

FOR MICRO, TINY, SMALL, AND UNCONVENTIONAL HOUSE ENTHUSIASTS

# TINY HOUSE



## FROM VAN LIFE TO TINY HOUSE

TWO PHOTOGRAPHERS  
USE THE POWER OF THE  
SUN TO CREATE THEIR  
DREAM HOME

[www.tinyhousemagazine.co](http://www.tinyhousemagazine.co)

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Have you ever considered going to a tiny house workshop where the emphasis is on learning the skills needed and the legwork that goes into living tiny? Then the Catskills Tiny House Workshop is for you!



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What is The American Dream of a home and how does it compare to the dreams of others in the world?



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Christy Hughes is back with another installation of her series. This time she meets up with the delivery driver, the inspector, and all people in between.

## 78 TEN YEARS ON

Has it really been a decade since Laura LaVoie and her partner Matt built their 112 square foot home? Where are they now and what lessons did they learn?

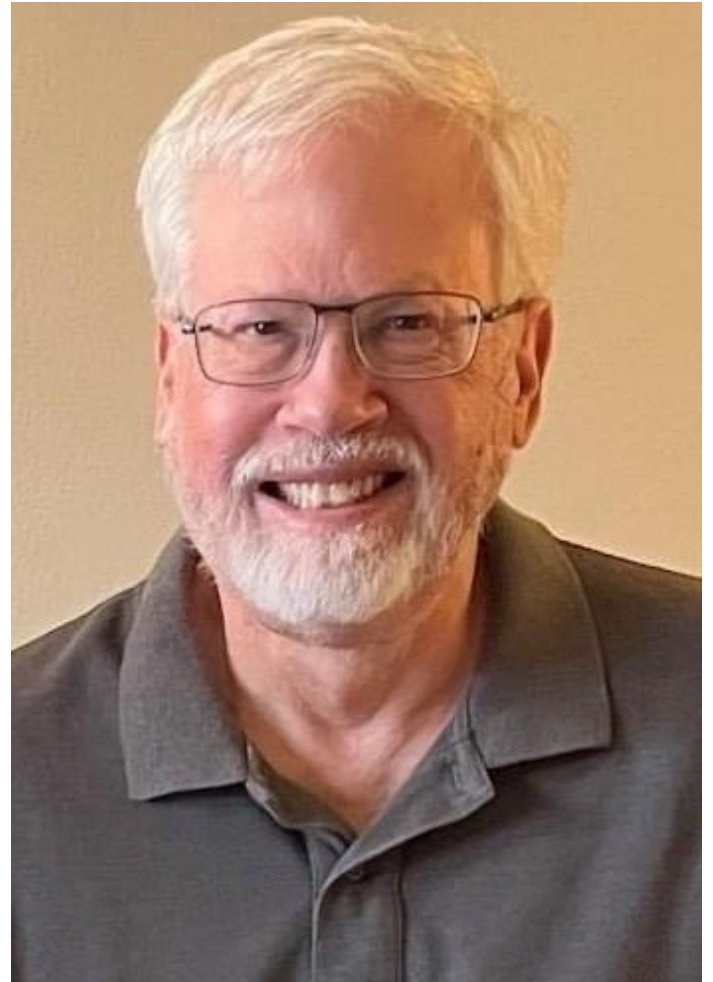


## *April 2022* EDITOR'S LETTER

**V**ariety is what initially drew me to the tiny house movement when I started publishing the Tiny House Blog in 2007. It still applies as we publish issue 112 of the *Tiny House Magazine*.

In this issue, we cover the DIY process of building your own tiny house. Even if your confidence and experience are minimal, you can do it with the right training, taking workshops, and with a little help from other tiny house enthusiasts.

Our cover features a beautiful house built by a couple who purchased a trailer and designed their unique home that fit their unique needs.



Maybe you want to be more mobile. Travis Burke lives full-time in a camper truck that is outfitted to go just about anywhere. If you want to explore the wild backcountry, then this option is both rugged and comfortable.

We are seeing more and more sheds converted into tiny homes today. Cindy Chavez decided to leave her mortgage behind and instead purchased a Better Built Structure Casita and converted it into a tiny home. She enjoys living debt-free with just the right amount of space she needs. Christy Hughes shares her story of the challenges of having a prefab tiny cottage delivered and set up on her 20-acre property.

With the varieties of tiny homes out there, what's your favorite?

