

Lookout Show`n Tell #17 – Lookout Mouse Trap

Bathtub Lookout, near Avery, Idaho, was Jim Wissler's remote mountaintop post in 1946. Seems like every mouse for miles around found that place. So, in the ingenious nature of backcountry lookouts of those days, Jim recycled his garbage dump to good use. He found a rusty old lard can, a couple of sticks, 3 small nails, and built a very efficient mouse trap. Nails through the top of the can, and into precisely the middle of each end of the slightly shorter inch-wide stick to balance a gob of C-Ration peanut butter, a ramp, and a couple inches of stale dishwater did the job. Mr. Mouse walked up the gangplank, grabbed the butter, and down he went.



Lookout mouse trap 1946
Lookout Mouse Trap - 1946

It wasn't really Jim's invention; but LOs all over the country heard about it, and before long their mouse problems were solved.

Wissler moved on to bigger things; jumping out of Ford Tri-motor airplanes as a smokejumper for too many years. Today, you can find him at the Fort Missoula Historical Museum, at the age of 85; still serving as their volunteer lookout tour guide.

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