



## When the sawmill came to the village



### Mixteco Indians Changing History Using a Logosol Sawmill

As a boy, Adan Marin had a dream for his people. Read the exciting story about how he could make it come true. Follow us to the state of Oaxaca in Mexico, to the Mixteco Indian tribe where the Logosol M7 gives a new kind of freedom.

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## M7 Sawmill helps investigate exotic tree

The Virginia Department of Forestry used the Logosol Sawmill for study of *Ailanthus altissima* wood. This Asian species, also known as tree-of-heaven or paradise tree, has long been regarded as a valueless and invasive weed tree. From the left: Charlie Becker, Wood Utilization Specialist, Mike Eckley, County Forester and Tim Tigner, mill owner.

age 13



### The building of a Church Boat

The ice of Lake Lockne in Sweden was sawing site when a church boat of a 19th century model was built.

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### A chapter from our Best-Seller!

Learn all about the tools that keep a chain and bar in perfect cutting condition.

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### Family business with the Logosol PH260

Janis Freer and her daughter Jade have found that producing moldings with the Logosol PH260 can also be done with a feminine touch.

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### From log to dance floor

From hunting down the logs, to the last coat of urethane on the finished floor, to seeing the flamenco dancer floating across the gloss finish. Oh what a feeling!

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# To the Outdoor Craftsman

Don't mind that my head seems a bit bigger in this photo— I'm still basking in the great feeling of making my first floor! From hunting down the logs, to the last coat of urethane on the finished floor, to seeing the flamenco dancer floating across the gloss finish. Oh what a feeling!

I give great thanks to Jim Birkemeier, one of our PH-260 owners, as I am applying his techniques of mixing wood species to create a colorful rich look. His forest management system of using the least desirable trees first from his woodlot matches the type of logs I deal with from the Santa Barbara "urban forest". That is, multi-species, short or small saw logs, and plenty of character ("defects") in the wood— all perfect for my style of custom flooring. The last missing link remains the dry kiln. The fog lays thick in my mind as to what type, how big, and what location. Only the time frame is clear— by the next issue of Fresh cut!

As President of Logosol, Inc., I have been pressured a bit, lately, to focus on the business side of the company (phones, computers, and paperwork). But I was able to compromise a few of these business tasks to manage the birth of the Outdoor Craftsman School (O.C.S.). Now we're talking, and the chains are spinning! Sawmill classes will be first on the menu. Ideas for the future include log cabin building, sawmill furniture and, of course, custom molding with the PH-260. Just remember, I am sharing dreams and visions, and as we know, sometimes they get adjusted along the way.

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you— I fell in love well with my "new" 1974 International truck. It is a five ton four wheel drive, power steering, air brakes, full tool boxes— and knuckle boom crane! Well, we're trying to keep the text short and the pictures long so 'till the next issue of Fresh Cut, I leave you with this— Lets Cut Lumber!

**Rob Bjorklund**  
President Logosol



## FRESH CUT!

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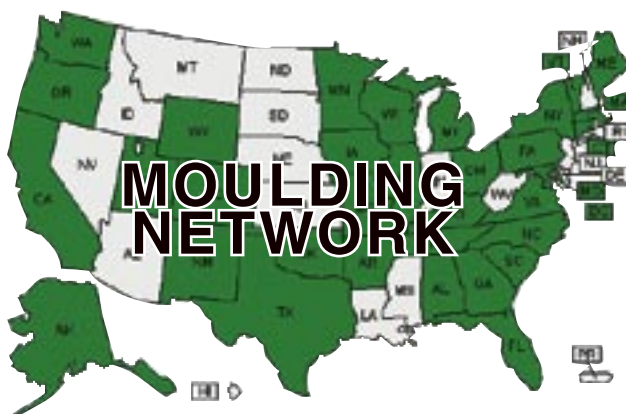
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### A network of experience

Visit our web site [www.logosol.com](http://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](mailto:info@logosolusa.com)



### Meet a Network Member!

\* **Jack Lee**

**What products are you producing using your PH 260?**

*Tonque and Groove flooring and siding. 3/4" and 1/2"*

**What types of wood do you work with?**

*Red Oak, White Oak, Cypress, Pine*

**Do you have any tips on moulding different types of wood?**

*Oak- I buy rough cut kiln dry & run it twice. 1st run 7/8 hit or miss 2nd T&G & size/width.*

**Is there any advice you would like to give someone thinking of purchasing a Logosol PH-260?**

*Good buy for the price.*

If you have called Logosol's office to place an order or request technical support, there's a good chance that you have already talked to Martin Hall. While customers give Logosol high marks for technical support, this is only part of Martin's job. A typical day for Martin also includes staying in contact with Logosol headquarters in Sweden, ordering equipment, making sure orders go out on time, and developing and improving Logosol products.

"I guess I'm doing everything, more or less," he says. "They call it 'product manager', but I also work in finances, strategic planning, everything that involves the business."

By David Boyt



*Martin Hall, Product Manager together with Rob Bjorklund, president of Logosol Inc. The Swedish Viking in wood is a mascot at the office in Madison. "The first Outdoor Craftsman" Rob says.*

# A Viking in Madison!

## An interview with Product Manager Martin Hall, Logosol Inc.

A native Swede, Martin's experience in woodworking equipment goes back years before he joined Logosol. "I've been around machines my entire life," he says. "I learned the hard way." Martin has worked for five years as a forestry contractor, running timber harvesting equipment, including a computer controlled feller-buncher. This machine cuts down the tree, strips off the branches, cuts it to length and stacks the logs, all in one operation. "I started out at Logosol developing the ripping gear, because I had that knowledge from the forestry."

