

CELEBRATING 11 YEARS

MARCH/APRIL 2024

# COOLtears™

and tiny campers  
MAGAZINE

CRAFTING A MASTERPIECE  
THE STORY OF  
"THE OUTSIDER"

CRAFTING ADVENTURE: THE CEDAR SKEETER // EMBRACING THE WILDERNESS: A LEAVE NO TRACE WRAP-UP //  
UPCOMING EVENTS // SPRING HAS SPRUNG: REGIONAL CAMPING LOCATIONS

EST. 2013

ISSUE

77

WWW.COOLTEARS.COM

**BIG  
WOODY**

**Serious about building  
a teardrop camper?**

Big Woody Camper  
**ULTIMATE KIT**

**\$1039<sup>00</sup>** plus shipping

*Teardrop Campers*



Handcrafted Custom Campers.

Plans, kits, parts and accessories for the home builder!

**BIG WOODY CAMPERS**

715-271-0465 | [www.bigwoodycampers.com](http://www.bigwoodycampers.com)



Built in the USA

Covers, Shades and Tent Solutions for :

- Little Guy Trailers
- R-Pod Trailers
- T@B Trailers
- T@G Trailers
- A-Frame Trailers
- inTech Trailers
- Hiker Trailers
- and many more

**BahaQue**  
www.pahaque.com

Foway, California  
Call us toll-free at  
888-700-TENT  
(888-700-8368)

Also available at: **TearDropShop.com**



# HIT THE OPEN ROAD

*With Autowbrake on your trailer,  
just plug and tow.*



The only electric brake control with nothing installed in the tow vehicle, 100% trailer contained. Period.



[www.getautowbrake.com](http://www.getautowbrake.com) • [getautowbrake.com](http://getautowbrake.com)

# COOL Tears™ and tiny campers MAGAZINE

VOL. 12 NO. 2 MARCH/APRIL 2024



Editor  
Lisa Adams

Contributing Authors  
Jerry Clark  
Anne Cox  
Scott Luce

## 10 COVER STORY CRAFTING A MASTERPIECE ON WHEELS THE STORY OF "THE OUTSIDER"

LISA ADAMS WITH JERRY CLARK

5 LETTER FROM THE EDITOR  
LISA ADAMS

8 KITCHEN ON WHEELS: GREEN TORTELLIN SOUP AND PESTO IDEAS  
ANNE COX

16 TINY CAMPERS IN THE NEWS  
COOL TEARS STAFF

18 TINY CAMPER GATHERINGS  
COOL TEARS STAFF

23 CRAFTING ADVENTURE: THE STORY OF THE CEDAR SKEETER, A DIY  
RAINDROP  
LISA ADAMS WITH SCOTT LUCE

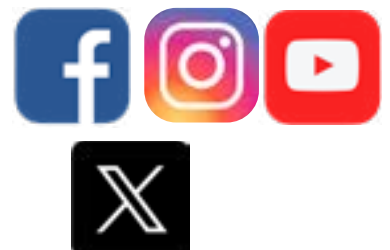
27 EMBRACING THE WILDERNESS: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE OF LEAVE NO TRACE  
FOR TINY CAMPER ENTHUSIASTS  
LISA ADAMS

30 AWAKENING WILDERNESS  
A SPRINGTIME GUIDE TO CAMPING  
COOL TEARS STAFF

© Copyright 2024 Cool Tears Magazine™ All Rights Reserved  
Cool Tears Magazine™ is a trademark. Written materials submitted to Cool Tears Magazine™ become the property of Cool Tears Magazine™ upon receipt and may not necessarily be returned. Cool Tears Magazine™ reserves the right to make any changes to materials submitted for publication that are deemed necessary for editorial purposes. The content of this publication may not be copied in any way, shape or form without the express permission of Cool Tears Magazine™. Views expressed in the articles and reviews printed within are not necessarily the views of the editor, publisher, or employees of Cool Tears Magazine™.

Mailing Address:  
Cool Tears Magazine  
51956 CR 215  
Lawrence, MI 49064

**Connect with us!**



# Letter from the Editor:



Hello Tiny Camper Enthusiasts!

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG**, and with it comes the much-anticipated release of our latest issue, blossoming with inspiration, innovation, and the collective spirit of our camping community. As we shake off the chill of winter and gear up for the warmer months ahead, this edition is designed to ignite your passion for adventure and deepen your appreciation for the great outdoors.

In this issue, we've turned the spotlight on two remarkable home-built tiny campers. These labor-of-love projects not only showcase the incredible ingenuity and creativity of their builders but also serve as a testament to the growing movement towards compact, sustainable travel. Each story is a journey through the process of transforming vision into reality, providing both inspiration and practical insights for our readers who might be contemplating their own DIY camper projects.

Continuing our commitment to responsible camping, we've wrapped up our series on Leave No Trace principles. This initiative is close to our hearts, emphasizing the importance of preserving the natural beauty and integrity of our camping destinations. Through engaging stories and expert advice, we hope to empower our community to make a positive impact, ensuring that these treasured places can be enjoyed by generations to come.

