

Chainsaw Poles Showcase Collection

"I have 21 poles with 396 chainsaws — and I've got another 110 saws to go. I'm just waiting on poles," says Gordy Lekies, who is commonly called Chainsaw Gordy around Medford, Wis.

What started as a way to display his collection and get the saws out from underfoot has turned into an artistic, historical display showing the evolution of chainsaws.

It's a natural fit for a man who has made much of his living logging, chainsaw carving and restoring or building log buildings.

The collection started about 14 years ago, when Lekies buried the long bar of an old McCulloch saw in the wood pole supporting his mailbox.

He liked the way it looked so he started acquiring cheap telephone poles to construct a forest of chainsaw poles — some as tall as 35 ft. Lekies cuts the slots to hold the chainsaw bars when the pole is on the ground, making a spiral pattern. Once the pole is up, he uses a climbing portable deer stand to work his way to the top. A friend hands up saws with a pulley system.

Lekies picked up many of the saws cheap

at auction sales. Once he bought 11 for \$2.50. Since salvage prices have gone up, he hasn't found deals quite that good. But he bought 80 saws from another collector, and occasionally receives free saws from people who know what he's doing.

"About 20 to 25 percent of the saws were given to me. That's the most fun, when there's a saw laying at the end of the driveway," Lekies says. "People like to contribute to the cause."

About a fourth of the saws would run (with some work), but they have all seen their best days. Many are McCulloch and Homelite chainsaws from the 50's. Lekies notes that in the past he bought saws because they were cheap. Now he's more interested in strange, more unusual saws.

He likes the fact that his collection makes people smile and reminisce. He's heard many conversations about "That was the worst saw" or "My dad cut wood with that one."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gordy Lekies, W8743 Co. Rd. M., Medford, Wis. 54451 (ph 715 785-7362; chainsawgordy@yahoo.com).



Gordy Lekies collects chainsaws and shows them off on a forest of chainsaw poles — some as tall as 35 ft. He has 21 poles with 396 chainsaws.

To mow hedges inexpensively, Ray Rokusek mounted a 21-in. wide push mower on a 2-wheeled trailer equipped with an old clothes pole and a metal extension arm.



Photo courtesy Yankton County Observer

"Lawn Mower" Hedge-Trimmer

A South Dakota man came up with an inexpensive way to make a tractor-towed hedge trimmer. He mounted a 21-in. wide push mower on a 2-wheeled trailer equipped with an old clothes pole and a metal extension arm.

Ray Rokusek, of Yankton, uses the mower to trim a 6-ft. wide hedge that borders his property. He pulls the unit behind his Deere riding mower. The trailer rides on a pair of 10-in. high rubber wheels that hold the mower about 55 in. off the ground.

"It's simple to use and results in a nice even cut," says Rokusek. "I have about 150 ft. of hedge to cut and am 68 years old, so I had to come up with a better way. The trailer holds the mower at a uniform height, which results in one of the most nicely manicured hedges in town.

He bought a new push mower and removed the handlebars and wheels. He U-bolted the mower to a length of 2-in. sq. tubing that slides through a horizontal pipe on top of the clothes pole. A safety chain secures the mower and can be unclamped and moved in or out up to 3 ft. anywhere along the tubing.

The clothes pole is welded to a 3-ft. sq. deck plate floor that's welded onto the trailer's tongue and axle. A 2-ft. sq. expanded metal guard protects Rokusek in case the blade would ever break. Counterweights on the floor opposite the mower keep the trailer from tipping over.

"I didn't know if it would work so I tried to get by as inexpensively as I could. For

example, I used a long bolt to make the axle. "It's built sturdy. I welded gussets where I welded the pole to the trailer, and I added a second vertical pole to provide additional support and to keep the clothes pole from leaning over, although it probably wasn't needed."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ray Rokusek, 401 Locust St., Yankton, S. Dak. 57078 (ph 605 665-1015; sonia@theohlings.com).



Philip Wilson installed the door off a damaged cargo container in a 36-ft. dia. grain bin.

Slick Way To Put Door In Grain Bin

Philip Wilson of Chico, Calif., recently sent in a photo of a big door he installed in a 36-ft. dia. grain bin, allowing him to convert the bin into a storage building.

"This area has gone almost completely into orchard crops so there's no interest in grain bins any more. Considering labor and all, grain bins around here cost more to move than to replace. So, I had this big bin that I couldn't do anything with. I decided converting it to machinery storage was the best option."

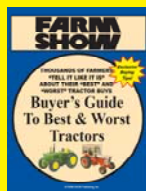
First, he gutted the bin down to the floor, which left a nice flat cement floor. "I've been

told when you start cutting holes in grain bins they become unstable, so you need a strong frame to work from. We cut about 18 in. off the door end of a damaged cargo container, which gave us a strong frame and a pair of doors, all in one. We cut the unit to fit the bin's corrugated sides.

"Then we welded the unit to the bin and cut out the middle. It was a safe way to get a nice, big door in the bin, and we spent less than \$1,000, including labor."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Philip Wilson, 6189 Cana Hwy., Chico, Calif. 95973 (ph 530 899-9488).

How To
Subscribe
To
FARM SHOW
(New & Renewal)



Take out a new subscription (or renew your existing subscription) and get a FREE copy of our new 168-page "Tractor Buyer's Guide".

Yes! I want to be first to learn about latest new products. Please sign me up for FARM SHOW and send me a FREE copy of your just-published new 168-page "Buyer's Guide To Best & Worst Tractors."

Check here to renew.

United States

- \$21.95 for 1 yr.
- \$41.95 for 2 yrs.
- \$57.95 for 3 yrs.

Canada

- \$27.95 (Can.) for 1 yr.
- \$53.95 (Can.) for 2 yrs.
- \$71.95 (Can.) for 3 yrs.

My check (\$ _____) is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State /Prov. _____

Zip _____

Make check payable to FARM SHOW.
Clip and mail this coupon to:
FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044
Phone toll-free 800 834-9665 or go to www.farmshow.com
VISA, Mastercard & Discover accepted.