

# TIME BEST INVENTIONS



TIME

## MEDICAL & MORE ICOPOD Inventor: Sanford Ponder

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These stylish shelters were a big hit at the Burning Man festival this summer, but they're not just for fun. Fashioned from a single piece of laminated paperboard (plus a floor and a door), they are sturdy, wind resistant, waterproof, well insulated and require no special skills or tools to assemble — perfect, according to their inventor, for use as temporary housing in a war or a natural disaster. The Shade Pod, an open-air version with legs, is just right for lawn parties.

Mackinaw Mill Creek Camping, of Mackinaw City, MI and its campers are participating in a humanitarian project addressing the worldwide refugee shelter crisis by testing a newly developed high tech/low cost shelter that is also be used as a dignified, esthetically pleasing multi-year home for the homeless.

climate. The campground "Pod" will be made available as a special rental "cabin" for campers and will be equipped with electricity, microwave, fan and small refrigerator. It will sleep four. The pod can be booked from the campground's



web page at: [www.campmackinaw.com](http://www.campmackinaw.com)

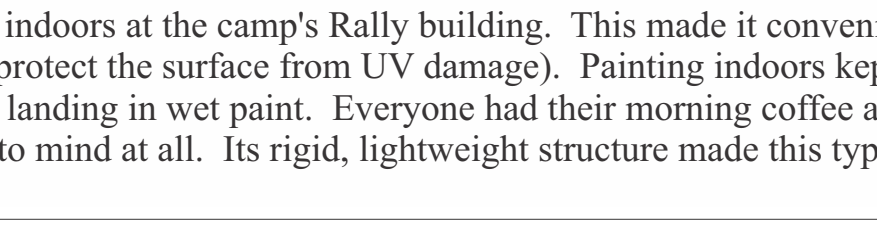
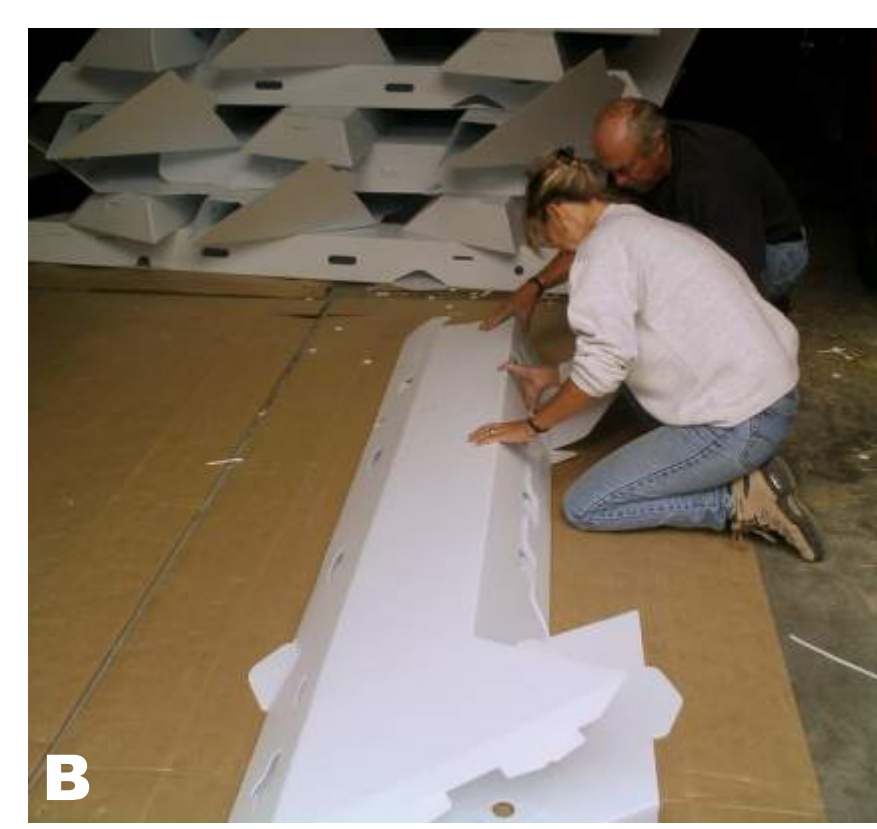
In 2001, while viewing a program about the homeless living in cardboard boxes, Sanford Ponder (creator of the Icopod) had an epiphany. In what he called "a moment of indignation" he reflected, "If we must live in a world in which people are forced to live in cardboard boxes, then someone should at least invent a better box." Sanford set out to do just that. Inspired by the pioneering work of R. Buckminster Fuller, Sanford developed the basic and

# YEAR FIVE OF MACKINAW MILL CREEK CAMPING TEST SITE

## CAMPGROUND CHOSEN AS TEST SITE FOR A GLOBAL PROJECT TO CREATE A STRUCTURE TO AID IN DISASTER AND HOMELESS RELIEF



**A** Campground staff members, and our own on site "Icopod Techs," Terry and Pam Morrow, begin the construction. Shown here "exercising the seams in the pre-cut plastic sheets as they bend and fold the main support pieces that make up 90% of the Icopod. Behind them you can see complete pieces that have already been "exercised" and folded into place. These straight pieces will be joined together by the hooks and flaps to become the series of geometric triangles that you can see make up the unit. Ingenious engineering of the Icopod means that after assembly there are virtually no waste materials left over.



**G** Folding the base ring and its cap is one of the most challenging parts of the construction

**J** More of the triangles are then joined together on the base ring to create the walls of the icopod. Careful taping of the seams is a must if the unit is to survive the climate and to be comfortable for its inhabitants.

**K** Once the walls are in place the 3 pieces that make up the doorway "portal" are assembled, tapes and sealed into place. There are cavities engineered in these pieces where LED lighting can be installed. We choose to build our own wooden door so that campers using the Icopod can lock up their belongings. We also installed a plywood "kick guard" at the base of the doorway which you will note has a bit of a step to walk over on the way in.

**L** Its moving day. We were able to construct the Icopod indoors at the camp's Rally building. This made it convenient for to paint the outer shell (which is recommended to protect the surface from UV damage). Painting indoors kept us out of the way of falling leaves eliminated any insects landing in wet paint. Everyone had their morning coffee and then pitched in to grab a corner. The Pod didn't seem to mind at all. Its rigid, lightweight structure made this type of moving operation a snap.

**M** The roof was moved intact and separately, and proved to be even easier to handle.



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**P** We reused the base that was created for the first Icopod that we tested last season. The concrete base was poured with conduit embedded in it for the Icopod's electricity

**Q** Terry and Pam install skylights by putting weather-stripping tape around the edges of the openings and on the skylights themselves.

**R** New on our Icopod this year - one vent is installed in the roof and a second one is installed on the lower part of the unit. The vent is screened to keep out insects and points down to keep out the weather.

**S** We are ready to put on the roof so a radio call goes out for extra hands. Pam is inside and guides us on where to position the roof. The protruding tabs are inserted. Once in place all of the remaining seams are taped. The newly taped portions are then painted and checked for any little gaps in the tape job or imperfections.

**T** Everyone was careful to grab a "point" which was where the pod was strongest

**U** Just before setting it down the base ring was coated with a construction adhesive

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IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ICOPOD SEE [CAMPmackinaw.com](http://CAMPmackinaw.com) OR CALL FRANK AT (231) 420-1865

Mackinaw MILL CREEK Camping



DO NOT DISTURB CAMPERS IN ICOPOD