# Mississippi Hunter's Deer Stand Built To Last

From the semi sleeper cab shelter to the stairs made from conveyor parts, Chuck Braddock built his deer stand to last using all recycled parts.

"I like deer hunting and building things," says the Meridian, Miss., resident. "I had a chance to get the cab, and I used parts of things from all around for free or little cost."

Braddock welded all the steel parts together, including sections from an old above-ground swimming pool that extends the cab to make the shelter 8 by 8 by 8-ft. He installed windows from an old school bus sideways to slide open quietly.

He built the structural support tower and the shed on a trailer, then drove it to CRP land, raised the front end off the trailer to set the legs on the ground, and used his truck's winch to raise the 28-ft. stand. To secure it, he welded 2-ft. square plates on each leg and four 5-ft. lengths of rebar on each plate that sink into the ground like fingers at a 25-degree angle. In addition, he drove four mobile home anchors into the ground. When high winds ripped shingles off a nearby deer camp cabin, the sleeper cab stand held secure.

With 45-degree stairs and a 1-in. drill stem handrail, the stand is accessible for children and adults who would have a hard time getting up into a ladder stand.

"It provides a comfortable place for inexperienced hunters to experience wildlife," Braddock says. "Kids can move around in it or lay down on the bed, and there's a propane spot heater."

Braddock has had two successful seasons with his homemade deer stand, which cost about $440. Since it's made of steel, he expects it will be available for future generations of hunters.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chuck Braddock, P.O. Box 5821, Meridian, Miss. 39302 (ph 601 986-4898; Cbbraddock@aol.com).

**"It provides a comfortable place to see wildlife," says Chuck Braddock, who built this deer stand from a semi tractor's sleeper cab, adding stairs made from conveyor parts.**

# Telescope Made From Silo Filler Tube

"I wanted a telescope in the worst way and couldn't afford it," says Tom Schraufnagel, who, at age 16, built one from parts he found in the farm junk pile. Now, 52 years later, he still uses the 6-in. reflector telescope alongside the more expensive tracking telescope his children gave him and his wife for their 40th anniversary.

He studied his friends' telescopes to get ideas and spent six months gathering parts and putting them together. The main tube is a galvanized silo filler tube. The base is a threshing machine wheel, and 1-in. lead water pipes support the tube. The counterbalance weight is a New Idea hay rake gear wheel. He cut up beer cans for bushings to secure the water pipe in the shaft of the base. Parts from a school desk, erector set and milk machine formed the mirror mount.

"The mirror and lenses are store bought," Schraufnagel says. "I spent $16 for the mirror and $8 for two lenses." It cost him $32 to have the mirror recoated several years ago. The only other changes he made were to replace the steel beer can bushings with aluminum beer cans, replace the gun sight finder with a real finder, and buy additional lenses.

It's heavy, the Plover, Wis., man says, but he can move it around on the wheels he scrapped from a toy pedal tractor and the front wheel fork from a kid's bike. He pulls it with a handle made from store shelving.

Schraufnagel regularly looks at stars, and he still experiences the same thrill, zeroing in on rings on Saturn, the methane bands on Jupiter, or craters on the moon. He notes that he can't view the sun with his new telescope, so he uses the old one to look at sunspots.

Unfortunately, building a telescope from farm junk may be more difficult today, Schraufnagel notes. While searching for a backup mirror recently, he discovered it's difficult to find parts.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Schraufnagel, 3901 River Dr., Plover, Wis. 54467 (ph 715 341-2969).

**The main tube on Schraufnagel's telescope is made from a galvanized silo filler tube.**

# Cultivator Waters Or Fertilizes

"It lets me either irrigate or apply liquid fertilizer while I'm cultivating," says Tom Chaney, Chrisman, Ill., who made a 3-pt. mounted, 4-row cultivator for his Ford 9N tractor using the beam off an International Harvester cultivator and the shanks off an old chisel plow. He also mounted a 55-gal. liquid fertilizer tank on top of the 30-in. row cultivator.

He bolted a single chisel plow shank onto the cultivator beam for each row. Tubes run from the tank down behind each cultivator shovel, allowing Chaney to gravity feed liquid fertilizer beside the rows. A hand-operated control valve is used to open or close the tubes.

"I use it in my garden. It's easy to operate and eliminates the need to use a walk-behind rototiller," says Chaney. "I put restrictor valves in all four tubes so it'll apply the same amount of fertilizer or water to all the rows.

"To fill the tank with water, I use a homemade garden 'water tower' that collects rain water (featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 32, No. 4). I built it by welding together two 55-gal. barrels. A rain gutter that extends 5 ft. out from a pole shed is used to fill it.

"I got the tank from my uncle's junked 4-row Deere planter, which originally had two 55-gal. tanks on it. Two tubes extended down from the bottom of each tank, one on each side. An actuator valve opened and closed the restrictor valves automatically as the planter was raised or lowered. I installed a handle on the actuator valve, which allows me to reach back from the tractor seat and open or close the valve manually."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Chaney, Sr., 14732 E. 1800th Rd., Chrisman, Ill. 61924 (ph 217 269-3507; tomchansr@yahoo.com).

**Tom Chaney can either irrigate or apply liquid fertilizer while he cultivates using this homemade, 3-pt. mounted, 4-row cultivator. Tubes run from tank down behind each cultivator shovel.**

# Boat Winch Helps Lift Mower's Sicklebar

In his eighties, Charley Marley of Nokomis, Ill., still likes to keep active, and one of the things he likes to do is keep things trim with his sicklebar mower.

However, manually folding the heavy 9-ft. long sicklebar up for transport was always a struggle. So he came up with an easier way to raise and lower the sicklebar, using a boat winch.

He bolted a 2-ft. long steel bar vertically to the top part of the mower frame and mounted the boat winch on it. To transport the mower, he simply connects the winch cable to the middle part of the sicklebar and cranks the winch.

"It makes lifting the sicklebar a much easier job," says Marley.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charley Marley, 27147 Oconee Ave., Nokomis, Ill. 62075 (ph 217 563-2007).

**Boat winch mounts on mower frame. To raise sicklebar, Marley connects a cable to middle part of sicklebar and cranks the winch.**