### General contractor

Martin's experience goes beyond the equipment. He has also worked as a general contractor, taught woodworking in Swedish schools, and, in his "spare" time, built and customized gun stocks. When his uncle started building sawmills in Sweden twelve years ago, Martin was on hand to lend his expertise, and has been with the company ever since. "I've had a hand in developing just about every product offered by Logosol," he says. Most recently, he designed Logosol's SH230 Solo Planer, a combination straight line rip saw and planer/molder, which is just now being introduced in the United States.

In 1996, Martin set up sales and marketing in Norway. "The biggest market is in Scandi-

navia," he says. "There, more than 1 person in 1,000 owns Logosol equipment." Two years later, he came to the U.S. to check out this market. "We saw a need for a unique product in the U.S. to appeal to the hobbyist woodworker." Here in the U.S., the PH260 molder/planer is their main product, but the M7 Woodworker's Mill and the Timber Jig are both selling well.

Life in the U.S. has required some adjustments. Like all Swedish students, Martin has learned English in school since he was nine years old, so his biggest issue was switching from the British English learned in school to the American version. In the eight years he has been in the U.S., he has adapted quite well. Culture was another difference that took some getting used to. "In Sweden, we have reliable public transportation everywhere. Here in the U.S., you can hardly cross the street without a car!"

### Constant development

What's on the drawing boards? "There are always new products being developed at Logosol, but we'll talk about them after they have been tested and are ready for the market," he says. "We really want them to be a good, functional product before we release them." He continued, "There is constant development to improve our products."

Martin has plans beyond Logosol. He recently purchased a piece of land in the mountains of Sweden near a lake, where he plans to build a cabin when he retires. "I've been interested in wood from the very beginning, especially the old-fashioned knowledge available in Sweden," he says. "You've got to have the dream. That's what keeps you going."

Even after Martin retires to Sweden, you can be sure that Logosol's excellent service will continue so that we can continue to pursue our dreams, as well. I can almost picture him in his snow-covered cabin, feet propped up in front of a cozy fire with a note pad full of sketches for new products... \*



*For more information on the new PH230 Solo planer, or any other Logosol product, check the web site [www.logosol.com](http://www.logosol.com), or call 1-877-LOGOSOL.*

# Janis & Jade: Women Can do the Logosol!

Logging and sawmilling brings to mind images of tough men with callused hands. While this is true for many wood-related jobs, Janis Freer and her daughter Jade, of Grand Forks, British Columbia have found that producing moldings with the Logosol PH260 can also be done with a feminine touch. Just north of the U.S. border, the Freers run a bed & breakfast, maintain a chain saw museum, and keep a beautiful flower garden. While these tasks would keep most people occupied full time, they along with Janis's husband, Ross, and a hired sawyer, also manage their own woodlot, plus 1,200 acres of "Crown land" (land belonging to the government), and run a lumber business, Son Ranch Timber. According to Janis, "We're doing everything from felling trees to producing the final product, instead of selling them to the large mills here."

By David Boyt

Photo by Kerry Lea Plotnikoff

Two and a half years ago, the Freers were looking at ways to expand their product offerings beyond what a sawmill alone could produce. Janis's research indicated that she needed to make two additions to the operation—a kiln, and a molder/ planer. "I knew that to do flooring you had to kiln dry it," she explained.

## A family business

The Freers have found that taking wood through the entire process from logging to final product makes good business sense. Her husband, Ross does the logging and provides the mill with fir, larch, cedar, and aspen. They use the circle saw to cut flooring and molding blanks, and a WoodMizer band saw mill to cut beveled siding. When she's not running the Logosol molder, Janis tails for the milling operations. One of Janis's repeat customers is her son, Shilo, who runs a timber framing company. "We're very much a family business," she said.

Janis is no stranger too woodworking, building shower houses, and renovating the bed & breakfast. "I've always worked with a skill saw, miter saw & stuff like that, but nothing like the Logosol. When I first saw one, I thought it was just awesome." At first, she found the Logosol a little intimidating. "I wish I could have gone to one of their weekend courses, but I've got the better of it, now. Once you learn to use the machine, it is really easy," she says.

Even so, she did not have to work on her own. Janis says that she received excellent customer support. "They've all been helpful over the phone." For example, she had a problem with the blades tearing out the wood when running larch through it. A call to Martin Hall at the Logosol office in Madison, MS got her the contact information for another Logosol user not far from her who had encountered and

solved a similar problem. "I found that he had solved the problem by grinding a small back-bevel on the knives for better chip clearance," she said. I tried it, and now its working really well." Janis sharpens her own blades. She recently bought a sharpener for the straight planer knives, and touches up the profile knives with a file, putting in a little back bevel in the process. "I've got that figured out pretty well, now," she said. "I've been sharpening my own blades for the last three or four months."