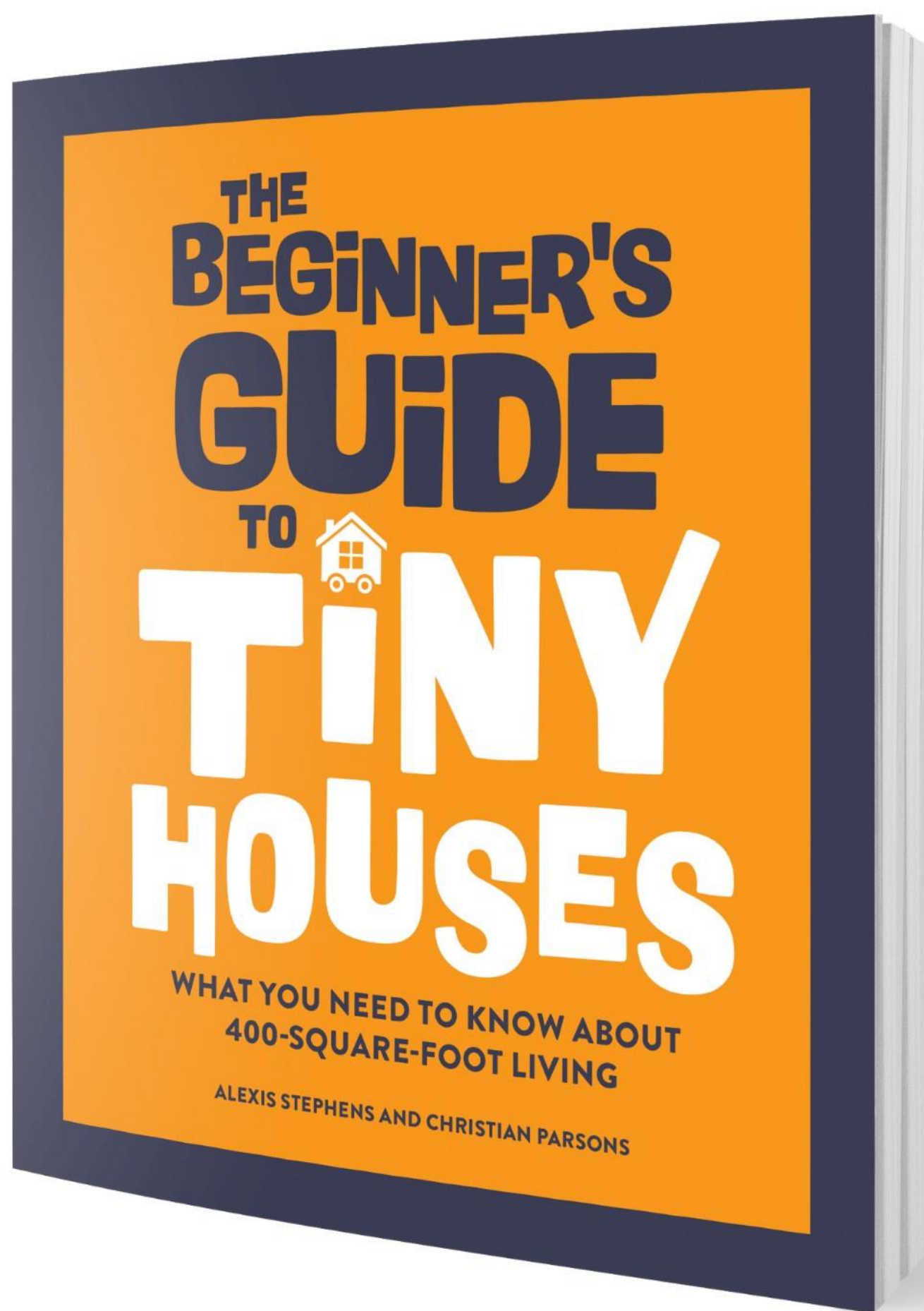
# Kent

*Kent Griswold*, Editor-In-Chief



**"Your thorough guide to tiny house living, full of time-tested advice from legendary tiny house dwellers and travelers."**

—Ethan Waldman, host of the Tiny House Lifestyle Podcast



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# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE

*Catskills Tiny House Workshop*



EAT, SLEEP, AND LIVE IN A TINY HOUSE,  
WHILE LEARNING HOW TO DESIGN AND  
BUILD YOUR OWN.





for years—without actually doing anything—founder Marty Neilan attended a tiny house workshop before designing a tiny house himself.

The workshop he attended was hosted by a “tiny house celebrity” whose houses and videos are all over YouTube and the internet. After the weekend was completed, Marty felt it wasn’t a great investment and actually left feeling less confident than when he started. In fact, the organizers didn’t even have a tiny house on site for attendees to examine.

He went on to design and oversee the building of his own tiny house on wheels; one that has met his personal and professional goals (he works from home).

Can someone with no experience in building or architecture successfully design and oversee the building of their own house?

Of course they can. In fact, you can own a house without incurring a 30-year mortgage. You can buy a brand-new house, roomy enough for a couple, for a fraction of what fixer-uppers sell for in today’s real estate market. You can elude onerous property taxes and stop squandering thousands on rent. Just ask the intimate group that gathered in the Catskills last month for the [Catskills Tiny House Workshop](#) in Livingston Manor, New York.

Like many people who’d been thinking about transitioning from an apartment to a tiny house

Living in a rural area where tiny homes are common (although they aren’t dubbed tiny homes, per se), Marty met and communed with other tiny house owners. To his surprise, a number of his neighbors weren’t as happy in theirs. This discovery birthed the Catskills Tiny House Workshop. Marty reasoned, “If my neighbors simply had someone to talk to first, they could’ve pre-empted the errors that compromised their house”. His workshop aspires to—and does—give people the tools and strategies to correctly design their small house, whether on wheels or not, which pretty much guarantees their home will be exactly what they’d like.

The Catskills Tiny House Workshop was conceived to be a corrective to the workshop Marty attended.











“I don’t like to complain. It’s not my style. But if people devote a weekend, and hours in the car, to learning a service, they should get the education they paid for.” Eventually and largely on his own, Marty did figure out how to design and oversee the building of a tiny home. His workshops in the Catskills demystify every aspect of tiny house design and construction, making the entire process much easier for first-timers.

The workshop itself has a large component of conversation and attendees receive an invaluable “dictionary” of small house facts and building terms. But they also receive sample blueprints for small houses, sample written plans, a sample builder’s agreement, a sample ad/listing with which to eventually find land to rent for their tiny house, a sample land lease rental agreement, and a sample photo of I-beam trailer before it









becomes a tiny house, in addition to examining, and living in three, very different, tiny houses for a weekend.

One thing attendees of the Catskills Tiny House Workshop do not do is any “ceremonial” building. In Marty’s words, “slapping plywood together might advance your birdhouse-making

skills, but it teaches you little about a real house.”

“Our goal is simply to share what we know. We’d like to make the next person’s small house journey as successful, and far easier, than ours.”









# BUILD YOUR OWN



# TINY HOUSE

## TinyHouseBuild.com's Digital Tiny House Workshop

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