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LOGOSOL

FRESH CUT

News for the Outdoor Craftsman • No. 5 - March 2007

The **Winning Projects** of the Logosol Contest!

The first woodworking contest is complete, and the results are in. Read about all the exciting project - and meet the winner! Page 10, 11, 12

From Log to Harp With the Logosol Big Mill

Harp builder Dave Kortier recently added a chain saw and Logosol Big Mill to his shop in Minnesota. “This mill is the perfect tool”, he claims.

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Report from the first sawmill class!

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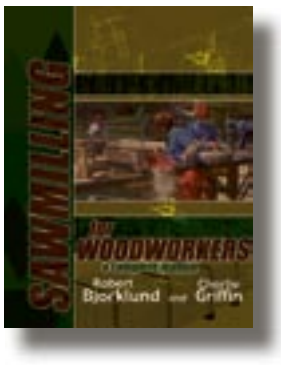
A chapter from our Best-Seller!



Hunting for good logs is just like going fishing. You always hope you will come home with a prize catch! Here are some tips on how to find them....

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Meet Sweden’s most Famous Lumberman

Tycho Loo, teacher in building log homes comes to the Outdoor Craftsman School!

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Logosol Sawmill With its Own Railway

Bo Malmborg in Sweden, has spent his entire adult life fulfilling a dream. His private railway is 2.3 kilometers (1.4 miles) long. Bo uses it to carry logs from the forest to his Logosol Sawmill.

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To the Outdoor Craftsman

What an exciting time since the last issue! Plenty of changes here at Bjorklund Ranch. I just installed my first floor, made from six species of recycled urban hardwood logs; yellow & red eucalyptus, sycamore, live oak, black walnut, and acacia koa. I was a little worried that it might look like a checkered suit through a pair of bad glasses, but that was not the case. The finish is a water-based urethane laid across the top surface like honey, giving the finish a warm yellow hue. Wow, did I do that?! Actually, I did have a little help. My nephew Mickey Kitahara did the installing, sanding, and finishing.

Yesterday, I fell in love again-- no not with another truck. This time it was with a Navy surplus refer container, my soon-to-be dry kiln. It will be delivered in a few days. I'll soon be able to market my 6% Kiln dry flooring, and when I do, believe me-- you will hear all about it!

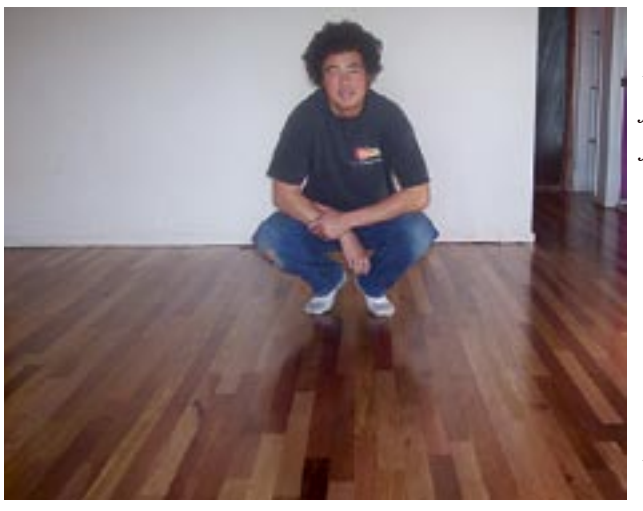
It's hard to describe the fun of the first sawmill class! We all had fun and got to know each other. I think we had a party every night. Mornings were a little tough, but the smell of black coffee and fresh sawdust can really get anybody going!

By the way, I am looking for two apprentices to learn the processes from urban logging through installation of finished flooring. We will provide room and board here at the ranch. Minimum apprenticeship is one month. You will get full knowledge of the chainsaw mill and the E-4400 electric chainsaw, plus the PH-260 moulder/ planer. If you love hard work, give me a call. Remember, each and every one of you can call me with any comments, complaints, or ideas. See you at the next issue of Fresh Cut.

Lets Cut Lumber!

Rob Bjorklund, President, Logosol Inc.
805-705-1154

Waiting to load up and recycle six big Ash trees that the city of Santa Barbara has to take down using the Doyle scale. There is over 1,300 SF. Wow! thats alot of beautiful flooring...



I just installed my first floor, made from six species of recycled urban hardwood logs; yellow & red eucalyptus, sycamore, live oak, black walnut, and acacia koa. To the left my nephew Mickey Kitahara who helped me!

FRESH CUT!

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We got these beautiful pictures by email. Thank you Wesley Dix and good luck!

Logosol email:
info@logosolusa.com

First cut at the Woodworker´s Mill!

I talked to you a couple of weeks ago about sending logosol a few pics of my new woodworkers mill. I'm having lots of fun with my new christmas toy, and am sending you the pics I promised because I just now got a round to-it.

Wesley Dix, Collinsville Illinois
satisfied Logosol user

Thumbs Up for the **First Sawmill Class!**

Rob Bjorklund's passion for his work is absolutely contagious. In only a few minutes, he pulls you into his vision of turning trees that would otherwise be chipped or hauled to the landfill into lumber—"urban logging", he calls it. He has put his years of experience with the Logosol M7 mill into a three-day class on his beautiful ranch near Santa Barbara, California. He recently finished teaching his first class and is so excited about it that I had a hard time getting him to calm down enough to tell me about it so I could write this article!

By David Boyt

Class photo from the first sawmill course. Find out more about the classes, visit the web site: www.bjorklundranch.com

"I had nine students from all over the North America, from California to Quebec. "On the first day, it was raining, but as soon as the class started, the rain stopped, the sun came out, and all three days were absolutely beautiful."

After a demonstration on chain and bar maintenance, Rob set up stations for the students to apply what they had learned. "You've got to do this sort of thing hands-on. It's the only way to learn this," he explained. For example, they looked at the saw teeth under a magnifying glass so they could see the difference between a dull chain, a sharp chain, and a razor-sharp chain. "There's a tendency to just crank a little harder when the mill isn't cutting right, to just get through one more cut before stopping to sharpen it," says Rob. "Once people understand what to look for and what to expect, and how to achieve it, they can do some truly amazing things with this mill."

Next, Rob and the class went over an old mill that had been used and abused for years, squaring the frame and making every adjustment possible." When we cut the first board with it, the cut was absolutely dead-on," recalled Rob.

From that point on, the class was about cutting lumber. Rob drew on his experience to teach the students log handling techniques, and basic cutting. From there the class went on to special cutting of crotch wood, book matching, and double book matching. "We cut pieces so thin you could see light through them," says Rob. To cut the big logs, Rob showed the "inversion" technique, in which he bolted the entire mill upside-down on a big koa log to cut slabs. Ron Fischer found this demonstration particularly impressive, since he has large walnut and maple logs. "That log was 32 inches in diameter, and every cut was absolutely perfect," he recalls.