As the days grow longer and the nights warmer, our thoughts naturally drift to plotting our next escape. To help fuel your wanderlust, we've curated a list of must-visit spring camping destinations. From the serene lakesides to the wildflower-strewn trails, these spots offer something for every type of camper, whether you're seeking solitude or the camaraderie of fellow outdoor enthusiasts.

Speaking of camaraderie, we're also thrilled to bring you a guide to upcoming tiny camper gatherings. These events are a fantastic opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals, share stories, and learn from each other. Whether you're a seasoned camper or new to the community, there's no better way to dive in and make lasting memories.

Enjoy the read, and as always, camp responsibly. ■

Happy travels and stay safe  
Live Tiny. Live Free.

Lisa Adams

Editor

Cool Tears Magazine™

[Lisa@cooltears.com](mailto:Lisa@cooltears.com)

## Helinox: A Trusted Brand of Cool Tears since 2019



custom adventure trips & itineraries / outdoor events / content creation / adventure magazine



# The Best Buying Experience and the Best Accessories for your Teardrop!

Plus new arrivals, daily deals and live chat with our accessory experts!



10x10 Cottonwood Shelter



10x10 Cottonwood XLT



All Weather Cover



Side Mount Tent



Teardrop Lock



T@B Tent



Visit [www.teardropshop.com](http://www.teardropshop.com) or call Toll Free: 1-844-834-5701



THE APP FOR TEARDROPPERS!

## Connect with the Teardrop Community!

- ✓ Status Updates
- ✓ Share Photos
- ✓ Likes & Comments
- ✓ Campsite Check-Ins
- ✓ Review Campgrounds
- ✓ Connect With Campers



Now available on iOS and Android!  
<http://teardropnation.com>



# Kitchen on Wheels

Easy green tortellini soup and pesto ideas **BY ANNE COX**

**THIS IS A RECIPE** for times when you need a fast and easy meal or readily available ingredients no matter where you are. We will travel in Canada again this year and I'll not be able to bring a full pantry so I am planning meals I'll shop for when there and have ingredients which allow for multiple meals in different ways.

## Ingredients

- 4 TBL basil pesto
- 2 TBL lemon juice
- 5 oz container of spinach - more or less to taste
- 1 cup frozen peas - more or less
- ½ cup scallions or onion
- 4 cups / 1 carton vegetable or chicken broth
- 2 cups refrigerated spinach and cheese tortellini (or brown rice)

## Directions

1. Combine all ingredients except peas and tortellini and bring to a simmer.
2. Add tortellini and cook until tender.
3. Add peas and return to a simmer.
4. Serve hot.

Easy, right? I think you will be able to find everything in most grocery stores. Play around with it if you want. For example, try pumpkin

ravioli and sun dried tomato pesto. Add more vegetables. I usually thro the whole bag of frozen peas in unless I need some for a salad.

I just made this recipe this week so now there is a jar of pesto to use up and I'll be truthful, this is the type of thing that I find a year later in the back of my fridge. I want to reduce my food waste so I'm planning to use it in one of the following ways... pick up a crusty loaf of sourdough for a pesto and tomato grilled cheese, add to a container of plain hummus to make a pesto bean dip for veggies and crackers, spread on veggie wraps, marinate cubed chicken breast in a baggie and saute for pesto chicken, make a pesto potato salad or a baked potato







WE GO TO THE EXTREMES...

*Camp-Inn Travel Trailers*

*Extreme Luxury Teardropping*

*Over 30 Options      Over 100 Features*

*Highest Quality Materials & Finishes*

*Building Luxury Teardrops for 20 Years*



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

...SO YOU CAN TOO!

**Road Toad Campers**

**Extreme Light Weight**

Starting at \$6165 - Shipping Available

All Composite Construction

Pull with <sup>almost</sup> Any Vehicle

600 lbs Cargo Capacity

400 lbs Dry Weight

Extremely New - 2019



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

Camp-Inn Travel Trailers and Road Toad Campers are built by Petenwell Ind. LLC



# Crafting a Masterpiece on Wheels

The story of "The Outsider" **BY LISA ADAMS with JERRY CLARK**

**IN THE WORLD** of DIY camping trailers, Jerry Clark's "The Outsider" stands apart as a breathtaking fusion of vintage charm and modern innovation. This one-of-a-kind teardrop trailer is a testament to Clark's boundless creativity, masterful craftsmanship, and unwavering commitment to creating a camping companion that would foster an unbreakable bond with nature.

## The Inspiration: A Childhood Love Rekindled

Clark's love affair with the great outdoors began in his childhood, when family camping

trips instilled in him a deep appreciation for the natural world. As an adult, he carried on this tradition with his wife, exploring the great outdoors in their beloved 1967 Volkswagen Kombi bus, affectionately known as "Sonny." However, as their daughter grew, the sleeping quarters in the bus became too cramped, prompting Clark to seek a more spacious and comfortable solution—one that would not only accommodate their growing family but also embody the spirit of adventure they so cherished.

Rejecting the notion of settling for an off-the-shelf trailer, Clark embarked on an ambitious

journey to build his own, pouring his heart and soul into every aspect of the design and construction process.

