

Notes to Consider...

Woodcraft: Signalling (Mirrors)
By G.S. Morris — 25 February 2019



Another invaluable piece of non-electronic signalling kit you may easily keep on your person is the Adventure Medical Kits Rescue Flash Signal Mirror. At 3"x2", the device can be easily kept inside one of your wallet's credit card slots.

Were one to find themselves in need of rescue in a vast wilderness sort of setting (adrift on a large body of water, on a Western big game hunt, etc.) the ability to signal search aircraft will be essential to your survival. Along with its convenient size, the Lexan constructed mirror from Adventure Medical has clear instructions printed

right on the back.

In use, the Adventure Medical mirror provides an easy to use aiming device. As an alternative, any reflective surface (smartphone screen, music CD, etc.) may be used to signal. To successfully flash your intended target using a field expedient, hold your reflective surface next to one eye; extend your other arm and form a "peace" sign with your fore and middle fingers, serving as a "sight" you then place on a passing plane, group of rescuers etc.; then manipulate the sun's reflection along your arm till the light is projecting between your finger "sights" covering your intended target. Move your signal mirror up and down to produce three quick flashes, and repeat the signal pattern continuously.

As with any piece of kit, get out with family members and friends to make sure everyone in the group is able to successfully put the piece of kit into action prior to its real world need. To put into perspective just how important this handy piece of rescue kit is to have along, the flash from a signal mirror may be seen from a distance as great as twenty miles. Put one in your wallet ASAP.

Next Week: IR & Chemlights

It is with a heavy heart we said goodbye this week to DAV Ch. 165 Member Paul Trent. Till we meet again at Fiddler's Green.

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To The Citizens of Jackson County

Only haulers that are permitted by the Jackson County Fiscal Court may haul trash within the borders of Jackson County. Currently, there are three (3) registered permitted haulers that may operate in Jackson County. Those haulers are as follows: Davidson Garbage, Waste Connections and Woods Sanitation. These haulers are assigned a designated route and must stay inside their perspective areas. Haulers cannot service customers out of their permitted areas. This was implemented several years ago to address the confusion and to provide the best service possible for all citizens of Jackson County.

Jackson County has some of the lowest trash disposal rates for counties in Kentucky without a landfill within their borders. The Jackson County Fiscal Court along with the Jackson County Transfer Station work hard to keep these rates as low as possible for all the citizens of Jackson County.

If you have a problem or a question pertaining to your hauler or about trash disposal, please call the Jackson County Transfer Station at (606)287-7688.

Inspirational Thoughts Into God's Word

By Lynetta Hunter

In the Old Testament, the Leviticus Law was part of their justice system. It made their punishments equal, their wrongs undebatable, and Gods judgement fair. God commanded that they civilly do the same; seek justice for each other, make a fair judgment, pay the necessary dues, then move on with life.

Passing judgment, without first seeking justice, is quick and easy. Final judgement says, "Your wrongdoing has stopped you from moving on and changing, you will always be this way, stuck in the crime with no way to be forgiven". Justice says, "Let's find a way for your wrong to be made right, for a fair punishment to lead you to freedom, so forgiveness can set you free to change and you can move on with your life."

Justice can't be served without forgiveness being applied, whether it's a relationship with God, rivalry between people, or an assessment of one's self. To judge is to come to a conclusion, it finalizes without further ado. Judgment stops the process of forgiveness and healing, the chance of someone changing for the better, and leaves the person in a pool of guilt, shame, and pain.

To seek justice means to get involved, find the truth, discover an answer, find a solution, and follow through with making the wrong right. In every situation, Jesus is the fundamental way for any wrong to be made right, justice to be served, and life to continue by His justification and forgiveness.

Yards to Paradise

Grafting and Propagation of Woody Plants

By Max Phelps

Flowers are often bought in flats or pots from a nursery or garden center, and vegetables are often obtained by buying seeds and planting them. But if you have a pear tree or a beech tree or an azalea bush that is unique or is no longer sold by the merchants or big box stores, then what do you do if you want more of that plant that you adore? That plant that was passed down from your grandparents? This won't be a complete discussion of the subject by any means, but there are other ways of reproducing plants besides buying seeds or plants at a store.

