Tim Smith split a 1993 Kawasaki Jet Ski in half, mounting the engine and waterjet at the back of a 14-ft. aluminum speedboat.

"Jet Ski" Boat Works Great In Shallow Water

"It runs like a champ and goes as fast as a jet ski. I can use it in water that's only 1 ft. deep," says Tim Smith about the one-of-a-kind "Jet Ski" boat he built.

The Prior Lake, Minn., man removed the outboard motor from an old 14-ft. aluminum speedboat and replaced it with a 1993 Kawasaki 650 cc Jet Ski, which he took apart. The back half of the Jet Ski, including its seat and gas engine compartment, mounts at the rear of the boat. The handlebars, with choke, starter button, kill switch, and throttle controls on them, are positioned 8 ft. ahead and come up through the boat's hood. An 8-ft. long cable under the floor leads from the handlebar controls back to the engine. The driver sits on a plastic fishing boat chair.

"Everyone who sees it for the first time does a double take," says Smith. "It's a lot of fun to buzz around in - I think of it more as a little hot rod than as a fishing boat. I came up with the idea because I like to fish, but I don't like dealing with broken propellers caused by hitting rocks in shallow lakes and rivers. My Jet Ski boat has a much shallower draft than a boat because there's no propeller on back. I can go in any water the boat can float in, as long as the boat isn't rubbing the bottom of the lake."

He completely gutted the boat, removing the windshield and hull. He replaced the original plywood floor with a new wooden treated floor that's covered with outdoor carpet. Polished aluminum was used for the trim.

He used a sawzall to cut the Jet Ski into pieces in his driveway. He cut the front end off and threw away most of the components except for the handlebars and steering apparatus. He also cut the sides off the Jet Ski where the driver's feet would normally go, keeping the gas tank and filler which are foam-mounted in the bow under the front hood.

The Jet Ski's seat and engine are bolted to the bottom of the boat in front of an intake hole that he cut into the back side of the boat.

Water jet fits through a hole that Smith cut into back of boat.

Back half of Jet Ski mounts on an elevated platform at rear of boat.

The Jet Ski's jet tunnel fits through the hole and is supported by a wooden board that's covered with a sealant to waterproof the area.

The handlebars are bolted to a metal plate that bolts onto the hull.

"It didn't cost much to build. I've got less than $600 invested in it," says Smith. "A friend gave me the Jet Ski, and I already had the boat."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tim Smith, 14100 Rolling Oaks Circle, Prior Lake, Minn. 55372 (ph 952 445-0245 or 952 670-3343).

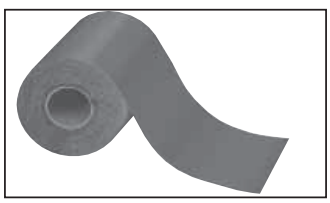
Stick-On Wrap Protects Posts

You can extend the life of fence posts and pole barn poles with a rubberized, self-adhesive protective wrap that's easy to attach.

"A high density poly film gives it tear and puncture resistance and a waterproof vapor barrier," says Wes Simpson, vice president of MFM Building Products Corp. The company makes similar products for low-sloped roofs and waterproof basements.

"Even treated poles eventually rot out," Simpson says, noting that Post & Pole wrap comes in 3, 6, and 12-in. sizes. Some builders also put the wrap between treated wood and metal fasteners to prevent corrosion.

Post & Pole can be applied at temperatures 35 degrees Fahrenheit and above. Cost is $7.50 for two 3-in. wide rolls or one 6-in. wide roll and $15 for a 12-in. wide roll. Rolls



Rubberized, self-adhesive protective wrap is easy to attach to posts.

of Post & Pole are 40 mils thick and 25 ft. long. They can be purchased through dealers or direct from the company's website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, MFM Building Products Corp., 525 Orange St., Coshocton, Ohio 43812 (ph 800 882-7663; www.mfmbp.com).

Robot Spider Scares Woodpeckers Away

By Janis Schole, Contributing Editor

Having never had a woodpecker problem on our farm before, my husband and I were shocked recently when one decided to move in and start chopping away at the wood siding on our garage.

