



To make the “Arch de Triumph”, Molly MacDougall held up a metal arch as a form while her husband stacked the wood.

## Clever Woodstackers Compete For Prize

How do you stack your firewood? That’s the question GRIT magazine ([www.grit.com](http://www.grit.com)) has asked its readers the past two years. Readers responded with impressive photos in hopes of winning a chainsaw provided by Echo.

The 2008 winner, Mike Weicht of Clymer, N.Y., won by sheer volume with a 300-ft. long by 30-ft. wide by 15-ft. tall stack of hardwoods to heat his home and sell to customers.

Another impressive tall stack was submitted by Marc Shultes.

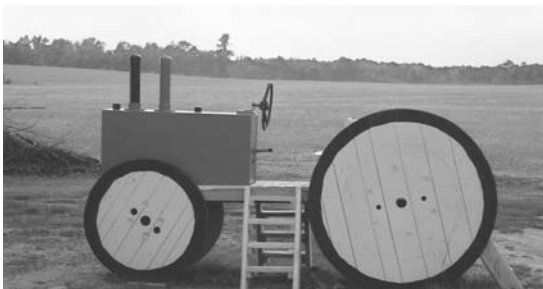
The “Arch de Triumph” stood out in the 2009 contest entries. Molly MacDougall held up a scrap of iron as a form while her husband, Daniel Paul, stacked wood until it stuck. The arch stood for four months on the couple’s Henniker, N.H., property.



This impressively tall pile was built by Marc Shultes.



Mike Weicht made this 300-ft. long, 15-ft. tall stack of wood to store wood he sells to customers.



Pastor Jack Suits made this Deere “playground tractor” for his rural Indiana congregation.

## Playground Tractor

Kids have a lot of fun on this Deere “playground tractor” that pastor Jack Suits made for his rural Butlerville, Ind. congregation.

“It sits outside the church and just may be the busiest tractor in the county,” says Suits.

Exterior plywood, decking boards, and 2 by 4’s were used to build the tractor. It measures 6 ft. high and 10 ft. long. Steps on both sides of the tractor and on back lead up to the operator’s platform, which is 4 ft. off the ground. There’s plenty of room underneath for kids to crawl around and play games.

The wheels are made from big wooden electrical spools. The exhaust stacks are made out of pvc pipe. There’s even a gearshift lever for kids to operate.

“A lot of people stop by to take photos of it,” says Suits. “I built it to resemble an old Deere 40 tractor that I still use all summer. The tractor is only the first component of a larger playground I hope to finish by next summer. When the playground is completed it will have a barn with a hay loft that’ll have a slide coming out of it. We have many babies coming along, with 18 born in the last five years and more on the way, so I know it’ll get a lot of use.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jack Suits, 7180 E. County Road 920 N., Butlerville, Ind. 47223 (ph 812 591-2295).



“Local people often stop by to hang out,” says Dick Kast, who put up this building to resemble an old-time gas station from the 1930’s and 1940’s.

## Old-Time Country Gas Station

“I needed a place to store my collectibles and memorabilia, so I put up a building that resembles an old-time gas station from the 1930’s and ‘40’s,” says Dick Kast, Fairmont, Minn. “It measures 45 by 45 ft. Local people often stop by to hang out. They enjoy the building’s old-time ambience.”

There’s a 16-ft. lean-to on back of the building and a porch on front with a rocking chair. A couple old-time gas pumps stand nearby.

Kast says he tried to make the building look as authentic as possible with signs from old service stations. One sign lists gas selling for 36 cents per gallon.

The building is full of collectibles, including an old-time wood stove, a wooden bench, and chairs cut out of a pair of 55-gal. beer barrels. He made the chairs by cutting each barrel in half and then making a wooden frame for the seat and back, which he then had upholstered by a local company. A desk, a fan on a homemade pedestal, a gas pump, and a safe made in 1864 that came out of a jewelry store where his wife works also reside in the building.

There’s an old porcelain grocery store milk

cooler made in 1921 by General Electric, an upright radio with a typewriter placed on top of it, a kitchen counter, and shop tools that Kast’s dad and grandpa and father-in-law owned.

“A lot of the stuff that’s inside belonged to my folks and grandparents when they farmed. For example, there’s a welder that my Dad bought the day I was born 69 years ago. There’s also an old-time air compressor and tire machine, and even speakers from a local drive-in.”

“Also, a lot of the stuff I got from people who gave it to me because they didn’t want to throw it away. We have a day every year in our town where people can put stuff on the curb in front of their house and give it away for free. It’s unbelievable how much stuff people throw away that’s history.”

“At one time there were a lot of these old country gas stations in our area, but unfortunately none still exist,” says Kast.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dick Kast, 2109 95<sup>th</sup> St., Fairmont, Minn. 56031 (507 235-6050; [dixstir@bevcomm.net](mailto:dixstir@bevcomm.net)).



Building is full of collectibles, including a gas pump and chairs cut out of a pair of 55-gal. beer barrels.