Janis dries the wood in a 45' "reefer" trailer. At this point, she is only using half of the trailer, but plans to open up the other end so that she can double her drying capacity. "I keep pretty busy with it. My kiln holds about 2,000 bd ft, and takes about a week to dry. While that's drying, I'm running wood through the molder, and working on the sawmill. She says the reefer trailer makes an excellent kiln. "I've got tracks that go in. We load up a cart, and roll it in. We're only using half of the trailer right now, but plan to open up the other end to use as a second kiln. Then I'll be able to do 4,000 to 4,500 bd ft per week." When the wood is dry, she rolls it out of the kiln into the shop where the Logosol is. "If the weather is nice, I just plane it outside."

## Character in the wood

Since installing it, the machine has seen a lot of use. "I'm using the timber for flooring, crown molding, siding, base boards, and window casings. I'm always adding more knives. People restoring old houses come by and ask if I can match profiles. I fax the drawings to Martin [Hall], and he sends knives that match what the customers want. I usually get blades in two or three days." Janis has found that installing the knives is simple and straightforward. "I'm getting very quick at it." She keeps sample boards, so she can match them up with profiles, and writes on them which shims they use. Janis noted that customers' tastes have changed over the years. "Fifteen or twenty years ago, people wanted all clear, but now they want character in their wood."

One problem that is solving itself is finding space to store the finished product. "I'm finding that as I'm getting known, I don't need to stockpile wood," Janis said. "The wood I'm cutting now is already sold. I have to tell people that it will be a three week delivery time."

Summing up her experience, Janis says, "Women can do the Logosol. I'm getting pretty good at it. I enjoy it now. I never thought I could be so excited over wood. It is amazing to put a rough board in one end and watch a finished piece of crown molding come out the other. I worked in an office before. Then we got the Logosol, and now I'm pretty much full time with that."

As far as handling the work, she says, "I'm 55 [years old] & I didn't start doing this until three years ago. So women can do it. It doesn't take a lot of brawn. I find it fun." \*

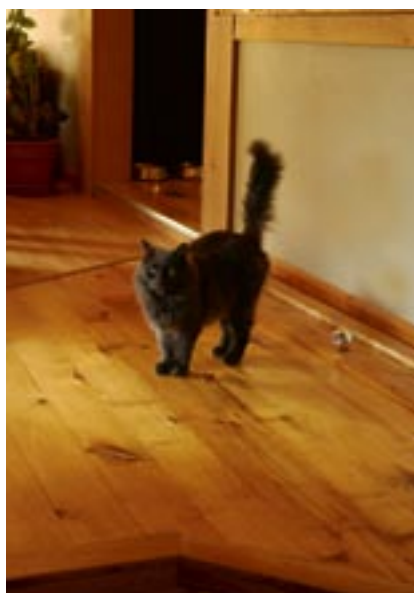




*Janis Freer, 55 says, "Women can do the Logosol. I'm getting pretty good at it. I enjoy it now. I never thought I could be so excited over wood. It is amazing to put a rough board in one end and watch a finished piece of crown molding come out the other."*



*Janis Freer's daughter Jade is also working with the Logosol PH260.*





## LOGOSOL KNIVES ARE THE CUTTING EDGE



Many people have asked what makes the Logosol original knives so good. That's because we use a unique system called Wire EDM to cut the blanks into profiles.

This cutting edge technology uses a superheated cutting wire. The cutting process is done underwater to eliminate any heating of the knife. In addition, the straight cut gives a more solid edge, resulting in a longer-lasting knife.

Another big advantages of this technique is that it allows us to produce knives with a precise profile. Ten years from now, if you need to replace a knife, we can produce one that will match your old knife perfectly.

## Tips From Martin Hall

Using a sheet rock square is a great way to set up your side fences. First, insert the long end. The right angles will come to rest on both sides of the PH-260 frame. You can use your body to keep the square tight against the PH-260. Now you simply adjust both fences to the straight edge. Have fun!

### "Smooth n Tooth Flooring"

## The most natural hardwood flooring - available anywhere!

"Each of our trees is grown until it loses its life vigor. Our annual harvest is about one tree per acre each year. Arthroscopic logging methods improve the forest as we work. Logs are hauled an average of ½ mile from the stump to our sawmill."

**By Jim Birkemeier**

Lumber is efficiently milled using thin-kerf band sawmills. Boards are kiln dried using solar energy in our solar cycle kilns. Flooring is manufactured in our remodeled dairy barn woodworking shop. A variety of widths from 2" to 12" reduce our waste and give a unique appearance. The surface is planed smooth or left rough-sawn showing the saw tooth marks.

NEW - Semi rough sawn – mostly smooth but still showing some of the tooth marks. Red oak, white oak, walnut, cherry, elm, hickory, aspen – one species or a mixture. Smooth-n-Tooth flooring is custom milled and blended for every room. The wood is trucked one time - directly to the customers home. Environmentally friendly water based polyurethane finishes protect the floor. The natural beauty of our forest trees is featured in each floor.



*Jim Birkemeier is a member of Logosol Moulding network, and you can visit him at [www.logosol.com](http://www.logosol.com) At [www.timbergreenforestry.com](http://www.timbergreenforestry.com) you can see more of his work.*



### HERE IS HOW WE MAKE OUR SEMI-ROUGH SAWN "SMOOTH N TOOTH" FLOORING:

The ripped flooring blanks are skipped planed on the good side using the single sided planer. I produce the top surface of the each flooring board at this step to show off the individual character of each piece. I try to leave an average of 50% of the bandsaw tooth marks.

