

# Motorized Fish House Made From Water Tank

The motorized ice fishing house built by retired farmer Virgil Davis looks like a giant turtle with wheels. It's a domed structure made from a 1,000-gallon poly water tank and an old zero-turn riding mower.

"I had a dream one night of a water tank on a lake, and the next morning I went outside and saw the old mower and the tank and decided to put 'em together," says Davis.

He began by removing the deck from an old mower and tuning its 19 hp. engine. "Turns out it ran great, and the drive train and transmission were functional, so I had the basic parts right there," says Davis. "My idea was to use the engine and drive wheels on one side of the house, build a cradle to carry the tank, and have carry wheels on the back."

Davis first built a 3-pt. hitch type assembly on the back of the power unit. From that he angled metal braces down to the undercarriage, which he made from two 4 by 6-in. box beams spaced about 3 ft. apart. The back of the undercarriage is held together with a 2 by 4-in. box beam, which also supports the dual wheels. Davis built

the spindles himself and attached 2 flotation mower wheels to each one.

The tank is bolted to the undercarriage and Davis says "The power unit on the front and the duals on the back provide a lot of stability so the house doesn't tip over when I'm driving it. I can also anchor it down to the ice so it won't blow over."

Openings on opposite sides of the poly tank provide a 2-ft. square windshield in the front and the main entry in the back. The windshield is poly and the entry door is a large piece of plywood with a fold down cleaning table. Davis also has plywood covering the floor, with 4 holes cut around the outside to accommodate fishing.

Davis "drives" his fishhouse from the original mower seat, now on a swivel, which he mounted to the undercarriage and the plywood floor. He extended controls for the clutch, shift lever, brake, lights, throttle and the steering column into the front of the tank.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Virgil Davis, 2686 250<sup>th</sup> St., Humboldt, Iowa 50548.



A 1,000-gal. poly water tank bolts to the extended undercarriage of an old lawn mower.



Davis can equip his motorized fish house with large flotation tanks to head out into open water. A 5-in. layer of insulation on the floor of the tank and the oversized tires help keep the rig afloat.

# Power-Unloading Wood Trailer

Roger Reibsamen hauls a lot of logs and firewood out of the woods near his Titanka, Iowa, home. To make the job easier, he built a self-unloading trailer out of a chopped-down silage wagon that unloads out the back using the original apron chain.

"I built it about 5 years ago. It gets used a lot and cost very little to build," says Reibsamen. "I always enjoy the challenge of home-built projects. Whenever I need a piece of equipment, I go look at a new commercial model and then come home and build it myself."

The silage box trailer is 14 ft. long, 7 ft. wide, and has 2-ft. high sides. It still has the original wooden floor and apron chain. The original wheels were worn out so Reibsamen replaced them with the rear steering wheels

off a pair of old Massey combines.

The wagon came with sides made from 18-in. high horizontal steel panels, and Reibsamen removed all of them from each side except for the bottom one. He also removed the wagon's side unloading conveyor as well as the hinged rear gate, leaving the trailer open on back.

"Over the years we've used this trailer to haul a lot of logs out of the woods to our splitter at home," says Reibsamen. "We use an elevator to load the firewood into the trailer and then drive to a lean-to and unload the wood out the back," says Reibsamen.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Reibsamen, 123 Ingham St. N.W., Titanka, Iowa 50480 (ph 515 928-7006).



Roger Reibsamen built this self-unloading trailer out of a chopped-down silage wagon. It unloads out the back using the original apron chain.

# "GateHands" Latches Catching On Fast

Since FARM SHOW told readers about a new tube gate latch system (Vol. 39, Issue 5), GateHands have become popular with farmers and ranchers across the country.

The latch cups the gate and uses the weight of the gate to keep everything lined up. A pin (or lock) secures it.

Since inventor Brad Fredrick introduced GateHands a couple years ago, he's set up a small manufacturing plant in Ponca City, Okla., and added several models for larger gates.

In addition to the system for 1 5/8-in. tube gates (side-by-side and overlapping), GateHands latches also fit on 1 3/4 and 2-in. tube gates, as well as single gates.

The nice thing about the single gate GateHands is that you don't need a straight post, and it adjusts for up to a 12-in. gap, says Kelsey Wagner, sales manager.

The additional models have been popular with a variety of customers.

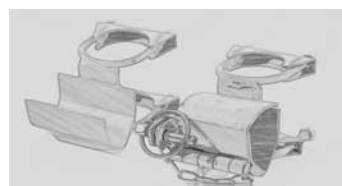
"We originally thought farmers and ranchers would be interested in GateHands," Wagner explains. "But there is also interest from the oil and wind energy industries, electric cooperatives and the construction industry."

GateHands prices start at \$50 and are available through the business's website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, GateHands, 3408 Crown St., Ponca City, Okla. 74604 (ph 580 789-0119; www.gatehands.com; sales@gatehands.com).



GateHands latch cups the gate and uses the gate's weight to keep everything lined up. A pin secures it.



Since inventor Brad Fredrick introduced GateHands a couple years ago he has added several models for larger gates.



Side-by-side and overlapping GateHands latches now fit on 1 3/4 and 2-in. tube gates, as well as single gates.



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