



# Dru's Vues, too

Music City News and Views

Dru Fuller

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**Dru's Calendar**

7/23/2009 5:30 pm  
Democratic Women Picnic  
Ellington Ag Center

7/23/2009 5:30 pm UT All  
Sports Picnic Allen Arena  
Lipscomb

7/25/2009 5:30 pm TN GOP

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009

## National Guard assists in chestnut tree restoration



Volunteers plant American chestnuts at the Tennessee Army National Guard's Volunteer Training Site in Milan.

In cooperation with the American Chestnut Foundation (TACF), the Tennessee Army National Guard has established an experimental American chestnut test orchard at its training site in Lavinia, Tenn., also known as Volunteer Training Site-Milan.

Over 500 chestnuts were planted April 18 at the orchard in Lavinia. They have been selected for blight resistance over several generations through an intensive back-crossbreeding program initiated by the foundation over 20 years ago. The resulting trees will be used to further select for resistance and to provide pollen and seeds to be used in producing an even more highly resistant generation of trees.

The American chestnut was all but wiped out by an imported fungal blight during the first half of the 20th century. Aside from a small number of anomalous "mother trees," these chestnuts today exist in the wild only as root sprouts and are killed by the blight long before they reach reproductive age.

Prior to this devastating blight, the American chestnut was the dominant timber species in the eastern portion of the United States, in many areas comprising over 25% of the canopy trees in eastern forests. American chestnut wood was fast growing, strong, rot resistant, and its nutritious nuts provided a vital food source for wildlife, livestock and humans alike.

In addition to the Lavinia orchard, the Tennessee National Guard has established a back-cross nursery at its training facility in Catoosa County, Georgia. About 760 seeds have been planted at these Guard sites this year.

This project is funded by the Department of Defense Legacy Resource

Statesmen's Dinner, U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions keynotes, Nashville Convention Center, 601 Commerce Street

8/01/2009 5:30 pm DCDP Honors Dinner/Rep. John Lewis Keynotes/ Hutton Hotel Vista Ballroom/1808 West End Ave.

8/02/2009 4:00 pm-6:00 pm Popsicles & Politics with Kim McMillan 5201 Park Avenue Nashville 37209

8/07/2009 11:30 am Pete Weber, Nashville Predators, Kiwanis, Maxwell House

8/18/2009 6:30 pm Rep. Marsha Blackburn's book signing, home of Carolyn Amiot

8/21/2009 11:30 am Kiwanis, Rep. Marsha Blackburn, Maxwell House

8/28/2009 11:30 am Kiwanis, Karlen Evins, Maxwell House

## U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn gets some help



Former Gov. Winfield Dunn, right, entertains Jack, U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn's grandson, as the representative speaks at the Davidson GOP Summer Picnic.


Education  
governors

Management Program, dedicated to preserving and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage of DoD facilities while maintaining military readiness.

Partnerships such as this between the National Guard and TACF are making great strides in the effort to restore the species to its former range. For additional information about this endeavor, persons may contact the Tennessee Guard Natural Resources Office at 615-313-0603 or

[Janie.Becker@tn.gov](mailto:Janie.Becker@tn.gov).

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 Posted by Dru's Vues at [4:05 PM](#)

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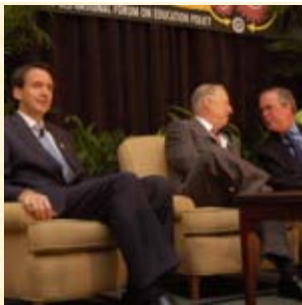
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Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush at the Education Forum held in Nashville.

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## Should have paid attention?



"On (allowing guns in bars) there are a whole bunch of people who are wishing they had paid more attention during the session .... the General Assembly may wish they had spent a little more time on (this)." ...Gov. Phil Bredesen

## Health insurance whistleblower from Tennessee




Wendell Potter, a former reporter for Tennessee newspapers and a UT communications graduate, made headlines last week with his Congressional testimony as a truth-telling former health care insurance executive.

## Friendly former foes



Republican U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, Brenda Wynn, and Bob Tuke, former Democratic U.S. Senate candidate. Tuke is the former Democratic Party chairman who ran against incumbent Alexander for his Senate seat in 2008.

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**I-40 White Bridge**

## Interchange goes forward



Governor Phil Bredesen joined TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely, Senator Douglas Henry, Representative Gary Odom, Mayor Karl Dean and other state and local officials in Nashville to break ground on Phase II of the Interstate 40-White Bridge Road interchange.

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