

Notes to Consider...

Woodcraft: Fire (Storm Candles)

By G.S. Morris — 22 October 2018



"You've never seen hungry until you've torn apart the foil of an Army Meal Ready to Eat (MRE), Pork Patty and sucked the cold fat and grizzle from the package's seams."

SGT Mike Menster, 3rd Ranger Battalion
75th Ranger Regiment, Ft. Benning, GA ca. 1997

I'll wrap up this month's woodcraft pieces on fire starting with the oft overlooked storm candle. Particularly, I would offer homemade beef or pork tallow storm candles for your kit as they are economical to produce, and in a long-term emergency may be consumed as their construction is of pure, rendered beef or pork fat (tallow).

Suggestions for producing one's own tallow storm candles are available online. Briefly, some sort of form (shot glasses seem to be popular) may be filled with your beef or pork tallow which was rendered in a cast iron pot, along with about a cup of water over medium to low heat for a period of about four hours to completely liquify the collected beef or pork fat. Strain and pour into a mold with a cotton constructed wick weighted to center the candle's flame.

With a storm candle, one may re-light a stubborn to start fire, or simply as a means of holding off hopelessness (a very real threat in a survival situation). I would be remiss, and push dangerously close to insulting my readers' intelligence if I didn't point out how important it would be to carefully store one's tallow storm candles in their kit. Stinky grease coating what are already trying circumstances is not a motivation enhancer. Plan accordingly.

Next Week: Man-at-Arms

Shane Morris is a retired soldier and teacher. You may contact him at sigm11@yahoo.com

Inspirational Thoughts Into God's Word

By Lynetta Hunter

An excuse solves any problem, well, abstractly thinking anyway, but not realistically. In reality, God has advice for every problem.

For someone who likes to figure out problems in life, disappointment often happens. Human understanding is sometimes not enough to figure out all things. (Pro. 3:5,6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths).

Almost everyone can honestly say 'I'm too tired' when it comes to doing something that needs to be done, whether it's for family, God, or self. Unhealthy diets, stressful success, and too many worldly worries all attribute to this, but still doesn't make it a good enough excuse when Jesus gave this solution, (Mt. 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.) Even though Jesus is talking about rest for the soul here, the soul coincides to mind and body (1 Thess. 5:23).

The excuse of something being impossible is thrown out by (Lk. 18:27 and Mt. 19:26), which say nothing is impossible with God. Feeling unloved is taken care of in (John 3:16). 'I'm not able to do that' is not true according to (Eph. 3:20). Some things seem to take more strength than what we have, but (Phi. 4:13) covers that excuse and has the answer for weakness.

Yards to Paradise Landscaping Fall Landscaping Anyone?

By Max Phelps

Sunny days and crisp nights entice any number of us outdoors more. The heat of summer is gone for another year. And though there might be some teasings of winter, it's autumn, and a lovely season that we can enjoy without air conditioning, or without ice melt and a snow shovel.

Evenings with a bit of chill means lighting the firepit, the chiminea or the outdoor fireplace. Even a bonfire, if you're careful not to let the fire become a wildfire or brushfire. All the better if you have family to share the occasion with, but an evening for two can be special. And even alone you can enjoy a fire and some time away from the television and the phone.

Time in your yard will, sooner or later, produce some daydreams and perhaps ideas for a project or two.

Since fall landscaping is what our topic is this week, let's see if we can come up with a fresh idea or two, and also some things to do before putting the year to bed for the winter.

When that grass finally slows down, maybe the final mowing has just happened or will soon, how would that flowering or shrub bed look with some brand new edging or curbing, and a coat of fresh mulch for the winter? (And sometimes a little raking can make old mulch look new, if you want to try that.)

The sounds of running water carry louder and farther in chilly, dry air. And from the rocky river to the little gully running full in a rainstorm, flowing water sounds nice. The fountain or bubbling rock in the next yard over from yours may get your attention. If you've ever dreamed of getting a waterfall or cute pond, the off season may be the perfect time to go for it. (Every reputable landscaping company is super busy in the spring—but maybe they can get to a new project right away in the off season.)

