



Van Wagner Songbook Vol. 1: Campfire Classics and Deep Cuts

Assembled with permission of Van Wagner by fans of Van Wagner

Photo Credit: Steve Patterson
Last Updated: 8/15/2017

Bridges Burned (Tioga County)	2
Churches and Bars	3
Crosscut Saw	4
Good Thing	5
In a Song	7
North of 80	8
Rattlesnake	9
Something Out In the Dark	10
Where the Bears Dance	11
You Can't Lock up a Good Guitar	12

Bridges Burned (Tioga County)

Lost in the Mountains

Van Wagner

Sept. 2010

Verse 1:

G C
 When I think back to the bridges I've burned
 D G
 I try to count the lessons learned.
 C
 I drop the count at 34
 D G
 Old mistakes, won't you come no more.

Chorus:

C G
 I'm standing alone in Tioga County
 C G
 No one on my left
 C D
 No one on my right
 G-----Em C G
 And I've paved every mile of this road that I'm on
 D G
 With bridges burned 12,000 nights.

Verse 2:

Have you been there, have you felt like this?
 No one but the wind to kiss.
 Just you, and the hills.
 All alone standing still.

Chorus

Verse 3:

You choose your path, you dig your ditch.
 You make your bed, you sleep in it.
 You baton down, boots straps up.
 You forge ahead and bid good luck.

Churches and Bars

If Time Could Stand Alone

Tom Flannery and Van Wagner
March 2002

Chorus:

C G
Churches and bars
C G
Churches and bars
C D G
All I need is churches and bars
C G C G
Won't find me in a dry old town
C D G
Not a drop of religion to be found

Verse 1:

G Em
Folks round here don't need many things
C D
just the shirt on their backs and a song to sing
G Em
Reverend Billy likes his wine
C D
turns a feast day into a good old time
Em D C D
12 different languages, all speaking his praises
Em D
some kneel at church doors
C D
some lay on barroom floors

Chorus

Verse 2:

Used to be that coal was king
Round here it could buy anything
That was yesterday my friend
So set 'em up till I reach the end
Communion 7 days a week
Yuengling to drink, Mrs. T's eat
Old time religion and lager beer
That's what keeps me living here

Chorus

Verse 3:

Good Lord watches over me
especially when I'm too blind to see
Lays my head down oh so slow
when my stomach does the do-si-do
So grab your partner swing her round
to that Pennsylvania sound
Sing with me just 1 more time
Before I head down in this mine.

Crosscut Saw

Only Passing Through

Van Wagner
August 20, 2004

Verse 1:

Am
The war was over, Mr. Lincoln had won
G Am
I drew my navy wages and returned to my home.

Sullivan County where my grandfather came
C G
Soil was rocky, the sky always rain.

I remember grandpa's stories of when he was a kid
Bison in the valleys elk on the ridge.
Now it's all gone, a new hunt has begun
To find the Tiadoghton that make the sawmills hum.

Chorus:

Am
All I need is a crosscut saw.
G Am
A double bit ax and 80 trees to fall.
C Am
The spring is coming I can smell it all around.
C G Am
My soul's being tempted by that high water sound.

Verse 2:

Up on the Loyalsock it's straight and it's tall.
There's Pine up there like you never saw.
Only brave loggers bare the winter cold.
Snow falls heavy on the Appalachian fold.

Up in the morning at 5 am
Thrown down some biscuits, coffee, and ham.
12 hour shift on the teamster crew
skiddin' logs to the river in the ice and snow.

Chorus

Capo: 5th fret (live); 3rd fret (album)

Verse 3:

We lash the logs together with hickory and oak
No rope nor iron just pins and bows.
A sweep at the front and back, a shack for the crew
20,000 board feet ready to tie loose.

When the ice finally breaks and the water's good
and high.
We'll head down the Loyalsock our crew of 5.
3 Days on the raft down to Montoursville
we hit the Susquehanna waters smooth and still

Chorus

Verse 4:

Once we get to Marietta we sell off the logs
\$100 split by the river hogs.
We head back north , Walking all the way.
One hand on your knife, the other on your pay.

If it's a good season we'll have 2 or 3 more runs
Then the year is over and the summer has begun.
I'll watch as rust builds on my tools
And long for the day I'm back with my logging crew.

Chorus

In a Song

A Mountain Man's Dream

Van Wagner

Oct 25, 2015

F C
 When another day is done
 G Am
 You're asking what went on
 F C G
 A song comes on comes on.

