



March 2015

Cabin Life

YOUR GUIDE TO COTTAGE, LAKEHOME & CABIN LIVING

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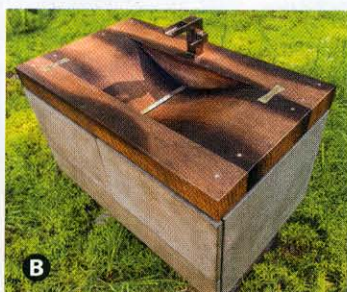
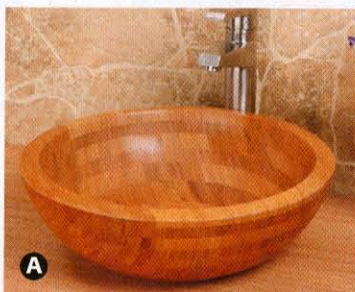
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Vol. 15 No. 2

QUICK QUIZ ▶

Wooden Sinks?

All three of these sinks look like they were carved out of wood, but not all of them were. Can you guess which sinks are actually made from wood? Find the answers on p. 10.



GARDENING ▶

March Madness

IT'S TIME TO START seriously perusing all those garden catalogs that are piling up on your coffee table. Spring will be here before you know it, and you have seeds and plants to buy! But ... hold on. First assess your seed inventory. If you're like me, you probably have some stock left over from past years. If kept in a cool dry place, year-old seeds should yield pretty good results. If you find a few dusty Swiss chard packets from 2001, however, it's probably safe to toss those on the compost heap.

Jennifer Baker is a gardening and landscaping expert. Stop by her booth at the Lake Home & Cabin Show in Schaumburg, Ill. (Feb. 20–22), www.lakehomeandcabinshow.com.



NEWS REPORT ▶

Changes in PFD Standards

New U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket labels are on the horizon

Last fall, the U.S. Coast Guard dropped its old coding scheme for personal flotation devices (PFDs). As of Oct. 22, manufacturers are no longer required to include Type I, II, III, IV or V on their PFD labels.

The coding was used to differentiate between types of life jackets. The system tended to confuse boaters, limited choice and increased the cost of the PFDs, says Chris Edmonston, president of the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and chairman of the National Safe Boating Council.

“The boating safety community believes this move by the Coast Guard will help lead the way toward more comfortable and innovative life jacket designs, help boaters stay on the right side of the law, lower costs and save lives,” says Edmonston.

The type coding was unique to the U.S., and removing it is simply the first step in a multiyear process that includes designing new labels and developing new standards, so those probably won't be seen on the market until at least 2017. In the meantime, you legally can continue to purchase and use life jackets with the old Type I–V coding on the labels.

“We must continue to have a properly fitted life jacket for all aboard, and as always, you'll need to follow the label's instructions regardless of when it was made,” cautions Edmonston. “Simply put, if you follow the label, you're following the law.”

To see a full list of the current life jacket types, as well as any updates on new life jackets, visit www.boatus.org/life-jackets.

Emily Hare



Photo courtesy Tracker Marine

Fun Festivals in Cabin Country



SWEET SPREAD – Maple cream gets mixed up at Toad Hill Maple Farm near Thurman, N.Y. Photo by Kelly Kilgallon, courtesy Randy Galusha

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF OWLS

Houston, Minn., March 6–8

This festival has grown from its humble beginnings as a “hatch-day” party for Alice, a Great Horned Owl that was rescued in 1997 after she fell out of her nest in Antigo, Wis. The weekend now includes informative seminars, hands-on activities for kids and adults, and a pancake breakfast.

www.festivalofowls.com

THURMAN MAPLE DAYS

Thurman, N.Y., March 14–15, 21–22, 28–29

Pick one of three weekends to tour seven different agricultural sites, including four maple farms. Don't miss the Maple Sugar Party at Thurman Town Hall on March 15. This event features live music and an all-you-can-eat buffet, and proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.

www.thurmanmapledays.com

MIDWEST OPEN GEOCACHING ADVENTURE

Jackson, Mo., March 19–22

If your kids or grandkids are wild about geocaching, then they'll love this event. It has a different theme every year, and this year it's “Unearth the Pharaoh's Treasure.” Besides geocaching competitions, the weekend also includes train rides, puzzle competitions and a Sunday feast.

www.mogageo.com

NEWS REPORT ▶

A Fairer, More Affordable System

Congress seeks stable pricing structure for owners of cabins in National Forests

On December 19, 2014, U.S. President Barack Obama signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act. Included in this bill was the Cabin Fee Act, which may be of particular interest to some cabin owners. It includes a provision to establish a fair, predictable fee-setting system for families who own cabins on national forest land.

In 1915, the U.S. Forest Service set aside a small number of lots for Americans to build recreational cabins on federal land. Since then, owners have paid an annual fee for the use of the forest service lot. There are currently over 14,000 recreational cabin owners across the U.S.

In 2000, Congress adopted Public Law 106-291 that included a change to implement variable cabin fees based on a subjective appraisal system. The unique nature of cabins has made appraisal difficult and often arbitrary, and the faulty system has resulted in exponential increases in fees in recent years. Many owners who can't afford the mounting fees are faced with the choice of selling their cabins or abandoning and tearing them down.



Thinkstock.com

“This provision will provide certainty and fairness to thousands of families, including a number in Central Washington who own cabins on forest service land, by creating a fair and stable pricing structure,” said Doc Hastings, chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and author of the provision. “Many of these cabins have been passed down for generations, and this bill will allow that tradition to continue.”

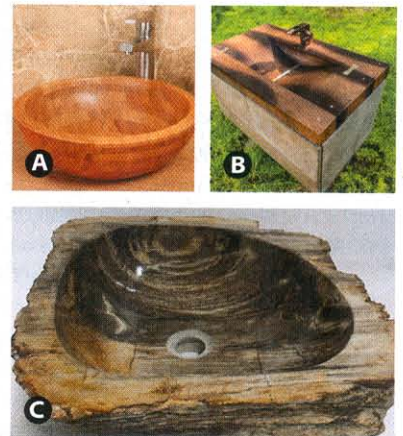
Hastings' Cabin Fee Act establishes a simple, predictable fee-setting system under which cabin lots are assigned a place on a six-tiered fee structure based on current appraisal.

The National Defense Authorization Act was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on Dec. 4 and passed the U.S. Senate on Dec. 12.

SOURCE: www.congress.gov

QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS ▶

See quiz and larger photos, p. 8.



[A] LENOVA MAKES THIS above-counter basin, which is made out of bamboo. (Okay, so bamboo is technically a grass, not a wood. But hey, it is organic.) **\$495; www.lenovasinks.com**

[B] THIS SINK TOP was actually formed out of concrete. JM Lifestyles' signature WoodForm finish, shown here in the color of Burnt Alder, makes this piece virtually indistinguishable from real wood. Neat, huh? **\$1,969; www.jmlifestyles.com**

[C] THIS ONE'S TRICKY. This product from Rustic Sinks was formed out of petrified wood, real wood that has been fossilized into stone over thousands of years. No two sinks are exactly alike. **\$575; www.rusticsinks.com**