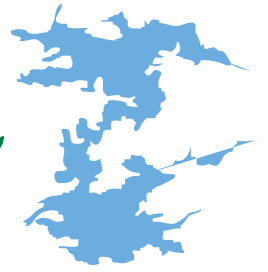


# Lake WahWashKesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

FALL 2017



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mother Nature blessed us with two good seasons this year, spring and fall. Unfortunately summer was nothing to write home about. This fall has seen many days of nice sunshine and warm temperatures. The weekend before Canadian Thanksgiving was sunny and in the high 70's F. Today, December 3, it has been above freezing most of the day and no precipitation. There is no snow in the bush and the lake, which started to freeze over earlier, is now completely open.

The Executive have been busy since the AGM. Please see the important articles inside about membership fees, the two public access docks, one in Indian Narrows' and the other in Bennett's Bay, and time limits for presentations at the AGM.

Also are updates about the loon nesting raft, the water quality report, and a financial report. There is also an article about two awards that Mike Maceina, the director in charge of water quality and testing, received this summer. Congratulations Mike!

*The Executive wishes all members  
and friends all the best  
for the holidays and a healthy,  
happy, and prosperous 2018!*

*Don Comrie, President*

## LOON NESTING RAFT UPDATE

The ice went out of Lake WahWashKesh on April 15 and April 16 this year and the loon nesting raft went back into the water and was anchored at its location on April 17. During the winter four extra logs were bolted to the bottom to add flotation to the nesting material and keep it dry. Fresh moss was added on the top to make the site more attractive, but again this year, it was to no avail. Other lakes which have installed loon nesting rafts have waited for two or three years before loons have adopted the sites so we are hopeful for next year. Thanks for your patience and support.

*Don Comrie*



# MEMBERSHIP FEES


At the AGM in August, a motion was made, seconded, and carried that a two-tier membership fee be started. After considerable discussion, the Executive have approved the following.

**- From January 1, 2018 until May 21, 2018 (the end of the Victoria Day weekend)  
memberships will be \$35.00**

**- After May 21, 2018, memberships will cost \$50.00**

It is hoped that this will encourage members to purchase their memberships early, reducing the amount of work at the AGM and making more funds available to the Association earlier in the year. This is a trial and will be monitored and more changes may occur in the future. It should be noted that the Association has not raised its membership fees in at least 12 years. Included in this newsletter package is an order form which can be completed and mailed or purchased at Bennett's Store or through the website.

*Don Comrie*




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[www.lakewwk.ca](http://www.lakewwk.ca)

The form is available on the  
bottom of the Home page

For those that are comfortable  
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# Green Corner

by N. Glenn Perrett

## DeWalt Flexvolt 60V Brushless Chainsaw

DeWalt [www.dewalt.com](http://www.dewalt.com)  
(item DCCS670X1)

It's nice reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. While we never used much oil to heat our home, it felt great when we switched to geothermal heating and cooling.

Recently I decided to try a battery-powered chainsaw and the one that I selected was the *DeWalt Flexvolt Brushless 60V Chainsaw*. I was pleasantly surprised at how well this chainsaw performs and I was delighted to be able to get a supply of wood quickly, efficiently – and without using any gasoline!

I use the *DeWalt Flexvolt Brushless 60V Chainsaw* for many trees and logs up to a foot in diameter (the "Instruction Manual" says to use this chainsaw for cutting logs up to 14" (355mm) in diameter). The DeWalt chainsaw is not only a little lighter than my gas-powered chainsaw, but it is much quieter and I don't have the hassle of taking gas tanks into the woods and filling the chainsaw. The chainsaw does require bar and chain oil and the manual says not to use the saw "under wet conditions".

To date I've used the chainsaw to cut a variety of wood including white spruce as well as some trembling aspen, elm and black cherry and the saw has performed well. The first time that I used it the saw's battery lasted for 45-50 cuts of spruce logs with diameters ranging from 7"-12". To give myself more time cutting wood I also got the DeWalt 20V/60V MAX\* Flexvolt 9.0 AH Battery 2 PK (item DCB609-2).

The saw has several nice features including the relatively easy adjusting of the chain tension. I also like the on/off switch which features



a variable speed trigger switch. You must continue to squeeze the trigger to keep the saw running. The 16" Oregon bar and chain is another nice feature. The charger is easy-to-use and the battery features a fuel gauge.