Then I run the blank through the Logosol molder with the good side down, using the tongue and groove heads and the top cutter to plane the bottom side of the flooring board. The first cutter is left off and the molder is set with the infeed table the same height as the main table of the machine. This applies the tongue and groove and makes all the pieces the same thickness.

I had special cutters made that put a small V-groove on the top edges of the flooring boards. This defines the plank look and prevents any sharp edges on the floor boards. We often leave the boards 7/8 inch thick, saving the machine some work and making a sturdier floor.

We nail down the floor and sand it with the floor sander. This brings out the wood grain on the planed portion of the board. The amount of sanding you do determines the final look of the floor. I like it best when 30% of the saw tooth marks still show, but each floor is custom built for the customer. You could skip the first "skip planing" step and leave the top side 100% rough sawn if the customer chooses.

Custom crafted, mixed species, smooth n tooth..... Something unique for each customer! Rough sawn, Wide plank, Character grade - can all sell for premium prices, up to double (even triple) the price of standard flooring.

# OWNERS FORUM

Exchanges experiences and ideas in the online forum. Check out images uploaded by owners - everything from mill modifications and projects to "strange things I found inside logs". You are welcome as a guest or register to post questions or replies.

[www.logosol.com](http://www.logosol.com)



## Timberjig Forum

*Sawmilling in Michigan (Walnut)*

I milled this walnut today using Husqvarna 385XP and Logosol Timberjig. Took about 3 hours - all 8' long boards and cut to 5/4. This was the first time I had to buck the tree into sawlog lengths myself. That part I did Wednesday after work. I managed to get the saw pinched twice, and learned valuable lessons to prevent that from happening.

The butt log yielded 10 boards about 14" wide. I used a 25" bar with Stihl PMX (narrow) chain for this log. The tree forked into a Y after the butt log. One of these yielded 3 boards about 10" wide. The first cut was with the 25" bar, all cuts thereafter with the 16." As is typical with walnut, the first board or two after squaring to a cant has some sapwood (blonde in color).

The pictures show the 2"x6" guide rail that the saw and Timberjig rides on. Also shown is the toolbox I made to store all of the gear: saw, helmet, files, bars, chains, screws, etc. I made a stack of 5 dovetailed boxes in the center of the box to hold all of the small stuff. It weighs a ton, but makes it very easy to pack up quick to go mill a log before it gets chipped or cut for firewood!

Ted Christiansen



*Ted Christiansen, March 2006: " Milled some cherry, ash and pine logs yesterday. Since the logs were all about 14" diameter 4 footers, we split them in half first using the Timberjig. They will be milled into boards using a Jet 18" 3HP vertical bandsaw with milling sled. First cut using 16" bar."*



## Chainsaw Tricks and Tips

### 7.3 Bar and Chain Maintenance Tools

A chapter from Sawmilling for Woodworkers  
- our Best Seller!

Now let's take a look at the tools that keep a chain and bar in perfect cutting condition.

**Pferd Filing Gauge:** A unique, hand-held tool that has two files - one to sharpen the tooth and one to cut the raker to just the right height. The sides of the Pferd Filing Gauge ride on the adjoining teeth so that the files are fixed at the precise height necessary.



**Logosol Filing Device:** This is a vise system that you mount on a shop bench. It has the degree angles printed on the surface for reference. You can sharpen five teeth, rotate the chain and sharpen five more. It is a simple device that works great! It has lines on it that you can line up the Pferd filing gauge with for precise angle sharpening of your chain teeth.



**Bar Rail Spacers:** These come in a set of three. They are thin pieces of metal that fit perfectly into the slot of the bar. Their primary purpose is to see if the bar rails are spreading; that is, if there is any slop around the gauge. However, I also find that it is the best thing for cleaning out the bar groove because of the exact fit. It pulls out all the grime and leaves the slot clean in just one swipe. It is used to check the depth of the groove to tell the life left in the bar. I also find it great for scraping off the flat sides of the bar. It removes sap nicely.



**Bar Edging File** (by Pferd): This tool is used to keep the edges of the bar at a true 90 degrees. This is very important for cutting straight. It also keeps the surface smooth and removes the edges when a chain wears into the bar.



**Bar Rail Adjuster:** This tool is used to close the rails of the bar if you find that there is slop as noted above with the Bar Rail Spacers. Over time, the groove in the bar will spread, and this device helps to pull these edges back together.



## Logosol Handbook for Your Cutting Equipment

You can find this booklet with care instructions on [www.logosol.com](http://www.logosol.com) as a pdf. We will also send it out with chains and bars. We hope you find these tips useful and wish you all the best with your wood processing!



# Modern Builders Have Much to Learn

The Vikings' homes were comfortable and warm, even in the depth of winter. Jörgen Johansson is convinced that this is true. He is the overseer of the Ale Viking Age project, a project with the aim of recreating a king's manor from the Viking Age.

By Janne Näsström

It all began in 1933, when a farmer discovered something in the clay banks of the Göta River in Ale Municipality in Sweden. The find was the remains of a 16 meter (52 ft) long Viking Age ship, a so-called knarr from around 930. Today, the wreck is exhibited at the City Museum of Gothenburg.

In the early 1990s a group of enthusiasts began reconstructing a model of the ship. When the model was made, the idea arose of building a full-scale knarr. The Viking Age Ships Association was established, with Jörgen as one of the founders. The ship was built with the help of a Logosol Sawmill. Two years later, in April 1994, the finished result was put to sea and named Vidfamne.

