



JACKIE TOWNSON'S many-sectioned pecan, shown here next to a metal ruler to show the size accurately.

## A most unusual pecan

by Ben Baker  
Editor

Jackie Townson knew he had something different when he picked up the pecan.

He'd seen similar before.

The pecan has "five good visual halves. That 6th ain't as well developed," he said.

He found the unusual nut under one of the trees on his property.

"I knew that I had found something kind of weird," he said. Some years ago, "I found one close to the house that had three halves.

"When I cracked it open, I knew I had something kind of weird."

As to what variety the pecan is, Mr. Townson is less sure.

"I've got a good many trees on the farm, several different varieties," he said. He said he expects the pecan is a seedling.

As for the nut, it won't be the guest of honor in a pecan pie.

"I'll probably lay it on the kitchen table and show it to everyone I can," he said.

## Walker crowned Miss Sweet Potato

Marianne Walker was crowned Little Miss Georgia Sweet Potato in the 47th Annual Georgia Sweet Potato Pageant on Oct. 13 in Fitzgerald.

Miss Georgia, Leah Masee, was the Mistress of Ceremonies for the pageant and crowned each queen.

Marianne will represent the Sweet Potato Industry during the next year by traveling to the state Capital to attend the 5th Annual Agricultural Week in Georgia, by making appearances throughout the state, by honoring Sweet Potato farmers at the Farmer's Appreciation dinner, by attending the V.I.P. breakfast the morning of the Sweet Potato festival and by riding in the annual Sweet Potato Parade during the Georgia Sweet Potato Festival that will be held on Oct. 27 in Ocilla.

Marianne is the granddaughter of Royce & Ann Cromer of Sycamore and Ray & Mary Walker of Tifton and her great grandparents are Edd and Ottis Walker and Mary Barber of Tifton.



Marianne Walker, Little Miss Georgia Sweet Potato

## BEAVER

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enough to take care of the problem for the next several years," Mr. DeKalb said.

"We're very appreciative the Board of Commissioners

has the vision to want to do something about this problem," Mr. Kinney said. "A lot of farmers are complaining about beavers.

Mr. DeKalb said the County's money will cover around 600 beavers. He esti-

mates he will catch between 500 and 700 of the aquatic critters this year.

The County Commission has budgeted around \$24,000 this year for the beaver eradication program. DeKalb gets \$40 per beaver. He supplies proof in the form a beaver tail.

If he catches as many as he expects, he'll do "maintenance trapping" for the next few years. Again at \$40 per beaver, the maintenance work should be considerably less expensive.

Beavers are major nuisance in Turner County. They dam running water, which can then back water up on roads. They

also undermine roads to get dirt and mud to pack into their dams and make runs.

"He can't do the work off county roads," Mr. Kinney said.

"Beavers will move miles in any drainage. I've got to get in there," Mr. DeKalb said.

In addition to damage to roads, there's the damage to ponds and even terraces and berms in fields. A beaver can undermine dike and if a farmer doesn't know about it, the farmer can have seriously damaged equipment if it falls into the hole.

BUT THE MONEY...

Mr. Newell said he does not have an exact cost on what beaver damage costs Turner County each year.

"It is dramatic. The more rainy a season you've got, the worse it will be," Mr. Newell said. He estimated the annual damage and repair costs to be between \$80,000 and \$100,000 a year.

Mr. Kinney said the costs associated with repairing beaver damage and tearing out dams is more than that money budgeted to pay DeKalb for his work.

"Worth County, in the flood of '98, spent \$500,000 on

beaver dams," Mr. DeKalb said.

In addition to undermining roads, the beavers also stop up drainage pipes. That creates even more work as the blockage must be cleaned out manually.

Mr. DeKalb and Mr. Kinney said the trapping effort will be "systematic" working each area where the beavers out and moving out from there.

### WHO YA GONNA CALL?

If you have questions about the program, call the Road Department at 567-4057.

If you want to have Mr. DeKalb trap beavers on your property call him at 229-873-2530. There is no charge to Turner County landowners for this service.

### SELLING THE HIDES

You might ask why Mr. DeKalb doesn't skin the beavers and sell the hides to the fur trade. There's not enough money in selling hides to cover the expense of his operation. A good hide brings about \$8.

"It costs me between \$120 and \$140 a day in expenses. I have to catch at least 3 beavers every day before I make any profit," he said.

Those who might be interested in running a beaver trapping operation can look to Mr. DeKalb for advice. He's produced a video "Trappin' Tales" <[www.trappintales.com](http://www.trappintales.com)> which covers a 3-day period of running traps in South Georgia. In the video he explains why he gets up before daylight every day and often gets home after dark. Georgia law requires animal traps to be checked every 24 hours.

His video recounts run-ins with moccasins, turtles, gators and extremely rare white-bellied beavers as well as otters. Otter hides don't bring much either, he says.

## CITY

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• The Natural Gas department continues to do gas line insertions, replacing old metal pipes with synthetic lines. Mr. Taylor said the work will continue for another two years. The line replacement is mandated by the Georgia Public Service Commission.

• Fire Station 2 at the Eureka Campus should be fully operational by mid-November. Four new full time firefighters are on staff and the City has several FEMA trailers for temporary housing for the firemen. Hank Pate was placed in charge of Station 2. "That's a great choice, Hank, he'll keep that place running good," Mr. Taylor said.

• The Police Department has several new hires, including a new investigator. Councilman James Burks asked if anyone was promoted within the department. Mr. Taylor said he was not sure and would report back after checking.



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## Community Calendar

### GOVERNMENT

Emergency Siren test 1st Wednesday at noon

TCMS School Council, 3rd Monday 4 p.m.

TCDA 2nd & 4th Monday 8:30 a.m. Chamber

County Commission 7 p.m. 1st Tues, Bubba

Akin Memorial Building

Ashburn Council 7 p.m. 1st Thursday City Hall

Board of Ed. 2nd Monday 7 p.m. Bus Shop

Rebecca Council 1st Monday, 6:30 City Hall

Sycamore Council 2nd Thurs., 7 p.m. City Hall

TCHS Council 1st Monday 4 p.m., TCHS

Community Relations Board, last Thursday,

7 p.m. Ashburn City Hall

### SPECIAL

Chamber 3rd Friday noon Chamber

Fire Ant Festival Wednesday noon, Shoney's

### CIVIC

Rotary Noon, each Thursday, Shoney's

Exchange 7 p.m., each Monday, Club Building

Kiwanis Noon, each Tuesday, Shoney's

Sycamore Lodge #210 Masons 1st and 3rd

Monday 7:30 p.m, Lodge

American Legion 2nd Tuesday 7 p.m,

oldLegion Hall

Child Abuse Prev. 3rd Thurs. 6 p.m. Special

Services School

A.A. Tuesday & Friday 7:30-8:30 Alt. School

Community Calendar Deadline: Noon FRIDAY!

To be listed, call 567-3655

## Irwin EMC Members Join us for the 70th Annual Meeting Friday, November 2 East Central Technical College Annual Meeting Program

Registration 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
Entertainment 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.



**The Rimes Family    Sounds of Faith**

**Business Meeting 2 p.m.**

Bring the card mailed to you in the November issue of the *GEORGIA Magazine* for fast registration. **Two lucky members who bring their card with the pre-printed account information will be chosen to receive a \$50 credit on their electric bill!**

Also, **update your account information** on or before the date of the meeting to be eligible for **one of four \$50 prizes**. See card in the *GEORGIA Magazine* for more information. The magazine will be mailed on October 23.

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