According to Rob, "When we weren't working on the mill, we were talking about it. I'm amazed at how these folks have pushed their mills to the limit. We talked about our experiences, and I learned a lot from them." Rob is compiling all of this information into a binder which he will use for his next class.

While Rob and his students lived and breathed sawmills & chain saws, eating was another matter. His wife, Roxanne, handled the meals and refreshments, including a cook-out. Students stayed right on the ranch, so they were ready to start out first thing each morning.

Roger Lingat sums up his experience: "I really think I found what I want to do now for the rest of my life. Everybody associated or attached in some way to this passion is affected, and we seemed, during the course, to all associate in some great way. My wife and I loved it. It advanced us to another plane of understanding. Besides, does it get any better than in California? I can hardly wait for the log house course to start."

Read more about the log house course!

Meet some of the students!

Roger and **Sylvia Lingat** from Quebec bought their mill in early December, 2006. It has already gotten plenty of use. "Just after I bought it, there was a severe ice storm here, and I managed to get hold of some black spruce and an ash tree to try it out. The boards are drying in my basement."

Roger says that learning to fine tune the mill was a pleasure. He also appreciates the information on bar and chain maintenance. "Ripping puts a lot of demands on the saw", he says. While he's anxious to apply what he has learned, he says he's going to wait for things to warm up a bit; -20 degrees F is just a bit cold to be out cutting lumber.

Not all of the students even had a mill! **Richard Perkins**, from northern California attended the class to learn more about it. "I looked at a band mill, but decided I wanted something smaller." he said. "I wanted to go to check it [Logosol M7] out and use it hands-on, to see if I really want to get one (which I do)." Not one to leave anything to chance, Richard brought some of his own logs to the class to mill.

"My hope is to specialize in wood that is abundant locally," he says. "There's a lot of building going on, and a lot of it gets cleared out for development. There's mountains of excellent wood free for the asking." He says his first project will probably be drying sheds & a solar kiln.

Richard says "I feel like I could get a mill now, put it together, and start right in using it." He may soon have his chance. He recently located an M7 mill for sale on Logosol's web site.

Ron Fischer is a computer programmer from Oregon, but as he puts it, "I'd rather work on my mill any day." He has had his M7 mill for about 8 months, and says he was having some difficulty cutting straight boards. After learning to tune up the mill, sharpen the chain, and true up the bar, Ron is convinced that he'll be cutting lumber "dead nuts on". "You could do anything with that saw, once you get it set up. For a guy that's cutting a limited amount of wood, it can't be beat," he says.

Ron works with teenagers, teaching them about logging, sawing, and woodworking. "I've been teaching kids how to log and build for years. They need a hands-on environment. I usually have kids from school come out and help. They love doing it and learning." His next project is to work with the students to make a building using post and beam construction techniques.

He has high praise for Rob's expertise, his willingness to share information, and to use input from his students. "It was a privilege and pleasure to meet these people. This mill really attracts the craftsmen more than production mills do."

”A proper log home should stand at least 300 years after the one who built the house has met his maker,” says Tycho Loo, Sweden’s most famous lumberman and Logosol’s teacher in building log homes.

By Janne Näsström
Translation: Anna Olsgren

Tycho Loo grew up in the mountains in northern Sweden. In the winters he helped his father in the forest and transported timber on a horse-drawn sleigh. Today he´s Logosol’s teacher in building log homes. Here´s a picture from Logosol´s log house course in Sweden.

Meet Logosol´s *Lumberman Teacher*

Every one in Sweden who knows something about log home building also knows who Tycho Loo is. Each summer he demonstrates the ancient art of building with logs at Skansen, a big open-air museum in the capital Stockholm to which old buildings from all over the country have been transported.

Tycho Loo’s fame is not only due to his skills. His name is exotic even in Sweden, and he looks as if he was brought right from the wilderness north of the polar circle.

”It is quite a long way to the polar circle, but otherwise the description is true,” says Tycho, who lives by a lake in the middle of the mountain chain that separates Sweden and Norway.

Grown up on the field

The name of the village where Tycho lives is Storsjö Kapell (in direct translation: Big Lake Chapell). The Loo family has lived in that area for generations. Tycho’s father was a smallholder owning one horse, six cows, one pig, and five hens.

”The farm’s six acres did not provide enough pasture. Every summer, we took the animals to the field. The whole family lived in one room in a small log cabin,” says Tycho.

In the winters, he helped his father with felling trees in the forest. The logs were transported on a horse-drawn sleigh. When he became an adult, Tycho left this hard way of life.

”I was trained to be a construction worker, but got tired of plaster and chipboards. So I learned how to build with logs, and have worked with this since 1974,” says Tycho.

Taught by the masters

He started with renovating old log cabins at the request of a museum. The oldest house he has renovated was built around 1450. It was over 500 years old, but still serviceable. During this time he learned the technique from the old masters. Due to this he can, with a clear conscience promise his pupils that they will build houses that will last for generations.

In the winters, Tycho builds log houses and makes roof shingles that he then sells. When the snow melts he becomes a full-time teacher at Logosol and Skansen.

ach year he teaches 150–200 people. Tycho has also studied the American way of building log homes.

”In Sweden we use a more original method, which makes the houses airtight and more long-lasting.”

Tradition with new methods

Traditionally, the logs and corner joints are moulded by hand with a shave and an axe. This is a time-consuming method, but nowadays there is a way to build quicker.

”With Logosol’s Log House Moulder you can build five times quicker without having to lower the standards of quality,” says Tycho.

Today, when he teaches, he uses Logosol’s sawmill and log house moulder. Not only will the work go quicker, but you also get a first-class result with less effort. This has attracted new groups. Among the pupils there are women and men, young and old, doctors and executives. In Sweden, building log homes has become an appreciated remedy for stress.

”The stress just flows away when you are building with logs.”

Tycho himself is convinced that forests and building with logs enable people to become old and healthy.
When his father was over 80 years old, he walked 12 miles through the forest to pick cloudberries and walked the same distance back home. *

Learn From the Master at the Outdoor Craftsman School!

This summer you can learn how to build log homes from Scandinavia’s foremost lumberman Tycho Loo and his son Per.

Father and son lead a seven-day course August 10th to 17th, at the Outdoor Craftsman School in Santa Barbara, CA. This is a unique opportunity to learn how to build log homes using a method that makes the houses last for generations. In Sweden there are log houses built 500 years ago that still are in use.

Logosol has modernized the method by using the sawmill and log house moulder. You build a log house as good as the old masters’, but five times quicker.

”A house built according to this method, will stand for generations,” Tycho Loo, your teacher at the Outdoor Craftsman School, promises.