"This is one of the two real Viking ships we have in Sweden," Jörgen says proudly.

## Fantastic constructors

A proper ship is at least twelve meters (39 ft) long and four meters (13 ft) wide. Vidfamne comes up to this by a wide margin. Since then she has sailed long distances, along the Swedish west coast and to both Denmark and Norway. But so far she has not been able to reach the Shetland Islands, in spite of three attempts. The wind has sometimes been too weak and sometimes too strong, but one day she will cross the sea.

"The Vikings were fantastic constructors and aerodynamicists," Jörgen states, and he describes Vidfamne as a ship that is exceedingly seaworthy and easily sailed.

.....  
"We want to show how the wealthy of the Viking Age lived. This will be a farmstead where the King or one of his closest men lived."  
.....

Jörgen Johansson

The Association has built another ship, the coaster Starkodder, which was launched in 1996. In addition, the association has been awarded custody of a Norwegian 'ranværing' that was built in 1934 as a gift for the then Crown Prince Olav.

The association is based in Gothenburg, but has established a close contact with Vidfamnes historical home port, Åskeskär in Ale Municipality. Over the years, the idea of recreating more of the Viking Age environment grew. Eventually, the financing for starting the project Viking Age could be arranged. Researchers were engaged in the project, among them the archaeologist and constructor Jochen Komber at the Archaeological Museum in Stavanger, Norway. The aim was to build an authentic Viking village and, in the course of the building process, examine the building methods of the Viking Age.

The inspiration came from the remains of a Viking Age farmstead that has been excavated in Tissö in Jutland, Denmark. In those days the sea was something that connected people. Therefore, one can assume – for very good reasons – that Denmark and the Swedish west



coast had a lot in common.

"We want to show how the wealthy of the Viking Age lived. This will be a farmstead where the King or one of his closest men lived," Jörgen explains.

The poverty of the common people has been described in other projects. The King's men lived considerably more comfortably, and they probably did not have to be cold in the winter.

The name of the site of the Viking village is Häljered. It is situated near the spot where the prototype of Vidfamne was found. The entire farmstead from Tissö will be reconstructed. It will consist of eight houses, of which the biggest is a guildhall with the outside measurements 35x11 meters (115x36 ft). The building project extends until year 2017.

## Warm and comfortable

The first house, a dwelling house for about 20 people, will soon be ready. It is 16.5 meters (54 ft) long and 7 meters (23 ft) wide. It has convex walls on the long sides, like a boat, and a rounded shingled roof. The shape probably has aerodynamic reasons.

"In the middle of the house there is an open hearth. We believe that the wind created an underpressure, which lifted the shingles so that the smoke could come out. To be on the safe side, we are also building two smoke vents, one in each gable," Jörgen says.



Only the widest boards are good enough for a Viking king. Jörgen Johansson is measuring the width by hand. The board is more than one foot wide.

# from the Vikings



*The Viking village is built on the Danish model. A house for a king or one of his closest men. The house has a well thought-out shape with its dome-shaped walls and roof. It gives the house good ventilation and takes out the smoke from the hearth without the house having a chimney.*

The finds in Tissö show that in those days the houses of the rich had double outer walls. The new house has standing planks as outer walls, almost like Norwegian stave churches, and timber framing as interior walls. Between the walls there is a 10 cm (4”) wide air gap. During the coming winters the insulating capacity will be tested, both without and with some form of insulation, e.g. moss.

“I’m convinced that the Vikings’ homes were warm and comfortable, even in the bitter cold winter,” Jörgen says.

The Vikings also had windows. They were small, but still windproof, light inlets. Instead of glass, they used mica, which can be obtained in sheets as big as one square decimetre (16 sq. inches). The mica sheets are not as clear as glass, but they let in the light.

### Unique roof ridge

The house is built without using nails. Instead, the house is kept together by different smart wooden constructions. The Vikings had access to iron,

but it was needed for more important things, primarily weapons. But the group behind the Viking project has not been completely faithful to the original. When it has not been decisive for the final result, modern machines have been utilized. The Viking Ships Association’s Logosol Sawmill has been used for cutting the thick and 16 metres (52 ft) long beam that serves as roof ridge. The sawmill will also be used for cutting up some oaks, which will then be refined into pieces of furniture and decoration.

“We cut the beam into several sections, in order to be able to lift it up. The Logosol Sawmill was the only alternative since the beam has such an advanced shape,” Jörgen states.

The Viking farmstead project is so extensive that there is not space enough to cover the entire project in Fresh Cut. Instead we recommend you to visit the website of the project: [www.alevikingatid.nu](http://www.alevikingatid.nu) (also available in English). The Viking Age Ships Association’s web address is [go.to/vidfamne](http://go.to/vidfamne). \*

## Where There’s Wood, There’s Hope

By definition, a *hope chest* is the gathering of domestic items, such as dishes and linens, by a young lady in hopes of marriage. And while that definition is accurate, I’d like to delve a little deeper into the subject. A hope chest holds more than materialistic goods that will fill a future house. It also embodies the traditions, dreams, and love of a family.

