The Gadgets seminar this year was hosted by Richard Sobecki in the Lake James conference room. The presentation offered innovative problem-solving ideas that were not only extremely effective but inexpensive as well. The gadgets presented were a combination of commercial products and unique custom designs created by individuals representing their parks. Compact fluorescent light bulbs or CFL’s were a popular gadget presented, offering much longer life in addition to saving on energy. There were several other great innovative ideas like the putty knife whose use was modified to squeeze the last remnants of product within a tube and the two wheeled cart that makes it possible for individuals to easily move and maneuver several large pieces of plywood. One of the more technical custom designs was the conversion of a fertilizer spreader from a tractor so that it could operate successfully and be easily removed on a Kubota utility vehicle. Overall, there were many great innovative and effective ideas presented, which could be applicable to parks as well as home.
GADGETS 2009
GIVE THEM A TRY
BY BILL BRAUER

Introduction

- I'M GOING TO BRING BACK A COUPLE GADGETS FROM THE PAST AND SHOW YOU SOME NEW ONES.
- I HOPE YOU FIND ONE OR SEVERAL YOU CAN USE.
- HERE WE GO!

GADGET # 1
ON-THE-LEVEL

- Have you ever sat down at one of your park tables put something on it and the table “wobbles”?
- Here is one gadget that will stop that “wobble”.
- www.onthelevel.net
- www.jacobholtz.com

ON THE LEVEL #1

FRUSTRATED BY WUDDLY TABLES?

Superlevel

The Permanent Solution For Wobbly Tables

Effective table stable by inserting adjusting to any uneven surface,

- No material adjustment required
- Extra-long threaded bolt
- Threaded stem can be adjusted
- Great in addition to garden trellis
- Made of high-strength, galvanized iron

NO TOOLS NEEDED! Installation is simple

GADGET # 2
TAIL GATE LOCKING DEVICE

USING A STANDARD GATE LOCKING DEVICE AND STAKE BODY CORNERS.
This is a publication of “FARM” innovations “Gadgets” that farmers have created to fit their needs.

Examples of ideas parks might use:
- Ski trail track setter
- Ski trail groomer w/car hood smoother
- Side-mount tiller
- Tractor mounted tree shear
- www.farmshow.com

**# 3 FARM SHOW MAGAZINE**

**GADGET # 3a “NEW EDGE”**

- A MOWER BLADE WITH REPLACABLE “ EDGES”
- www.newedgellc.com

**# 3a NEW EDGE**

**GADGET # 3b Pasture Cleaner**

- CLEANS UP ANIMAL DROPPINGS FROM GROUNDS
- CLEANS UP LEAVES AND DEAD GRASS
- CLEANS UP GOOSE POOP
- SEE TESTIMONIALS ON WEB SITE
  - IOWA STATE PARKS CHEYENNE COUNTRY CLUB
- www.pasturecleaner.com
GADGET # 4 HELPING HAND

- Being aware that budgets and manpower come up short, I have in the past presented a number of “Gadgets” that would lighten the load on our maintenance staff and/or give them a “helping hand” so they could do more things without the need of another person. Some of those are:

WORK FORCE SHORTAGE?

- A 3rd HAND www.fastcap.com
- A T-JAK www.spotnails.com
Dream Horse #3

Gadget # 3

- Dream Horse
- Gadget of the year 1995
- Presented with a new modification
- A HINGED TABLE TOP

Along that same line of labor saving “back saving” I suggest the following:

- Forearm Forklift
  www.forearmforklift.com
- Shoulder Dolly LD1000
  www.shoulderdolly.com
- Jawhorse www.jawhorse.com
GADGETS SESSION
2009
presented by
Richard Sobecki
Huron Clinton Metroparks
GREAT LAKES
PARK TRAINING
INSTITUTE

GADGETS
• Innovative problem solving ideas
• Inexpensive
• Relatively easy to make
• Made from items around the shop
• Can be ideas
• Can be purchased items that make the job easier to do.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT COMPACT FLOURESCENT LIGHT BULBS?
ALSO KNOWN AS: CFL’S
This is comparable to a 60 watt bulb. Previous slide showed an incandescent bulb putting out 820 lumens.

This is also a 60 watt comparable bulb.

15W = 60
Replaces 60 Watt
Uses only 15 Watts

This bulb uses only 23 watts
and is 1640 Lumens Bright

This bulb uses 100 watts
and is 1690 Lumens Bright
This is a 100 watt replacement bulb

This is the equivalent of a 60 watt bulb

This is the equivalent of a 60 watt bulb

Instant-On
Now smaller than ever
What to you know about:
Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs for Consumers

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr_cfls

Click on choose a light guide.

Reshaped Shovel

- Used to clean out drain pit in wash bay
- Sides hold in material as water drains away
Simplify the spare situation

- With so many different wheels on your mowers etc., color mark a spot on all spares and on each equivalent unit. When you call back to the shop or your looking through your inventory for the spare needed to fix the tire, just look for the color on the spare to match the rim on the mower.

Dirt getting into air hose connection?
Dirt can find it's way into the air hose connection

Tee slides easily into air fitting

Have a bag left over from a conference?

- Make it into a carrying case for tools, oil and chain guard for your chainsaw when using it out in the field
Quick and easy way to squeeze the last out of a tube

Tools for Automatic Transmissions
MAGAZINES CAN BE A SOURCE

- Some of the ideas shown in this presentation have come from the Best of SUCCESSFUL FARMING magazine

To Be A Presenter
Contact Us @

GREAT LAKES PARK TRAINING INSTITUTE 2009
GADGETS SESSION PRESENTERS

- If you would like to present a gadget or gadgets or know of someone who would, please notify me through one of the following ways:

  - Richard Sobecki
    Park Superintendent
    Lower Huron Metropark
    17845 Savage Rd.
    Belleville, MI 48111

  - Phone: 734-697-9181
  - Fax: 734-697-1384
  - Email: richard.sobecki@metroparks.com

THEND
• gadget 2009\102_0614.MOV
WORK SMARTER  
SAVE YOUR BACK

STOUT'S BACK SAVER GRIP™

Allows you to GRIP a tool higher, eliminating the awkward bending that is the primary cause of back strain!

- Works with ANY Long-Handled Tool
- Patented Design Increases Leverage & Efficiency
- Better Control with Overhead Tools

As Featured On
The NBC TODAY Show

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