”With Logosol’s Log House Moulder you can build a traditional Swedish log home fives times quicker,” says Tycho Loo, Sweden’s most famous lumberman and teacher in building log homes.

Finn Andersen is not surprised that so many people find the scent from sawing pleasant.

Do You Love the Scent of Freshly Cut Wood?

"Love is more about scents than anything else," Finn Andersen says. He is not surprised that so many people find the scent from sawing pleasant.

The name of Finn Andersen's company in Sweden is Naturkosmetikkompaniet Crearome (translated: Company Crearome). He works in the field of essential oils, both as raw material for industry and for manufacturing the company's own skin and hair products. Essential oils are found in trees, plants and herbs, and they have many qualities besides their scents.

"Juniper oil contains substances that have strong bactericidal qualities," Finn exemplifies.

In other words, it would be a good idea to make butter knives of juniper. The risk of bacteria growth is less compared to the growth on steel knives.

Nevertheless, scent holds a unique position, not only by the pleasure it can give, but also by the processes it starts in the brain and the body. Some reactions are from physical causes, others emanate from awoken memories.

"Everyone who has taken a walk in a pine forest on a warm summer's day, has experienced that the air is easy to breathe. You are put in a good mood and become clear in thought. This is, to a certain extent, due to essential oils that evaporate from trees and other plants," Finn says.

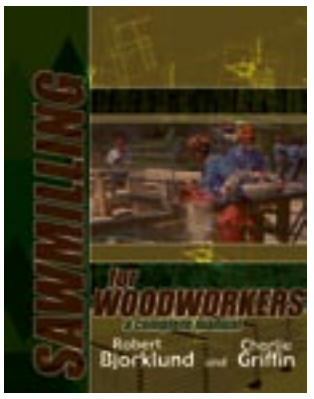
If you are sawing a pine tree with your Logosol Sawmill on a warm spring day, you are exposed to these essential oils. Your experience of becoming happy by sawing timber is not a figment of the imagination.

"I also assume that the scent of fresh cut wood awakens childhood memories and creates a sense of security."

Finn has a past career as a cook, and he knows that good food is more about scent than taste. We can only perceive five tastes, but when it comes to scents we can perceive 10,000. The only thing that distinguishes nettles from herbs is that the latter contain essential oils. In many cases herbs have medical qualities.

"Caraway reduces wind production when you have eaten pea soup," Finn states.

But we return to the positive effects of the scent from wood being sawn. Scents have an effect on the older part of the brain, and the effect goes, so to speak, right into the heart. We become hopelessly captured by the feeling the scent provokes. The American scientists Richard Axel and Linda B. Buck have gained new knowledge about the function and great importance of the sense of smell. For this work they were awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine in 2004. *



WHERE TO FIND LOGS 2.3 Networking

A chapter from Sawmilling for Woodworkers
- our Best Seller!

Hunting for good logs is just like going fishing. You always hope you will come home with a prize catch! Here are some tips on how to find them...

Pulp Mills and Log Suppliers for Pulp Mills

Pulp mill suppliers take logs in bulk that are cleared from land. The majority of these logs are good for pulp wood. However, black walnut must be separated and not used for pulp wood. Valuable hardwood - cherry, maple, etc. - can get mixed in with the pulpwood logs. Although used for pulp wood, they have a much higher value as hardwood lumber and can be purchased for a reasonable price. If you show up with a good trailer, they can almost always load you up.

Loggers

If you have time, notice the log trucks coming into the log yard. Many times they will have their name and number listed on the side of the truck. Give them a call. Sometimes you can get logs directly from these companies.

City/County Parks Department

There are lots of trees in the city and county parks. Often these are very beautiful, old trees. Sometimes they must be cut down so parks are a good place to find quality logs.

Lumber Yards Sawmills

Lumber yard sawmills work in bulk, and most specialize in certain species of wood. However, they always get the occasional off-species log that ends up in a pile out back.

Forest Service

There are millions and millions of miles of Forest Service land. As an American, this is your land and you have many rights. One of those is the right to take certain trees at certain times. Call your local Forest Service for details.

Telephone Companies

Old power poles are a great source of logs, although special handling must be taken because of creosote impregnation. Old cedar poles are being replaced and some of them only have a small amount of creosote. The wood is beautiful, dry and ready to use.

Tree Trimmers

All sources are good, but I use tree trimmers most often when I come into a new town for a Woodworking Show.

Firewood Businesses

There are many firewood processors. Find these and you may get a good source of specialty logs.

Woodlot Management

If you own property, especially property with trees on it, you know that most forest land has at least a 1 percent mortality rate. Many times these trees are left standing or simply cut down and left where they fall because it is not economically feasible for a logger to come in and harvest odd trees. Yet for the small sawmill owner, these trees can be very valuable.

Natural Disasters

Remember that when a tree gets blown down on one property, there are probably many more trees blown down in the area as well.

Water Areas

Sometimes you can find logs floating in rivers and lakes. You will have to get permission from the property owner to get these logs, though most owners will want them removed because of the negative affect they have on the movement of water downstream.

Sawmilling for Woodworkers by Rob Bjorklund and Charlie Griffin is available at www.logosol.com and the best seller in Logosol webshop!

It Is Knowledge, Not Size, That Makes the Result!

According to Paul Planeklev in Väderstad, Sweden, there is only one way to learn how to plane and mould wood. He calls the method HSL, the Hard School of Life.
”The only way to learn is to do it wrong and then figure out how to make it right,” he says.

By Janne Näsström
Translation: Anna Olsgren

”It is knowledge, and not the size of the planer/moulder, that makes good mouldings,” Paul Planeklev says. He hopes that young people will tread the path of wood processing. This knowledge will also be useful in the future.

Paul has figured things out to such an extent that he nowadays not only makes a living by planing and moulding, but is also hired as an instructor.

”Everything depends on the competence of the person who planes and moulds, not on how expensive the machine is,” he says.

Earlier, he had two industrial planers. Both have been discarded, and today he only has a PH260 planer/moulder.

”The possibilities are almost as many with the PH260 as with a big industrial planer,” Paul says.

PH260 in tandem

There are, however, industrial advantages with having more then four cutter heads. For instance, you can mount several knives at the same time, and turn off the cutter heads that are not being used.

”I’m thinking of buying an additional PH260 and install the machines in tandem. That way I will have eight cutter heads,” Paul says.

In his youth, Paul worked with forestry and wood, but switched over to farming.

Until 1998 he and his wife Runa worked in the pig production field; in the end a not very profitable business. The pigs were kicked out, and into the large sty came a finger joint cutting machine, a stack cutter, a router, two industrial planers, and other machinery. One of the first customers was Sweden’s leading quality planer shop, Tranåslist. They produce mouldings for framing works of art.