It used to be that hope chests were handed down from generation to generation. These were strong cedar trunks filled with keepsakes that would bring tears from the memories held within. Whenever they were opened, the hopes and dreams of grandmothers and great-grandmothers mingled with the keen aroma of cedar and present day promises. Life was much simpler then. Love was forever, and tradition really meant something.

What has happened to that life? Have cell phones, the Internet, and game stations taken the place of tradition? As far as I know, most little girls still dream of being swept off their feet by Prince Charming. Only now, little girls don’t have a place in which to store their hopes for a fairy tale life. They don’t have a legacy to pass on to their daughters or granddaughters.

Much love was put into the crafting of each hope chest. A father would build a chest for his daughter, giving her a place in which to store her dreams. Yet once the daughter’s dreams were realized, what happened to the carefully crafted wooden trunk?

The daughter kept it close to her heart. It was her most-prized possession. She proved it by using it to store baby clothes, baby pictures, and the numerous treasures which outline our lives. The chest served as a symbol of past, present, and future. It reminded its owner of love, sacrifice, and hope. And when the time was right, the daughter would give her chest of love to someone she cherished. Someone with whom to share her legacy—usually, her daughter.

How many of you have been a part of such a special legacy? Have you crafted a hope chest for a loved one? We’d love to see pictures and/or hear your story about the tradition of a family hope chest. There are numerous websites devoted to hope chests. One in particular is [www.hopechestlegacy.com](http://www.hopechestlegacy.com), which sells plans for building hope chests.

Remember, it’s never too late to start the tradition of hope.

### June L. Love



*June Love is the accounting clerk for Logosol, Inc. and has been with the company for many years.*



Located in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, the Mixteco Indians are direct descendants of the Aztecs. There, a small tribe of 2,000 people live in a town called Hidalgo, named after an Indian rebel who fought and died for the rights of the Aztec descendants. The burning summer wind blows by day across the timeless land, followed by the bone chilling cold of the dark nights. Winter brings three months of monsoon drenching rain. The adobe homes blend seamlessly into the dust of the village. The village itself sits alone, stuck in the time of a forgotten, unknown world.

**By Rob Bjorklund**



# Mixteco Indians Changing History

Adan Marin, a boy of 13 years, waits by the road. Soon his uncle Antonio will come by, hauling another load of logs cut from the Mixteco land to be sold to the owners of a big sawmill. The sale of these logs represents the only source of cash for the tribe. They will use the much needed money to buy staples— rice, beans, cloths, etc.

In years past, the village made additional income harvesting small crops of coffee beans, but the large increase in production coming from the giant South American commercial farms dropped the value of their small crops until there was no money in beans. Adan could hear the sound of the old truck long before he could see it. Sound carries far in the quiet town of Hidalgo. When the truck arrives, Adan closes his eyes and holds his breath while the cloud of fine dust swirls then settles again on the rutted road. He climbs into the cab and sits next to his uncle as they settle in for the eight hour drive to the big sawmill.

## A dream settles

Uncle Antonio raises his voice above the loud grinding of the truck so Adan can hear him. “Here we go, Adan, hauling another load of logs, so they can steal from us again.” Adan knows the story, but his uncle repeats it just the same. “You see Adan, inside each log is forty boards. They pay us five boards for the log, then they pay five boards for the other costs, then they have thirty boards left over. These boards, they put in their pockets.” It was a strange way to explain it, but it made it very clear to Adan that they were getting paid very little for the logs. “We have no choice now. We need the money.” His uncle clears his throat then down-shifts the old truck. The worn gears grind and

transmission whines under the stress of the heavy load. As Adan sits thinking about his uncle’s words, a dream settles in his mind: someday, somehow, he will find a way to keep those thirty boards from the pockets of the big sawmill men.

The next year, Adan leaves the village with his mother for a new life in the United States. Working in the construction business, he learns the trade, then begins his own business as a cement contractor. When the work season is slow, he opens his own restaurant as a second business. Still, his old dream lives inside him to help his village cut their own wood from the big trees, and keep all the boards for themselves. Adan begins to investigate the different kinds of sawmills. They all seem complicated, with too many parts that can break. He remembers the big mills having to send for special mechanics that have to make a six hour drive, only to need parts that can take months to get there. This could never work for the people in his village.

## Saw the Logosol sawmill in operation

Then one day, the Logosol sawmill caught his eye. As he studied it, he began to think that this was something simple that his people could fix themselves. He was well aware of the Stihl 066 chain saw, as many of his fellow tribe men used it to cut the trees for the big sawmill company. He knew this was a saw they could get parts for and fix, and best of all, it was very reliable.

Adan traveled to the Exhibition Hall in Raleigh, NC, where an advertisement said he could see the Logosol sawmill in operation. The Wood Working Show is a traveling show with hundreds of venders, all selling wood-related products. The show travels the country with



# Using a Logosol Sawmill



shows in a different city each week. Adan headed straight toward the sound of the E4400 electric chain saw, and watched in amazement as the sawyer produced board after board from the log. He watched the sawyer load the next log by himself using a ramp and cant hook. By the way, that was me he was watching!

Adan wasted no time calling in his order for two sawmills. His plan was to keep one in the U.S. and send one to his father back in the village. This way his father, who spoke no English, could relay any questions and problems back to him, and he would have the knowledge to solve it. This plan almost worked.