Change is the only norm
 You keep on keeping on
 In a song keeping on keeping on.

The fog of the morning rolls
 The night takes it's toll
 A song moves it on moves it on.

A friend tells you of the news
 But what else is new
 A song keeps it true keeps it true.

You hit your lowest low
 How much lower can it go
 A song let's you know let's you know.

You soar your highest soar
 Higher than you've been before.
 A song lifts you more lifts you more.

Love will take you in
 If you're wise you'll let it win
 Love song in the wind in the wind.

Where the Bears Dance

Woolrich Coat

Ollie and Van Wagner
January 13, 2009

Capo: 5th fret (album)

Verse 1:

G C G
Up on the mountain you can see it from the road
D C G
A field a rocks where nothing seems to grow.
G C G
Dad told me that's the spot on the hill
D C G
Where the bears come to dance when the moon is filled.

Chorus:

G D
Where they Dance. Where they Dance.

Verse 2:

When the bears dance the world is asleep.
When the bears dance the stomp out all the trees.
Paws and claws dust from the pines.
Bellies full of berries and true moonshine.

Chorus

Verse 3:

If you're out camping for an overnight stay
And you wonder from your tent and see the bears play.
Don't take no photos to prove what you saw
Just join in the good times and stomp with them all.

Chorus



Van Wagner Songbook Vol. 2: Rivers & Trees

Assembled with permission of Van Wagner by fans of Van Wagner

Photo Credit: Steve Patterson
Last Updated: 8/15/2017

Ash to Ash	14
Be A Tree	15
Four Days of Rain	16
Green Bridge	17
Lightning Tree	18
River Rat	19
Shagbark Hickory	20
Sit by the River and Dream	21
Started With a Board	22
Waterfall	23

Ash to Ash

Ash to Ash

Van Wagner
December 22, 2014

Chorus:

Am G Am
Ash to ash and dust to dust.
C G Am
Wood to splinters and iron to rust.
Am G Am
Ash to ash and dust to dust.
Am G Am
Ash to ash and dust to dust.

Verse 1:

 F G Am
My dad taught me of many trees.
 F G Am
The Oaks, the Pine, and Hickories.
 C G Am
He taught me the Ash but I paid little mind.
Am G Am
A common tree with a simple line.

Chorus

Verse 2:

Here I live in 2014
Not an Ash alive left for spring.
A beetle has come the Ash is no more.
They all will fall from the emerald borer.

Chorus

Verse 3:

I sit here now on a floor of Ash.
Rocking chairs and baseball bats.
Hard to believe they'll soon be gone.
Just a few years ago they so common.

Chorus

Verse 4:

I tell my boys "take a look at that stand"
By the skate park on St. Mary's land.
They've painted an X on every tree.
They'll all be gone in a matter of weeks.

Chorus

Verse 5:

I'm not high and mighty, I've got no horse.
Ain't pointing fingers just strumming chords.
I'm saying out loud I can't believe.
I'm gonna out-live these trees.

Chorus

Outro:

Ash to ash and dust to dust
Ash to ash and dust to dust

Be A Tree

Be A Tree

Van Wagner

June 8, 2006

Chorus:

D A D A
 If I could be anyone but me
 G A D
 I wonder who would I be.
 D A D A
 If you could be any type of tree
 G A D
 Tell me, what would you be?

Verse 1:

G D
 Maybe the white Pine tall among the rest
 G D A
 Been called the king of the forest.
 G D
 Or a solid Hickory won't bend before a break
 Bm A
 One thing's for sure trees make no mistakes.

Chorus

Verse 2:

Oh the Hemlock yeah I'd take that
 I'd cool off the trout streams up on Cherry Flats
 While on the Cherry well that won't be bad
 Highest dollar in the woods maybe I oughta
 rethink that

Chorus

Bridge:

E----F#-----G
 Are you solid where you are
 E----- F#--G
 Like the spruce in this guitar
 E-----F#--G----A
 I bet you've got a tale to tell

Verse 3:

Oh goodnight Locust adios American Elm
 A moment of silence for the Chestnut and it's
 realm
 Tomorrow's bringing those Shadberry blooms
 These woods are calling, calling home to you.

Four Days of Rain

The Flood Sessions: Four Days of Rain

Van Wagner
September 8, 2011

Intro: D

Verse 1:

G D
All my life I've heard stories of 72
G D
Hurricane Agnes brought the river up to 32, feet.
C G D
I thought that record would stand for all my life.
C G D
But the river may hit 32 later tonight.