The instruction manual for the saw is comprehensive and make sure that you read the entire instruction manual before using the saw. Not being too familiar with using battery-operated power tools I learned a lot including storing and transporting batteries. When you need new batteries make sure that you recycle the old ones which can be done at stores which have a recycling program.

## Folding Trail Saw

Lee Valley [www.leevalley.com](http://www.leevalley.com)  
(item # PB340)

Fall is a good time to prune trees removing damaged branches and those that are in the way. We often need to remove branches that grow across the trails at our home. The *Folding Trail Saw* is an impressive portable saw that is easy to carry (comes with a "nylon shoulder holster to carry it hands-free.") The saw features an overall length of 52" with a '24", 5 tpi Japanese-style blade' that folds into the handle when not in use. According to Lee Valley, the saw "makes fast work of cutting timber up to 11" in diameter". I haven't used the saw to cut wood this thick yet, but it did easily and efficiently prune branch-

es 4-5" inches in diameter.

Because this saw can effectively

cut fairly large branches and logs, folds up, weighs only approximately 1 kilogram and comes with a shoulder holster it is ideal for hikers, campers and cottagers. It certainly is useful in helping to maintain the couple of kilometres of trails at our home.

## Concentrated All Purpose Castile Soap

The Green Beaver Company  
[www.greenbeaver.com](http://www.greenbeaver.com)

It is a good idea to evaluate, and re-evaluate, the products that you use considering not only your health, but also the health of other animals and the environment. An example of how easy it is for chemicals that our species uses to make their way into the environment involves recent research that found that human antidepressant drugs are building up in the brains of fishes in the Niagara River. Other harmful chemicals and products that humans use routinely make their way into the environment harming not only it, but the plants and animals who depend on a healthy Earth. A good example of this are the plastic microbeads – tiny plastic particles put in some products – that are causing considerable pollution including throughout the Great Lakes. How were these even allowed to be used let alone released into the environment?





When selecting household and personal care products I select products that not only work well, but which are natural, vegan, cruelty-free and readily biodegradable. These characteristics apply to

The Green Beaver Company's "Concentrated All Purpose Castille Soap" (Zesty Orange) so I wanted to try it.

This soap is not only vegan and not tested on animals but it is also "Certified Ecocert" and is GMO-free! I like products which have more than one use and this concentrated liquid sunflower soap has five uses recommended on the bottle – body wash, handsoap, dish soap, floor cleaner and "tile, tub or stovetop scrub."

We have used this product in a handsoap dispenser and for cleaning dishes and our tile floor – and it worked well in all three areas. The directions for a handsoap state, "Refill your dispenser with 1 part soap and 3 parts water." When our former handsoap

also effectively and efficiently (calls for only "2 or 3 tbsp of soap in a full bucket of water") cleaned our tile floor. (Our dishes were also effectively cleaned but I'm not convinced to switch dish soaps at this time.)

Besides the environmental and anti-cruelty characteristics of "Green Beaver" products, it is nice to know that it is a family-owned, Canadian company. They also work with various environmental groups and their website informs and educates. I recommend reading the article "How Personal Care Products Threaten our Waterways" at:

<http://greenbeaver.com/how-personal-care-products-threaten-our-waterways/>

## TIE BOSS Tie Downs

[www.tieboss.com](http://www.tieboss.com)

My wife and I go to a cottage living show every year and for several years we found ourselves watching an interesting demonstration pertaining to the various uses of tie downs from TIE BOSS. In fact the demonstration was so impressive we decided to try these products – and we're glad that we did!

There are a 1/4 INCH TIE BOSS, a 3/8 INCH TIE BOSS as well as a TIE BOSS Block & Tackle and a TIE BOSS Hanger Sling. Funny enough, we have used these for various jobs, but not any of which

(which was also eco-friendly, effective and cruelty-free) was finished we used this castille soap and it not only worked great, but it also saved us money (with less recycling). This is now our regular handsoap!

This soap

involves tying things down – yet (we haven't had these items for very long). The main reason why we became interested in these products was due to the TIE BOSS Hanger & Sling. This product, which comes with two of the 3/8 INCH TIE BOSS with 15' ropes, allows us to easily lift up and store our canoes and to easily lower them when needed. It works great!

Besides efficiently lifting and storing our canoes we have used the TIE BOSS to lift and keep a bird feeder out of reach of animals (besides birds). The feeder is easily lifted into place and released and lowered when we need to refill it.