”On a scale from 1 to 10, I would give them 10+ for their quality,” Paul says.

Today, pine wood that is clean on four sides is used for making quality frames. The standards are set so high that only about one percent of the wood passes through ”the eye of the needle”. It is Paul’s task to produce this first-class finger jointed material. In addition, he planes and moulds for customers from far and near. The customers are master builders and consumers that are not satisfied with the DIY stores’ standard range.

”Some time ago a master builder came to me with this skirting board he wanted to reproduce,” Paul says, showing us a charred piece that was saved after a fire.

In the former sty, there are several examples of rarities that have been reproduced. One of them is a hand planed window casing from the 1920s with a unique rounded shape. The result is in the same class as the products Tranåslist presents. Paul is starting to slow down his working pace. From now on he will spend more time on developing the planer shop and creating new mouldings. He hopes that younger talents will step in.

Job for youths

”If I were younger, I would buy an efficient stack cutter and a planer/moulder. There is a great demand for locally produced building material,” Paul asserts.

The market demands much more than custom-made skirting boards and panels. Both master builders and consumers want to have building material that is exactly cut to suit a certain purpose.

”It saves a lot of time at the building site, and there will be hardly any wastage,” Paul Planeklev says. He would very much like to see young people tread the path of wood processing.

”In former times, the master planer/moulder was a highly regarded person who really mastered his job. And God help the one who came near the planer/moulder. I hope we will have people skilled at planing/moulding in the future too.” *

Logosol PH260

A network of experience

Visit our web site www.logosol.com and meet the members of the Moulding Network. They are all owners of a Logosol PH260.

These Logosol Planer Owners have agreed to share their experiences with others interested in the Logosol planer - feel free to call them and ask questions or arrange for a demo.

www.logosol.com

Do you want to join the network?
Send an email to: info@logosolusa.com

Meet a Network Member!

* Stanley Brys, Stratford NY

What products are you producing using your PH260?
T&G flooring, Swedish log panel, log cabin siding, colonial door casings and colonial baseboard.

What types of wood do you work with?
White pine and red pine, some cherry and maple.

Do you have any tips on moulding different types of wood?
Pay attenttion to detail.

Where and how do you buy your wood?
Local loggers, Doyle Rule

Do you have special tips on buying wood?
Scale logs fairly and don't complain too much about junk logs.

What is the cost of the wood you buy?
White Pine $250/1000 bd ft Doyle, red pine $225/1000 bd ft Doyle.

Is there any advice you would like to give someone thinking of purchasing a PH260?
Do not hesitate!

More tips & tricks at www.logosol.com

Turning Lumber into Gold

Do you remember the story of Rumpelstiltzkin? In it, a king was told of a young, beautiful woman who could spin straw into gold. The King placed the girl in a small room filled with straw and informed her that she had until morning to turn all the straw into gold. If she didn't, she would face death. The woman had no idea how to do this and was convinced she'd surely die come morning. However, before the moon faded, a tiny, little man appeared before her. He told her he could spin the straw into gold, but she'd have to pay him. Desperate, she offered him her necklace as payment. The little man was true to his word and by the next morning, all the straw had been spun into gold. The little man's name was Rumpelstiltzkin. There is much more to the story, and if you ever get the chance, I encourage you to go back and re-read it.

Rumpelstiltzkin is a fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm. No one believes you can actually spin straw into gold. But can you plane lumber into gold?

For the answer to that question, I embarked on a research mission, which included visiting numerous websites. I also examined the business operations of some of Logosol's PH260 owners. After studying this information, I came to several conclusions.

My first discovery was an obvious one: There's money in moulding. Taking a small piece of lumber and turning it into crown moulding, baseboards, or window and door-frames translates into dollar and "sense".

"Rumpelstiltzkin is a fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm. No one believes you can actually spin straw into gold. But can you plane lumber into gold?"

The average price I found for moulding ranged from $2.50 to $4.74 per linear foot. For baseboards, the market value ranges from $3.12 to $6.25 per linear foot. Windows and door frames can bring in as much as $2.25 to $4.37. Naturally, your price will vary, depending on the type of wood, thickness, and design.

Flooring is another venture for Logosol PH260 owners. There is a lot of research out there for flooring. Unfinished flooring can be processed faster than moulding, so therefore, many planer operators use flooring as their main focus. Some smaller companies run the flooring and then sell it to contractors for installation. Some larger businesses take the process from beginning to end. As with mouldings, the type of wood determines the price.

Paneling is another favorite among planer owners. Like flooring, it is quicker to process, thus allowing for a faster turn-around. There doesn't seem to be as much competition in the paneling market as in the flooring market, especially from the larger do-it-yourself stores. Pricing varies on paneling, but as with any other wood product, quality is the key.

Next on my list of "Things I Learned" was the benefit of either milling your own lumber or striking up deals with local millers. To turn out the products I previously mentioned, you must have the right resources. As purchasing wood can dip into your profit, many owners mill their own wood. This is especially beneficial to those operating on a smaller scale. Most everyone I spoke with indicated that their profit more than doubled when they cut and dried their own lumber. In some cases, the business owner allows the customer to provide the lumber. Their profit is lower in this instance, but not by as much as if as it would have been if the owner had purchased the lumber outright. What can you do if you don't have the capability of milling your own lumber? A few owners managed to find a way to trade off with nearby sawyers.

So, what does all this mean? Because I'm in accounting, my interpretation is purely from a financial point of view. Planing lumber can be a lucrative business. Whether you prefer to make flooring, crown moulding, or paneling, there is a demand for it. Maybe if you don't own a Logosol PH260 Planer/Moulder, then you should give us a call. And if you are an owner, then I hope you've been successful in turning your lumber into gold. Or at least into green.

June L. Love
accounting clerk and long-time employee of the Logosol, Inc.

Harp builder Dave Kortier recently added a chain saw and Logosol he claims. "I can get everything lined up before the cut" His harps market a global business."

The *Harpmaker* Found the Perfect

Building musical instruments requires extreme skill and precision. So what place does a chain saw and the Logosol Big Mill have in an instrument builder's shop? Dave Kortier of Duluth, Minnesota has the answer. "I have always been involved in music", Dave explained. While his instrument of choice is a bassoon, he has repaired all types of instruments, and now specializes in building authentic reproductions of antique Irish harps. Recently he added a new tool to his shop—a chain saw and Logosol Big Mill.

By David Boyt

It started in 1991 when he met a local harp teacher, who complained that it was extremely difficult for her students to find suitable instruments at a price they could afford. Not one to turn down a new challenge, he used her harp as a pattern to build one, and immediately sold it to one of her students.

