autry medium hot meal and dropped them in oil. I fried them until they had a golden crust on the outside and they were delicious! Much easier than cutting them, too. I ate too many of them though because, like potato chips, I couldn't eat just one!

It was an overcast afternoon in mid-July when I picked the last of the tomatoes at my favorite coastal farm. It was muggy, steamy hot and there was no sunshine in sight. The gloomy sky reflected my mood as I spied the shriveled up bent over, brown tomato vines. The birds had had their fill and insects were beginning to take over, too. I gathered a few tomatoes that day but I had to dig through the matted vines and often reached for a handful of mush where a tomato had rotted in the heat. It was the end of the season there, and soon will be here, as well.

Last night I cut a Lincolnton grown tomato and thought that it will probably be one of my last really good tomatoes until next spring. As the Bible says, "For everything, there is a season!"



The Pastor's Corner

A Weekly Column from Lincoln County Clergy

Running the Christian Race

Pastor Keith Etheridge, Double Branches Baptist Church



"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls." Hebrews 12:1-3

1. Run Freely
It takes discipline to run the Christian race. We must lay aside our sin and everything that hinders us. Have you watched the track events during the Olympics? What do the runners wear? Skinny jeans, cowboy boots, and heavy coats? No! They don't want anything to hinder them. We too must shed anything that would hinder our walk with Christ.

John MacArthur writes, "Sin entangles the Christian's feet so that he/she cannot run. It wraps itself around us so that we trip and stumble every time we try to move for the Lord, if we try at all. It easily entangles us. When we allow sin in our lives, it is quite easy for Satan to keep us from running."

Proverbs 4:11-12 says, "I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble."

Pray and ask God to help you to lay aside everything that might hinder your walk with Christ. Ask Him to keep you from stumbling.

2. Run Focused
In which direction are you running? You can run from Jesus, you can run to Jesus, you can run with Jesus, and you can run for Jesus. A friend of mine, Brian Cowart once pointed out, "Running from God is the most exhausting race you will ever run. Running to God is the most exhilarating race you will ever run. Be careful which way you're running."

We must keep our eyes on Jesus. Hebrews 12:2 reminds us to keep our focus on Jesus. Don't focus on your sin, it will discourage you. Don't focus on yourself, it will distress you. Don't focus on this world, it will deceive you. Don't focus on your fellow man, he will disappoint you. Don't focus on your trials, they will defeat you. Instead, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace."

3. Run to the Finish
We need discipline to run freely. We need direction to run focused. We need determination to run to the finish and finish strong. 2 Timothy 4:7 says, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the

race, I have kept the faith." Not every believer can say this. The Bible contains several examples of men who started strong but did not finish strong: Gideon (Read Judges 8:22-27), Samson (Read Judges 16:18-21), and Solomon (Read 1 Kings 11:1-11.)