Chorus:

C D
The river looks angry after 4 days of rain
C G D
She's gonna remind us who's in charge again.

Verse 2:

We got word this morning to go sand bag in town.
So we headed over Bald Top road the only road
around.
Had to bag a wall from Mahoning Creek.
By noon a foreman said we built 6 feet.

Chorus

Verse 3:

People come together in a flood from all walks of
life
I saw a banker on my left and county inmates on
my right.
If the levee holds then most of town will stay dry.
But they don't have a levee across the river in
Riverside.

Chorus

Capo: 2nd fret (just top 5 strings; low E un-capoed)

Bridge: Chorus Chords x1

Verse 4:

No one talks about it though it's on all our minds.
The worst will be the clean up next week some
time.
Eventually the mud will dry and town will start
anew.
It will just be a legend like the flood of 72

Chorus

Outro: Chorus Chords x2

Green Bridge

Walking the Streets

Van Wagner and Robb Bomboy

July 2000

Verse 1:

G C D G
 A shimmer on the river draws my eyes to the bridge
 C D G
 Flooded memories as a kid
 Em D C
 Eyes on the left side, faith on the right.

Verse 2:

Countin' pigeons from the pillars below
 Feeling older as they go.
 All my life I heard it, but never like tonight.

Chorus:

 C D G
 And tonight you sing your lullaby
 C C G
 Goodnight my ribbon in the sky
 Bm C D
 96 years in the blink of an eye
 G C D
 Goodnight ribbon in the sky
 G C D G
 Goodnight sweet lullaby, goodnight

Verse 3:

Here I am thinking of the nights gone by
 Climbing arches in the sky
 Holding breath as the diesel dared me.

Verse 4:

Tonight's her song fills the air
 Hardly half the town cares.
 She was as strong, as the century.

Chorus

Lightning Tree

Woolrich Coat

Van Wagner
August 28, 2008

Capo: 2nd fret

Intro: Chorus Chords x2

Verse 1:

G C G
Let's all agree, there's no time for misery
C G
Is that a deal for you and me?
 D G
Let's put the past far behind.
G C G
If there's a hatchet, can we go bury it?
C G
There's no need to carry it.
 D G
Bury yours and bury mine.

Chorus:

(F) (Em) G
Let's go up to the lightning tree
 (F) (Em) G
It's time to reconcile
(F) (Em) G
Life's too short for enemies
 (D) G
When you're only here for a while.

Verse 2:

What are we proving, holding firmly to that grudge?
Don't expect it to ever budge
Carried baggage for far too long.
Let's try forgiving, let bygones wash away
History was yesterday
It's time we move along.

Chorus:

Verse 3:

If not for you, then do it for the Lord.
He was never one for the sword
He came from the school of peace.
It ain't easy, To let go of all of it
To forgive and to forget
But in peace is victory.

Chorus

Outro: Chorus Chords x2

River Rat

River Rat

Van Wagner
June 8, 2016

Capo: 4th or 5th fret

Intro: Chorus Chords x1

Chorus [Chords x2 Each Time]:

Em G
Raised up from the river mud
Am C D
River rat running in his blood.
Em G
One thing that was understood
Am C D
River rats are up to no good.

Verse 1:

Am
As sure as the river flows
Em
It's something everybody knows.
Am
The kids from across the tracks
Bm
Everyone of them a river rat.

They learn to swim by the river shore
Cut off jeans and not much more.
The lucky ones have a boat
It gets them where they need to go.

Chorus

Verse 2:

The old men remember times
When eels were caught on fishing lines.
Now the fish don't bite so well
Now they're only catching hell.

Kids down town with nothing to do.
You can guess what all that leads to.
Idle hands bring you down
When there's nothing to do in your town.

Chorus

Verse 3:

Told more than he can count
A river rat will never amount.
Written off before age 10
But nobody checked with him.

He's got dreams of bigger things.
A Mind that thinks a heart that sings.
A river rat, that's for sure
But this one's gonna change the World.

Chorus

Shagbark Hickory

Shikellamy

Van Wagner

August 2007

Intro: Em

Chorus:

Em Am
 The Shagbark Hickory is a mighty hard tree
 B7 Em
 And it grows in the lowlands by rivers and streams.
 Am
 When the snow is falling and the wind blows cold
 B7 Em
 Then the Shagbark Hickory holds it's own.

Verse 1:

G D
 In the deep dark woods where no one ever goes
 Em
 There's a stand of timber where the Shagbark grows.
 G D
 An open hand in solitude.
 Em
 You'll only be found if you're searching too.