Dave now builds harps full time, in a variety of sizes and styles. "I build about thirty instruments per year," he says. Most of these are for students. Accurate reproductions of authentic Irish harps take much longer to build, and are more expensive.

The sounding boxes of the antique Irish harps were built from a hollowed-out block of maple or willow measuring roughly 5" thick, 18" wide an d 48" long. "I just couldn't get blanks commercially," he recalled. The solution appeared in front of his house when he watched a truck from a tree trimming service haul off two huge silver maple logs. "I just stepped out the door and there they were on a truck. One was about 42" diameter by 8' long, and the other was 36" diameter." Convincing the driver to leave the logs in his yard instead of hauling them to the landfill was easy. Now Dave was faced with the challenge of cutting soundbox blanks out of them.

The right equipment

"I started doing research, and decided that I needed a way to move the saw through the wood, instead of moving the log through the saw." Through an internet search he learned about Logosol, and decided that the "Big Mill" would do the job. He says that the video on Logosol's web site convinced him that this was the right equipment.

His next task was to locate a suitable chain saw. "I had run a chain saw maybe ten minutes in my life", he recalls. Dave went to a local Stihl dealer, and requested the biggest chain saw they had. "They kept trying to sell me smaller saws before I convinced them to special order an 880 with a 36" bar." "This mill is the perfect tool", he claims. "I can get everything lined up before the cut."

Once he has a slab cut to the desired thickness, Dave traces around a template to mark the outline of the sound box, then cuts out the rough shape with a smaller chain saw.

"I feel really good about this [investment]," he says. "I spent about $2,000 on equipment to saw these two logs, but when I get them cut up, I'll be looking for more." He should not have a hard time finding

Big Mill to his shop in Minnesota. “This mill is the perfect tool”, have been sold around the world. “The internet has made the

Tone in the Logosol Big Mill

them. Many of the old silver maple trees lining the streets of Duluth are being removed.

Dave’s replicas of Irish harps are the product of years of careful study and research. In 2002, Dave traveled to Ireland to study first-hand some of the traditional harps. With the assistance of the Historical Harp Society of Ireland, he arranged to examine the Trinity College harp, the national treasure of Ireland. It is the oldest known Irish harp, built around the year 1400. “It was quite an honor to be allowed to handle it and examine it closely,” he says. Dave has also examined a number of other antique harps housed in museums in Ireland and Scotland. This has enabled him to create accurate replicas of these harps.

Global business on the Internet

While Dave mostly builds for the U.S. and Canadian harp players, his instruments have been sold around the world. “The internet has made the market a global business.” I have shipped harps to Ireland, Sweden, Austria, and Japan.” One customer shipped Dave two blanks of willow from Ireland for her harp.

The internet is not the only modern technology to creep into Dave’s business. Strings are a fluorocarbon polymer plastic. In addition to the traditional harps, he now has an electric model with MIDI interface, allowing it to connect to a computer to produce the sound of any of 256 different instruments (including, of course a harp).

While chain saws and Logosol mills were not available to the original harp makers, there is little doubt that they would have put them to good use. Dave has demonstrated that modern techniques, combined with traditional craftsmanship can create instruments that accurately reproduce the sound and feel of these ancient treasures.

For more information, check his web site: kortier.com. It contains more photos of his harps, as well as information on purchasing the different models. The web site also contains sound tracks from a CD of harp music by Siobhan Armstrong, played on one of the harps he built from the Irish willow. *

Pioneer Cabins - White Oak Shingles
Joel Hutchins,
Maryland

This volunteer project is making white oak shingles for two 30 year old pioneer cabins in the mountains of Virginia at a youth camp. With the Logosol Mill we can make about 30 to 45 26 inch long shingles an hour ranging from 5 to 16 inches wide, compared to 10 an hour by hand. We volunteer about a week or two a year, and have kids ages 10 to 15 help throughout the year as well.

See more pictures at www.logosol.com

Contemporary Woodshed for Firewood
Chuck

We have some land in Friendship, Maine. The forest is filled with beautiful spruce but in the winter we always have lots of ”blow down” that I always hated to see go to waste. I got the Logosol M7 mill and have had so much fun turning blown down trees in the woods into a great source of lumber and beams for building. This firewood shed was my first project. The best part is you can cut whatever size lumber you need at the moment..beams, joists, siding!!!

Adirondack Chairs
Hassler

This set of Adirondack chairs was built from a Douglas fir tree rescued from the firewood pile. My Logosol mill made short work of this tree. Some of the most beautiful wood I have found is from dead wood.

Going-Away Plaques
Jeff Gatton
Burkburnett, TX

I was stationed at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS when Hurricane Katrina hit. I have 9 acres of woods and refused to see all that timber go to waste, so I bought my M7. I made some going-away plaques that we traditionally give to our departing troops. After Katrina, we had quite a few leave. I even had to make my own plaque!

Moondog House
Raphael D. Swift
Warren CT

I’ve been in a bit of a quandry as to how I should create an entry for this contest. I’ve milled over 10,000 BF of dimensional lumber and numerous large timbers. Almost all of it has gone towards a single (incomplete) project in one way or another. I’ve decided to make my entire timber framed house my entry but will focus this thread on the staircase assembly and give links to facets of the project.

Cabin Trim and Porch
Chris Cowlbeck
Ardmore, OK

We used the oak cut from our habitat project to trim all the exterior doors and windows on our cabin with 4 inch thick material. We also used the M7 to trim the porch main beams, roof trim, interior beams and the 1 1/2 inch porch deck material. We also cut logs for the treads inside the cabin. Turned out super!

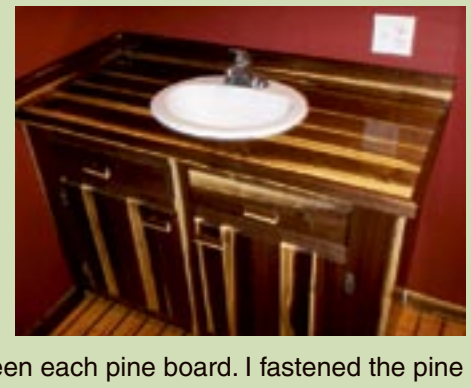
Sleigh Bed
Ted Christiansen
United States (Midwest)

I made this sleigh bed from wood milled with my TimberJig. The bed rails and headboard/footboard posts are poplar. The headboard/footboard panels are 1/2” birch plywood.

China Hutch
Larry Morden
Goodells Mi. USA

This is a Christmas gift for my wife. My friends and I cut the china hutch with the M-7. The wood is white oak, air dired in my barn.