We also save our own vegetable seeds including bean seeds. These tie downs allow us to hoist numerous bean plants from the rafters in our barn where they can continue to dry during the fall months. The beans are easily inspected to see if they are dry and ready to store by releasing and lowering the bundle (which is surprisingly heavy) of plants. If they require more drying time the TIE BOSS allows us to easily hoist them high up into the barn suspending them away from any animals.

These tie downs have a variety of uses and come in a one pulley setup as well as a two pulley block and tackle setup. With all of the tasks where we used these tie downs, they were easily and quickly set up and they securely held the items that we wanted to lift. Besides being easy to use these tie downs allow you to "lock and release with one hand." Make sure that you read and follow all instructions that come with the products that you are using. The TIE BOSS website is very informative and includes videos and instructions of these products that are made in the USA.



## WATER QUALITY UPDATE FOR WAHWASHKESH LAKE

Water quality monitoring continued WahWashKesh Lake during the summer in 2017 with the water quality meter. Terry Tweed and I sampled three times in July and August and readings were taken at 11 stations throughout the lake. Measurements were made at every meter of depth from the surface to the bottom of the lake unless the bottom exceeded 30 meters (98 feet).

We all noticed that rainfall amounts and water levels were very high in WahWashKesh Lake during summer 2017. This caused streams and rivers flowing into WahWashKesh Lake to also be high and these inflows contained a lot of tea stained or tannic water that enters the lake from the surrounding water shed. When Terry Tweed and I conduct water sampling, we also collect water clarity or transparency data with a secchi disk. Between 2016 and 2017 average water transparency declined from 8.2 feet (2.51 meters) to 7.1 feet (2.16 meters). So, water clarity was not as good as in years past due

to high inflows coming into WahWashKeshLake.

In addition, this tea stained water entering the lake contains tannic acid, which is naturally produced in the runoff entering the lake. This tannic water caused the pH or the amount of acidity in Wahwashkesh to decline from 6.56 to 6.14 between 2016 and 2017. A pH of 7.0 is neutral water. The Magnetawan River enters WahWashKesh Lake at Lovesick rapids and this water had a pH of 6.02 during the summer of 2017. Farm Creek has an even lower pH, typically less than 5.0, but this inflow did not affect much of our lake as this water quickly leaves the lake at the Magnetawan River outflow near Deep Bay. In the back of Whitestone Bay, the Whitestone River enters the lake, and in 2017 this site also had a low pH value of 5.74. These three major inflows entering WahWashKesh Lake had much lower pH levels in 2017 compared to years in the past. These pH levels do not present a problem or threat to the food

chain.

The overall water quality in WahWashKesh Lake remains good. High rainfall amounts did not affect other water quality parameters that we measured and the oxygen levels that support aquatic life remained high. In 2018, water quality will continue to be tested and any changes documented. If you have any questions or water quality issues, please feel free to contact me.

*Mike Maceina*  
*maceimj@auburn.edu*  
*Water Quality Coordinator and*  
*Director*

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## REPORT FROM THE DOCK COMMITTEE

The Lake WahWashKesh Conservation Association Dock Committee (John Nelson, Rod Bennett, Norman Lock) and the Executive have been hard at work this past fall to address dock issues at Indian Narrows and at Bennett's Bay. **A lot of research, phone calls, on site visits, estimate gathering, and discussion has taken place and everyone should appreciate all the hard work of the individuals involved.**

A decision has been made to replace the Indian Narrows dock with an 8 feet by 40 feet dock. This new dock is commercial grade to withstand high use, the flotation is guaranteed for 15 years, and this new dock will have bumper strips all around. In addition, the aluminum ramp at the Bennett's Bay landing will be replaced and some repairs to the dock will be made. At this point in time, the Association does not have the funds to purchase two new docks, but we hope the dock at Bennett's can be replaced in a few years.

Liability on the docks is paid for by the Municipality of Whitestone and this agreement between the Municipality and the Association expires in 2018. Currently, the Association is starting negotiations with the Municipality to renew this agreement.

