

Grampa's Browns Corner Blab 2-23-21 Old and News

Good morning, [Campers](#).

Today I will be writing about old things and sharing some fun news. Since I have decided to do a document today and not a video, I'll be focusing on the details of writing. I expect to incorporate elements of Fun With Graphics which means, in my mind, playing with fonts and image manipulation. Actually that's pretty much what **The Blab** has always been about.

In a tribute to my late friend Conrad Brown, who was in his career an artist, an author, and a successful magazine editor, I will start by explaining my arguably improper use of capitalization when I refer to you Campers. This is my own willful choice to use the capitalization to emphasize that I am addressing not just any campers, or maybe some campers, but you, [The Campers](#) of [Browns Corner Camp](#). I use special written construction to emphasize that distinction because you, dear Campers are very special in your own right.

I sat down to write this morning because I saw this interesting little tidbit in the local Eastern Shore newspaper which I view on line.

← → × myeasternshoremmd.com/qa/news/old-wye-mill-releases-tree-ring-study/article_b1c80f6f-d264-5e12-9396-01c22e022662.html

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FEATURED

Old Wye Mill releases tree-ring stu

5 hrs ago 0

WYE MILLS — Old Wye Mill has just released a study by the Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory which dates the historic mill structure to the winter of 1753-1754. The Mill commissioned Oxford to conduct the study as part of a comprehensive upgrade of its visitor experience, funded by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority through the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area. Old Wye Mill is one of Maryland's most remarkable places: the historic grist mill is the oldest continuously operated water-powered mill in America, and Maryland's oldest continuously operating business.

Dendrochronology is the science of dating events or artifacts using the characteristic patterns of annual growth rings in tree trunks. While long-known documentary evidence shows that a mill on the site in Wye Mills has been grinding grain since the 1600s, this study is the first to pinpoint the year that most of the structural timbers in the mill were harvested.

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For the Campers who are interested in science, the reason why this caught my eye should be clear. Tree-ring studies, old trees, always interesting. It appears that the timbers used to build that part of the mill were harvested at around the same time that the Browns Corner Oak sprouted from an acorn. Before the colonies declared independence from England.

This, dear campers, is called a "text box". Part of my Fun With Graphics curriculum. Can you spot another text box in this **Blab**? The purpose of this text box is to separate some content from the rest of the document because it contains different thoughts from the main writing.

If you don't already know, there are three main reasons why I write **The Blab** :

- To make sure you always know that we love you, even though we can't see you much.
- To try to teach you stuff which maybe you are not learning in school.
- Just for the fun of it. (Ok I admit it).

I have always hoped that some of you Campers might take an interest in the process of using a computer to create documents and pictures, maybe even T-shirts or other customized items. I realize that your opportunities to use a computer are limited and may make it hard for you to join in, but when or if you have the desire and computer availability I will be ready to share knowledge and ideas.

In my previous Blab, I wrote about the flowers of winter. Today I'm writing about **the flowers of spring**.

Of course it is not spring yet, but I'm planning ahead. Nana likes to have cheerful hanging baskets and window boxes on the screen porch when the weather gets nice.

Last year I grew flowers from seed in the window boxes with fair success. We usually fill the hanging baskets with little flowering plants which we buy in flats at a store or nursery. This year I have decided to try growing all of our flowers from seed, starting yesterday actually. The hanging pots of impatiens and petunias in the greenhouse which you saw in *The Flowers of Winter* were very encouraging and make me optimistic that I can create beautiful hanging baskets from seed.

(Notice how I used *italics* to distinguish the title of a written document.)

Here are my six hanging baskets. I have planted them with impatiens like the lavender colored ones in the hanging pot at the rear. Also I have planted petunias like the pink and blue ones in the left here. In the middle of each I have planted dwarf marigolds to

provide the contrast of bright yellow.

Each of the hanging baskets is lined underneath with plastic film to help keep the dirt wet between waterings. Right now each one has a clear plastic sheet over the top to keep the moisture from evaporating because these seeds need to be kept moist continually until they sprout.

You can see the little funnels I have installed to be able to water the dirt without moving the plastic sheet or disturbing the seeds.

The plastic sheet looks a little cloudy because there is a mist of condensation on the bottom side. That shows me that the dirt is properly moist



These are the "window boxes" as we call them, though they will spend the summer hanging on the outside of the railing on the screen porch.

I have planted petunias, impatiens, and marigolds in these planter boxes as well and you can see the condensation on the underside of the plastic film here too. In the background you see a pot of impatiens I planted back in the fall to brighten up the greenhouse for the winter.



I hope you will get the same sense of pleasant anticipation of spring that I get when I begin the yearly preparation for spring gardening. We have had two or three weeks of cold and mostly cloudy weather with snow, ice, and rain taking turns. The bright sunshine and warmer weather today is very uplifting.

Now for a couple of pretty cool news items.

Auntie Samantha's Book Release

Auntie Samantha (known to some Campers as Mommy) has revealed that her new book is about to be released. Here is a *screen shot* (fun with graphics) of the Amazon web page.

The screenshot shows the Amazon product page for the book "Working with Worry: A Workbook for Parents on How to Support Anxious Children Paperback" by Melissa L. Kilbride and Samantha C. Sweeney. The page is viewed on a desktop browser. The top navigation bar includes the Amazon logo, delivery location (Centerville 21617), and various account and order links. The main content area features the book cover, title, authors, and pricing options. The paperback version is priced at \$16.95 with Prime. A pre-order section is visible on the right, indicating the book will be released on March 2, 2021, and offering a "Pre-order now" button. The bottom of the page shows a "Show all" link and a "Canceled" message for a download attempt.

This is very exciting for her mom and dad (that would be Nana and I) and I'm sure for her, too. But wait, that's not all!

Samantha has a contract for *another* book which she has already gotten a good start on writing. I don't know the title of that one, but it's pretty exciting nonetheless.

Meanwhile, Nana has been busy as always doing fun and cool things. She was asked to do a video for Centreville Elementary School's virtual/remote learning program:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYUvVMxKk_0&t=7s

Her newest E-newsletter:

https://us17.campaign-archive.com/?e=__test_email__&u=063dc0185f891ea935c0e5952&id=8716f05cc3

Her interview on classical music station WBJC:

<https://www.wbjc.com/tag/carol-franks-randall/>

And last Sunday she served as a facilitator for a group in the Sunday Suppers program, a (now virtual) gathering of people discussing and addressing issues of racism in our area.

https://www.myeasternshoremd.com/qa/community/news/sunday-supper-presents-qa-black-history-trailblazers/article_f69afa30-8726-586f-813e-76143c05569e.html

And to my great good fortune, she continues to be, as Zoe says, "The best cooker on the Eastern Shore".

Hurray for Nana, she's a wonderful girl !

Well, Dear Campers, that's it for today.

Love,

Grampa

