

Editor's Notebook



Mark Newhall

Editor & Publisher



Rodler says his "log shear" will replace the conventional wedge on any log splitter, reducing injuries and power required.

Revolutionary Splitting "Shear"

Walter Rodler hopes to prevent thousands of injuries every year while also improving performance of every kind of log splitter with a new knife-style "shear" that slices through logs without throwing them out to the sides like a conventional splitting wedge.

The Canadian inventor says he got tired of getting hit by split logs exploding out to the side when split by wedges that are wide at the back. He spent years experimenting with his new design to get just the right angle to slice logs apart in a way that leaves the split chunks of wood sitting on the splitter table.

According to Rodler, benefits of the new design include: less power needed; reduced maintenance costs for mechanical and hydraulic parts; less fuel used; smaller hydraulic cylinders can be used; less hand and finger injuries by not having to have your hand on the log when splitting; reduced tension when hitting a knot, reducing flying debris; and the ability to make kindling strips with the splitter.

Rodler says the splitting shear can be fitted to any existing splitter and he's working to put it on the market. He may also offer his own line of splitters, including an all-terrain splitter designed to be easily towed off-road. He has received both U.S. and Canadian patents on his new log shear.

You can see a video of the log shear in action at www.farmshow.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Walter Rodler, P.O. Box 695, Debert, Nova Scotia, Canada B0M 1G0 (ph 902 662-3213; swrodler@eastlink.ca).

Inside The "Freak Animal" Business

Contributing editor Lorn Manthey reports that he had an interesting conversation recently with a fellow who makes a living buying and selling "freak animals" such as 2-headed calves, oddly colored pigs, crazy-looking reptiles, and so on. "For more than 50 years I ran an animal freak show at fairs across the country and made a darn good living doing it," says Marv Lyngen, who now lives in Schertz, Texas. "We had a large collection of unusual animals - such as a pigeon that had all black feathers on one side and all white feathers on the opposite side. People love to see them."

Although many of his exhibits were dead animals or birds sealed in cases, he also had several live animals. "One of our most popular exhibits was a rabbit without any ears. We kept it in a nice clean cage and the kids would really love to see it hop around just like a normal rabbit," says Lyngen.

Lyngen was born into the carnival business and enjoyed working with people and exhibits so much that he kept doing it his whole life. "When I was young I always had a soft heart for animals and still do today. Even those animals born with deformities deserve a chance to live." Lyngen told of his father once caring for a perfectly normal baby goat, except it was born without legs. "We nursed that little thing along and it did just fine."

Lyngen says his show animals lived a charmed life. "We

bathed them every day, kept their pens clean and made sure they slept on clean pine shavings. I always provided medical treatment if they needed it."

Although Lyngen doesn't travel the fair circuit any more, he still acquires abnormal animals from farms and ranches. He sells some to Ripleys and donates others to veterinary schools. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marv Lyngen, Freak Enterprises, 18905 Interstate 35 North, No. 228, Schertz, Texas 78154 (ph 210 214-2810).

Shoes Take A Beating In This Business

We recently sent our faithful British "scout" Andrew Sewell to Agritechnica, the world's biggest farm show held every other year in Hanover, Germany. You can read a report on a few of the new products he spotted there on page 26 of this issue.



Looking for FARM SHOW stories at big shows takes a toll on boots, as Andy Sewell found out.

After the show, Andy sent us this picture of a pair of boots that didn't quite hold up. "I've used the same brand of German-made boots for 15 years. This pair just didn't quite hold up." Fortunately, Andy always carries an extra pair with him so the broken-down boots didn't interrupt him for long at the giant show. Andy walks as many as 10 miles a day at the show, spending 3 to 4 days looking for new inventions and ideas.



Clint Youse entertained kids and adults with his "buried" tractor.

"Stuck" Tractor Draws A Crowd

At first glance, showgoers at the North East Missouri Old Threshers antique tractor show figured Clint Youse had a lot of digging to do to get his Moline tractor out of the ground. Clint told everyone there had been so much rain before the show started that one of his tractors got stuck during setup.

Of course, the reality is that Clint chopped off the top of an old tractor hood as well as two rear tractor tires, and arranged them on the ground with a real tractor seat and steering wheel. Clint said kids at the show had a lot of fun "driving" the buried tractor.

We got this photo from Cheryl DeLap Yearsley, editor of *The Prairie Gold Rush*, a quarterly magazine for Minneapolis Moline and Twin City tractor enthusiasts. If you like those old tractor brands, you'll enjoy their magazine. You can get more info at www.prairiegoldrush.com.