Chorus

Verse 2:

Hard times hit and they never seem to stop.
 You're back on the bottom just as soon as you reach
 the top.
 You find yourself standing cause it's all you know to
 do.
 Like that old tree with a grain straight and true.

Chorus

Bridge: Verse Chords x1

Verse 3:

On the forest floor it might turn to rotten
 wood.
 Or carpenters' hands might work it into
 good.
 As the knife is drawn along the grain.
 This piece of Hickory breathes life again.

Chorus

Sit by the River and Dream

Ash to Ash

Van Wagner

August 2014

Intro: G D Em x2
Verse Chords x1

Verse 1:

G D Em
Gonna sit by the river and dream
G D Em
Let my soul roll on up with the stream.
C D G C
The water, the willow, the maples all green.
Em D G
Gonna sit by the river and dream.

Gonna go to the mountains and heel.
For a day maybe longer if I feel
Where the bridges are wood and the barns are steel
Gonna go to the mountains and heel.

Chorus:

D C G
Why do I worry
C G D
It does, no good, at all.
D C G
Why do I hurry,
C G D
I burn out, then I fall.
G D Em x2

Verse 2:

Gonna pick a direction and walk
All alone there's no need to talk.
Follow the call of the red tailed hawk.
Gonna pick a direction and walk.

Gonna finally lay down for some rest.
As the Sun goes down in the west.
I'm tired from my head, to my feet, to my chest.
Gonna finally lay down for some rest.

Chorus

Bridge: Verse Chords x1

Verse 3:

Gonna sit by the river and dream
Let my soul roll with the stream.
The water, the willow, the maples all green.
Gonna sit by the river and dream.

Outro: Verse Chords x1

Started With a Board

Started With a Board

Van Wagner
July 11, 2012

Verse 1:

Am
Some floods come from water
Some just come from life
Dm Am
No matter what kind of flood you face
E Am
You need a boat to survive.

Lord Said to Noah
There's gonna be a flood.
Go round up all those critters
Get em' out of the mud.

Chorus:

Am
And it started with a board
Just a piece of Pine
And it started with a board
E Am
And it ended fine.

The biggest things in life
Gotta start small
You start with a board
and you build it tall.

Verse 2:

Crossing a great ocean
Coming to America
Some by choice some by chains
Building a new world.

Nina Pinta Santa Maria
Just a few of the thousands that came
The greatest country there ever was
Built by every race.

Chorus

Verse 3:

Iron tracks and wooden ties
Transcontinental lines.
The World had never seen a railroad
Cross a nation wide.
Promontory Utah
The day that East met West
The greatest railroad that ever was
A golden spike on the crest.

Chorus

Verse 4:

Batter up the umpire said
He dusted off the plate
Up stepped the great Hank Aaron
And beat the record set by the Babe.
Cal Ripken Jr.
Ernie Banks, Willie Mays.
Great plays by the greatest players
Greatest game ever made

Chorus:

And it started with a board
Just a piece of Ash
It started with a board
The pitches come fast
The biggest things in life
Gotta start small
You start with a board
And you build it tall

Verse 5:

The screams of Jimi Hendrix
The soul of B.B. King
The acoustic sound of Woody Guthrie
Frailing on the strings
All of the great music
Guitars strumming chords
From silent night to rock n' roll
They all started with a board

Chorus

Waterfall

Ash to Ash

Van Wagner

August 30, 2014

Intro: Em G D Em x4

Chorus:

Em G D Em
The power of a waterfall
Em G D Em
Water runs from the mountains tall.
Em G D Em
Take in some, take in all
Em D Em
The power of a waterfall.

Verse 1:

D G Em
A mystic thing, foggy air
D G Em
Between 2 mountains there's nothing there.
D G Em
Water waiting to be rain
D G Em
Down the valley like a train.

Chorus

Verse 2:

These mountains once locked in ice
Squeezed in a glacial vice.
When the melt formed new streams
It bashed through boulders and carved ravines.

Chorus

Verse 3:

There's famous ones like Niagara Falls
Quiet ones like the seven tubs
And though the drive takes awhile
My favorite is Ohiopyle.



