

Peach Cobblair

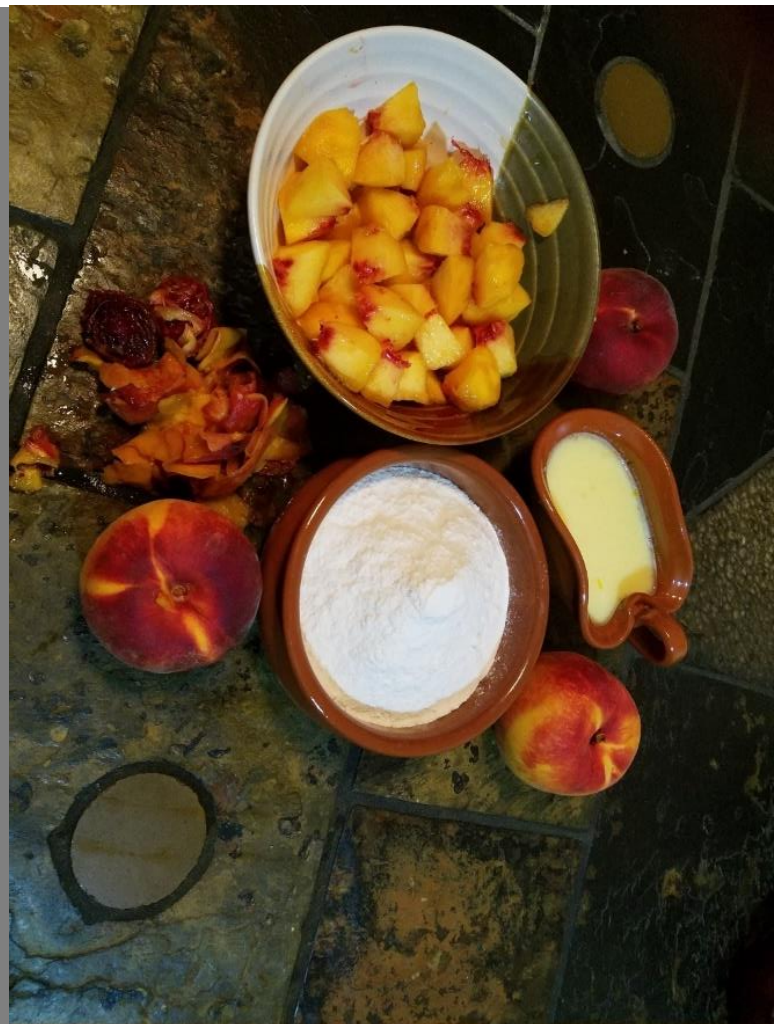


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WINTER 2021

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- Arts and Crafts
- Repair and Recovery
- Volunteers and Visitors
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Throwback Titbits: *Winter 2018*

We continued working on building up the garden area and picked up the black fencing and the pebbles for the garden. Loading and then unloading all those pebbles was a lot of work and I doubt we will do that again since the time spent is not worth it. Between that and moving concrete edgers and bringing down logs from the forest area, we had done some heavy work for building the garden. We have fond memories of visiting a coffee shop in New Brunswick called 'Beans in the Belfry' when we picked up the garden fencing. That winter was when we also attended the beautiful Annapolis Lighted Boat Parade and the Christmas display at the DC Botanical garden. The beautiful front window of the test house was also purchased from a lady in the historic part of Hagerstown.

We had also purchased the canopy frame for storing the straw bales and set it up next to the well with pallets serving as the flooring. It is a different matter that we never used it and tore it down when Paul came to clear the land. That December was when Girija had messed up her sciatic nerve in the process of throwing up. That winter was snowy and very cold, and we could not do much work on the land. But we did pick up a lot of materials from Craigslist including storage boxes and almost 500 bricks from Frederick! Girija headed to India for a long trip and family wedding from Feb 4th to Feb 27th. Alan managed to buy fabric and fix up the swing during her absence.



Construction Corner

We spent a few weekends between Alan's business trips assembling all the trusses. We also lopped off the tops of some of the verticals that were sticking out and are now able to throw the tarp over the straw bale wall easily.

Later in January and February we managed to hoist all the trusses onto the roof and cover the whole house with a tarp. If you find this interesting, read our blog posts for January and February to watch hyper lapse videos of the whole process.





Errors and Omissions

Late in December after a fairly heavy snowfall, one half of the cob wall collapsed. The frame for the roof had also come off with the arch; but they were still in one piece and can be reused. The half that was attached to the test house wall was intact – that connection was probably giving it more stability. Also, the half which collapsed was tilted slightly and that was probably why it fell. We do not think there is a problem with the cob mix. Since the broken wall is on a slope, we need to rebuild the stem wall properly before rebuilding. The fallen cob can be remixed with more straw and used again.





Arts and Crafts

With Alan gone to California and enough snow on the ground, Girija decided to refine the bees wax blocks that we had obtained from the auction. This involved melting the blocks with water in a slow cooker. A cheese cloth is placed within the cooker into which the block of wax is placed. This allows all the dirt to get filtered. Once the wax is melted, removing the cheesecloth removes all the impurities. This is allowed to cool and the water allows the wax to float to the top. The pot is warmed up to loosen the block of wax from the walls of the cooker and then removed. The entire wax was processed this way over several days. Girija then made homemade play dough using flour and salt and built a fairy house using an empty bean can as a form. This was baked, colored using acrylic and then coated with polyurethane. She also made a small deer-bowl. The plan is to place these fairy houses around the areas where we have planted ginseng once we figure out how to protect it from the elements.