## Stop at the Mexican customs

It was a great day for Adan when he sent the tightly packed Logosol boxes containing the sawmill to his father. All went well until it arrived at the Mexican customs. First they told his father he must pay \$1,000 customs tax for the machine. Second, they informed him that he must belong to a sawmill association. The customs tax was paid, but joining the Mexican Sawmilling Association was a solid wall.

They wanted nothing to do with the little one-man sawmill. It was a hard blow. The dream for his village sat in the unopened Logosol box, and the dust grew thick as the months slipped by.

Meanwhile Adan had his sawmill set up at his home in Leland, NC. He spent many hours cutting beautiful boards, using them for forms and other jobs in his construction business. He knew this was the right sawmill, but how could he overcome the Mexican bureaucracy? It must all be done legally, as he had seen the Mexican government take

away the machines and equipment of illegal sawmills. He did not want this to happen. To satisfy the authorities, Adan and his father formed a new sawmill association. Thus began La-Flor-Del-Naranjo ("The Flower of the Orange Tree"). Their mission is to cut wood to build homes and furniture for Indian villages.

At last the sawmill arrived at Hidalgo village. Juan, Adan's father, brought the sawmill into his small adobe home. Soon the next problem appeared-- Assembling it was too complex for his father and the local villagers who could not understand the instructions written in English! Adan could not solve this over the phone, so once again the dust piled up on the unopened box. For another five years, the sawmill sat in hundreds of small pieces packed tightly in the Logosol shipping box, along with the Adan's dream.

At last, in December 2005, Adan was able to return to his village. As the villagers watched, he turned and tightened nuts and bolts. Within three hours, he had assembled the mill. The first log was carried and set onto the sawmill by excited friends. By the time the first board was cut, nearly the entire village had gathered. As Adan lifted the first board high into the air so all could see it, a chant came forth from the crowd "IT'S ALIVE, IT'S ALIVE," they shouted. A big grin spread across Adan's face. This board was staying right here in the pocket of his village!

Adan's restaurant, La Fondita is located at 2115 Carolina Beach Road, Wilmington, NC. His wife runs the restaurant while he manages the concrete business. Stop in, if you're in town. "We serve tamales every day," he says. \*

Last winter there were festivities on the ice on Lake Lockne in Jämtland, Sweden. People gathered on the lake to take part in the cutting of 10 metre (33 ft) long pines. The timber was to be used for building a big church boat. But the event almost ended in disaster.

By Janne Näsström



## Unique Lake Was Sawing Site for Tourist Project

The sawing was organized by the Lockne Folklore Association, which runs a comprehensive tourist project in which the Logosol Sawmill plays an important part.

The first step was the building of a church boat of a 19th century model. The boat is 14.6 metres (48 ft) long with room for 16 oarsmen, the mate and about 10 passengers.

A boat of this size requires long boards for the planking. In Jämtland there are plenty of lofty pines, but the problem was to slice up the 10 metre long logs.

### A Sawmill warmed up by the sun

The Logosol Sawmiller Arne Eriksson, active in the Folklore Association, had the solution. He borrowed another Logosol Sawmill. The sawmills were coupled together on the ice of Lake Lockne.

It started out well. The first day the temperature was -16°C (3°F), and the ice was lying like a newly poured and polished concrete floor. The sawmill was loaded with one of the giant logs before the party said good night to each other. The next day the weather changed and now the temperature was 12°C (53°F).

The sun's rays warmed the Logosol Sawmills and some of the sawmill legs cut down into the ice like a heated knife cutting through butter. The other sawmill legs were standing on boards, thus keeping their position. The result was that the whole sawmill warped.

But the Logosol Sawmill was able to stand up to this rough treatment. As a precaution, one of the guide rails was replaced and then boards were placed under all the legs of the sawmill.

"Never set up the Logosol Sawmill direct on the ice," is Arne's advice after this incident.

### Timber carried away on snowmobiles

After this the sawing went off fine, and the timber was carried away on snowmobiles to a planer shop where the planking was prepared. According to Arne, all those involved in the project were really satisfied with the result.

The boat was built by Sören Classon and Melker Halvarsson from Hackås Timber Service in Sweden. The result looks like a new piece of furniture, clear varnished and dazzling. On the Swedish National Day, the boat

was put to sea in the same lake on the ice of which the boards were cut.

Now, the building of a 18 metre (59 ft) long boathouse is in progress. After that the restoration of 18 church stables follows and, in addition, the building of a museum, a pier and several houses around the lake where oarsmen and passengers can rest and stay overnight.

### Unique crater lake

The aim is to make the unique Lake Lockne a tourist attraction.

"It is a unique crater lake, created by a big meteorite impact," Harald Olsson, President of the Folklore Association, says.

The water is crystal clear with a high calcium level. Lake Lockne is perhaps the most calcareous lake in Sweden. This makes the lake highly self cleaning, which, in turn, contributes to the abundance of fish, for instance salmon trout, grayling and white fish.

This entire project started on a cold winter's day on the ice of Lake Lockne, while an extended Logosol Sawmill was buzzing. \*



*On the Swedish National Day, the boat was put to sea in the same lake as the ice-covered one on which the boards were cut.*



*Herb Reynolds, a technician with the Virginia Department of Forestry, is cutting Ailanthus - a fast-growing tree.*



*M7 mounted on owner's truck.*

# M7 helps investigate *exotic tree*

A demonstration of the Logosol M7's quality performance led to its use in a cooperative state/university study of *Ailanthus altissima* wood. This Asian species, also known as tree-of-heaven or paradise tree, has long been regarded as a valueless and invasive weed tree. It grows fast, attains considerable size and tends to displace native species on disturbed sites. The study was initiated to evaluate potential uses for the wood as well as an effective method of drying the lumber. Local availability of an M7 made it all come together.

