

Big T's storm
Low-45
weather
in 8A.

The Jackson Sun

jacksonsun.com

Jackson,
We
Madison Co

NESS

Sunday, December 28, 2003

Float

Continued from cover

saws, hammers, clamps, angles, saw horses, dimpled nails, sandpaper and epoxy. No experience necessary. Come ready to work.

Which is what Bob and Karen Yakel had in mind one day last week, when they tried their hand at building a boat. Having built their own house, the couple figured to have this down pat.

"It's a whole different scale," Bob said, carefully removing epoxy-covered gloves from his hand. "But they've made it easy because all of it has already been cut."

Indeed, Karl has cut the bottom and sides for the 10-foot boat — a pirogue, much like a canoe — which in this case will be used as a bookshelf on somebody's wall, rather than hitting the water.

This day, Bob and Karen listen and watch intently as Karl tells them what they need to do to get it built.

Wisconsin transplants, the Yakels sailed the Great Lakes for years. Settling near Kentucky Lake was an easy choice, and Bob said that building his own boat with the Weinerts was "something I might do someday."

With a ski boat, a sailboat and a row boat, the Yakels aren't in any hurry to add to their collection, but after helping out on the 10-footer, they might just change their minds.

As they took turns measuring, hammering, molding and gluing the yellow pine into place, it was apparent everybody was having a good time.

"How's that?" Bob asked as he made sure one of the chines was

hitting the center frame just right.

"Beautiful," Karl replied, "That's it."

Encouraged, the Yakels continued their work, and by the end of the day, the boat was ready for its new owner to hang on the wall. And if the owner decides to float it one day, that won't be a problem either.

"Boats really belong on the water," Karl mutters with a grin.

For the Weinerts, sharing their handiwork knowledge with others on a farm makes perfect sense. And they found they weren't alone. There is a grassroots network of "Family Boatbuilding Vacations" held annually in July. The network encourages families to take a new look at what to do and where to go

on vacation. What better way to build bonds than building your own boat?

And if you're looking for an aluminum boat here, forget it.

Fishermen, take note. Wooden boats are quieter. When water slaps against one, it sounds like water hitting a log. When water smashes into aluminum, it's like hearing giant explosions (to fish anyway), thus scaring your potential catch far away.

For Karl, there's a much simpler reason.

"The small wooden boat of yesteryear is a piece of Americana that everyone should experience at least once," he said.

On the Net
■ www.tennesseeboat-school.com