## A Unique Vision Takes Shape

From the outset, Clark envisioned a trailer that would blend vintage aesthetics with modern materials and techniques, ensuring uncompromising durability and low maintenance. Drawing inspiration from his background in automotive restoration and metalworking, he conceived a design that would eschew traditional wood construction in favor of a full 6061 aluminum alloy skeleton, clad in 5052 aluminum alloy skin and stainless steel countertops.



Clark's commitment to water resistance was unwavering, with the insulated frame wrapped in mylar and a clever gutter system designed to divert any moisture away from the interior. The attention to detail extended to every aspect of the build, from the handmade polished side trim to the vintage-inspired touches like the 1930s Ford wire wheels and the repurposed 1909 Ford headlamp serving as a flood/reverse light.

## The Construction Process: A Labor of Love

What followed was a labor of love spanning the better part of two and a half years, with Clark dedicating every spare moment



to bringing "The Outsider" to life. Working tirelessly before work, on weekends, and even after most had gone to bed, he meticulously crafted each component, from the aluminum skeleton to the handcrafted trim and cabinetry.

Unique materials and techniques were employed throughout the build process. Clark embraced the use of impact-resistant structural adhesives and high-strength VHB tape instead of screws or rivets, resulting in a stronger, cleaner-looking trailer with fewer





potential entry points for water.

Inside, the upholstered "door" panels and cabinetry exude a warm, inviting ambiance, while clever design elements, like the fold-out luggage shelf and amber lighting, enhance functionality and ambiance. The kitchen area features stainless steel countertops, painted wood grain sliding door cabinets, and a cool white and brass backsplash, complemented by a set of beautiful robin's egg blue enamel dishes.

## A Masterpiece Unveiled

The culmination of Clark's efforts is a true masterpiece on wheels—a teardrop trailer that seamlessly blends form and function, capturing the essence of vintage design while showcasing modern craftsmanship. At a total cost of around \$17,000 and weighing approximately 1,350 pounds, "The Outsider"

is a feat of engineering and artistry, earning admiration from fellow enthusiasts and industry professionals alike.

During its debut at a vintage trailer rally in September 2023, "The Outsider" was the talk of the event, with attendees marveling at the craftsmanship and attention to detail. One attendee remarked, "You've captured the essence of vintage trailers while adding your own modern twist; many have tried but always seem to fall flat, never really working. It's truly a work of art, you sir, are a true craftsman."

## A Testament to Passion and Perseverance

Clark's dedication to his passion project has not gone unnoticed, and the outpouring of support from the community has been nothing short of incredible. Clark said that being

featured on the cover of the Cool Tears 2024 Calendar was a truly humbling experience, one that filled him with gratitude for the opportunity to share his labor of love with others.

"When I look at the completed teardrop trailer, I'm filled with a profound sense of pride," Clark reflects. "It is definitely one of the hardest things I've ever built, but a reflection of the passion and dedication that went into every aspect of the build."

## Looking Ahead: Endless Adventures Await

With "The Outsider" now complete, Clark eagerly anticipates embarking on countless



adventures with his family, fostering new connections within the camping community, and deepening his appreciation for the great outdoors. The trailer's exceptional insulation, water resistance, and spacious interior—complete with a queen-sized bed—promise unparalleled comfort and convenience, no matter the destination.



While future upgrades and projects may be on the horizon, for now, Clark relishes the opportunity to create lasting memories and share his passion with others. "Building 'The Outsider' has deepened my appreciation for camping and outdoor adventures, opening up a world of possibilities and experiences," he says.

## A Restoration Revived

As for his beloved Volkswagen bus, "Sonny," the restoration continues, with Clark preparing the vehicle to handle the added weight and demands of towing "The Outsider." From a powerful engine upgrade to suspension



enhancements and an increased fuel capacity, every aspect is being meticulously addressed to ensure a seamless and safe towing experience.

## A Legacy Forged in Craftsmanship

Clark's journey with "The Outsider" serves as a testament to the power of passion, perseverance, and craftsmanship. This extraordinary teardrop trailer is more than just a camping companion; it's a manifestation of a dream, a celebration of the great outdoors, and a lasting legacy that will inspire generations of adventurers to come.



As Clark embarks on new journeys with his family, "The Outsider" will undoubtedly become a canvas for countless stories, a reminder that the greatest adventures often begin with a daring vision and an unwavering commitment to making it a reality.

Lastly, I want to thank Jerry for his time and thoughtful answers to all of my questions.

Here are his words to my final question to him on "what's next"?

I actually started a Youtube channel at the beginning of this build, with the intention of letting everyone follow along with the build and our adventures. However, with this basically being a one -man show—only me building, filming and editing the videos—it was hard to keep up during the build and became too overwhelming. Now that the trailer is complete and the projects are not so huge, I have just fired it up again and am getting back into the filming. I would like to go back and finish the build series as it is something different than a lot of people do. I did continue to take pictures after posting my initial build videos, but didn't continue with as much video. I have pictures of everything along the way throughout the build. You can find me at #clarkdesignworks , @clarkdesignworks #theoutsider , #sonnythebus.