We couldn't believe how much damage he did in a short time whacking holes of all sizes into the building. We needed to act fast, or it would only be a matter of time before he would run out of wood and move on to our house!

It's illegal to shoot woodpeckers, so I quickly searched the internet for possible solutions. A website for "The Birds-Away Attack Spider," got my attention. It's a large, hairy, black, battery-operated spider that looks like a huge tarantula. It's sound-activated so that when a woodpecker comes knocking, the spider starts moving.

You hang the spider from a hook under the eaves. When activated, it quickly drops down an 18-in. string while making a loud noise. Then it steadily climbs back up the string, ready to attack again.

There's no shortage of testimonials on the website claiming that this product works great, and someone even says theirs had scared a delivery man and made a baby cry. I figured it was worth trying.

I bought three units, which arrived in a week by UPS. My husband put two up at one end of our garage where most of the damage was. He placed the other one on the opposite end where the woodpecker hadn't frequented as often.

It didn't take long before our woodpecker came calling, and sure enough, the deterrent worked and scared him off. He tried again a few times with the same results before he got smart and landed further over a couple of times, just far enough that his tapping didn't set off the closest spider. That's when we knew that what the instructions had said about

Battery-operated spiders are sound-activated, so when a woodpecker comes knocking, the spider starts moving.

installing a spider every 10 ft. was actually important.

Before we got a chance to add more spiders, our woodpecker stopped returning on his own.

Within two days of putting up the Attack Spiders, our woodpecker was gone, and he hasn't been back since.

Each Attack Spider costs $15, plus S&H (batteries not included). Wholesale prices are also available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sophron Marketing, 11902 Hwy. 49, Sonora, Calif. 95370 (ph 888 767-4766 or 209 532-1728; fax 209 532-7401; info@birds-away.com; www.attackspider.com).

They're Turning Waste Plastic Into Fuel

Plastofuel™ was invented in 1995 but it still hasn't found its market.

Inventor Jim Garthe, agricultural engineer at Penn State University, is hopeful that the extender he designed to make fuel nuggets out of waste plastic will soon catch on. He points out that the system is ideal for ag plastics because it can handle a lot of dirt and debris which causes problems with other recycling methods.

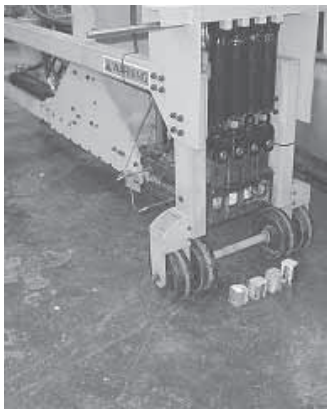
The dense "Plastofuel" nuggets can be burned cleanly with coal, wood, and other fuels.

According to Garthe, the energy content of plastics (approx. 19,000 btu/lb.) is very near that of fuel oil (approx 21,000 btu/lb.).

"The current Plastofuel prototype has a 4-channel die that allows four extrusions to occur at one time. Because the die is heated, it melts a thin outer layer of the plastic, and the resulting jacket locks unmelted pieces inside," Garthe says. "Then a hot knife cuts and seals the ends of extruded material into nuggets which are easily stored or shipped."

The current Plastofuel machine will produce 200 lbs. of nuggets per hour.

"The nuggets are a clean burning, quality product," he says. "We can take plastics of many different sorts, particularly certain waste plastics that can't be recycled anywhere else. Testing continues, and we're very optimistic that we're onto something. It's just a matter of some organization that would be willing to commercialize it. We don't want to sell it, but would be willing to work out a



Plastofuel machine makes fuel nuggets out of waste plastic.

partnership. All we would ask is to be a working partner."

In one possible commercialization plan, Penn State University has been trying to work together with a South Korean firm that invented a plastic-fueled burner in 1999.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Penn State University, Jim Garthe, Agricultural Engineer, 246 Agricultural Engineering Building, University Park, Penn. 16802 (ph 814 865-7154; jwg10@psu.edu; www.personal.psu.edu/users/m/j/mjl145/plastofuel_gallery.htm).