In addition, the Association is seeking a grant from the Municipality to offset our costs to replace and repair these two docks. This year's replacement and repairs will nearly completely deplete the Association's treasury, but we feel safe and useable docks is a top priority. Obviously,

boat access fees collected by the Association are not great enough to maintain, repair, and replace these two docks. The Association recognizes that the docks are used by many commercial vendors to facilitate transport to water access cottages and other non-resident groups who seek outdoor enjoyment on WahWashKesh Lake. Thus, we consider and will argue that these docks are in fact "public docks", and as we all certainly know, this has been the case for many years.

*Mike Maceina*  
*Director Liaison for the Dock*  
*Committee*



## LAKE WAHWASHKESH BOARD OF DIRECTOR EARNS TWO PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Mike Maceina, who has served on the Wahwashkesh Lake Conservation Association Board of Directors for eight years and coordinates water quality monitoring, earned two awards in 2017 from the American Fisheries Society. The American Fisheries Society is primarily comprised of US and Canadian fishery biologists. Is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic sciences. Mike was awarded best technical paper of the year (2016) from the 200 papers published in one of the American Fisheries Society's journals. In addition, he was elected into the Society's Fisheries Management Hall of Excellence for this contributions in education, research, public service, and software development. He is the 49th member to be elected to the Hall of Excellence.

*Mike (left),  
Joe Margraf President of the  
American Fisheries Society (center)  
Steve Sammons (right) who was  
a coauthor on the paper receiving  
the Best Paper Award*



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATION TIME LIMITS

The Executive, after much discussion, has decided to limit the time available for presentations made at the AGM. Effective the AGM on August 4, 2018, presentations will be limited to ten (10) minutes for the presentation and five (5) minutes for questions and answers after the presentation.

*Don Comrie*



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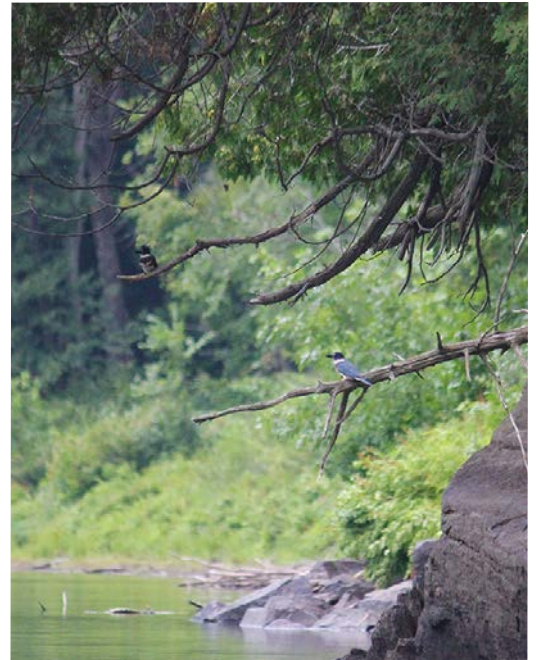

# GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT

## – WAHWASHKESH 2019 CALENDARS –

The Executive has decided to go forward with bringing out a Lake Calendar for 2019. For my sins, I have been given the job of co-ordinating this project. I am putting out the call now for pictures of the lake, pictures that reflect all four of our seasons. I know that there will be many that cover the summer and fall, but we are always short pictures that show off our wonderful lake in November, December, January, February and March. Pictures taken in those months will be greatly appreciated. It would be good to limit the number of sunset pictures you send, as there is always an inordinate number of them. So choose the most representative of all your pictures and send them to: **wahwashkeshcalendar@gmail.com**

Remember that the pictures submitted need to be of good quality, as they will be enlarged to fit the 8½" x 11" format. All pictures selected for the calendar are used with the permission of the photographer. Please don't submit anything for which you aren't willing to give permission. The deadline for photos is March 31, 2018, as we want to have the calendar ready for sale by the July 1st weekend. I am looking forward to seeing the best and the brightest of all that you have to offer. Help me to make the 2019 edition the best calendar yet.