Grafting is where you take a piece of a limb of the previous season's growth of a tree you want another of, and carefully join it to a rootstock of another tree. The stick of wood is referred to as scionwood. The rootstock can be an existing tree, a seedling tree, or even a dug-up piece of a root from an existing tree in some cases. You can't join a walnut tree to the root of a maple; it won't work. But, you can graft a pecan or hickory to a walnut, generally, as they are related trees. You can join a favorite apple to a crabapple or seedling (or a 'rootstock' ordered just for that purpose).

Generally, grafting is done by collecting dormant scions in middle of winter and refrigerating them until you are ready to graft in the spring. There are several grafting techniques, not just one method that works. I will suggest an internet search, a Youtube video, or an encyclopedia for further instructions. The local County Agent may have pamphlets on the subject, too.

Budding is another type of grafting. In the summer semi-mature wood is collected from the desired tree you want to reproduce. Then a tiny bud with a little adjoining bark and wood is cut off. A notch is made in an existing tree, and the little bud slipped into place.

Both budding and grafting require some tape and/or some wax to keep air and water out of the wounded area until it calouses and begins to grow. When budding is done, the next spring, the existing tree is cut back to the point where you got your inserted bud to live. (The bud will darken if it has died and not been successful, and you may have to try more than once.) For either budding or grafting to work, the cambium, the inner bark, must align with both pieces of tree or shrub you are joining.

I've grafted quite a few apple trees, a few cherries, and a little of other plants. Anyone having an old heirloom apple and you're afraid it will die, collecting dormant scions or summer buds are the way to see that the old lives on in a new tree.

Plant dividing is another method of propagating some kinds of plants. This could be simply digging up a root sprout that has come up out from the existing plant and replanting it somewhere, to literally taking a shovel or mattock and prying apart a lilac or blueberry and creating more than one from the clump. Then replanting each portion to create it's own plant.

Cuttings is another way of reproducing many types of plants. You take a piece of limb from a juniper—a twig of recent growth—and plant it in sand and peat or some other suitable soil and don't let it dry out. Everything from hollies to burning bushes to currants to rhododendrons can be propagated this way. (Be forewarned, not every twig you cut and stick in the ground will actually live and grow, even large nurseries that reproduce plants to sell don't have 100% success every time.) A piece of root in some cases will also work.

Layering is another way to get more plants like the original for some things. Maybe it's an azalea, maybe a witchhazel bush. You pick a low growing limb, scratch the bark on the bottom side, lay the limb on the ground or bury it slightly, and pin it down with dirt, a stone, or wire, or whatever. In time, roots will grow where the scrape was made. Next winter, or a couple years later, you can clip off this limb from the mother plant and carefully dig and transplant it as a new plant.

Air layering is another trick, but I'll not try to describe it here.

Then, there are seeds. Some trees like the typical oak tree, you can just plant the acorns, and the trees that grow from them will be plenty close enough to suit your purposes. But, if there is a really special maple, walnut, dogwood, or whatever the plant you want to create more just exactly like the original, then collecting and planting seeds will not get you that exceptional tree you have and are so excited to have another just like it.

We've been talking how to make babies here without sex. It's called "a-sexual reproduction" or "cloning". Sexual reproduction is harvesting seeds and planting them. Both will produce nice baby trees. But only the cloning will get you an exact one as pretty or as special as the parent or original tree. Planting seeds results in variations, just like when a couple have several children they don't all look alike. So it is when you plant a seed of a maple tree, you'll get a maple tree, but it won't be exactly like the parents.

Cloning via tissue cultures in a laboratory test tube does produce an exact copy, also. I've never done it, but some large nurseries that want a million new strawberry plants or a hundred thousand just like a patented helleborus, will create those new plants in a test tube and then grow them in a greenhouse before putting them in the field or in nursery pots for sale. These are all ways to propagate, that is create new, flowers, shrubs and trees that are identical to the one you want to make more of.

The author is a landscaper. Contact Max via rockcastles@gmail.com or www.rockcastles.net