

Peach Cobbler

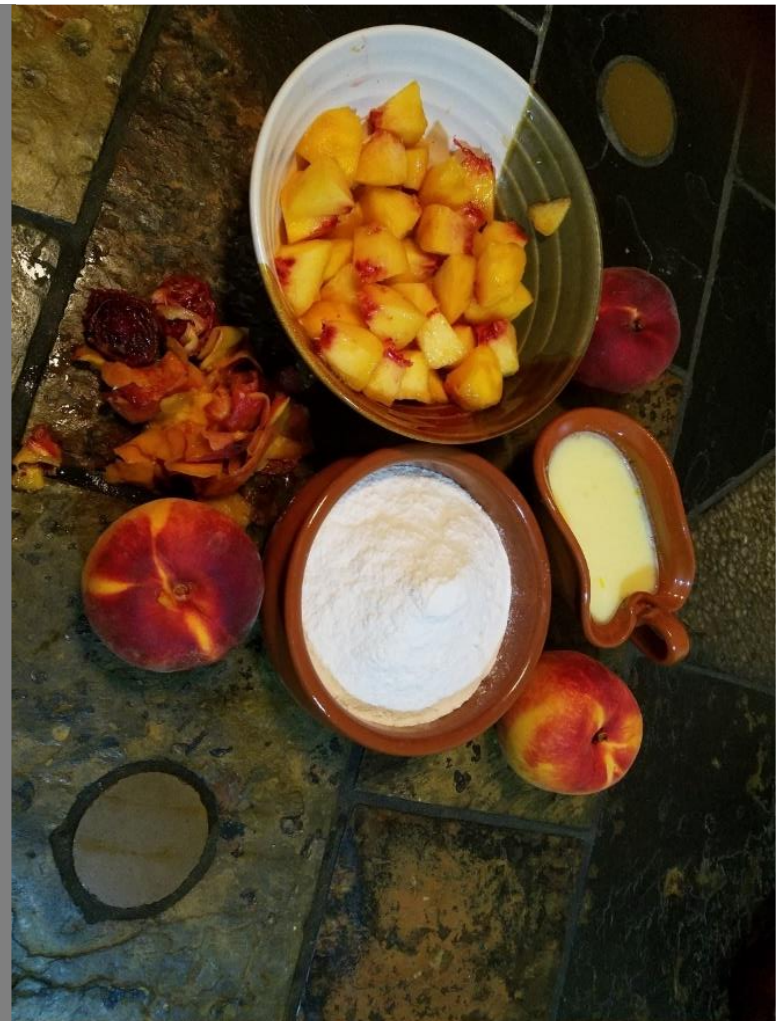


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SPRING 2021

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Throwback Titbits: Spring 2018

Alan picked up a second lot of bricks from Frederick since Girija was on a trip to India. He also finished fixing up the swing with new fabric that he procured from Amazon. We attended Rooting DC on March 3rd and listened to interesting sessions on Backyard basics, garden maintenance, pest management, seed saving. Organic pesticides and drip irrigation. Fortunately, we jotted down some notes for further research. It was too cold to work in March and heavy winds had caused damage to our storage tarp; which needed to be laid out again. The snow melted off in April and we laid out most of the remaining garden including the railings, wooden fence, central arbor, side gates and brick circle. We picked up rail ties from the couple in Thurmont and a lot of wood from a woodworker who was leaving town along with concrete pavers and a cast iron garden set. Patches went chasing after a neighbor who was walking her dog in front of the land. That pushed us to design a solar AC operated electric fence. We made the mistake of taking the wire and plastic encasing to the land; all of which collapsed in a big mess and had to be brought back home. We discovered J&R mulch and registered online with [gracetreeservices](http://gracetreeservices.com) for free mulch/logs. We bought our first beehive and got asphalt delivered and did some digging and laying out of the asphalt for our drive. Much to our delight, a peach and an apricot tree flowered that year giving us hopes that the fruit trees could have survived their first winter.



wasive plant medicine book
 alk concentrated on marshmallows
 alk concentrated weed - plantain
 wasive plant - mimosa
 wasive plant grow well in DC Summers
 rock if funnel is the yellow plants we saw
 rban garden department - Doug newsletter monthly
 art planting on mother's day if newbie
 over eye in winter for soil
 shade cloth for brasses sprouts, cabbage
 ed exposure and Johnny's have potato mix
 cucumber beetles attracted to yellow color
 arrots love tomatoes is a classic book. Also fruit trees and grain
 round hogs stay away small animals
 maranth trap crop for cucumber beetles but weed
 us / legumes with corn nitrogen feeder
 alinal flower vases and peas, beans vines
 ye leaves squash, cucumber shade. Keeps moisture prevent weeds
 tan marigolds deter bugs
 it family, basil, thyme, oregano deter pests like white flies
 3 sisters are corn, beans, squash
 nuts are fun to grow
 pots and onions
 they gets along with many
 up and away deep root and cucumbers criss shallow
 nates, garlic, basil, marigolds
 es and hot peppers
 n and bush beans
 wherry and horage beautiful self seed reinforce calcium in soil
 purple attracts pollinators
 mes don't work with onion garlic
 nato pepper eggplants are nightshade and can grow together
 utros can get a blight fungus that can affect the above
 ght is transmitted through soil or touching leaves
 orts loosen and aerate soil

Peas like cool. Peanuts and beans like hot
 Corn is a heavy feeder off soil
 Pipe between 2 arbors
 Roots legumes don't like being moved
 Leaves, fruits, roots, legumes order of rotation
 Cassia good at succession gardening
 Cover crop is planted around August sometimes sep
 Many Massachusetts tests lead arsenic
 UDC tests soil