Van Wagner Songbook Vol. 3: Among these Mountains, Stones, and Creeks

Assembled with permission of Van Wagner by fans of Van Wagner

Photo Credit: Steve Patterson
Last Updated: 8/15/2018

Bullet Hole	26
Days Just Like Today	27
Ghosts are Real	28
Halo Round the Moon	29
If Time Could Stand Alone	30
Lost in the Mountains	31
Ridge Runner	32
Sassafras Tea	33
Summer of Hawks	34
Thankful for the Land	35

Bullet Hole

Ash to Ash

Van Wagner
February 8, 2015

Intro: Em G (x3)
C Em D G

Verse 1:

G C
There's a stone in Clinton County

G
Where a rifle left its sign.

C
When I see it, it reminds me
D

Of a long forgotten time

C
When market hunters roamed these mountains

G
Chasing elk, deer, and bear.

C
The crack of their Winchester
D G
Their missed shot is still here.

Chorus:

Em
Bullet hole

G
Just a mark left behind

Em
Bullet hole

G
Just a shadow of that day

Em
Bullet hole

G
Just a mark to remind

C Em D
Life's a close call hey hey.

Verse 2:

Last night I was pickin'
With some friends at Ulsch Gap.
They showed me a Woolrich
With a hole front to back.

They say this man is still living
He took a round to the hip.
Just a hole in a Woolrich
From a 30.06

Chorus

Verse 3:

At the camp where I 1st hunted
In the kitchen there's spot.
A man came in from hunting
And his rifle went off.

The shot went through the ceiling
Into the bunk room upstairs.
Just up through the floorboards
Into a mattress up there.

Chorus

Outro: Em G (x3)

C Em
Life's a close call hey hey.

Ghosts are Real

Be a Tree

Van Wagner

April, 2006

Intro: Em

Verse 1:

Em

There's ice in the night air there's rapture in the wind.

C

You can see it in the window glare or aching in your hand.

D

I never said corruption, no mention of deceit

Em

Just acknowledging something I can't hear or see.

C

Em

Ghosts are real boys, ghosts are real.

Chorus:

G

Ghosts are real boys, ghosts are real.

D

Am

Em

Make no mistake about it ghosts are real.

G

D

You can call them apparitions call them spirits if you feel

Am

C

Em

Make no mistake about it them ghosts they are real.

Verse 2:

So many times I've traveled highways day and night

Both interstates and byways shotgun on my

right

I've learned to accept them when they make their

presence known

What choice do I have when they come rattling

bones.

Ghosts are real boys, ghosts are real

Chorus

Bridge: Verse (x1)

Verse 3:

I know she is here, right now with me.

She's a guardian spirit over my family.

Although her time on Earth was fast as can
be

I think she's found her quiet and peace.

Ghosts are real boys, ghosts are real

Chorus

Outro: Em

Halo Round the Moon

River Rat

Van Wagner
November 15, 2016

Tuning: Drop D
Capo: 5th fret

Intro: Dm (x2)

Outro: Dm

Verse 1:

Dm

A change in the season, summer to fall

G Dm

The wind takes leaves in, relentless and raw.

The days are shorter, the night so soon.

F A Dm

The frost hangs a halo round the moon.

G F Dm

Halo round the moon.

Verse 2:

A time of migration, ancient herds.

Time to spread wings, millions of birds.

Passenger pigeons, would take to flight.

Wings turned day, into night.

Halo round the moon.

Verse 3:

Bring on the winter, time stands still

Every cold breath you take in, every brittle chill.

Like a blanket, on everything.

After dark days, comes spring.

Halo round the moon.

Verse 4:

The spring comes with water, rain upon rain.

The Sun grows bolder, green comes again.

Humans need it, we need to see green.

It washes our souls until clean.

Halo round the moon.

Halo round the moon.

Sassafras Tea

A Mountain Man's Dream

Van Wagner

September 6, 2015

Chorus:

F C F C
Sassafras Tea, Sassafras Tea

G C
From the roots or the leaves

F C F C
Sassafras Tea, Sassafras Tea

G C
The nectar of the mountains to me.

Verse 1:

G C F C
They say it's bad for you if you drink too much.

G C F C
Gallons and gallons a whole bathtub.

G C F C
If you drink that whole bathtub they say it's bad for you

G C F C
If you drink that much I'd say you have issues.

Chorus

Verse 2:

I've always loved, good sweet birch.
A twig in my mouth when I'm working on work.
No matter how I boil, no matter how I steep
I can't make birch into tea.

Chorus

Verse 3:

Indian Spice Bush, I love that smell.
The leaves, the berries, they do me well.
My neighbor Keith made some into brew
Compared to Sassafras it just won't do.