Once again a huge thanks to all the people who helped me out along the way. I had some



great input from some great friends and some even volunteered their time to give me some help. Grateful to say the least. Also big thanks to my wonderful and patient family for putting up with the insanity, I couldn't have done it without all of you. There is definitely an amazing feeling of accomplishment getting this finished and I'm very excited to see what the future holds for this little trailer in our family and our adventures with our family and friends. As well a special dedication to my beautiful mother, Carol Clark, who passed away from cancer in the middle of this build. At times, the build was a welcome distraction from the pain of losing someone so pivotal in my life. I did it Mom—hope you love it!" ■





# Tiny Campers in the News

BY COOL TEARS STAFF

## Empowering Women in Leadership: nuCamp Announces Promotions During Women's Month

**Sugarcreek, Ohio. March 20, 2024** – nuCamp, a leading manufacturer of high-quality teardrop trailers and truck campers, is excited to announce the promotion of two exceptional individuals within our Finance and Marketing Departments. As part of our commitment to fostering a thriving work environment and recognizing the invaluable contributions of women in leadership roles, nuCamp strives to create opportunities for growth and advancement.

**Cheryl Aleshire – Director of Finance and Office Operations:** With an illustrious career spanning over 25 years in public accounting, Cheryl Aleshire assumes the role of Director of Finance and Office Operations. Having served as the Controller at nuCamp for the past eight years, Cheryl has consistently demonstrated exemplary fiscal stewardship, playing a pivotal role in enhancing the company's financial stability.

**Julie McComb – Director of Marketing:** With more than two decades of marketing expertise under her belt, Julie McComb has been appointed as the Director of Marketing. Since joining nuCamp in 2019, Julie has been instrumental in shaping and executing innovative marketing communication strategies, driving brand growth and visibility.

As nuCamp continues to evolve, we have full confidence in our newly appointed leaders to spearhead ongoing innovation and success. These promotions underscore our unwavering commitment to excellence and reflect our dedication to nurturing internal talent. We anticipate that these advancements will not only positively impact our internal operations but also further strengthen our relationships with our esteemed customers and partners.



During Women's History Month and beyond, nuCamp celebrates the achievements and leadership of women like Cheryl and Julie, whose expertise and dedication contribute to the continued growth and success of our company.

**About nuCamp**

*nuCamp manufactures the highest quality teardrop trailers and truck campers available in the North American market. Our recreational vehicles and trailers are the result of extensive research and development, customer feedback, and the fusion of technology and old-world craftsmanship. The dedicated craftsmen and women who work at the nuCamp facility in Sugarcreek, Ohio, are committed to the principles of simplistic design, high-quality fabrication, and fanatical customer support. nuCamp is the world's largest manufacturer of teardrop trailers.*



*Julie McComb (left) and Cheryl Aleshire (right)*



# Tiny Camper Gatherings

BY COOL TEARS STAFF

**AT COOL TEARS**, our team is dedicated to keeping you in the loop about upcoming events and gatherings. But hey, we know we can't be everywhere all the time. That's where you come in! We rely on our community to pitch in, uncover fresh stories, highlight exciting events, and send in articles that'll captivate and motivate the wider teardrop camping crew.

Hanging out with like-minded folks at these gatherings opens up a whole world of possibilities. These meetups are golden chances to mingle with fellow teardrop camper owners, swap tips and tricks, and revel in the camping bliss that these special rigs

offer. It's all about learning from each other and discovering new ways to make the most out of your teardrop camper.

So, whether you're a seasoned pro or just dipping your toes into the teardrop camping scene, think about joining one (or more!) of these upcoming events. Connecting with other enthusiasts can seriously level up your camping game, spark your sense of adventure, and create memories to cherish forever. Let's come together and celebrate the joy of teardrop and squaredrop camping, building a lively community that's all about embracing the great outdoors.

Take a peek at these upcoming tiny camper events, and if you decide to attend one, we're here to help you share your experience with our readers!

## Teardrop and tiny camper events April - May

### April 5 - 9

Heartland Tearjerkers Famous Eclipse Gathering - Sam A Baker State Park, Missouri

### April 5 - 8

Sooner State Chapter, "Dark Side of the Sun" Gathering - Beavers Bend State Park, Oklahoma

### April 11 - 14

Dixie Chapter, Coming out of Hibernation - F.D. Roosevelt State Park, Pine Mountain, Georgia

Tiny Trailer Rally - Skyline Ranch RV Park, Bandera Texas

Unplugged in the Driftless - Yellow River State Forest, Harpers Ferry, Iowa

### April 19 - 21

Off Grid at Glade Top Trail - Glade Top Trail National Scenic Byway, Ava Missouri

Volun'Tears Spring Gathering - Henry Horton State Park RV Campground, Chapel Hill, Tennessee

### April 25 - 28

Bluegrass Chapter Spring Gathering - Natural Bridge State Park, Slade, Kentucky

Land of Lincoln Spring Gathering - Geneseo Campground, Geneseo Illinois

Liberty Bell Chapter Spring Gathering - Greenwood Furnace State Park, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

### April 26 - May 10

Highway 49 Crawl, California - contact Darrell at sorensonwoodcraft@gmail.com for more information

