

GRAMPA'S BROWNS CORNER

BLAB

4-24 PART

Good Morning Campers ! You probably have noticed the new format. Main changes are:

- new designer look logo
- no longer "daily". Too much pressure. I thought about going with "weekly" but same thing. I'll publish whenever I get the urge.
- I will stick with full page format because it lets me post bigger pictures. I use my camera as a notepad for things I want to write about so I end up with lots of pictures. This technique, by the way, was an outgrowth of several home inspections I did for Conrad Brown over 20 years ago. being a paraplegic he could not get up on the roof or down in the basement so I shot a lot of pictures with my 35mm SLR. The girls (Auntie Samantha and Aunt Jenny were girls back then, called the pictures "dad pictures" a term which we all understood to mean pictures of little wide appeal. I had a good relationship with Randy down at the photo lab, who quickly caught on that even if the picture appeared to be all black (taken in a cave or dark crawl space) or all white (white wall with hairline crack) he was to print them anyway. I always (and still do) took care to frame the shot so that the item of interest was dead center. It helped me remember why I had taken the picture. So, Campers, you will e seeing a lot of Dad Pictures which you can call Grampa Picures if you like.
- Distribution will be as before. If you have questions or problems let me know.

Now this issue will continue with TREES of BROWNS CORNER, leading off with the text which appears to have been dropped on the kast page of the original 4-22 BLAB. Curiously the processing of the images seems to have made that last page 18 present as the first. I'll try not to have that happen again. The lost text, which I keyed in at least three times as I struggled with tech malfunctions, said:

Willow Oak

This willow oak is located in the tree line at the north side of the back yard separating our yard from the farm field on the other side of trees. I think it is a second generation descendant of The Big Oak, There what I believe to be a first generation descendant about tenty feet from Zoe Ahaghotu Bridge, halfway between this young tree and The Big Oak. The large tree near Zoe Ahaghotu Bridge appears to be about half the age of The Big Oak and probably sprouted from an acorn dropped by The Big Oak some time around 1895.

These trees are slow growing, By my calculation they grow about five *inches* per year. I have found a few seedlings which I would be happy to share if anyone doesn't mind waiting about a century to have a forty foot tree. Somebody please check my math. Thanks. The offer of a seedling is serious, though.

What kind of tree is this below?




Trick Question! Not a tree at all, but a vine known as Woodbine or Virginia creeper. Spreads rapidly and sometimes chokes out small trees. Woodbine is attractive but really functionally it is an invasive weed.

Mystery Tree

I'm thinking maybe a young mulberry tree. I'll look at it again in a couple of weeks. The sequence here is mostly the order in which I encountered them as I made my way around the perimeter on the tractor.





SWEET GUM - Some years back I thought I had seen an exhibit at the Adkins Arboretum identifying this as a tamarack . I looked up *Tamarack* on line and found that they are a type of *larch* and don't live this far south. Turns out this is a sweet gum tree. We have several around. This handsome tree is the backstop for the Browns Corner Baseball Field. I'm hoping it is far enough from the house that no actual windows will be broken.

Sweet gum trees reproduce prolifically and grow quickly, in many ways similar to maples.

seed pods are spiny little balls reminiscent of sea urchins,





There are lots of vines and thorny things in the woods, Around the edges, as here, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and wild blackberry run wild. In the deeper woods smilax vines are a nuisance and cause a lot of scratches.



White Oak

Upper left those bright green leaves are white oak. It is one of the best and strongest woods native to USA. The frame and bowsprit of my sailboat, Xinker II were made of white oak. I think the name comes from the light color of the wood.



RED OAK

I think it gets its name from the reddish color of the grain, not as strong or tough as white oak, but great to work with nevertheless.

