

o u t d o o r c o r n e r

by Cst. Keith Larson



When wading through swift flowing water, try holding hands with your fishing partner. This increases balance and prevents getting wet.

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Instead of throwing away left-over worms at the end of your fishing trip, take them home. They'll not only improve your soil but will also breed, supplying you with even more bait next time.

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When trying to tighten the ends of heavier test monofilaments, use needlenose pliers. A snug knot is obtained that isn't possible with just the fingers.

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Every experienced woodsman knows that when splitting wood, a blow to the edge of the log, instead of dead-center, makes the work easier and faster.

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You should always try to cut your firewood several months before you plan to use it. Split wood, seasoned for a long while, will burn more efficiently and with less smoke.

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Spring-time can be dangerous when hiking across the thin ice of a lake or stream. In any water-type emergency it's good to remember that wet clothing like a shirt or trousers can be tied at the ends of sleeves or legs to provide temporary buoyancy.

One should never use the shelves of old refrigerators as grates for cooking. A lot of these are plated with cadmium, a very ductile and malleable element that when heated can produce a dangerous and poisonous chemical compound.

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To keep canned goods from freezing in winter, put them in a burlap bag and sink them in a convenient lake or stream with a few rocks for ballast. This will keep them just above the freezing temperature.

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Instead of freezing water in plastic jugs to refrigerate your cooler, try freezing lemonade or some other mixture with flavour. This works as well and you get a nice tasting cold drink at the same time.

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When looking through binoculars, you may notice that you sometimes get a shaky view. This can be partially eliminated by holding the binoculars and pressing the forefingers against your forehead at the same time.

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Onion bags made of plastic netting can be very useful to the fisherman. They can provide a way to keep small fish alive in the water, keep soft drinks cool, and can even be used for a net if you run out of minnows.

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DRIVE WITH CARE

The life you save may be your own.
