

## He Turns Washers, Roller Chain Into "Art"

Gerald Siem likes to find new uses for old things. He recently came up with an artistic way to weld old washers together to make decorative metal bowls.

"Everything is recycled. I've made about 15 bowls so far, and no two are exactly alike," says the Junction City, Wis., man. "I always weld a wrench or bottle opener into every bowl just for fun."

Siem gets the washers "wherever I can find them". The washers range from 1/2 to 2 in. dia. All are sandblasted, and once they're welded together with an acetylene torch, they're clear coated to create a smooth sheen.

His biggest bowl measures 20 in. dia. The top-most washers are welded to a ring made from 1/4-in. dia. rod. The bottom of the bowl rests on a base made from a slice cut out of a semi truck's muffler pipe.

He also has made oblong fruit bowls, as well as small soup bowls. The fruit bowl measures 12 in. long and 10 in. wide, and is 1 1/2 in. deep.

"To make the bowls I took a farm disk apart and turned it upside down to use it as a

form. When I remove the form what's left is the bowl," says Siem.

"Everyone likes my washer bowls, but I haven't made any for sale. It takes a lot of time to make them, and I think I'd have to charge more than what most people would want to pay," says Siem.

He also welds lengths of used roller chain together to make one-of-a-kind signs that measure anywhere from 5 to 9 in. high and up to 6 ft. long.

"I get the roller chains from various local sources. I do all the welding on the back side of the roller chains so the front side will look smooth. All the letters are welded to a channel iron base."

Siem says he's willing to make washer bowl and roller chain art for others. "The price will depend on a number of factors. It would be best to come out and see the products I've made first," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerald Siem, 901 Hwy. G, Junction City, Wis. 54443 (ph 715 457-2183).



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Victor DeCiccio made this round table and two matching chairs from steel crawler tracks, gravel crusher screen, and parts off a Cat tractor's undercarriage.

## He Makes Furniture, Art From Heavy Equipment Parts

Yard ornaments that can't be vandalized or stolen adorn the entrance to Marnevic Construction Ltd. in Fox Creek, Alta.

Thanks to founder Victor DeCiccio, the family-owned oilfield contracting company brings creativity and a sense of humor to the small community, via a variety of heavy-duty works of art.

DeCiccio got the idea 30 years ago as the company wore out its heavy equipment. "He used old, worn out parts from bulldozers. Most people look and see a pile of scrap metal, but he sees ideas for chairs, tables, and signs," says his grandson, Todd.

The company's unique sign outside the building is a testament to those times. The word "Marnevic" is spelled out in track rails, and a 20-ft. tall man made from bulldozer track stands beside it to welcome visitors.

A round table and two matching chairs made from track, gravel crusher screen and parts of a Cat tractor's undercarriage, sit upon a cement pad surrounded by landscaping rock.

The table, with a plexi-glass top, holds a heavy-duty cribbage board. It pays homage to the employees who, since 1968, have enjoyed playing cribbage in the morning before work or at coffee break.

Other popular outdoor attractions at the Fox Creek business include a picnic bench-style table and chairs with matching side

tables, and a working rocking chair. DeCiccio also donated lawn ornaments to the local golf course and tourist booth.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marnevic Construction Ltd., c/o Todd DeCiccio, Box 113, Fox Creek, Alta., Canada T0H 1P0 (ph 780 622-3994; safety@marnevic.com; www.marnevic.com).



As wheels rotate trays of new plants, spray nozzles overhead keep them moist.

## Greenhouse "Grow Wheel"

Earl Mansfield needs to start about 1,500 plants every spring but his small greenhouse only had room to plant a little more than 500.

So he started thinking about how he could get more plants into the greenhouse that he built himself from thermo pane windows out of an old high-rise building.

He hit on the idea of a "grow wheel" – a rotating reel of plants that looks like a combine reel.

Powered by a 1/3-hp. electric motor that drives a hydro transmission from a junked lawn mower, it's set to rotate for 45 seconds at set intervals. A section of field spray nozzles mounted on an overhead boom mists the plants as the reel turns.



Electric motor belt-drives grow wheel.

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