Grampa's Browns Corner
Daily Blab 4-15-20

Hello, Campers.

A very nice day at Browns Corner Camp. Sunny and breezy, kind of cool though. I could not go out to work on marking the perimeter because the ground was just too soggy after record breaking rains.

So I spent most of the day working in the barn and on the driveway. I have been trying to clean and organize my workshop to prepare for some furniture building. While sweeping out the area around my garden tool rack I got distracted and decided to use up some leftover paint to renew some of my tools.

A couple of days ago we had a feature story about "bottom deck bridges" kicked off by Uncle Tim's question:

Uncle Tim asks: "For consideration in future iterations: what if you attach the deck boards to the top of the lower flange, and thus reduce the height/thickness of the assembly and also have built-in guard rails in the process?"

Today we will revisit that discussion because Nana found Tim's question hard to understand and maybe others did too. And besides, we have new graphics available.

Browns Corner University Structures 1.01

Browns Corner University Structures 1.01 Today's lesson has to do with compression buckling failure of girders in **bottom deck bridges**. (What Uncle Tim was asking about)

The picture is a staged image of what the bridge might look like if I built it the wrong way as a bottom deck bridge.

Notice the extreme deflection of the two deck boards under the tires. That is with nothing in the loader. Another reason to use a top mounted deck with the girders directly beneath the tire path. The boards in the picture might actually break if the loader were full of dirt or rocks.

These pictures are available because I have not yet assembled Bridge #4, Theodore Bridge.

Due to the difficulty of trying to transport a longer and heavier bridge assembly over a rough trail through the woods, I have decided to prepare all the pieces in the driveway but the carry them into the woods with the tractor and assemble them in place. Later.

FROM OUR READERS

Cousin Sally, whose upcoming 90th birthday party is seriously in question, sent this very validating comment:

My ancient software works pretty well with all your ancient software apparently –

Thanks, Sally.

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Just for yuccas....

Aunt Binky sends:

I'm famous! Sadly my fame is based on my "complaining" about the yucca I planted several years ago.

Here is my problem: the two yucca I was given have done too well. And they are confined by concrete on all sides.
So I asked what to do with them.

If I had acres of land, I could spread them out. If I had a trench digger.
Meanwhile leaves from nearby trees fall into the yucca and are nearly impossible to extricate. Campers, do you know what extricate means? Look it up in your Funk & Wagnall's!!!!

Grampa's suggestion: **Get a blowtorch**.

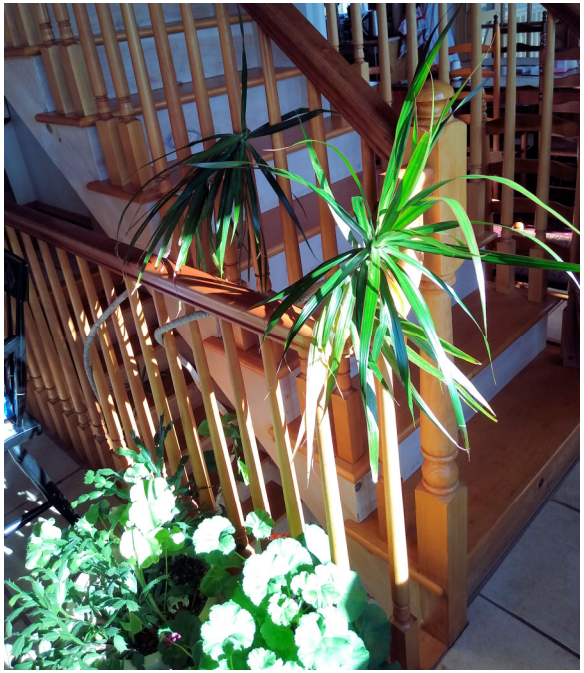
Our Solar Science Corner

A few days ago I showed you some pictures of sunlight patterns on the wall of the living room in the morning and shadows on the side yard by Browns Corner Park. Cousin Sally was the only one to pick up on the significance that these were evidence of the changing position of the sun in the sky during the annual progression from winter to summer. Today I

have a picture which can not be replicated until 134 days have passed starting today. Come on Campers, when will that be?

Why must we wait 134 days?

Because the picture shows (if you look really close) a sliver of sunlight on the edge of the carpet. That is the last time that any direct sunlight will fall on the carpet or floor until almost the end of August. The shadow of the edge of the roof overhang will prevent direct sunlight from entering all summer. Cool.



But back in January, lots of wonderful sunshine was streaming in, making the house warm. Passive solar heating.

Well, Campers, that's it for now. -
TOG