### May 2 - 5

Buckeye Chapter Spring Gathering - Paint Creek State Park, Bainbridge, Ohio

Heartland Chapter - Wakonda State Park, Grange, Missouri

### May 3 - May 5

Southern Ontario Chapter 3rd Annual Bulls Spring Outing - MacGregor Point Provincial Park, Port Elgin, Ontario

### May 10 - 12

New England Chapter - Partridge Hollow Camping Area, Monsoon Massachusetts

### May 16 - 19

Land of Lincoln's May Gathering - Kankakee River State Park, Bourbonnais, Illinois

Carolinas Chapter Spring Fling - Santee State Park, South Carolina

Hoosier Spring Gathering - Clifty Falls State Park, Madison, Indiana

Old Dominion Chapter "Mystery at Twin Lakes" Gathering - Twin Lakes State Park, Green Bay, Virginia



**Merchandise available  
from Bonfire**

**NOTE:** One of the great things about having a digital magazine is the ability to link you directly to the products or services that you want to hear more about. Some of the links on our website or in the magazine are affiliate links where we earn a small commission on goods that you purchase. These commissions help us to continue to defray the costs of publishing this magazine. You may notice as you read through the magazine that if you put your mouse over any ad or hyperlink, the screen may flash briefly. You can click on that picture or hyperlink and it will take you directly to more information. We are not affiliates for everything that we link to.

Cool Tears also participates in the Amazon Services LLC Associates Program, an affiliate program designed to help small businesses like this to earn a small fee by linking products to Amazon that you may be interested in.

We appreciate your support. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact either of us at [Lisa@cooltears.com](mailto:Lisa@cooltears.com) or [Anne@cooltears.com](mailto:Anne@cooltears.com)

**Harvest Hosts is a membership program that provides access to a network of wineries, farms, breweries, museums and other unique attractions that invite RVers to visit and stay overnight. Harvest Hosts now allows clamshell and teardrop trailers, but you may NOT use your outdoor cooking facility. Click the logo below to get 15% off the regular yearly price. We've stayed at breweries, wineries, farms, and art studios in our local area as well as across the country.**



**May 21 - 24**

Midweek at Wood County - South Wood  
County Park and Campground, Wisconsin  
Rapids, Wisconsin ■

# The Skeeter Beater

**LIGHT WEIGHT 14OZ**

**SUPER SOFT & DURABLE DOUBLE ZIPPER**

**WATERPROOF STUFF SACK WITH STRAP**

**"GO SUCK ON SOMEONE ELSE'S BLOOD"**

**EASY SET UP CLIPS RIGHT ON CARABINERS**

**NO SAG WITH HIDDEN ADJUSTABLE RIDGELINE**

**FITS ANY SINGLE OR DOUBLE HAMMOCK**

**Mr. Mocks**

# OKLAHOMA'S BEST CUSTOM BUILT TEARDROP TRAILERS



918.629.8311

**VETERAN  
OWNED**

## QUALITY CONSTRUCTION

— FROM THE FRAME UP —



**FULL KITCHEN**



**THREE MODELS**

Square Back, Wood Panel  
or Aluminum Panel

OK SCHOONERS TEARDROP TRAILERS ARE INDIVIDUALLY HAND-CRAFTED, QUALITY CAMPERS. EACH IS BUILT WITH YOUR SPECIFIC OPTIONS IN AVAILABLE COLORS AND ACCESSORIES AT OUR SHOP LOCATED IN BROKEN ARROW, OK. WE DO NOT MASS PRODUCE OR USE ASSEMBLY LINES. OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE OUR CUSTOMERS WITH A QUALITY CUSTOM-BUILT TEARDROP AT A REASONABLE PRICE. COMPARE US TO THE COMPETITORS AND YOU WILL FIND THAT OUR VALUE, QUALITY, AND WORKMANSHIP ARE FAR SUPERIOR.

**COLOR OPTIONS**



[Okschooners.com](http://Okschooners.com)



# Crafting Adventure

The story of the Cedar Skeeter, a DIY Raindrop Camper **BY LISA ADAMS with SCOTT LUCE**

**IN THE WORLD** of DIY enthusiasts and camping aficionados, the creation of a unique tiny camper is an achievement that marries craftsmanship, innovation, and a deep appreciation for the great outdoors. This is the story of the Cedar Skeeter, a distinct raindrop camper, by seasoned DIYer, Scott, with a passion for unique, tiny campers. The journey from a simple design to a well-crafted raindrop trailer reveals not just the technicalities of building such a marvel but also the heart and soul poured into it.

This is actually Scott's third self-designed and constructed camper, preceded by "Boogie Woogie Blue" and "The Gypsy Queen." Each build allowed him to hone his skills and bring new ideas to life. The Cedar Skeeter represents the culmination of his experience, inspired by 1953 "King Kamp Master" plans to create a camper with an unfoldable doorway that allows standing room despite the compact 6-foot ceiling height. He worked hand-in-hand with his interior designer wife to map out every aspect of the Cedar Skeeter. "We make a good team," he says of their

collaborative process.

