

Plastic Newspaper Boxes Make Great Chicken Nests

When Dave Mathia found 8 plastic newspaper sales boxes behind his town's local newspaper office, he thought right away that they might work as chicken nest boxes. So he converted them, then gave them to a friend.

"All I did was remove a hinged plexiglass window on the front of the box and then place some straw inside," says Mathia.

"My friend has about 150 layers and says they love using these newspaper box nests. They will often lay multiple eggs in one nest. They also seem to like the elevated vantage point. The plastic boxes are easy to clean, and

the straw can be easily replaced."

The bottom half of each box has a solid front. "I plan to cut out the front panels and use the space inside for more nests, which will double each box's capacity," says Mathia.

"Newspaper and shopper boxes are being phased out because everything is going to the Internet. Converting them to chicken nests is a good way to reuse them," says Mathia.

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Dave Mathia converts plastic newspaper boxes into chicken nests, by removing a hinged plexiglass window on front of box and then placing straw inside.

His Stainless Steel Pumps Bring Water To Rural Villages

By Dee George, Contributing Editor

Stainless steel water pumps designed by a retired Indiana equipment dealer are giving South American villagers access to quality water for the first time. At 80, Ben Yantis has personally funded and built 800 pumps to set up in Guyana villages on mission trips over the past dozen years.

Yantis will gladly share his design with other groups. He notes that the hand pumps are designed for shallow wells of 30 ft. or less in sandy soil.

Yantis built his first pump after learning about Norman Walker Ministries, which was installing cast iron hand pumps. They worked, but the rough pump bodies wore out leathers quickly.

Yantis uses hydraulic cylinder cups instead of leather and built the pump bodies out of stainless steel with plates of 1/4-in. steel and hardened sleeves. Pumps typically work well for about 3 years before plunger parts need to be replaced - a simple job after removing the 4 stainless steel bolts.

The wells are installed by driving a 10-ft. section of 1 1/4-in. galvanized pipe into the ground 8 1/2 ft. Then, using a gas pump to pump water from the river, a 20-ft. 1/2-in. pipe is jabbed inside the pipe. The water pressure makes a hole and forces dirt out of the 1 1/4-in. pipe. After a couple hours of flushing and pushing the 1/2-in. pipe in the ground, the water runs clean. With a brass check valve, the pipe holds water after it is primed. Each well provides water to at least 50 people. Schools can get by with two pumps for as many as 500 children.

"The Guyana health department says we are eradicating sickness and death by supplying clean water," Yantis says. "Our main desire is to share Christ with these people. They are very receptive because they see us saving their lives and their babies."

In the past, the pumps along with tools, wheelchairs, and other needed items were delivered to the country located on South America's northeastern coast by ship containers, then taken by boat to the villages. Because of the high cost, theft and corruption, that delivery system ended a few years ago. Now Yantis and others who make mission trips pack four dismantled pumps in old hardback suitcases and carry them down.

Yantis is heading to Guyana before the end of the year to get everything ready for an upcoming mission trip. About 20 men and women are heading to a village to build a church in January. In addition to pumps, they plan to take New King James Study Bibles to better equip Guyanese men and women to become better pastors. A fund has been set up at www.uttermostevangelism.org to purchase the Bibles. Yantis encourages anyone who wants to help to contact them. All donations



Over the past dozen years Ben Yantis has built 800 stainless steel water pumps to set up in Guyana villages.

are used for the ministry with none taken out for administration, he says.

"I'd be more than happy to share with anybody information about the pumps," Yantis concludes.

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Bob Payne used a chunk of tractor inner tube to replace the chute on his Deere F725 mower. "It makes it easier to trim and park in tight areas," he says.

Rubber Guard Replaces Mower Discharge Chute

"I enjoyed reading the article in your last issue on how Al Robbins replaced the grass discharge chute on his riding mower with a chain guard that results in easier trimming and parking in tight areas (Vol. 41, No. 5). I had the same idea but I used rubber to replace the chute on my Deere F725 mower equipped with a 54-in. front-mounted deck," says Bob Payne, Coldwater, Miss.

The mower's original chute was damaged so Payne unbolted it. He cut a big chunk out of a tractor inner tube and bolted it on using

existing holes. He also drilled an extra hole on front of the chute where the rubber is bent down. Then he trimmed the rubber down to size.

"It works great, and since tractor inner tubes are easy to come by it cost almost nothing to put together," says Payne. "I've also used the same idea on another mower."

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