Fall is often the driest of the seasons. This means hardscape projects can often be completed just as well in fall as any other time of the year, perhaps better. And since days are shorter, the air cooler, but the ground still quite warm; trees and shrubs and grass can be installed in fall with excellent results. Unless you have poorly draining soil, fall is often better than spring for transplanting trees. Plus, with the leaves falling and things going dormant, that newly planted tree doesn't need watering like it would planted in spring or summer.

Fall is for looking forward to spring as well. When the neighbors have lovely daffodils and crocus coming through the snow, or beds of lovely tulips, it isn't possible to run to the market and have blooms like the Johnsons next door. Spring bulbs planted in fall is what yields that lovely bed of blooms you look at longingly as the warm days, and perhaps the migratory birds, return after a long winter.

And the clear comfortable evenings really can be a super time to clear our minds from a busy life, the phone and the tv. The full moon, or a little outdoor lighting, can enable you to navigate just fine outside after dusk.

Isn't that the time to enjoy that firepit or chiminea, anyhow?

Take an evening off from the news or your usual show on the tube, and find out once again how nice it can be outdoors this time of year. Add a flannel shirt or a sweater or make a date with your fire ring and reconnect with a bit of nature. The world, at least yours, will be a better place for a little while I trust.

The author is a landscaper. Comments and ideas always welcome. rockcastles@gmail.com

Public invited to give input on state foster care system at regional forum Oct. 26 in Somerset

FRANKFORT, Ky., Oct. 22, 2018 – The public is invited to a regional community forum Friday, Oct. 26, in Somerset to discuss improving outcomes for Kentucky children and families involved in the state foster care system. Citizen Foster Care Review Boards in the region are hosting the forum. The forum will take place from 12:30-1:45 p.m. ET in the community room of the Pulaski County School District Central Office at 925 N. Main St.

CFCRBs are hosting seven regional community forums across the state between August and October. The forums are among the reforms called for in House Bill 1, legislation passed in 2018 to address issues with foster care and adoption.

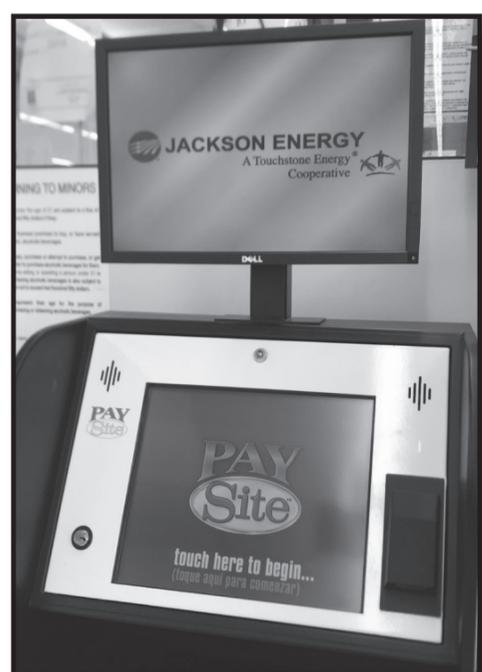
Findings from the forums will be reported to the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board and will be included in the board's annual recommendations to the Supreme Court, governor and legislature.

Due to confidentiality, specific case information will not be discussed at the forums.

For more information about CFCRBs and the forums, visit <http://courts.ky.gov/courtprograms/cfcrb/Pages/default.aspx>.

Work, ball practice, grocery store

And if you were going to stop by our office but didn't make it...



Pay at a local kiosk

Jackson Energy members can pay their electric bill at payment kiosks conveniently located at

- Peg's Food Mart, Mt. Vernon
- E.C. Porter's IGA, London
- Quickie Market, Manchester
- Jack's IGA, Beattyville
- Price Less Foods, Irvine

www.jacksonenergy.com • 1.800.262.7480

Jackson Energy

Working for You

Vote to Re-elect John Tompkins as Mayor of McKee.



I have been honored to have served as your mayor for the past eight years. We have come a long way, but I feel that we still have a ways to go. I would like to ask for you to let me continue to fight for our community. I would really appreciate your vote on November 6th.

Paid for by John Tompkins.