Chorus

Bridge: F C F C

Verse 4:

I suppose you could spike it and give it
some kick

I prefer it plain just as is.

When my days are over if you raise a
glass to me

I hope that your glass is filled with
Sassafras Tea

Chorus

Thankful for the Land

Recluse

Van Wagner
August 31, 2017

Intro: G C G D

Verse 1:

G C
I'm thankful for the land that I have, it gives so much to me.
G D
Clean water in the well I drink, clean food to eat.
G C
The trees heat my home from cold, 7 months of fire.
G D
The trees give me lumber to build, higher and higher.

Verse 2:

I'm thankful for the woods I share, they give so much to me.
Venison, the deer I chase berries and seeds.
The grouse and turkey too, feed my family.
Squirrel when times are tough, has been a gift to me.

Intro (x1)

Verse 3:

I'm thankful for the streams I have, they give so much to me.
The bass in summer trout in the spring.
Crayfish now and then, just right when steamed.
So much life provided all from the streams.

Verse 4:

I'm thankful for the sounds I hear music to my life
Crickets and Cicadas, a katydid choir.
Coyotes last night right about sundown
I would not trade an orchestra for nature's sounds.

Intro (x1)

Verse 5:

I'm thankful for the colors I see vivid and clean.
Shale with it's iron red, trees of forest green.
The innocence of winters white, everything so still
Painted with the masters brush, a perfect pastel.