The design and construction of the Cedar Skeeter were no small feats. Starting with an aluminum utility trailer that he found for \$300, he faced and overcame several challenges. "I had several friends tell me I should not use tongue and groove cedar. The joints would leak like a sieve. The key was knowing about Sika Flex, a unique caulk that was designed for teak decks on old wooden boats. It is weather resistant, bonds well to wood, and you can sand it. Helps to make good clean joints.

Another warning dealt with putting the kitchen doors in the front. Problem solved with my "Bow Bra", which is a traveling cover I use to keep the kitchen doors covered on the highway. It also helps protect the wood finish."

Key design features include the novel side entry door to access the front storage compartment, a double door kitchen at the front end, which can be fully rain-proofed by a 270-degree awning mounted to the luggage rack.

Material sourcing was a challenge met with creativity, utilizing local sign making supplies for aluminum skins and semi-truck repair companies for oversized rolls. He says, "It may not be pre-painted, but they have rolls of .040 thick aluminum over 7 feet wide (truck box roofing). They typically sell it in lengths of 30 or 55 feet (short or long bed trucks). If you ask, they may have "drops" that are shorter and they will sell it by the foot."

Safety was paramount, with meticulous attention to axle, bearings, and tongue



weight to ensure roadworthiness. Scott says, "More times than not, I have replaced the whole axle and bought new wheels. Now I know what I am working with. Also check the tongue weight. It needs to be 10 to 15 % of total weight. Too light and you will fishtail. I have actually moved my axle to get the weight I wanted."

Unexpectedly, the build also became a social affair, with tours becoming a regular occurrence, highlighting the community aspect of camping and the interest in tiny campers. This project, while a personal achievement, also contributes to the broader narrative of camping as a lifestyle that values simplicity, adventure, and the beauty of nature. He jokingly said that he could have funded some of his camping trips if he had a tip jar!







For those considering their own DIY teardrop trailer, Scott's advice is to view the project as a series of manageable chunks, a strategy that transforms an overwhelming task into a series of achievable steps. This approach not only simplifies the process but also enriches the experience, making it possible to enjoy the



journey as much as the destination.

For Scott, the greatest reward has been the pride of craftsmanship and distinctive design that allows the Cedar Skeeter to turn heads wherever it goes. "I'm most proud of how unique she is and how well she performs," he beams. While parting with such a labor of love will be bittersweet, Scott already has his sights



set on restoring a 1968 Bee Line trailer as his next DIY project to accommodate his future retirement travel plans. The sale of the Cedar Skeeter is bittersweet, marking the end of an era but also the beginning of new adventures.



If you are interested in purchasing the Cedar Skeeter, [click this link to send an email directly to Scott.](#) ■





# Embracing the Wilderness

The essential guide to Leave No Trace for Tiny Camper Enthusiasts **BY LISA ADAMS**

**IN THE PAST YEAR**, our journey through the principles of Leave No Trace (LNT) has highlighted the delicate balance between exploring the great outdoors and preserving its pristine beauty for future generations. As enthusiasts of teardrops, squaredrops, and other tiny campers—a "bed on wheels" community that cherishes the simplicity and closeness to nature these vehicles offer—it's crucial we discuss the intersection of our passion with the responsibility we bear towards the environment. This summary not only encapsulates the essence of LNT principles but also serves as a call to action

for all tiny camper enthusiasts to elevate their commitment to environmental stewardship.

## The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace

**1. Plan Ahead and Prepare:** Meticulous preparation is the cornerstone of a minimal impact trip. By understanding the environment you'll be entering, and by preparing accordingly, you minimize the risk of unexpected situations that could harm the natural area. For tiny camper owners, this means choosing campsites wisely,

understanding local regulations, and being equipped for sustainable camping.

### **2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces:**

The beauty of tiny campers is their ability to go almost anywhere. Yet, this freedom comes with the duty to protect. Camping on durable surfaces, such as established campsites or resilient ground, ensures that we do not leave our mark on untouched lands.

**3. Dispose of Waste Properly:** "Pack it in, pack it out" is more than a catchy phrase—it's a commitment to leaving places better than we found them. For those of us whose kitchens are under the stars, it means being vigilant about waste disposal, using biodegradable soap, and ensuring that nothing we bring into the natural world stays there. This includes human waste. If in the backcountry without toilet facilities, use a WAG bag (waste and go) bag and pack it out to safely dispose of the waste.



**4. Leave What You Find:** The wilderness holds wonders that are not ours to take. Whether it's wildflowers, rocks, or historical artifacts, these treasures should be left for others to discover and enjoy. This principle

challenges us to capture memories without capturing souvenirs.

**5. Minimize Campfire Impacts:** There's nothing like a campfire under the open sky, but the scars they leave can be lasting. Using a portable stove for cooking and a lantern for light minimizes our impact and keeps the wild truly wild. When fires are a must, using established fire rings and keeping fires small ensures they're both enjoyable and environmentally conscious. Keep the fire contained and extinguish it completely when finished.



**6. Respect Wildlife:** Encounters with wildlife are one of the joys of being in nature. However, our presence should not alter their natural behaviors. Feeding animals, approaching too closely, or disturbing their habitats are actions that can harm both the wildlife and ourselves. Observation from a distance is a respectful way to enjoy nature's inhabitants. Properly store food and dispose of waste to prevent attracting animals to your campsite.

