



## Recycle, Reduce, Reuse

Like many homebuilders, S.J. “Steve” Wittman discovered innovative ways to recycle, reduce, and reuse parts for his projects. After more than 70 years, however, he amassed a hangarful of items, no doubt saving them for the next project. Many of them are now in EAA’s Attic.

This cadmium red wing on the right, R12047, once adorned *Chief Oshkosh*—Steve’s homebuilt racer. To make it faster, Steve often replaced the wings with new ones, reducing their size each time.

Rather than scrapping the *Chief* after a 1938 crash, Steve kept its usable parts. Around 1946,

Steve, with pilot-mechanic Bill Brennand, used the left wing, NR14855, and its mate to create *Buster*. Flown by Brennand, the midget racer twice won the Goodyear Trophy Race, and it now hangs in the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum.

The yellow elevators and vertical stabilizer are from *Buttercup*, N18268. Primarily a two-seat traveling plane Steve built in 1937-38, it employed the patented Wittman leading edge design. Often seen in photos sporting a green stabilizer, *Buttercup* is now a permanent exhibit in the EAA AirVenture Museum.

—Kathleen L. Witman