*Terry Tweed*



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## Book Reviews

by N. Glenn Perrett

### Algonquin Park's Mowat: Little Town of Big Dreams

Mary I. Garland

*The Friends of Algonquin Park*

2015, 207 pages, ISBN: 9781894993647

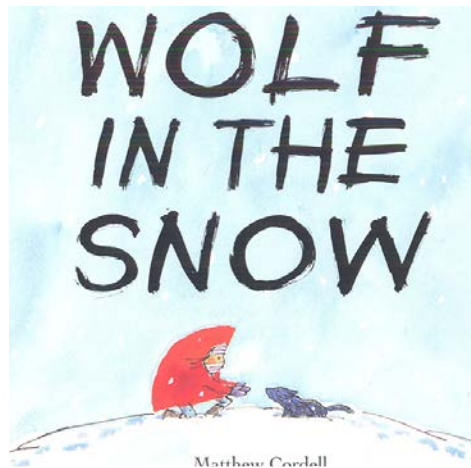
<http://store.algonquinpark.on.ca/cgi/algonquinpark>

Learning about an area's history can make visiting or vacationing there even more special. If you are going to Algonquin Park you will want to read Mary I. Garland's book *Algonquin Park's Mowat: Little Town of Big Dreams* published by The Friends of Algonquin Park. The book combines interesting, well-researched text with lots of quality photographs and maps – and some paintings by artists such as Tom Thomson and Arthur Lismer.

I'm looking forward to spending time in Algonquin Park in the relatively near future and I'm enjoying learning about the world famous park by reading books such as *Algonquin Park's Mowat*. This particular book looks at the ghost town that is Mowat. Mowat was located on the west shore of Canoe Lake.

In covering Mowat, Mary I. Garland looks at the area before Algonquin Park was created and the town of Mowat through into the 1920s. Along with the town, Garland covers lots of interesting topics including the area's early history, the timber industry and some of the residents such as John Shannon Fraser and the Blecher family. Mowat Lodge is also featured as well as Algonquin Park and Camp Ahmek. There is also a section on "Tom Thomson's Death."

Anyone who has been to Algonquin Park or who enjoys learning about Ontario's history will find *Algonquin Park's Mowat* a fascinating read!



### Wolf in the Snow

Matthew Cordell

*Feiwel and*

*Friends, 2017,*

*48 pages*

*ISBN:*

*9781250076366*

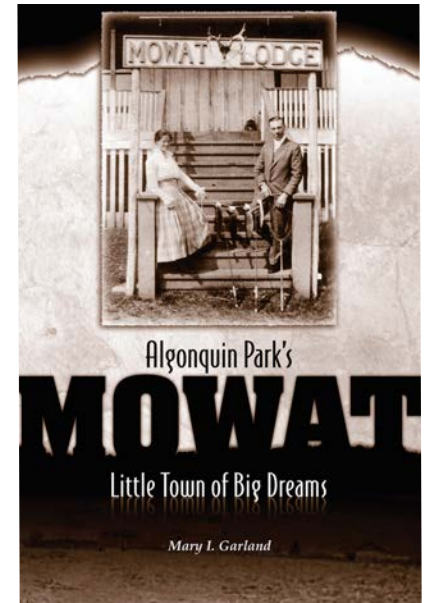
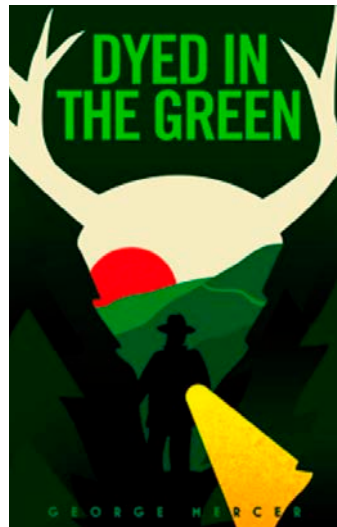
*ages 3+*

*Wolf in the Snow* doesn't have any text but it does have wonderful illustrations

that tell an awesome story for people of all ages. The story sees a young girl leave school and, during a snowstorm, find a wolf pup who has become separated from the wolf pack. The girl helps the young wolf who is scared and struggling in the deep snow. She carries the pup a considerable distance returning the animal to his family who celebrate his return.

When the little girl returns home, she struggles in the deep snow where she lies down. The wolves return her kindness by rescuing her as they howl into the night until the girl's parents, and their dog, are able to locate her and take her home.

*Wolf in the Snow* is a heartwarming tale with a positive messages about wolves. One of my favourite children's books. Highly recommended!