**7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors:** The wilderness is a shared resource. Keeping

noise levels down, yielding trail space, and maintaining a low profile allows everyone to enjoy the serenity of nature. For tiny camper enthusiasts, this means being mindful neighbors, whether it's at a bustling campground or a secluded backcountry site.

our food, and the energy we consume. By making conscious choices, we can mitigate our environmental footprint, inspiring both fellow campers and the communities we visit.

I'm challenging everyone to leave every campsite and trail better than we found them; to pick up the broken glass, plastic bottles, or bottle caps; to pick out the non-burnables from a fire pit; to pick up trash on your hike or paddle; and to continue to recreate responsibly. Show us or tell us how you're making a difference while camping by using the hashtag #cleaningupcamp on Instagram or Facebook or by sending us an email at [Anne@cooltears.com](mailto:Anne@cooltears.com). We'd love to hear from you on your tips and tricks for following the seven principles of Leave No Trace.



## The Call to Action

As we reflect on these principles, it becomes evident that Leave No Trace is more than a set of guidelines—it's a way of life. It challenges us to think about the legacy we leave behind, not just in the wilderness but in every aspect of our lives. For those of us who find solace in the compact coziness of our tiny campers, the challenge is to lead by example, to show that exploration and preservation are not mutually exclusive.

In embracing Leave No Trace, we also open a dialogue about the broader implications of our travel habits. It's an opportunity to discuss the sustainability of our gear, the sources of

So, let us rise to the challenge and become steadfast stewards of the great outdoors! Whether you're a seasoned tiny camper or just embarking on your first adventure, make the commitment to Leave No Trace an integral part of your journey. Let's strive for greater awareness and action in our interactions with the natural world, and to inspire others to do the same. Together, we can ensure that the trails we follow, the campsites we enjoy, and the vistas we admire remain vibrant for generations to come. ■



# Awakening Wilderness

A springtime guide to camping in Pisgah National Forest and Algonquin Provincial Park

**BY COOL TEARS STAFF**

**IN THE HEART OF SPRING**, when nature awakens with vibrant colors and life, two exceptional camping destinations beckon adventurers and tranquility seekers alike: Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina, USA, and Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada. Chosen for their stunning natural beauty, biodiversity, and the unique outdoor activities they offer, these locations represent the epitome of springtime camping.

Pisgah National Forest, with its sprawling

landscapes of dense woodlands, cascading waterfalls, and miles of meandering trails, provides an enchanting backdrop for witnessing the rebirth of nature. The forest floor bursts into a kaleidoscope of wildflowers, while the milder temperatures create a perfect setting for hiking, mountain biking, and exploring the rich biodiversity of the Appalachian region.

Similarly, Algonquin Provincial Park offers a unique spring experience with its vast

expanses of forests, lakes, and rivers. The melting snow feeds into the park's waterfalls, presenting spectacular natural displays, while the emerging foliage and blooming trilliums add a touch of magic to the landscape. Canoeing, wildlife watching, and hiking through the rejuvenating forest offer serene ways to connect with nature at its springtime best.

We've selected one campground in each area that are unparalleled destinations for spring camping, providing a mix of adventure, relaxation, and the sheer joy of being

immersed in the season's awakening beauty.

## **Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina, USA**

Davidson River Campground  
1 Davidson River Circle  
Pisgah Forest, NC 28768  
GPS: 35.2808333N, -82.7225W  
35°16'50.9999"N, 82°43'21.0000"W

Spanning over 500,000 acres in the Appalachian Mountains, Pisgah National





Forest is a treasure trove of cascading waterfalls, miles of rushing rivers, and dense woodlands. In spring, the forest floor comes alive with wildflowers, including the vibrant pink and purple blooms of rhododendrons and mountain laurels, offering a spectacular backdrop for hiking, photography, and nature walks. The forest is also home to the first School of Forestry in the USA, reflecting its rich history in conservation and outdoor education. For tiny campers, the forest provides numerous camping opportunities with sites like Davidson River Campground, which is particularly popular for its proximity to hiking trails and fishing spots. The cooler spring temperatures make it an ideal time to explore the forest's vast network of trails, whether on foot or by mountain bike.

Davidson River Campground is surrounded by a network of trails catering to all levels of hikers and outdoor enthusiasts. One of the most notable trails is the Art Loeb Trail, a challenging yet rewarding hike that offers panoramic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. For a more leisurely experience, the Davidson River Trail provides a scenic stroll along its namesake river, perfect for families and those seeking a tranquil connection with nature. Beyond hiking, the area is a haven for mountain bikers and fishing enthusiasts, with the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education and the iconic Looking Glass Falls just a short drive away.

The nearby city of Brevard, known as the



"Land of Waterfalls," is less than a 10-minute drive and offers charming local shops, restaurants, and the opportunity to explore the local arts scene.