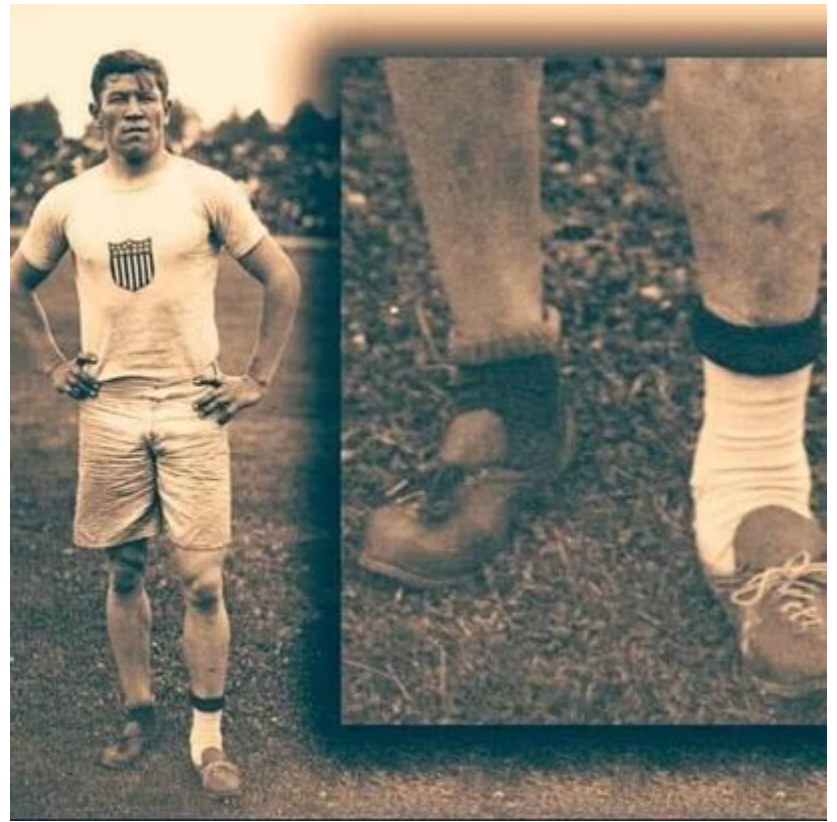
Look closely at the photo of Olympic Gold Medal winner Jim Thorpe and you can see that he's wearing different socks and shoes. This wasn't a fashion statement. It was the 1912 Olympics, and Jim, an American Indian from Oklahoma represented the U.S. in track and field. On the morning of his competitions, his shoes were stolen. Luckily, Jim ended up finding two shoes in a garbage can. That's the pair that he's wearing in the photo. But one of the shoes was too big, so he had to wear an extra sock. Wearing these shoes, Jim won two gold medals that day. This is a perfect reminder that you don't have to resign to the excuses that have held you back. So what if life hasn't been fair? What are you going to do about it today?

Whatever you woke up with this morning; stolen shoes, ill health, failed relationships, failed business, don't let it stop you from running your race. You can experience more in life if you'll get over the excuses and get on with living. You can have reasons or you can have results...but you can't have both.

By 7 p.m. on October 20, 1968, at the Mexico City Olympics Stadium, it was beginning to darken. It had cooled down as well. The last of the Olympic marathon runners were being assisted away to first-aid stations. Over an hour earlier, Mamo Waldi of Ethiopia had charged across the finish line, winning the 26-mile, 385-yard race looking as strong and as vigorous as when he'd started. As the last few thousand spectators began preparing to leave, they heard police sirens and whistles through the gate entering the stadium. The attention turned to that gate. A sole figure, wearing the colors of Tanzania, came limping into the stadium. His name was John Steven Aquari. He was the last man to finish the marathon in 1968. His leg was bandaged, bloody. He had taken a bad fall early in the race. Now, it was all he could do to limp his way around the track. The crowd stood and applauded as he completed that last lap.

When he finally crossed the finish line, one man dared to ask the question all were wondering, "You are badly injured. Why didn't you quit? Why didn't you give up?" Aquari, with a quiet dignity said, "My country did not send me seven thousand miles to start this race. My country sent me to finish."

God didn't send His only begotten Son into the world so that you could start the Christian race. He sent Him so that you could finish the Christian race.



1912 U.S. Olympic Gold Medalist runner Jim Thorpe



Dove Management in Georgia

By Robyn Stewart
Lincoln County Extension Service



A few weeks ago, the Georgia 2021-2022 dove season began. The first session runs September 4 – October 10, with second and third sessions from November 20-28 and December 19–January 31. Hunters may take 15 doves per day, and need to have a Georgia hunting license and GA Migratory Bird Stamp to legally harvest their catch. This week, lets chat a bit more about the doves hunted in Georgia and some management strategy for dove hunting properties.