Repair and Recovery

Just a day after Alan went to California, a neighbor contacted us late one evening to report a downed tree. Fortunately, it did not fall on anyone or anything; but it was blocking the access road leading up to our neighbors on one side of the land. That resulted in a quick search on Angie's list and recommendations from the neighbors for a local arborist who could clear the wood. Two of the neighbors were nice enough to bring out their chain saws and do some emergency clearing and one of them took away some of the wood. We managed to hire a professional company to come out the next day to break up the large pieces and dump it inside the corner of our land. We let the utilities know about a couple of trees that the forestry officer suggested we take down. Whilst chatting with the utility workers, we found out that the responsibility of clearing a tree falls on the person on whose land it falls on. Unless of course, we already know that a tree is in bad shape; then it is our responsibility to take it down.

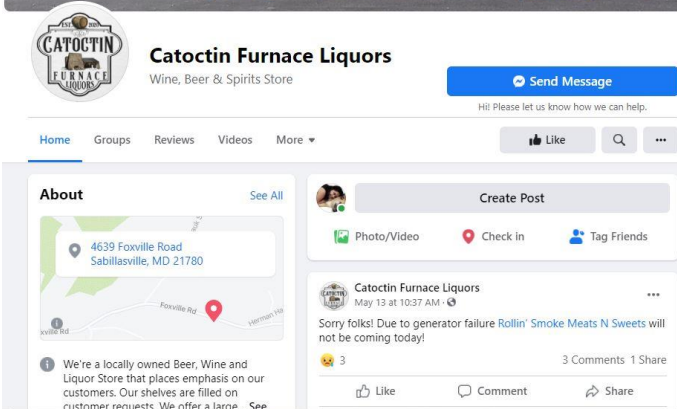




Volunteers and Visitors

A local police officer stopped by a few days after the utility company took some trees down. He asked if he could take some of the wood from the downed trees – which we were OK with. We ended up chatting with him about his work and kids. Incidentally, he worked in the area where we lived. We completely forgot to take his contact number!

Our neighbor dropped by and told us about a new local liquor store which was just an 8-minute walk from our land. It is called Catoctin Furnace Liquors and has food trucks stopping by most days of the week. We managed to try some, and they were pretty good. The owners have 2 dogs in the store and are slowly adding more products like hot coffee and a limited selection of bottled gourmet food. They are fixing up their backyard and plan on having food and music nights once they get a license to serve alcohol and the economy opens up.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
						11am-6pm Rollin' Smoke Meats & Sweets	
2	11am-6pm The Lucky Truck	3	4	5	6	7	8
		11am-6pm The Sauced Savage BBQ		11am-6pm The *NEW Flavor of Maryland	11am-6pm Rollin' Smoke Meats & Sweets		11am-6pm Coco's Grill
9		10	11	12	13	14	15
		11am-6pm The Sauced Savage BBQ	11am-7pm The Blue's Pizza Co.	11am-6pm Rollin' Smoke Meats & Sweets	11am-6pm Coco's Grill		11am-6pm The Sauced Savage BBQ
16		17	18	19	20	21	22
		11am-6pm The Sauced Savage BBQ	11am-6pm Coco's Grill		11am-6pm Rollin' Smoke Meats & Sweets	11am-6pm Rollin' Smoke Meats & Sweets	11am-6pm Coco's Grill
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
	11am-6pm The Lucky Truck	11am-6pm The Sauced Savage BBQ	11am-7pm The Blue's Pizza Co.	11am-6pm Rollin' Smoke Meats & Sweets	11am-6pm The Flavor of Maryland		
30		31					

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Backup / Restore | Migrate / Clone | Settings | Advanced Tools | Premium / Extensions

Next scheduled backups:

Files: Fri, May 21, 2021 00:52 [time now] Mon, May 17, 2021 12:14	Database: Fri, May 21, 2021 00:52	Backup Now <small>Add changed files (incremental backup)...</small>
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Last log message:

The backup apparently succeeded and is now complete (Apr 21 00:54:25)

Existing backups 2

Web-server disk space in use by UpdraftPlus: 125 MB [refresh](#)
More tasks: [Upload backup files](#) | [Rescan local folder for new backup sets](#) | [Rescan remote storage](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Backup date	Backup data (click to download)	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apr 21, 2021 0:52	Database Plugins Themes Uploads Others	Restore Delete View Log
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mar 22, 2021 0:52	Database Plugins Themes Uploads Others	Restore Delete View Log



Tracking with Tech

Girija did some housecleaning work to save and backup all our documentation and recording. She found out that Sway allows us to export to WORD and PDF documents in which the videos are embedded. She has also backed up the website; backed up the YouTube videos and setup the website for incremental backups every 2 weeks using a plugin called Updraft.

Alan has started interacting with people on twitter which has increased the number of followers. Nothing significant; but just a start in the process of connecting with like-minded individuals.

Also, the 2021 Calendar is HERE!!!!