



## Oh The Colors!

As Summer's heat gives way to the cooling of Fall the leaf realizes the fulfillment of its mission. As the life sustaining chlorophyll so generously gifted by the sun's kiss drains away it is replaced by mineral hues lodged there from deep within the earth. There the leaf waits while inviting onlookers to travel forth from their spires of concrete and glass to glimpse the beauty they yearn to absorb. When all the photos are taken and the rocking chairs embrace is replaced by the ringing of the cell phone the leaf is once again at the precipice of transformation. And so with benign detachment they begin a languid last dance. Filling the sky with their undulating aerobatics they thrill the last of the onlookers once more. As each reaches its final resting place the journey has only just begun. Within the soil resides many mouths waiting to devour the needed sustenance that the demise of the leaf brings. Nature is the ultimate recycler!

Of course there are other effects of the falling of the leaf. They fill your gutters, clog the drains, cover your walkways and landscaping and hide your grass. But hey, that's why we are here! We will keep you apprised as to the diminishing leaf cover and remind you to schedule gutter cleanings and leaf removal. Of course the oaks, white in particular, have a tenacious hold on some of their leaves, usually until spring. Some prefer a second cleaning at that time which is not a bad idea.

## Looking Out For Number 2!

With Old Man Winter approaching and many of your visitations drawing to a close our thoughts turn to your second home. We had a severe storm blow through early this morning accompanied by the weather alert radio going off around 5 am. Thunderstorms, hail and tornados... oh my! There were some trees down hither and yon and leaves aplenty covering the roads. We received a call from a client who reported water was blown in around her windows and doors on her covered deck. This is the time of year to consider protecting your investment. You need to know when leaks have occurred, trees have fallen, driveways have washed out, etc. Security checks are a great way to insure peace of mind that your investment is resting comfortably so you can as well.

The arrival of the *wet* season should signal the need for *dry* inside your home. A dehumidifier is a great investment in this regard! Not only does it help to keep that musty smell at bay but works to starve mold of the moisture it needs to proliferate and sporulate! You will recall the topic of mold being covered in a previous newsletter with discussions of it's deleterious effects on the inside of your home and it's contents. The seemingly endless checking and emptying of the tank can be alleviated by installing the unit in a bathroom and attaching a drain hose draining into the tub or shower.

Complete Home Services is happy to assist you in this matter as well as any other issue with your home.

## November Mountain Events

11/6/2010

**Blacksmith Auction at John C. Campbell Folk School**

One Folk School

Brasstown, NC

**Location:** Community Room, Keith House

**Hours:** 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. - Silent Auction, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. - Live Auction Preview, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

- Live A

**Contact:** John C. Campbell Folk School

**Phone:** 828-837-2775

**Email:** [marketing@mountaintopga.com](mailto:marketing@mountaintopga.com)

**Website:** [www.folkschool.org](http://www.folkschool.org)

**Sponsor:** John C. Campbell Folk School

**Cost:** This event is free and open to the public.

**More Info:** [For additional information](#)

**Description:** The Folk School is home to one of the country's leading artist blacksmith programs. Our annual Blacksmith Auction presents some of the finest artist blacksmith and other fine craft items for sale. Proceeds benefit the craft programs at the Folk School. Join us as Auctioneer Tim Ryan and emcee Jan Davidson, motivate the bidding for special items in a most entertaining way! Handmade craft of all types, including forged metal, fiber, jewelry, wood items, pottery, and more have been donated by friends of the Folk School, and are yours for the bidding!

11/27/2010

**Christmas Parade**

Hiawassee, GA

**Location:** Main Street

**Hours:** 5:30pm

**Contact:** Vicki Edwards-Ellis

**Phone:** 706-896-4444

**Email:** [velli@cs.com](mailto:velli@cs.com)

**Sponsor:** Towns County Sheriff's Office

**Cost:** FREE

**Description:** Parade theme will be "The Stories of Christmas"

11/27/2010

Light up Blue Ridge

Downtown Blue Ridge

Old-fashioned holiday celebration in downtown Blue Ridge. The day starts off with Tuba Christmas on the main stage at 11:00 followed by Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus arriving on the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway at 12:30. Visit with Santa and have photos taken in the gazebo in downtown Blue Ridge City Park free of charge. Live reindeer, children's trackless train rides and much more. The lighting of the "Great Tree" takes place at dusk. Downtown shops will be open late so bring the whole family for a holiday of fun, perfect to start the season off right. For schedule visit [www.lightupblueridge.com](http://www.lightupblueridge.com)

706-889-7415

[Visit web site](#)

## Vittles for Every Season!

In November most people think of Pumpkins and Turkeys. Don't forget winter squash! Winter squash reaches maturity when the thick tough skin becomes hard allowing for winter storage. The squash sweetens with age as the starches turn to sugars. It should be stored in a cool dry place. Winter squash are rich in beta-carotene. One cup provides all the daily requirements of Vitamin A, plus a good dose of Vitamin C and Potassium, and only 82 calories. Of all the winters squashes my favorite is Butternut Squash. Following is a recipe we enjoy, I hope you will give it a try it.

Tropical Winter Squash

- 1 large butternut squash
- 2 T butter
- 2-4 T dark or light brown sugar
- 1 T dark or light rum
- 1 T Milk
- Salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 400°.

Cut squash into quarters. Discard seeds and fibers. Place skin side up in a baking dish with about 1 inch of water.

Bake until tender when pierced, 60-90 minutes depending on size.

Drain off water. Drain off water and allow to cool until able to handle. Scrape flesh from skins into mixing bowl. Add butter, brown sugar, rum and milk. Mash or beat until smooth. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Serves 4-6

## ...a note from Cindy

It seems hard to believe that winter is just around the corner. The weather has been unusually warm and balmy for the north Georgia Mountains. I have heard it said that it is going to be a warm winter (but of course I do not know *who* is making that prediction). Never the less it only takes one hard freeze for those water pipes to burst! PLEASE, if you are leaving put your heat on ant set it at least 50 degrees. Then turn off your water and drain your water lines by opening your lowest water spigot until the water drains out and then turn off. In addition, disconnect any outside water hoses from your spigots.

These few steps can save you thousands of dollars and a lot of aggravation. If your winterization has not been done and you have left for the season let us know and we can take care of it for you.

We hope you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday season!