The dove species primarily hunted in our region is the mourning dove, *Zenaidura macroura*. Other names for the bird include the rain dove, turtle dove, and Carolina pigeon. It is one of the most abundant North American birds with a population of approximately 475 million, and its range spreads across most of the continent. The mourning dove does migrate each year, north in March-May and south from September-November. Some individuals do not migrate and are sustained by bird feeders. Doves are the most hunted migratory bird in the state. In a typical hunting season, approximately 20 million birds are harvested in the US, and last year, approximately 856,500 birds were taken in Georgia alone. These harvest levels are sustainable due to the dove's reproduction - they can have up to six clutches of two eggs each year.

Mourning doves are medium-sized at approximately 1ft in length, weighing between 4-6 oz. They have broad wings, rounded heads, and long, tapered tails. Generally, doves are light grey-brown in color, with lighter bellies. Their wings have black spotting and their tails have white outer feathers that contract with the dark inners. Doves also have a characteristic crescent of dark feathers under their eyes, which are dark with light skin around them. Male doves have purple-pink patches on the sides of their neck and a distinct blue-grey crown, while females

have more brown tones and are generally smaller. The mourning dove is known for its characteristic plaintive calls used to communicate between genders and paired mates, since they are monogamous and mate for life. The diet of doves is almost exclusively seeds such as rapeseed, corn, millet, safflower, and sunflower seeds.

If you are interested in managing property for doves, there are several factors to consider including field size and location, types of and management of plantings, frequency and intensity of hunting. Since doves are strong fliers, fields larger than 10 acres with a nearby water source are preferred, and surrounding agricultural landscape will attract more birds than forest or woodlands.

When planting for doves, a combination of native foods and agricultural plantings can be useful. Crops should be planted in strips and managed to provide food throughout the year, such as warm season plantings in April-May, again in June-July, and cool season plantings in the fall. Doves do not like to scratch for feed and prefer little vegetative ground cover, so mowing, disking, or burning the field prior to hunting season is essential. Be sure to review the differences in baiting doves (illegal practice) vs agricultural practices that encourage doves to ensure you are following appropriate practices.

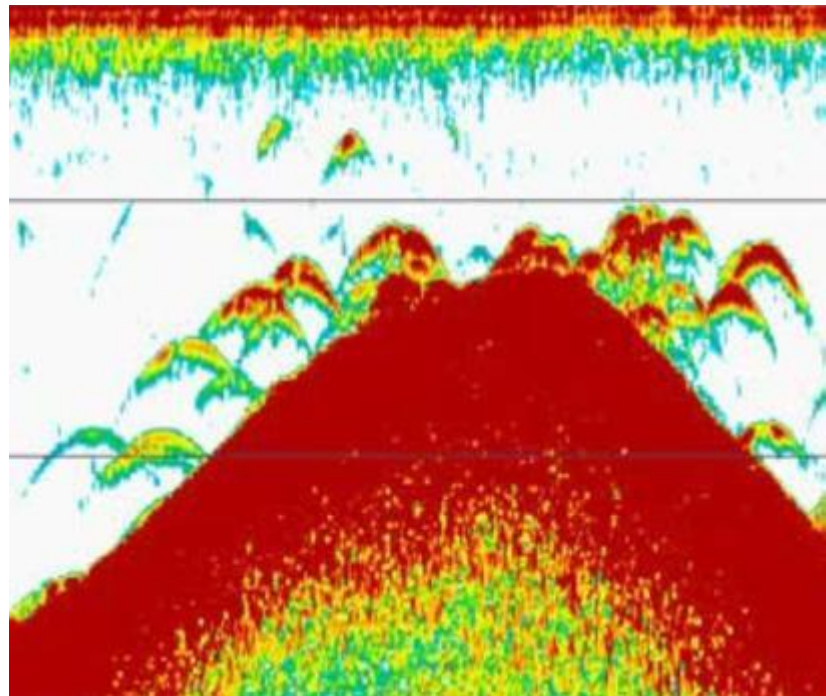
Finally, consider hunting practices. Generally, you should not shoot dove fields more than once per week in season, with a duration of less than three hours. This will encourage prolonged use of the field instead of abandonment by the birds. By following best management practices, we can encourage healthy dove populations for the enjoyment of hunters and non-hunters alike.