Liberty Quotes

"In matters of conscience, the law of majority has no place." *Mahatma Gandhi*

"True, it is evil that a single man should crush the herd, but see you not the worse form of slavery, which is when the herd crushes out the man?" *Antoine De Saint-Exupery*

"To silence criticism is to silence freedom." *Sidney Hook*

"A radical is one who speaks the truth." *Charles A. Lindbergh, Sr.*

"Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner." *James Bovard*

"The merit of our Constitution is not that it promotes democracy, but checks it." *Horatio Seymour*

"The Greeks labored under the delusion that their democracy was a guarantee of peace and plenty, not realizing that unrestrained majority rule always destroys freedom, puts the minority at the mercy of the mob, and works at cross-purposes to the effective use of human energy and individual initiative." *Henry Grady Weaver*

Anybody that wants the Presidency so much that he'll spend two years organizing and campaigning for it is not to be trusted with the office." *David Broder*

"It is precisely for the protection of the minority that constitutional limitations exist. Majorities need no such protection. They can take care of themselves." *Illinois Supreme Court*

"While democracy must have its organizations and controls, its vital breath is individual liberty." *Justice Charles Evans Hughes*

We Get Letters . . .

This showed up in my mailbox the other day:

"Hay there - my name is Shaun Baker and I thought FARM SHOW might be interested in the free mobile app I've been working on for the last 2 years. My goal with HayMap is to help organize the forage industry by bringing buyers and sellers together. We are launching the app in the U.S. on February 1st and in Canada and Australia by summer, 2016.

"Using your iPhone, iPad or Android device, you will be able to locate hay for sale near you and view details such as photos, quantity available, price, hours of operation, reviews and more. Through the app you'll be able to arrange delivery and, after the sale, both buyer and seller can leave feedback for each other regarding the transaction. That helps build reputation.

"To learn more, readers can visit www.HayMap.com or contact me directly: support@haymap.com or ph 979 399-0276."



Shaun Baker of Hempstead, Texas, is getting ready to launch a free mobile app designed to bring hay buyers and sellers together.

The Farmer & The Mule

A mule fell into a farmer's unused well. The farmer heard the mule braying and, after carefully assessing the situation, decided that neither the mule nor the old well were worth saving. He decided to kill two birds with one stone by filling in the old well and burying the mule to put it out of its misery.

As he shoveled dirt into the well, the mule became hysterical. However, as dirt hit his back, he'd shake it off and step up. He seemed to calm down as the process went on, continuing to "shake it off and step up" as the well gradually filled up.

It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, stepped triumphantly out of the well. Although at first it had seemed like the dirt would bury him, instead it ended up helping him. All because of the way the mule kept its head when things looked bleak.

That's life! If we face our problems and respond to them positively, refusing to give into panic, bitterness or self pity, the adversities that come to bury us can have the potential to benefit and bless us. So if you're struggling, just "shake it off and step up!" (Contributed by James Maynard)

Lena went to work in tears. Her boss asked her, "What's wrong?"

Lena responded, "My mudder died off a heart attack." He told her to go home but Lena said she'd feel better if she just kept working.

Just then the phone rang and Lena picked it up. Soon she was sobbing harder than ever. "Did something else happen?" her boss asked.

Lena replied, "Ya! I yoost talked to my sister and her mudder died, too!"

Sven and Ole got a job putting in telephone poles. After the first day the foreman asked how many poles they had put in.

"Two," said Ole.

"Only two?!" exclaimed the foreman. "All the other crews put in at least 10."

"Yah," answered Ole, "But did yew see how much dey left sticking out uff da ground?"

Ole got caught by a park ranger in California roasting a bald eagle over a campfire. At his trial, the judge said, "Don't you know eating an eagle is a Federal offense?"

Ole said, "Ya, but can I please explain what happen?"

"Proceed," said the judge.

"Vell, I got lost in da woods. I had nottin' to eat for two weeks. I vas so hungry! Den I sees a bald eagle fishing and I thought if I followed da eagle, maybe I could get sum fish. But den I accidentally killed da eagle. I figured it would be wrong to let it be wasted on da ground. So I made da decision to eat it up."

The judge considered Ole's heartfelt testimony and then responded, "Due to the extreme circumstances you were under, and because you didn't intend to kill the eagle, the court will dismiss the charges. But, if you don't mind my asking, what does a bald eagle taste like?"

"Vell," said Ole, smiling and relieved. "I would say dat it tasted somewhat between a Spotted Owl and a California Condor."