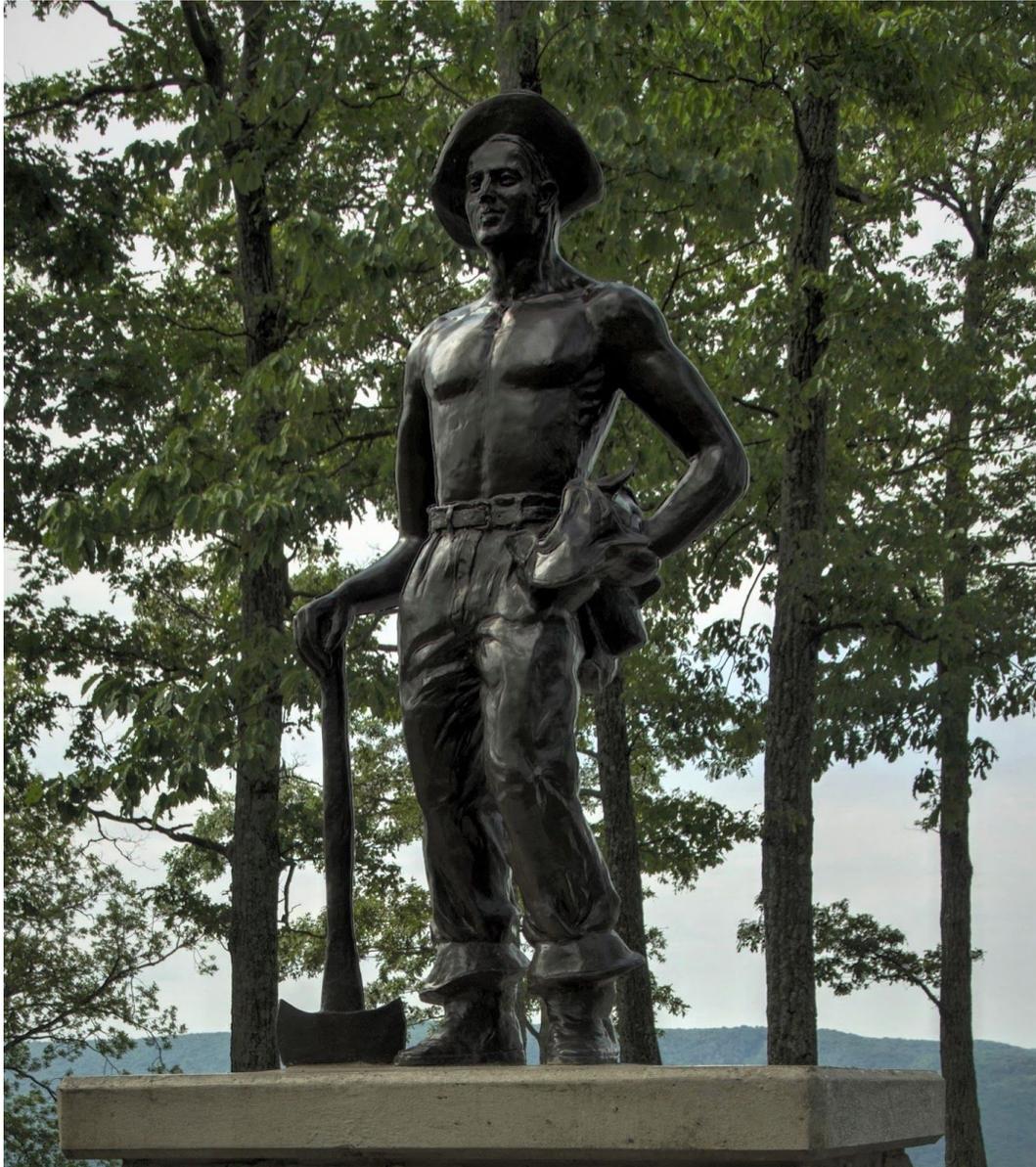
Capo: 2nd fret

Verse 6:

I'm thankful for all my friends they
mean so much to me.
They're there for me when I need them
most and also in between.
Love from the start of life love at the
end
I'm thankful for the love I feel that
comes from good friends.

Verse 7:

I'm thankful for all these things, they
give so much to me.



Van Wagner Songbook Vol. 4: Coal, Wood, Ore, & Lore

Assembled with permission of Van Wagner by fans of Van Wagner

Photo Credit: Steve Patterson
Last Updated: 8/11/2019

Devil's Featherbed	38
Hard Coal Navy	39
Shortleaf Pine	41
Dunnawetter	41
The Winds of Idaho	42
Cold Wind	43
83lb Hammer	44
Leatherman	45
Chickens Lament	46
Women, Words, and Wine	47

Shortleaf Pine

Shortleaf Pine

Van Wagner

August 27, 2018

Intro: Bm A G Bm
Bm A G D

Verse 1:

G D
15 years hunting Ginseng
G D
All these years not a one
G D
Then on the trail at Ricketts Glen
Bm A
I almost stepped on one.

A Hellbender in the mountains
They're out there hiding in these streams
Believe me these things are out there
It's my fault if they go unseen.

Chorus:

Bm A G
Some things are scarce
Bm
And hard to find
Bm A G
Sometimes right before your eyes
D
There's a Shortleaf Pine

Bridge: Bm A G D

Verse 2:

Oh the Pennsylvania Bobcat
They've seen you with eyes and ears
If you're lucky you'll spot one
Just as quick they'll disappear

Rattlesnakes in Montour County
40 years to just see one
Some people fear what they don't understand
And they kill them with their guns

Chorus

Bridge (x1)

Verse 3:

From here to Alabama
The land of the Shortleaf Pine
Like the period of a sentence
Pennsylvania is the end of the line.

So I rambled over these mountains
I had to find one on my own.
When I finally found one
It was 100 feet from my home.

Chorus

Outro: Bridge (x1)

Dunnawetter

Walking the Streets

Van Wagner and Matt Harrison
June 2004

Capo: 2nd fret

Intro: G (x4)

Verse 1:

G
Every time I'm in Sunbury the rain's a coming down.
D
Winds pick up, thunder rolls around.
Em C
The air gets cool as day turns to night
G
Lightning crashes what a powerful sight.

Chorus:

Em C G D
Oh Dunnawetter, the fields are turning green.
Em
It's the life of the land
C
From God's own hand
G D
Making it pure and clean.

Bridge: Intro (x1)

Verse 2:

Miles of water coming down today
Miles more headed towards the Bay.
The Old Chesapeake up to the brim
Back in the North is where it begins.

Chorus

Bridge: Intro (x1)
Verse (x1)

Verse 3:

From the top of the mountain on Mile Hill
Road
See the storm brewing in the valley below
The wind picked up, the leaves came
down
The storm so close you could touch it
from the ground

Chorus

Outro: Intro (x1)

The Winds of Idaho

The Pickle Barrel

Van Wagner

September 2002

Intro: D A D
G D

Verse 1:

D A D
I woke up to the sound of coyotes
G D
And the sight of the Sawtooth range.
A Bm
The smell of sage and sawdust
G A
Idaho in a morning rain.

D A D
A logging camp outside of Stanley
G D
Salmon River between the plains
A Bm
This ground is hard and dusty
D A D
The work is just the same.

Chorus:

G D
As fall sets in on the Aspen
Bm A
The Lodgepole waiting for a snow.
G D
I can almost feel myself changing
A D
With the winds of Idaho

Bridge: D A D

Verse 2:

We're skidding Fir, we're skidding Lodgepole
We're setting chokers on the bull line.
Every few hours we hit the coffee
It's been steepin' on the fire.