Bathroom Cabinet and Mirror
Mickey Swinyer
Pickens,S.C. USA



A man brought me a 11’ black walnut log and wanted a 4” x 10” mantle cut out of it. I got to keep the rest of it for payment. I had already floored my bathroom with 3” wide white pine boards and 3/8” wide black walnut strips between each pine board. I fastened the pine boards down with screws and covered them with 3/8” black walnut plugs. The door frame and base board moulding were also done in black walnut. To keep with the decor, I made this cabinet and mirror frame of black walnut, as well. I used the sap wood in my design.

Curly Walnut Hope Chests From Charity Work at YWCA
Kevin Cradic
Kansas City Area

I used my Logosol equipment to cut up a HUGE walnut tree that had been hit by lightning and was on fire. After the firemen put the fire out of the tree they informed the YWCA that it would need to come down or else the kids who frequent the YWCA would be in danger of it falling some day. When I got the call I went by and looked at it and could not believe my eyes. It was 42” across or more. I made several hope chests and gave them to my family.

Dad's Casket
Bill Stuewe
Georgetown, TX

Brother, Jim, the Ironworker is on the right and the Woodworker is on the left.

In the fall of 2003 my Mom said to me, "You have all that wood up there, you need to make me a casket". I initially thougt "no way" and ignored her. But once the casket was complete and Mom had approved it, brother Sid suggested I should build one for Dad too. He passed away on September 9, 2005. At first, Mom's request was hard to think about and not something I wanted to do. In the end it turned into what I now feel was a great honor to do. My Dad used to come up often and watch and sometimes help me with my milling. He was facinated that a chainsaw could actually make boards. He now rests with some of those boards.

Wine Cabinet
Jerry
Virginia

Hurricane Isabel made a mess in my daughter's yard. She and her family live in Norfolk and the city was a mess. My wife and I went down to give a hand and possibly salvage some logs. The only wood I was able to truck home was some pecan logs. These I kept in the barn until I could come up with a nice gift for her and her husband using the salvaged wood. This wine cabinet was my solution. The cabinet is walnut with the pecan used in panels in the front and as an accent for the back splash. It holds 2 cases of wine and 12 wine glasses. I used the Big Mill to slice the pecan boards.

Logosol Project Contest

Thank you for all the fantastic stories!

The first Logosol Project Contest turned out to be a real success! The contest took place in the Logosol forum, and many people have download pictures and seen the fantastic (30!) projects. Here in Fresh Cut, we are proud to present the winners and show off a project from each of the entrants
Thank you all for participating in the Logosol Project Contest!

Logosol Cap and Swedish Craftsman Knife for everyone!

Read more about the projects in the Forums area of www.logosol.com

3. Third Prize: Electric chainsaw 3 hp

Cabriolet Table
Chilly from Plymoth MI.

My first attempt at cabriole legs. Wood is cherry from logs downed by a storm in a local park and milled with my Logosol M5. A fellow with a Woodmizer showed up right after me and thought he'd take a shot at getting the logs. Logosol won that shootout! This table exemplifies the advantage of the Logosol for the hobbyiest woodworker; the capability to mill and utilize wide planks in projects. It also enabled milling the 4x4's needed for the legs.

2. Second Prize: Husqvarna 338

Seven sided poker table
Garner Andrews

My father and I decided to design and build a seven sided poker table. I started by slicing up some maple logs on my Woodworker's Sawmill. We used our experience and memory of other poker tables to come up with our unique design. We even wrote up instructions in case we ever want to sell or publish our design.

Turn the page and see the winner!

1. **First Prize:** Husqvarna 385XP

Kitchen Cabinets from Reclaimed Antique Timbers

John Ming

The first woodworking contest is complete, and the results are in. Judges were the students in Rob Bjorklund's sawmilling class. Projects were rated on a scale from 1 to 10. According to Rob, the voting was very close. 1st place goes to John Ming for his kitchen cabinets, table and sideboard. While the woodworking is exceptional, it is the story behind the wood that makes these pieces truly unique.

By David Boyt

Describing his entry, John wrote "Several years ago, one of my clients stumbled across a large pile of timbers from a very old home that was being demolished in north Georgia. Being lovers of unique wood furniture, they purchased the timbers before they were sent to a landfill by the demolition company." The wood, as it turns out, came from a salvaged house built shortly after the Civil War, meaning that the timbers were over 130 years old!

According to John, the wood itself presented a cutting challenge. "Compared to a freshly cut white oak—and white oak cuts slowly compared to pine—multiply that by a factor of 5 when it came to cutting those old timbers. I had to significantly increase the oil feed to the chain to keep it cool." Although the chainsaw blade dulled when hitting old nails, he just resharpened it, and continued cutting.

Matching furniture

To enhance the appearance of the cabinets, John softened and distressed the wood to give it more of a worn appearance. Finally, he applied a satin sheen lacquer "to highlight the warm golden coloring of this unique lumber." To complete the kitchen, John built a matching harvest table and sideboard out of the same timbers.

John recalls his decision to purchase a Logosol mill. "When the Logosol guys did the rounds with the Woodworking show, I would see the sawmill. I thought it over for 3 or 4 years before I decided to leave the corporate world and make woodworking my full time profession." He bought an M5 mill in 2000. "I purchased the sawmill to acquire unique lumber that I could use in my business." When the M7 mill came out, he upgraded. "The M7 is easier to use, particularly in adjusting the log height," he says.

John says he has a never-ending supply of logs without having to cut anything down. "I would say 90% or more comes from salvage from areas that are being cleared for development. I can buy walnut and cherry logs for a few dollars per linear foot!" When faced with the task of cutting a 42" diameter ambrosia maple log, John went the next step. "The lumber in that one log was valuable enough to make it practical to buy the Big Mill," he says. "The Big Mill slabs things out, then I can move those slabs to the M7."

John's shop is a 2-car garage. "Of course, all the cars and automotive stuff has long since been cleared out." He says he thinks of his shop not in square feet, but cubic feet. "I use all of the wall space for storage, and even hang some things from the ceiling". "I am from beginning to end, a one-person show," he says. "I'm the lead sawyer, the chief designer, and the head janitor." His shop equipment includes a Delta unisaw, 8" jointer, 18" planer, and he recently purchased a 37" two-drum sander. He dries the lumber in a home-made dehumidification kiln.

John's pick: the walnut hope chest

John is open to discussing his techniques with other woodworkers. "I really enjoy passing on what I've learned. I've got quite a few postings in Logosol's kiln drying forum, for example. I've also been very active in the Woodworker's Guild of Georgia. This year, I am president of the guild."

Congratulations John Ming, and thank you for your fantastic story!

Read more about John Mings winnings project at the Logosol forum!

John's pick for the outstanding project, by the way, is the walnut hope chest. "That is some of the most beautiful walnut lumber I've ever seen. It amazes me what nature can accomplish."

