

Pedal-Powered Horse Cart Controlled By Reins

Wayne Chupp's pedal horse does everything but whinny. When a child sitting in the cart pedals the wooden horse, the legs move. Pulling on the reins steers it.

"My parents found an old version of the pedal horse and cart and gave it to my kids," says Wayne Chupp, Chupp Blacksmith Shop. "Even though the horse looked more like a cow, the kids enjoyed it. I suggested to my dad that we build one."

Chupp's dad Monroe is an accomplished woodworker and designed a more lifelike horse out of plywood, while Chupp's shop made the cart out of poly-lumber and machined the reining mechanism. A T-bar above the horse's back turns a wheel underneath the horse as a rein to it is pulled.

Chupp added elastic between the T-bar and the horse's head. This ensures that once the turning rein is released, the wheel beneath the horse straightens out.

"Little children don't always think to pull on the other rein to straighten out so the elastic does it for them," says Chupp.

"We donated the first one to a benefit

auction, and it brought \$500," says Chupp. "We got a couple more offers that night and began making them in small batches of 8 to 10."

Demand has risen as word has gotten out. The last batch numbered 50. Chupp expects to add an employee to help if sales continue to grow.

"Currently, we sell them direct for \$299 at the shop plus shipping if by mail order," says Chupp. "We're reviewing our costs so these prices may change."

Horses are available as brown, brown and white, or black and white. Carts are available in dark green, dark gray and cherry colors.

The business phone is for an answering service. Leave a message for a call back or order by mail. Money orders or checks are acceptable once shipping has been determined.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chupp Blacksmith Shop, 9107 Township Rd. 609, Fredericksburg, Ohio 44627 (ph 330 695-7191).



When a child sitting in cart pedals, legs on the wooden horse move. Pulling on the reins steers it. Photo at left shows how a T-bar above horse's back turns a wheel under horse as reins are pulled.

Heraghty partially fills a shallow pan with water, mixes in some dish soap, and places it under a bug zapper hung from a lawn chair frame. "The soap breaks the surface tension of the water, causing mosquitoes to sink," he says.



"Soapy Water" Mosquito Trap

A bug zapper and a pan partially filled with soapy water helps keep Frank Heraghty's back yard mosquito-free.

The rural Claremore, Okla. man lives in a region where mosquitoes are thick in the evening. His bug zapper helped some, but he found that filling a shallow pan with about an inch of water, mixing in some dish soap, and placing it under the zapper works even better. He hangs the zapper from a lawn chair frame so the bottom is about one foot off the ground, with the pan directly underneath.

"I've used this idea for years and have caught a lot of mosquitoes," says Heraghty. "The mosquitos are drawn in by the light from the zapper, but for some reason they decide instead to land in the water. The dish soap breaks the surface tension of the water, causing them to sink.

"The zapper kills some mosquitoes, but about 80 percent of them die in the water. Mosquitoes like to lay their eggs in standing water, so the combination of the light and water is a big attraction. In effect, I'm

converting a mosquito breeding ground into a mosquito trap."

He came up with the idea one day by accident when a zapped bug caught fire and fell into some dry grass, starting a small grass fire. "Fortunately I saw it happen and was able to put the fire out," says Heraghty. "That's when I decided to add some water and place it under the zapper. I remembered that my brother-in-law in Florida had placed buckets filled with soapy water in his back yard, so I decided to take the idea one step farther. It's tremendously effective."

Eventually the water starts to smell so Heraghty dumps it out and puts in fresh water. "I always keep a bucket of water nearby so I can occasionally top off the pan. Also, I move the trap to a different location every few days," he notes.

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John Lease came up with a fishing pole that does part of the work for him by using a joystick and a pneumatic pole.

Air-Powered Fishing Pole Helps Disabled Anglers

With his pneumatic pole and a joystick, John Lease says people with physical limitations can go fishing. He's built a few models that he's willing to sell for the cost of materials.

The retired Wisconsin mechanic has been a lifelong tinkerer and worked at several industries dealing with pneumatics, hydraulics and engineering. He has dealt with his own back issues and lifting limitations for about 12 years, and because he loves to fish, he decided to create a pole that does part of the work for him.

"I came up with a one hand control. I combined a Zebco pole and inexpensive drill to wind it in," Lease says. The line is cast the same way as other poles, and pushing the drill switch reels the line back in. He notes that since the battery makes it heavier, he came up with a version with a cord that plugs into a battery pack.

For people with less mobility he built a 40-lb. aluminum unit with a small air compressor, battery and air cylinders that cast and release.

"After you build air pressure, you pull the joystick lever back and hold it until the pole goes back, then you let go. It'll cast 20 to 30 yards. When you get a bite, you pull back on the joystick to reel it in," Lease says, noting he also made a version that has a button to tug on the line when a fish bites. Another version has a motorized turntable so the pole can be cast from different angles.



Pushing the switch on a cordless drill reels the fishing line back in.

"They sound complicated, but it's basic mechanical motion," Lease says.

Lease has taken the pneumatic poles to events for people with disabilities, and they have been a big hit. However, because of the cost of the parts (\$300 to \$500) they're expensive to market to people on fixed incomes.

"They really work, and it's a thrill to catch fish. I enjoy building them and just want to get them out there and have people enjoy them," Lease says, noting he welcomes requests from people interested in covering his material costs.

The pneumatic pole is ideal for people who love to fish but need assistance, as well as organizations that take people with disabilities fishing.

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