### Dyed In The Green

George Mercer

2015, 361 pages

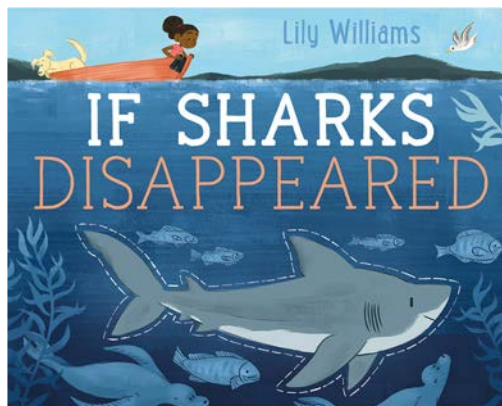
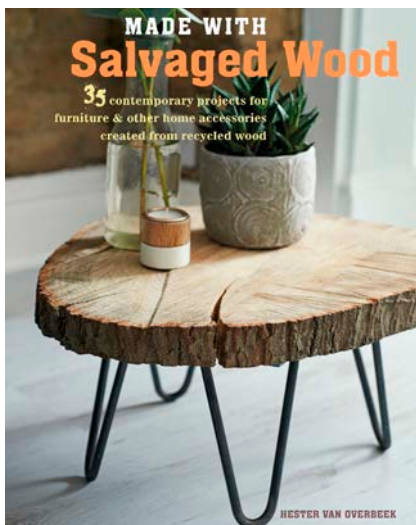
ISBN: 9780987975409

<http://georgemercer.com/purchasing/>

Set in Canada's national parks, George Mercer (who has worked as a national park warden in Canada for more than three decades) is writing an entertaining series of novels featuring National Parks Warden Ben Matthews.

I just finished the first book in series – *Dyed In The Green* which is very good. The story features Ben Matthews who is young but on his way up in the national parks. Matthews has just moved into a new position – Assistant Chief Park Warden for Cape Breton Highlands National Park. Set along the famous Cabot Trail, this crime mystery looks at poaching in a national park. The locals have been killing deer and salmon inside the park with little opposition. With Ben Matthews' arrival to the park things are about to change. One of his major goals is to greatly reduce the salmon and deer who are being killed in the park and he and his colleagues are about to go to great lengths to insure that this will occur. The park wardens have their work cut out for them as they are dealing with some ruthless





criminals in a tight-knit community where everyone knows everyone. And local support for the national park is not high.

As the park wardens begin to successfully address poaching in the park, safety becomes a concern as the officers are threatened by those who have profited by the killing of animals inside the park. In order to protect the park and its residents and garner respect for-

their work, the wardens must stop criminal activity occurring in Cape Breton Highlands National Park. How far will the wardens go and will there be any repercussions?

## If Sharks Disappeared

Lily Williams

Roaring Book Press, 2017, 36 pages

ISBN: 9781626724136, ages 4+

*If Sharks Disappeared* is an informative children's book that looks at sharks, the role they play in ecosystems, the health of the planet and how they are all connected. The author, Lily Williams, mentions how overfishing has hurt sharks stating that "... between one-fourth and one-third of shark species are vulnerable to extinction because of overfishing." She then shows the reader what will happen if sharks disappeared, before ending on a positive note mentioning that sharks live in all of the Earth's oceans and that Earth will be good if we all work together and remember that everything is connected.

Complementing the educational story with an important message is a good glossary along with sections on "Sharks Are in Trouble" and "How You Can Help Save Sharks." Good nature book. Highly recommended.

## Made with Salvaged Wood: 35 contemporary projects for furniture & other home accessories created from recycled wood

Hester van Overbeek, Cico Books, 2017, 128 pages, ISBN: 9781782494850

Woodworkers, those who like to make crafts and those who like to live more sustainable lives and use recycled material when possible will be interested in *Made with Salvaged Wood: 35 contemporary projects for furniture & other home accessories created from recycled wood* by Hester van Overbeek.

The beginning of the book contains information about "Choosing and Using Wood" including where to find salvaged wood such as old doors, crates, floorboards, pallet wood, logs and branches. There is also information on curing wood, checking for bugs, cleaning wood and taking a pallet apart. Another section provides information on tools such as saws, sanders, drills, clamps, hardware – and more. Techniques for sawing, sanding, drilling, gluing, painting and stripping paint are also included.

Next, there are chapters for projects divided into "Display and decorate", "Furniture" and "Shelving and storage". Within these chapters there is lots of interesting projects that you can do involving using recycled wood including a wooden display box, a rope tray, a patio planter, a door table, a room divider (using three old doors), a door bench, a crate bookcase, a branch clothes rail, a corner shelf – and lots more.

Nice selection of projects involving using recycled wood.

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