Now, John can accomplish his sawing with two chain saws. He can cut with his Stihl until the chain dulls, then put his new Husqvarna 385 on the guide rail and keep right on going. Congratulations on some beautiful work, John! And thanks to everyone who submitted a project. We look forward to seeing what comes our way for the next issue of Fresh Cut!

You can find out more about John Ming's entry, as well as all the othe excellent projects in the User's Forum of the Logosol website, http://www.logosol.com/. To see more of John's work check out his web site, http://www.heirloomwoodcrafting.com/. *

Join the *new* Logosol Project Contest!
See last page ▶

Logosol TimberJig – Effective Way to Turn Firewood Logs into Lumber

Attending the Novi, Michigan Woodworkers show is a yearly ritual for my father and me. While at the show in December 1998 I saw the Logosol M5 sawmill, set up outside the exhibition hall in the cold snowy weather. I was immediately impressed with the concept of a low investment way to turn logs into lumber. I was also amazed that I hadn't thought of that possibility before, having been a woodworker for many years. After all, hardwood lumber was only increasing in cost.

By Ted Christiansen

I enjoyed visiting the Logosol booth each year, dreaming of someday when I could afford a sawmill. Eventually Logosol introduced the electric chainsaw powerhead to the U.S. market, allowing the Logosol mill to be used indoors in their booth. At the December 2004 show I saw the TimberJig for the first time. At $165, the investment was easy to justify, so we purchased one. In March 2005, the winter weather broke enough to try it out. We tried out the TimberJig first with my father's 45cc Homelite Timberman with 18" bar and cross-cut chain. It worked on an old cherry log and a pine, but very slowly and with a very rough cut. It was obvious that a larger saw and ripping chain were needed.

Built a guide rail

In May 2005 my Dad and I purchased the Husqvarna 385XP and two bars and ripping chains – one 25" (narrow picco chain) and one 36" bar and ripping chain. I also bought the Pferd filing device and Logosol chain sharpening vise/jig for sharpening. I built a guiderail out of two 2"x6"x10' that I jointed/planed until flat and then put a dado in one of them to keep the other straight.

Since all of the logs have to be milled on site (not at my neighborhood home), I built a toolbox of white oak to keep all of the milling equipment and accessories in one place. These white oak logs were "rescued" from a sure destiny with the fireplace or chipper – I found them along the side of the road while driving home from work in October 2004. The toolbox stores the chainsaw, all three bars (16", 25" and 36"), helmet and the TimberJig. It has stacking trays for all of the smaller items.

In Spring 2005 about one mile from my home a tree service cut some trees in a powerline easement and left the logs where felled. Over the summer I cut about 500 board feet of 4/4 and 5/4 hardwood lumber – cherry, walnut, red oak and ash – there and at a friend's property. The smaller logs I cut to 4 feet long, then using the TimberJig cut one face, and then split the log in half. These (lighter) halves I milled into

Ted Christiansen with his Logosol Timberjig. This guide rail is made from a 2"x6"x10' plank.

boards on my Jet 18" vertical bandsaw. I now have many sources for logs. One tree service is particularly helpful. I just call and let them know what I am interested in. He has his crew cut the logs to my requirements, and his log hauler takes them back to his yard. My dad and I haul them to his property with a trailer and mill them up. Often times the wood is purpose cut.

Recently I decided to build walls for my shop over the concrete to make it more attractive and storage friendly. I decided on knotty pine vertical tongue and groove boards. Doing the entire shop would cost $600 if I purchased the wood at a lumberyard. I called my tree service and he cut five spruce logs for me – 8 feet long. I was able to get half of the needed 6" wide 4/4 boards from these, in about 6 hours of work. These cost me $30 for the hauling fee.

All of the lumber is air dried, some outdoors and some in my basement woodshop. I never dry boards in my basement with the bark still on because of bugs that may be in the bark. I also don't dry boards in my basement that have obvious signs of ants/insects. These boards are dried outside at my father's property. The ends of all boards are painted with left-over latex paint, which has worked well for me. The wood in the basement dries at a fairly consistent rate with the aid of forced air cooling in the summer and heat in the winter. There has been little checking, splitting, or mold, a sign that the drying rate is about right. I plan to build a dehumidifier kiln in my basement shop with capacity to dry about 200 bdft per load.

From rough log to something beautiful

I have a pinless moisture meter so I can track the moisture and to determine when it can be used. I have made a few projects with the wood already - cutting boards, nesting trays, cherry shaker wall cabinet. Since ash is so plentiful right now because of the emerald ash borer I am building a new tablesaw island with it. The top will be 2" thick hard maple (milled with the TimberJig) and the cabinets underneath of ash.

Using the TimberJig to make lumber has been fun, and has taken my woodworking hobby to the new level. It is really neat to take a rough log and turn it into something beautiful and useful. *

Cherry Shaker Wall Cabinet. Frame and panel door, dovetailed drawer, sliding dovetail shelves.

This toolbox is made from reclaimed oak.

Cherry box for belt sander. Dovetailed with figured floating panel lid

Read more about the Timberjig and how to build your own guide rail at www.logosol.com

The Logs Go on Private Railway *to the Sawmill*

Bo Malmborg is probably the only Logosol-Sawmill owner in the world who carries logs from the forest to the sawmill on his own personal railway. The line is 2.3 kilometers (1.4 miles) long, and is found in Tiveden in Sweden.

By Janne Näsström
Translation: Anna Olsgren

The idea of building a railway started to develop in 1969, when Bo Malmborg's parents bought a small forest property at lake Örkagen. To provide capital for the purchase they harvested trees on the property, but some logs were left on the other side of a bog.

"I considered making an aerial ropeway, and also other methods to carry home the logs," says Bo.

Most of all, he wanted to build a railway, inspired by the Märklin trains of his childhood. But how would he, as a private person, be able to build a full-scale railway? During his military service, five years later, he found the solution by a roadside outside the town Tibro.

Railway from a peat bog

"There was a pile of rails from a closed-down peat litter factory. I bought the rails and financed the purchase and the transport by selling half of the rails to a scrap dealer. I kept all the switches and axles."

The width of the track is 600 mm (24"), the standard for small industrial railways. In Sweden, this type of railway has mostly been used on peat bogs. The trains have been replaced by vehicles with balloon tires, which has resulted in a supply of rails, axles, wagons and engines available at reasonable prices. The laying of the rails started immediately, but when the goal was reached, all the remaining logs had been used up for making the ties of the railway.

Since then, the railway has been improved and extended successively, and today it is 2.3 kilometers (1.4 miles) long.

The first board hangs on the wall

With their own forest, railway and a constant need for timber for hobbies and renovations of the buildings on the property, it was only a matter of time before a sawmill was acquired. Today, the Logosol Sawmill has its natural place by the railway.

"The first sawn board hangs on the wall in the bedroom," says Bo's wife Elisabeth, who has become accustomed to the many years of railway building.

