

Reader Letters



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My homemade firewood shuttle works great for moving small amounts of firewood from my log splitter to different areas of our home. The large metal wheels move over rough terrain with ease. When used in the horizontal position as shown, minimal bending is required. I'm willing to build it for others. The price is \$210.



A branch cutter mounted on top of my tree chipper-shredder downsizes big branches to speed up the shredding process. The bolt-on bracket and branch cutter sells for \$70 plus S&H. (Dan Jacobson, 8913 Weaver Lake Dr., Pequot Lakes, Minn. 56472 ph 218 543-6623)

I made these old fashioned metal "Hames chairs" for our neighbors who use them every day in their farm home. Hames form the legs of the chairs. I used three of them in all. The mild steel seat is off an old hay rake and was badly rusted. I welded a 3/16-in. thick, 4-in. dia. steel plate to the bottom of the seat, then welded the hames to the plate.

To secure the hames to each other and keep them from spreading, I used 3/16-



in. thick mild steel plate gussets, located about 3 in. under the seat. To stop the two front legs from spreading I used 3/8-in. dia. rod tack welded to the hames about 4 in. from the bottom. My neighbor is 6 ft. 6 in. and weighs 240 lbs., but the chairs don't even flex under his weight. They're extremely comfortable. (Wally Bunt, Rt. 7, Hwy. 61 4093, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada P7C 5V5 ph 807 475-9161)

I make ornamental scorpions, frogs, and miniature bicycles out of copper wire. They really look neat. I start with



a bundle of 16 wires and bend them

around and twist them together. An old Mexican man showed me how to do this. I get the copper wire from a friend who uses it in his shop to rewind electric motors. The wire has an acrylic coating on it which makes it shiny. Occasionally I also use aluminum wire. The scorpions measure anywhere from 4 to 9 in. long, depending on what size wire I have available. Sometimes I even braid beads into the wire. (Wes Nichols, 2189 40th Road, Copeland, Kansas 67837 ph 620 668-5276)

The rear fenders on our 1995 Yamaha 350 2-WD ATV are too narrow and allowed mud to fly up onto the driver. To



solve the problem we made a pair of "add-on" fenders out of an old rubber wheel line irrigation hose. We cut the 4-in. dia. hose into strips that are 6 in. long and 3 in. wide and bolted them to each fender. The 1/4-in. thick rubber strips follow the curve of the fender and dip down on back. It eliminated the need for high priced mud flaps. We use specially designed lugged tires on this ATV but that wasn't the cause of the "flying mud" problem. (Paden Andersen, 23 McDonald Cr. Rd., Livingston, Montana 59047 ph 406 222-3608; email: tractorboypaden@aol.com)

Here are some pictures of the wooden tractors that my husband Leo builds by hand.

The Deere 9400 T took the longest to build. Everything is wood and glue. The tracks actually turn.

The other pictures show off his horse-drawn machinery, part of his 7 car train, and some of his carved animals.



Altogether, he's made more than 100 machines out of wood.

Farm Show featured his Iowa tractors in the Vol. 20, No. 5, 1995 issue. (Helen Franzen, 108 N. Wells, West Union, Iowa 52175 ph 563 422-5437)

Regarding the article in your last issue about the "Leech Lady," a couple statements were a bit "off." The most startling to me was that "44 stitches were required to attach a scalp." I actually said 44 leeches were used on the boy's head after surgeons had reattached the scalp. I have no idea how many stitches were used and I did not give any figures on this.

You give me credit for knowing everything there is to know about leeches. I would never make such a claim. I don't think anyone knows all there is to know about anything!!! But thanks anyway (Barbara Mason, Curator, The Pearson Museum, SIU School of Medicine, Springfield, Ill.)

I built this home-made tractor out of old combine parts. It's designed to look like

a pull tractor or hotrod. I've never used it on the farm but I drive it in 4th of July parades. It's got a 351 Windsor motor and the front and back ends are made out of



parts of a TR 70 New Holland Combine. I want to sell just the chassis for \$2,000. (Sam Crowder, P.O. Box 234, Lattimore, N.C. 28089 ph 704 692-2240)

I used this "made it myself" machine for years to haul cords of fire wood.

During the summer of 1965, the pile pictured took about a week to haul. There were 1,500 cords in all and I got \$3.00 per cord so \$100 a day 40 years ago was pretty good.

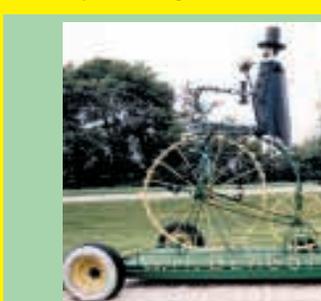


The machine is made of two Allis-Chalmers WC tractors. Behind the transmission, which I moved back 6-in., I added a No. 80 roller chain and sprockets to drive the driveshaft going to the rear wheels. U joints and a carrier bearing from a Dodge truck were added to the joint where the machine bent to steer. A 4 by 16-in. hydraulic cylinder steered it. Although the WC engine lacked power, I added a WD 45 crankshaft and pistons and sleeves that increased the power. The wheels were 13 by 24 motor grader tires so I had to widen the rims 3 in.

I also added tongs operated by a hydraulic system to move the cords. (Andrew Hauner, 617 Main St., P.O. Box 409, Littlefork, Minn. 56653)

There was an error in your article about NoMowGrass. The phone number was wrong. It turned out to be a sex-line. I guess some people are a little upset but others have still been getting through. The correct phone number is 1-866-666-6947. (Sherry Andow-Jansen, NoMowGrass, 24071 Blue Marina Road, Cleveland, Minn. 56017 ph 866-666-6947)

I've come up with a trivia board game for horse lovers that will truly challenge their knowledge. It's called "Whoa Equivia." The object of the game is to answer



I came up with the idea to build a high wheel bicycle similar to the ones from the late 1800's. It's built entirely out of used barn cleaner chain links as well as rebar and flat iron. Everything is welded together.

The bike has a green frame with yellow tires, as we were always Deere fans. When I finished building the bike I



horse trivia questions to move clockwise around the board. The first person to the "winner's circle" wins.

The trivia cards are based on three levels of difficulty: novice, intermediate, and pro. Each card has six different categories.

Here's an example of the questions (and answers) you'll face:

- What are three methods for breeding horses? (pasture, hand, artificial insemination)
- What are the three gaits performed in a trail class? (walk, trot, lope)
- What year was it proven by pictures that 4 legs were off the ground at the same time when galloping? (1872)
- What kind of horse is considered to be "lacking in intelligence"? (Jughead)
- What is the world's largest single-breed horse show? (All American Quarter Horse Congress)
- What is the person who walks along a disabled rider to assist them called? (Sidewalker)

The game costs \$37.00 plus S&H. (Spokes N Spurs, P.O. Box 369, Hinkley, Minn. 55037 ph 320 245-0161; website: www.spokesnspurs.com; email: sp-n-sp@spokesnspurs.com)

I'm the manager of Axiom Products and sell PourMaxx jugs which are made of chemical resistant polypropylene and have a non-drip spout. They also have



raised graduations in both standard and metric to measure and handle chemicals. The handles open design makes working with gloves easier. They're great for handling chemicals on the farm.

They come in six different sizes from 8 1/2 oz. to 7 gal. and range in price from \$5.00 to \$37.00. (Tim Paskewitz, Axiom Products, 179 North Street, Box 72, Vesta, Minn. 56292 ph 800 749-0758)