



**Tracked manure carrier brings wood from a shed to Norenberg's outdoor furnace. To mount the track, he extended the eave on his woodshed and mounted the rail beneath it.**



**A chain hoist is used to raise and lower the carrier for easy loading and unloading.**

## Tracked Manure Carrier Now Transports Wood

Barry Norenberg turned an old manure system - complete with its track - into a wood carrying transport that brings wood from a shed to his outdoor furnace.

"A neighbor was going to scrap out the carrier and the track, but he let me have it," says Norenberg. "He said he would love to see it put to use."

Norenberg installed the system just in time for the 2014 winter. The cold temperatures nearly doubled the amount of wood burned from 7 cords to 12. Complete with a chain hoist to raise and lower it for easy loading, the carrier worked great, says Norenberg.

"One load is equal to about 2 1/2 large wheelbarrows, but I'm not slipping on ice

and fighting the snow," he says. "I just load it up and push it to the door of the furnace."

To mount the track, he extended the eave on his 32-ft. long woodshed and mounted the rail beneath it. The corner of the shed is about 20 ft. from the furnace. Norenberg wanted to bridge the distance with rail, but at the same time be able to move it out of the way to make room for his tractors or truck.

"The rail has a short section of linked pieces that allow the carrier to swing right or left for dumping," explains Norenberg. "It was originally mounted at the barn door. I mounted it at the corner of the shed so the 20-ft. length of track can be swung out of the way as needed."

To suspend the track, he mounted it to a 20-ft. long, 2 by 4-in. channel iron beam. The beam is hinged to a 12-ft. long, 6 by 6-in. post buried 4 ft. in the ground at the corner of the shed. Three wire suspension cables run from the top of the post (8 ft.) out to the beam for more support. A fourth cable runs from the top of the beam to the rear corner of the shed for opposing support. The linked track at the pivot point allows the suspended track section to swing with the beam.

"I ran the track along the entire front of the wood shed," explains Norenberg. "I can load up the carrier, lift it up to waist height with the chain hoist, and push it to the door of the furnace. It's at just the right height to fill the

firebox."

Norenberg says it has been especially helpful for his wife to use when he is unable to make it home and the furnace needs filling. Having injured her back in a bad car accident, filling and pushing wheelbarrows of wood is out of the question.

"I can fill the carrier before I leave and push it into place," says Norenberg. "My wife can toss the wood into the furnace without even bending over."

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## Walk-Behind Snowblower Converted To Wood Hauler

If you burn a lot of firewood, you'll appreciate this wood hauler built from an old Sears Craftsman walk-behind snowblower by Kevin Bledsoe of Adrian, Mich.

He unbolted the blower and auger from the snowblower and then mounted a small child's wagon in their place. The wagon rides on a single caster wheel and is supported by a frame made from 1-in. sq. tubing and flat steel, which bolts onto the snowblower housing. The caster wheel is off a zero turn riding mower.

"I use it to haul firewood about 100 yards from a wood pile to my house, which is uphill all the way. It works like a motorized wheelbarrow and saves a lot of work," says Bledsoe. "The snowblower's big lugged wheels provide great traction, even in deep snow, and the swivel wheel makes the wagon easy to steer."

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**Bledsoe unbolted the blower and auger from a walk-behind snowblower and mounted a small wagon box in their place. It rides on a single caster wheel.**

## Log Hauler Equipped With Options

Phil Harris gets double duty out of his power winch-equipped log hauler. He can use it to pick up the end of a log or to tow a trailer that he can load either with the winch cable or a tractor loader.

"I have a small crossbar on back with a hitch ball mounted to it that connects to either side of the arch with shackles," says Harris. "I can unhook one side to swing it out of the way while I pick up a log or remove both pins and take it off entirely."

Aside from buying the winch, wheel hubs and the ball mount coupler for the tongue, Harris made the log hauler from salvaged steel. He used 2-in. steel tubing and angle iron for the frame of the hauler and reinforced 1 1/2-in. angle iron for the arch. Harris welded the wheel hubs to lengths of 2-in. square tubing on the frame.

"Most of the steel was scrap discarded by the local phone company," says Harris. "I welded a hook to the center of the arch to secure the log."

Where the frame meets the ends of the arch, the joint is reinforced with flat steel gussets

and steel strap that angles between arch legs and frame. Flat bar also reinforces the front end of the frame, coming together with the steel tubing at the tongue.

When he's not using a trailer, Harris simply backs the arch up to the chosen log or pulls it into place with the winch. He then hooks the cable through a pulley on the arch to the log and lifts it into place.

"Once the log is lifted into the arch, I hook a length of chain from the top of the arch, around the log and release the pressure on the cable," says Harris. "The chain holds the log in place until I'm ready to unhook it, at which time, I reverse the process."

If hauling an extra long log, he will slip the trailer under the other end. He then chains the log to the trailer tongue, and it trails like a commercial logger's dolly axle. Once the log is chained to the hauler's arch, it's ready to go, easily pulled by an ATV or small tractor.

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**Phil Harris uses his power winch-equipped log hauler to pick up the end of a log. A removable crossbar on back with a ball hitch can be used to tow a trailer.**