GPS: 45.567N, -78.4383W  
45°34'1.2"N, 78°26'17.879"W

**Number of Sites:** 144

**Pets:** yes

**Water:** available

**Electric:** yes, some sites

**Price per night:** \$\$\$\$ (\$35 for non-electric, \$43 for electric from March 23 - November 15)

**Fire Rings:** yes

**Picnic Tables:** yes

**Restrooms/showers:** yes

### **Other Nearby Attractions**

Asheville, North Carolina with its vibrant arts community, historic architecture, and the famed Biltmore Estate, is just a 45-minute drive away.

**Primary activities within the park:** Hiking, biking, fishing, tubing, and swimming.

**Pro Tip:** Drive or walk some of the nearby forest service roads to view the rhododendrons hanging from the cliff sides.

There are numerous campgrounds in the area if Davidson River Campground is full and there are many dispersed sites in the area too if that's your preference.

## **Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada**

Pog Lake Campground  
Frank MacDougall Parkway  
Nipissing, Unorganized, South Part, Ontario,  
Canada

As Ontario's first provincial park, Algonquin offers an expansive wilderness area that's a haven for wildlife and outdoor enthusiasts. The park covers about 7,653 square kilometers of pristine forests, lakes, and rivers.

Spring typically arrives from late April into May, which is later than the surrounding areas of Toronto or Ottawa due to the higher elevations. Algonquin transforms into a world of fresh greenery and blooming trilliums, Ontario's provincial flower, creating a stunning visual display. The season is also a prime time for wildlife viewing, with opportunities to see moose, beavers, loons and a variety of other bird species. Early mornings or dusks spent on the quiet trails or by the lakeside can yield memorable encounters with the park's inhabitants.

Hiking enthusiasts will find the Algonquin Provincial Park's extensive network of trails accessible from Pog Lake. These trails range from short, family-friendly strolls to more challenging hikes that lead to breathtaking lookouts over the park's vast forests and waterways. The Booth's Rock Trail, for instance, is a popular choice for its stunning views and fascinating geological features.

For a deeper dive into the park's natural and cultural history, the Algonquin Visitor Centre is a short drive from Pog Lake. It features exhibits on the park's ecology, wildlife, and the history of the area's Indigenous peoples and early European settlers.

Pog Lake Campground offers scenic sites with the comfort of being close to nature's tranquility. If you book an electric site, note that you will share the electric post with a

neighboring site. Bring at least 75 - 100 feet of electric cord with you to ensure that you'll be able to use the electric post.



**Number of Sites:** 286

**Pets:** yes, some sites

**Water:** available

**Electric:** yes, some sites

**Price per night:** \$\$\$\$ (\$47 - \$59CAD)

**Fire Rings:** yes

**Picnic Tables:** yes

**Restrooms/showers:** yes

This campground is ADA/wheelchair accessible (sites, toilets, showers). It also has laundry facilities, radio-free zones, and dog-free zones if you prefer.

### **Other Nearby Attractions**

The Algonquin Logging Museum offers an intriguing look at the park's logging past, complete with a recreated logger's camp.

**Primary activities within the park:** Hiking, trout and bass fishing, and canoeing.

**Pro Tip:** Canoeing is a popular activity in Algonquin, allowing visitors to navigate the park's waterways for a unique perspective on its landscapes and ecosystems; however, note that the water is extremely cold in the spring and anyone on the water should be prepared in case of a capsizing or cold water immersion. ■



EXCLUSIVELY AT  
MR. MOCKS

# The ThirdWheeler™ Mock

The Mock you didn't know you needed!

3+

MULTI PERSON  
MOCK

10ft Long &  
4.6ft Wide on top



12.5 Long &  
6.5ft Wide on bottom

70D PARACHUTE MATERIAL



WATER RESISTANT &  
FAST DRYING



WEIGHS 3LBS 10OZ  
WITH STRAPS!



Everything in  
One Stuff Sack!



Built in Ridgeline  
to prevent  
sagging



600lbs  
Safe Working  
Load

5

Available in all 5  
Mocks colors!



Other reasons why  
this is one of our  
favorite designs...

The top Mock acts as a  
sunshield

and

can store not only your  
partner, kids, or friends  
but also snacks, drinks,  
books, or any stuff

and

We can comfortably  
(and safely) fit all of our  
friends in one Mock!!



## Mr. Mocks Hammocks

Free Range Camp'n & Nap'n Gear

# DAMVID ADVENTURES



**MEMBER**

OUTDOOR WRITERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



**LEAVE  
NO TRACE**

Proud Partner

Uncompromising quality.



CLASSIC TEARDROP STYLE, MODERN AMENITIES

QUALITY DESIGN & CRAFTSMANSHIP  
KESTREL STARTS AT \$8,500

PIKA STARTS AT \$14,500

CLASSIC STARTS AT \$23,400



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



Cool Tears  
wants to hear  
from YOU!

Send us your story and  
if we use it, we'll give  
you \$50!

[Anne@cooltears.com](mailto:Anne@cooltears.com)



#cooltearsmag



<https://www.facebook.com/CoolTearsMagazine/>



**@cooltearsmag**

Tag your 'grams with #cooltearsmag for a chance to be featured on our Instagram feed and in the magazine.



Time for a new adventure. Videos of our adventures, reader builds, tips and tricks. Live tiny - Live free.