

Chain Saw Skills For Women – no manpower required!

The chainsaw is one of the most versatile homesteading tools for anyone, male or female. Yet it's usually the boys who love ripping around with them, intimidating the "weaker" sex. Still, the chainsaw is designed to be handled by anyone, not just men. This course is designed for women to feel comfortable handling and maintaining a chainsaw. The workshops atmosphere is friendly, non-competative and easy-going with a focus on education and safety.

We'll start the day at the Eco Centre discussing chainsaw sharpening, chainsaw maintenance, safety matters and general bucking techniques. We'll discuss what a chainsaw can and cannot be used for, as well as some basic rules on how to position yourself when using one. Next we'll move to the nearby Bockus homestead for lots of hands-on experience cutting firewood, and feel the power and possibilities that the chainsaw offers.

Please note: maximum 10 participants for this workshop, so each will have enough "chainsaw time". Each participant will receive a certificate upon completion of this course.

Co-ordinator: Larry Bockus

A Forestry graduate of the of Lakehead University, Larry has spent most of his working days outside: as bushworker, forest technician, Utility Forester and chain saw instructor – anywhere but at a desk.

Over the years Larry also learned the homestead skills that seemed all but forgotten; it proved the perfect fit for his passion for self-sufficient living in harmony with the earth. Larry started using a single work horse in 1981 for logging and clearing land, then changed to light team horses and ultimately heavy draft horses. Since 1986 all of the his horses have been trained at the Bockus homestead – and very successfully so: he has won more prizes and awards than can be mentioned in this space.

Larry uses horse for all farm work: logging, making firewood, hay-, potato- and vegetable production, plowing, cultivation, skidding, pulling carts and sleighs, spreading manure and general chores – and more. Most of his horse-drawn equipment Larry designed and built at the farm, some is restored vintage machinery. Larry doesn't own a tractor, his horses do a better job; they go where tractors cannot go, are more rewarding to work with, don't burn fossil fuel – and provide free manure.