

Canning Plant...continued from Page 1A

17,000 jars were canned at the plant and this year is already shaping up to be more than ever before. With locals, summer vacationers and visitors from all over coming to see the Farmers Market and canning plant, Cummings expects to far exceed the number of jars canned this year.

"In our typical growing season, there will be somewhere around 350 people come through the canning plant," said Cummings. "These are the people that regularly use it and they'll can around 17,000 jars, roughly."

"We get locals that come here and even people that are on vacation coming to the plant. Last year, we had people in here from Maine and others from Montana who were staying at Vogel and had seen the signs and decided to come check it out."

One canner, Shirley Dyer, has been canning since she was a child and learned the trade from her mother growing up. While she's done her fair share of in-home canning, Dyer has also tried her hand at several canneries in the surrounding areas, none of which she says can hold a candle to the Union County



Patrick Fix and Kristy Peney cooking up some vegetable soup for canning. Photo/Lily Avery

Canning Plant.

"I love the preparation of canning," said Dyer. "But I've been to canning plants in Blue Ridge and every where else around here, none of them are as nice as this one we have right here in Union County."

"It's a great building and everyone is always so helpful. It's a wonderful place to come and can."

Ever since the cannery opened, Dyer has been there to stay and can be found canning a wide variety of delicious fruits

and vegetables throughout the season, primarily green beans during the summertime and her famous apple sauce as soon as the season hits toward the end of summer.

And while some canning plants limit the canning possibilities, Cummings assures that pretty much anything and everything goes in Union County. While there are a few things that can't be canned, it's a small list, and a rare one at that.

"Right now, most people

are canning green beans," said Cummings. "We do have people with beets, some pickled and some canned. Beets and green beans are the primary things today."

"We generally do a couple thousand jars of green beans, about 1,500 of apple sauce, we'll do that much in tomato soup. Those are the types of things that are really common but we can a lot of other stuff too."

"But, the strangest thing I've ever seen processed here was trout. It was processed and put into jars."

"There are some things

that we can't can because we either don't have the cooking time for it, but most things that we can find a cooking time for, we'll process it."

Jars, lids, rings, ingredients and your favorite recipes are the only things needed to come out and enjoy a fun-filled day of canning. The Union County Canning Plant provides everything else needed, along with smiling faces and the helping hands of fellow canners. The cost to can is 25 cents per pint and 35 cents per quart.

The canning plant is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays,

from 6 a.m. to noon.

Throughout the year, the canning plant hosts special days such as a day for teachers who cannot make it to the plant throughout the week. More information on special days at the canning plant can be found at ucfarmersmarket.com.

"We want to invite everyone to come use the canning plant," said Cummings. "Head over to the Farmers Market, get some fresh produce, then come over and process it on a Tuesday or Thursday. It's a whole lot of fun, I can promise that."



The Union County Canning Plant offers a unique, fun and lively experience. Photo/Lily Avery

Firewise...from Page 1A

Frank Riley of the Chastate-Chattahoochee RC&D Council acted as the state coordinator who submitted Flat Rock Ridge Road as a Firewise Community for national recognition.

"Scientific research has shown the effectiveness and benefits of implementing wildfire mitigation concepts across individual property boundaries and throughout communities," said Riley. "Since 2002, the Firewise USA program has empowered neighbors to work together in reducing their wildfire risk."

"Join the growing network of more than 1,400 recognized Firewise Communities from across the nation taking action and ownership in preparing and protecting their homes against the threat of wildfire."

Individual wildfire

preparedness is all about creating defensible zones around a piece of property.

"Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three home ignition zones, increases the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire," according to Firewise literature.

Continued the literature: "To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck, and prune branches of large trees, depending on their height, up to 6 to 10 feet from the ground."

"Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes, and replace mulch in

the Immediate Zone of zero to 5 feet with non-combustible mulch products like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually."

Of course, these are just a few of the Firewise recommendations that homeowners can implement to protect their homes against the eventuality of wildfire.

Keep in mind that, at this moment, dozens of wildfires are burning in the western half of the nation, and just last fall, dozens of wildfires swept over the Southeastern United States.

For more details on Firewise Communities, contact the local Georgia Forestry Commission office at (706) 781-2398.

For a home safety checklist and more general information on Firewise, visit www.firewise.org.

Northeast Georgia Friends of NRA presents Top Shot Competition

The Northeast Georgia Friends of NRA Top Shot Competition will be held on Saturday, July 22 at 5 p.m. before the banquet.

Do you have what it takes to out shoot one of the top 4H BB shooters in the state? He is from Blairsville. For a donation of \$25 you can have your shot.

We will use the Georgia 4H S.A.F.E. BB rules for the standing position.

Proper rifles will be provided. The Union County BB Team will conduct the competition. Check out this site for the official competition rules <http://competitions.nra.org/official-nra-rule-books.aspx>

The shooter that has the highest score above our shooter's score will win a Ruger American Predator 6.5 Creedmore. If no one beats him, he will win it.

To sign up contact



Goodwin Bryan at 770-833-2430; ne.ga.friends.of.nra@gmail.com

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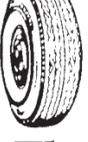
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