If you have questions on dove hunting, regulations, or management of property for doves, please let us know at uge3181@uga.edu or 706-359-3233.

Fishing This Week

Reading a Depth Finder

by Albert Moody



Reading a depth finder is one of the most frequently asked questions about fishing today. Many people come to me with pictures on their cell phones and ask me things like why did these fish not bite?

The picture above shows large pretty wide arches and will get you very excited. The reason these fish make a larger and thicker arch is due to the fact that they are swimming slowly or not at all and the depth finder is getting a chance to read the scan for a longer period of time. These fish are sitting still and not chasing bait therefore they are much harder to catch. A fish that is chasing bait is moving past the scan of the depth finder much faster and it does not have the time to make the full image. These feeding fish look like a bowl of spaghetti. The image is long, lean and much

more aggressive. These fish are much easier to catch.

Fishing off the Bank

I find the only thing more southern than sweet tea and grits has to be bank fishing. I own two boats and depending on the season I am much more likely to be found fishing from the bank. The reason I enjoy this more is that it is cheaper, it is easier to meet new like-minded friends and most importantly the camaraderie with old friends.

My methods of bank fishing were mostly stolen from my old buddy PeeDee. He goes to a yard sale and buys a backpack for a dollar. He fills the backpack with things like a small tackle box, a towel, needle nose pliers, a knife, a flashlight, a stringer, and a can of Vienna sausage. Yes, eating Vienna sausage does help you catch more fish and I believe carrying a can fishing is a state law or should be.

My bank fishing routine starts with calling PeeDee, Broadwater, Geech Gilliard, Eddie Williams etc. We then decide where to go and who is riding with who. When you get there you grab two rod and reels and a five gallon bucket. Put your backpack inside the bucket and head to the water. When you get there you pull your backpack out of the bucket, turn the bucket upside down to sit on and start fishing. When you are finished put your stringer of fish in the bucket, put on the backpack, pick up the bucket in one hand and the rod and reels in the other. We will talk later about methods and type of locations.

Bad fishing joke of the week: How can you prove fish are smarter than people? Have you ever seen a fish spend a fortune to catch people?



Chamber News

2021 Scarecrow Competition begins!

This is that time of year for football games, fall leaves, and scarecrows!

Your Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce opens this year's 2021 Scarecrow competition entries to all area businesses to register in this fun challenge. Entry dates are open now until October 20th!

Simply contact Chamber Events Director Tootsie Wright at events@lincolngachamber.org for a scarecrow entry form to be dropped off with your official scarecrow voting box. Entry fees are free for chamber member businesses or \$50 for non-members. (New/renewing chamber business memberships are always welcome! Join at www.lincolinchamber.org.)

Once registered, decorating and voting can start immediately! \$1 = 1 Vote (unlimited voting allowed). Voting boxes inside participating area businesses.

On-going voting ends Friday, October 22, at noon. Voting dol-

lars collected will go toward music entertainment and the grand prize winner!

Scarecrow grand prize winner will be announced Saturday, October 23, at downtown Lincolnton's Moonlight Market Madness (4-8pm): late-night shopping with music and dancing-in-the-street to follow!

So, join-in and get creative! Rally your friends and families to vote! And may the best scarecrow win!

Aycock benefit fund

A benefit fund has been set up at Farmers State Bank for Laney Aycock to help with medical and other expenses as she battles Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Laney is a lifelong resident of Lincoln County, is employed by Lincoln County OES and Gold Cross Ambulance Service as an EMT.

Donations can be made at Farmers State Bank or mailed PO Box 99, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

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