"At my first visit to my then future parents-in-law, we spent two days painting railway wagons."

The combination "railway and Logosol Sawmill" is both entertaining and useful. In civilian life, Bo is a production technology manager at Electrolux's stove factory in Motala, and at work he organizes streamlined productions. In the case of the railway, he has also succeeded in this.

Safe lifting in the forest

Örkaggen Railway, as the line is called, has several technical solutions that other Logosol Sawmill owners should consider copying. Especially when it comes to log handling.

"In the forest we pull the logs to the tracks with the help of an iron horse, and load them on the wagon using a gantry crane," says Bo.

The gantry crane is easy to take down and bring with you out into the forest. It straddles the wagon, and the logs are lifted by an ordinary chain hoist which can be pushed backwards and forwards on the crane beam. This results in safe lifting, even when handling heavy logs.

The Logosol Sawmill stands beside a double track under a big gantry crane, which extends over the two tracks and the sawmill. The wagons loaded with logs stands on the track furthest away from the sawmill. With the help of the gantry crane the logs are lifted over to the sawmill. The processed timber is then placed on another railway wagon on the track closest to the Logosol Sawmill.

Even more enjoyable

The most dangerous operation, when it comes to all types of sawmills, is handling of heavy logs. Many people have a hoist fastened to the ceiling above the Logosol Sawmill, but what do you do when there is no ceiling? Well, you build yourself a gantry crane. The example from Örkaggen Railway shows that it can be used both in the forest and by the sawmill.

"Building a gantry crane is not so complicated. I welded together rails in triangles to be used as legs, and used a part from an industrial conveyor belt as crane beam enabling the hoist to be moved. But you can just as well use an I-beam," Bo states.

It can also be worth laying rails next to the Logosol Sawmill and obtain a couple of wheel axles, to build a movable log table. Carrying logs on rails only takes a fractional part of the effort, compared to using rubber wheels on the ground. Furthermore, there is no denying that wagons and a gantry crane make the sawing even more enjoyable.

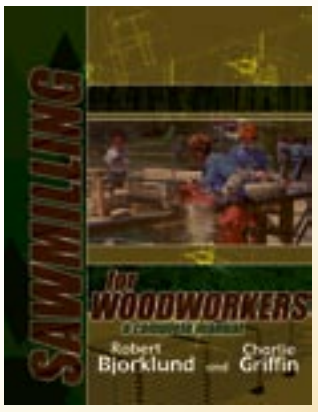
More about Örkaggen Raiway is found on the Internet, www.hypatia.se/okj *

Bo Malmborg recommends using a gantry crane for lifting logs. He himself has two, and this one is portable.

Bo Malmborg works as a production technology manager at Electrolux in Motala, so it is not surprising that the logistics around the sawmill are well thought out. The logs arrive on the track to the right. Then, they are lifted onto the Logosol Sawmill with the help of the electric gantry crane. Finally, the boards and planks are placed on the wagon to the left and transported to be seasoned.

Even small railways require a turntable. Behind you can see the line's engine depot. The engines and the wagons Bo has built himself.

Örkaggen Station is situated by the lake at the family's swimming place. The train comes here, even on New Year's Eve when the snow is deep and has to be shovelled away.



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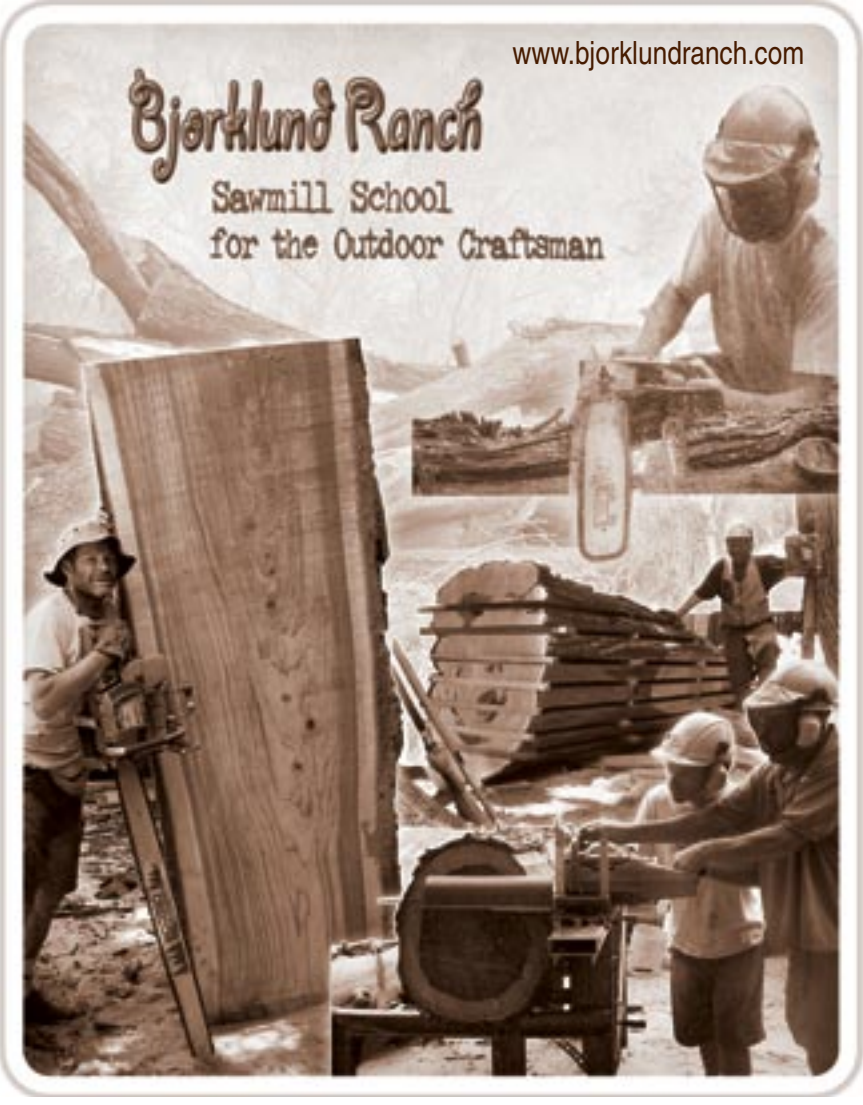

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MOULDING *project* CONTEST

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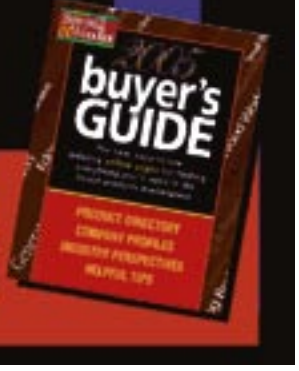

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