Sweet potato - a rhizome?
 Sun gold tomatoes
 Citra grows fast
 Drip irrigation classes
 Straw for mulching
 Don't use wood chips
 Landscape company
 Use surround powder from edible landscaping for
 fruit trees
 Ask herb for pests, Epom salts
 PVC can leach
 Use Al conduit from HD using benders
 Use rebar
 Garlic on outside rim for pests, white crimson clove
 cover crop
 Laser sensor water spurt for deer
 Hot pepper and garlic and castile spray weekly
 Squirrel eggs killed by fungus
 Kathy ferns from Washington gardener does mamm
 course
 Put water out for squirrel add mosquito dunk larv
 killer
 Harbor cloth down or hardware?
 Forestal PG county
 Slates at Prandouts-2/
 Tomatoes and carrots. Small carrot deters tomato
 bugs



Throwback Titbits cont....





Construction Corner

We finally finished laying out and nailing the OSB boards onto the roof trusses. We still need to nail a bit in one corner; but that can wait for now. We tried using a chicken hook ladder for roofing; but returned it to Home Depot since our roof is not steep enough to allow it to hook over. We have decided to put a temporary ridge using wood at the base of the roof on which we can place a regular ladder for further work. After a lot of discussions, we went ahead and installed the closing wall's verticals since we need to build the closing stem wall and start building the wall corner to strengthen the long cob and straw bale walls. This meant we had to finish flattening the floors completely and put down gravel first. Not having the verticals in the way meant that we could unload the gravel inside the house using the backhoe. We also measured multiple times and finalized on the bed post location. We dug a hole for the post and put in a bucket as a placeholder since we don't want the post to get in the way of moving ladders inside the house. We also bought a starter kit from the Purple Martin Conservation Society consisting of 6 gourds and installed it – a bit late in the season; but the males sometimes come around to check out the nests for the next nesting season.



Construction Corner cont...





Horticultural Haven

As usual Spring is the time for maximum garden work. Between seeds and samplings that we purchased on Nextdoor, we planted tomatoes, chillies, cilantro, lemon balm, watermelon, cucumber, sugar snap peas, eggplant, colored peppers and artichokes. We also put down a grape plant and couple of blackberries that we got from Aldis. The berries were planted along the testhouse rear path. We also obtained a big lot of Jerusalem artichokes from NextDoor and planted an area just outside the vegetable garden. Unfortunately we never got around to putting down manure and mulch for the fruit trees; though we have picked up brown and red mulch and horse manure. This time around we picked up horse manure from a stable in Silver Spring and the quality was great. Girija did a great amount of weeding for the garden spiral. We put down some mulch on the garden and plan to keep doing some garden work every week. We also put down salt along the spiral paths and sprayed fungicide on the fruit trees. We are seeing cherries on the only cherry tree that has survived and the clematis that Alan planted in the garden has managed to survive and so has a grape plant that we had obtained from a neighbor last year. A lone tulip has sprung up and the rock garden is doing very well. We purchased trees from the state nursery – 25 each of red bud, eastern oak, persimmon and pawpaw. We cleared 4 areas in the forest to plant them, labeled each of them and put down the invisible fishing lines as protection from the deer.

We reserved 2 persimmons and 2 pawpaws for the test house path and hope these serve as reference plants. The pawpaw and red buds have started putting out leaves already! Alan managed to purchase another bee colony from a police officer in town; who also spent time dispensing free advice to Alan.



Horticultural Haven cont....



Horticultural Haven cont...





Repair and Recovery

We did a lot of cleanup in preparation for Paul to come to our land and clear the building lots. We managed to load the truck up with a lot of garbage (twice over) and take it to the landfill. Even though the 2 surviving plum trees are loaded with little plums, we were forced to take one down completely and trim the other one heavily due to black knot fungus. We consulted with the county extension about this and unfortunately we had no other option; else it would continue to spread to other pitted fruit trees. We have noticed a huge number of large black ants in the test house area climbing up and down the verticals. They don't seem to be termites. We are checking with the county if they are carpenter ants. Either way; we will be leaving borax to kill the colony as soon as possible. The electric fence got cut in a couple of places while we were doing some grass cutting. Also, it had become a bit loose in places. So Alan managed to tighten all that up and also extended the fence to surround the veggie garden completely. That seems to limit the amount of deer that get into the garden. The solar charger is also not working. We got a new battery for it and brought the panel and electronics home to test and fix it.





Volunteers and Visitors

We reached out to the guy who had cleared our land at the time of the well dig. He turned out to be very responsive and knowledgeable. He came to the land in April and cleared the main house area, septic area, mulching area and cookout area. He also moved the remaining sand from the garden front to the mixing area. He put down more of the asphalt millings and smoothed out our access road. He also flattened out near the berry bushes, the site for the garden shed and in front of the storage sheds leading up to the green trail. We had a little furry visitor in the storage shed and Alan took out the mouse test from there. We also found an eastern garter snake whilst we were cleaning up some leftover rotting OSB board pieces.



Volunteers and Visitors cont....





Secondhand Scrounging

Someone was throwing away a garden table and chair set. So we brought it and put it down next to the test house because we are going to need a nice place to work and eat once we start living in the test house. We haven't really been looking for used materials lately because we now need to concentrate on the building work and have a good stash of materials to work with.





Tracking with Tech

Girija has been too busy to work on some much needed features for the website. The only work we did for tracking was purchasing thin metal strips to tag the forestry trees that we planted. Even though the forest officer didn't ask us to do it, we are hoping to track how many of our bare root trees survive the planting.

