

# The Fur Shed

By: Greg King

## Editors Note:

This is the newest edition to the Buckeye Trapper Magazine. I would like to have you, as readers and members, send in your own articles and photos of your fur shed for this regular column. I started things off with my own fur shed since this is a new piece and I have no submissions yet, but this is truly the members column so please send your pictures and write up in about your fur shed.

Thanks, Greg King

The fur shed is what you make of it and for me it is an ever evolving process. My fur shed started out pretty humble, and still is, but changes are always waiting in the wings and new ideas are always spinning around in my head. I have had the privilege of going into many different fur sheds over the years, and much like teaching, you take any ideas you can and use them to help you out. Many tricks and inventions I use have come from looking at what others have done and adapting it to my shed. Tag a long for a trip to the shed!

My shed is a sixteen by twenty piece of the garage I have separated from the rest. It is insulated and dry-walled so it holds some heat in and has high ceilings in it. From the center of the ceiling I have installed several eye bolts to attach different skinning gambrels so we can skin several animals at once. I also installed a winch in the highest part to help with coyotes when needed. I also installed a hillbilly ceiling fan in the ceiling to help move air to dry fur and keep the heat down where it matters the most. One little trick I adapted from seeing others' fur sheds is I installed pieces of plywood across the ceiling with screw eyes set staggered in them to hang boards on once they have fur on them. This allows the boards to hang a certain distance apart to keep air moving between them and aids in the drying process.

Now on down to the tables and



**A view of the ceiling showing the separate pulleys for gambrels and our hillbilly ceiling fan**

countertops. I was able to pick up a nice piece of countertop at a home improvement store that I installed over homemade legs to make a nice work surface. This countertop is a good place to open coon and skin rats on. It was really cheap since it had a little chip out of the backsplash, but you have to ask where the scratch and dent stuff is to find items like this. I also have a higher table, *Little Greg* is way taller than me so it gave him a comfortable place to open coon. It was a damaged piece of stainless steel counter I picked up at a good price as well. I made shelves under this to store boards when they don't have fur on them. I like to maximize my space as best I can and this gave me a chance to do so. I have my rat beam screwed into the front of the big countertop so when I skin rats I can move them right over to the small beam to flesh them. Conservation of movement makes you faster I think.



**The workbench with the muskrat beam attached to the front.**

Now for coon my board is mounted on a hinge on the wall. This allows me to swing it up out of the way when I am not using it. It is made solid by a leg

that also has a hinge, so when folded up the leg swings tight to the beam. Under the coon beam I split an old plastic barrel in half to catch the fat and oil that falls while fleshing. Not pretty but it does the job. I have the other half that hangs out in the shed and I use it to put under animals I hang on the ceiling gambrels to dry to catch blood that drips out. Both get laid in the fencerow during the summer months to collect rain to water the garden.



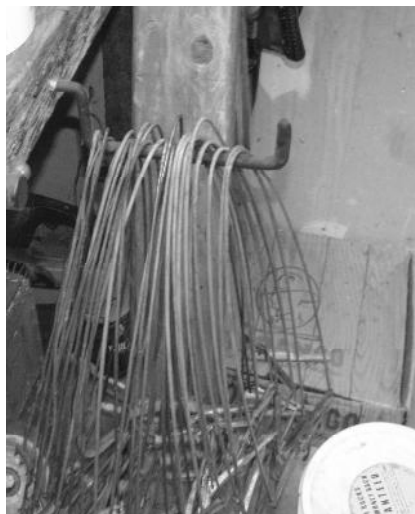
**This is the wall mounted fleshing beam. Notice the hinge to swing the beam to the wall. The leg also has a hinge to lay flat against the beam when up. The stainless table is in the background with the storage underneath.**

Along one wall of the shed is the skinning machine. This one is very different than any other I have seen but it works great. I picked it up kind of started and added my touches to it as I finished it. The chains on the front give me the flexibility to move the clamps up and down depending on what I am skinning. They stay pretty much in the same place for coon though and that is mostly what I skin on it. The machine sure saves a lot of wear and tear on an aging body when there is a pile of coon to skin. Heck I use the machine even if there is only one coon, the smarter not harder theory. On the side of the machine Greg came up with some bolts with washers welded to them to set boards in when pinning. We just drilled and tapped the frame so we can run the bolts in and out so the boards stand up, with a slight lean, to allow pins to be put in without laying the board down. For the pushpins I put some old pieces of foam insulation on the wall beside where I pin fur and stick all my pins into the foam, this way they are right

there and easy to grab without poking fingers. When we are taking the fur off the boards we just reverse the process and stick the pins right back into the foam.



Above and top the right are top and bottom views of my skinning machine as well as the foam on the wall for push pins. Also the tubes in the top picture are where my shims for boards go. They are just left over metal and plastic pipe with the bottoms duct taped off so the shims stay in the tubes if I pick them up.



This last picture is a simple bike hanger, purchased at most home improvement stores I use to hang wire stretchers on. It is plenty long enough so the stretchers don't fall off.

I hope a little look into my shed has given you some ideas for your shed and helps in some way. Please take a few minutes and write a little article about your shed to share with others. This is how we learn and maybe it will make our lives a little easier. Don't forget to take lots of pictures to share as well.

## Chapter 8 Newsletter

Chapter 8 has lost one of our greatest members of our chapter. Robert (Bumble) Orms passed away on December 13, 2012. He was with Chapter 8 from the very beginning and was one of the first presidents of the chapter and when he gave up the position as president it was because he cast the tie breaking vote against his opponent by voting for the other man instead of himself. That shows how much he cared about everyone. He came in contact with and would do anything to help anyone he knew. Bob was very active in the chapter as president and spent countless hours in anything pertaining to the club. He was the man who made the Chili Bash what it is with his secret chili recipe.

He was there to help anyone and in any way he could. I can remember one auction we had while he was running the kitchen he had a pot of something on the stove brewing. I asked what it was and he told me duck stew. Duck is not one of my favorite things by a long shot, I think I only had it once in my life and couldn't have cared whether I ever had anymore. Bob kept bugging me to try it. I finally gave in and it was the best stew I think I ever tasted in my life. I'm sure many people will remember him for what he done in life that helped or influenced them in whatever they were doing. I think everyone in the chapter will remember him in some way as we go on. Thank you Bob for all you have done for us as a member of our Chapter. You will certainly be missed.