That's how it is Pacific logging
But no 2 days are the same
Something new in every holler
This land is far from tamed.

Chorus

Bridge: D A D
G D
A Bm
G A

Verse 3:

Soon the snow will cut our season
And rust will take our chains.
Soon we'll be leaving
Pack up camp, head home again.

But I'll keep a bag of fresh sawdust
For cabin fever setting in
I'll close my eyes and smell the forest
And breath in the Idaho wind.

Chorus

Outro: D A G D

83lb Hammer

Recluse

Van Wagner
February 2017

Intro: D
G
A D

Chorus:
D
3 pounds of wood, 80 pounds of iron
G F D
3 pounds of wood, 80 pounds of iron
A G D
In a shower of sparks swimming in fire

Verse 1:
A G D
You may have seen rollers, you may have seen a press
A G D
But you never have seen a hammer like this.
G
I swing it all day at the rolling mill
D A D
It takes a mighty hammer to straighten a rail.

Chorus

Bridge: Intro (x1)

Verse 2:
It takes 2 of us to lift 1 rail.
Over 400 pounds we can do it well.
We know we're being watched, we take pride in our work.
I can show them all what an iron man is worth.

Chorus

Bridge: Intro (x1)

Tuning: Drop D (album) or capo on 2nd fret of top 5 strings (A D G B E)

Verse 3:
There's puddlers there's helpers there's
others on shears
There's no such thing as an easy job
here.
I've found my place in this rolling mill
Swinging my hammer on these t-rails.

Chorus

Outro: Intro (x1)

Leatherman

Going Back to Bald Top

Van Wagner, Matt Harrison, and Karl Shellenberger
August 2000

Capo: 2nd fret (album)

Intro: C

Verse 1:

C G
The Leatherman is your best friend on your journey through life,
C
With it's trusty pliers and its razor sharp knife.
G
The handle won't fall apart like the generic brands
C
There's only one true American Leatherman.

Chorus

Outro: Chorus (x1)

Chorus:

F C
All the ladies know that this tool's for real
G C
Made of the finest steel, just see how it feels
F C
When you break a string while you are out performing
G C
To pull out the peg, reach down to the top of your leg.

Bridge: F C
G C

Verse 2:

Have you ever been stuck in your harmonica holder?
And you couldn't get it loose with a 2-ton boulder.
Just take that trusty tool to that stubborn bolt,
And you'll bust out of that holder like a wild colt.

Chorus

Bridge (x1)

Verse 3:

When you're on a date and the night is to its end.
And she walks you to the door and she invites you in.
Don't hesitate, procrastinate just go on in,
When your stomach gets queasy pull out your Leatherman.

Chickens Lament

Be A Tree

Van Wagner
June 16, 2006

Note: Song played in G on album

Verse 1:

C

It's hard to be a chicken especially on my farm
The chickens that live here, aren't living very long

Some in the evening some the morning fog
Some from the weasels and some my brothers dog.

Verse 2:

Scratching in the gravel picking in the mash
Turn over a rotten log and treat them to the stash

Get them in the morning dodging chicken legs
Boys you haven't lived until you've had my scrambled eggs

Verse 3:

We must have lost a dozen to the weasel and the fox
But I never saw her coming that old Red Tailed Hawk

Take pity on these chickens raise your glasses high
A toast to my feathered friends before they up and die

Verse 4:

It's hard to be a chicken especially on my farm
The chickens that live here, aren't living very long

Women, Words, and Wine

Living In Myself

Van Wagner
Winter 1997/1998

Intro: C G Am G C

Verse 1:

C G
Folks ain't the same, down this way
Am G
Wish I was back home Susquehanna way.
C G
Grinning like a jukebox and spending the whole day,
Am G
Trying to remember what I did with yesterday.

Chorus:

F C
Seems like I always forget
Am G
Something from my past I should regret.
F C-----Am
I don't know why but I feel so fine
F-G C
Thank God for women, words, and wine

Bridge: Intro (x1)

Verse 2:

What I'd give to be standing in July
Dancing in a rainstorm with my dad outside.
As a kid we'd watch the creek rise
and set sail down the mountainside.

Chorus

Capo: 2nd fret (album)

Bridge: Intro (x1)

Verse 3:

The 16th of May found its way into my life
the days roll past quicker every night.
In a year I'll be looking back at here,
Hope her reflection is still shining clear.

Chorus

Outro: C-----Am F-G C