## By Tim Tigner

As a retired forester and woodworker, I showed my recently acquired M7 to the wood utilization specialist of the Virginia Department of Forestry. It happened at the time that the Department was looking for a convenient and inexpensive way of sawing some *Ailanthus* logs into 5/4 lumber that would then be delivered to Virginia Tech's Department of Wood Science and Forest Products for evaluation of its drying characteristics.

## Easy to move

Up to this time, I had used the mill primarily for salvaging oak trees blown down by hurricane Isabel. Since I had no mechanized equipment for moving logs it was essential to have a mill that could be moved easily by one person from tree to tree. The Department also needed a mill that could be moved on short notice to where the *Ailanthus* logs had been decked. A rack was devised to transport the mill on my pickup truck.

Logs were all eight feet long and ranged from roughly 12 to 24 inches at the small end (Plate 4). They were surprisingly heavy for such a fast-growing species. The large-pored wood is generally yellowish tan in color, but ranges from almost white to bright yellow. After kiln drying, most of the boards were significantly cupped. Some warping and twisting also occurred. The mill owner used a few of the dried boards to make an armchair, a snack table and a trivet to evaluate the wood's processing characteristics.

## A flat surface

Because of cupping, the boards had to be ripped, planed, joined and edge-glued in order to produce a flat surface. The wood machined well



*Ailanthus logs waiting to be milled.*



*Ailanthus wood has large pores and is 'rough-grained.'*



*Close-up of wedged through-tennon holding top of carrying rack.*

although it had a slight tendency to burn and to chip with across-the-grain operations. It sanded easily and took a nice polish. Except for the cupping, *Ailanthus* is an easy wood to work with. An improved drying process could transform this tree from a scourge into something useful. \*



*Dwayne Parrish has been working on his custom knife shop for four years. We wrote about him in the first issue of Fresh Cut. Now he is a "test pilot" for the new Log House Molder.*



**Dwayne Parrish:**

## Improved Log House Molder Better than Ever

The improved Log House Molder has been tested hard and passed with flying sawdust! Dwayne Parrish of Frankston, Texas is a father of three, a fireman, custom knife maker, sawyer, and builder. He would fit anyone's definition of "Outdoor Craftsman."

**By Rob Bjorklund**

Dwayne was building his shop with the original Log House Molder, so we figured he would be the perfect "test pilot" for the new one. Dwayne has been running the new Log House Molder hard since April, tongue and grooving eight to twelve foot long 4"x8" cants.

The new Log House Molder features a transmission with a custom made sprocket that transfers the power from the chain saw power head to a #6 V-groove belt. The new sprocket rests on two roller bearings, taking all the pressure off the power head bearings. The entire transmission platform is rubber mounted to the chassis of the Log House Molder. In Dwaynes words "It runs smooth with virtually no vibration." Martin Hall, our Planer Expert, has been busy designing new tongue and

groove knives. "These knives are great. They will have the flexibility of molding four inch to eight inch log cabin logs," Martin explains with a proud smile.

### **A long project**

Dwayne has been working on his custom knife shop for four years. He recently finished building a side draft forge to heat the steel for shaping his knives. "Yes it has been a long project, but I want it done right," Dwayne says.

Dwayne's shop is 20' x 48' with a special section for the forge. The log walls are ten feet tall, and built entirely from his own T&G beams. Dwayne starts by cutting his logs into cants. While they are still green he tongue and grooves them. "I used to put them right

into the building green, but I found it is better to let them cure for two or three months, then use them."

Dwayne explained that if the beams warp, he cuts them into shorter pieces, which work just fine. He builds the walls solid, then cuts out the doors and windows.

Dwayne had a custom set of tongue and groove knives made. "I like to have a little extra room in the groove. That way, the beams can move a little while drying, and still fit right together." Dwayne explains he still has a perfect air barrier and it keeps him from having to make adjustments with hand tools.

### **Many orders waiting**

"I should be done by the first of the year," Dwayne told me. And that would be none too soon. He has 25 knife orders waiting and wants to make them in his new shop. You can view Dwayne's knives at: [hastingsparrish.tripod.com](http://hastingsparrish.tripod.com)

"LET'S CUT LUMBER," Dwayne says, "THEN LET'S MAKE KNIVES!" \*

## We have finally arrived!

On ordinary days Olle Brodin is a Logosol Sawmill owner. During this spring and summer he has been Logosol's special correspondent on board the East Indiaman Götheborg - one of the biggest objects ever built with the help of Logosol Sawmills.

The East Indiaman Götheborg is one of the most spectacular building projects in Sweden for ages. The 58.5 m (192 ft) long, and 1150 ton (23000 cwt) heavy ship is supported by ribs sawn on modified Logosol Sawmills.

The second of October 2005 the East Indiaman Götheborg sailed away on her



two-year trip to China. During the three-month sail from South Africa to Australia, Olle Brodin was Logosol's representative onboard. You can read his reports on Götheborg's escapades on the Indian Ocean at [www.logosol.com](http://www.logosol.com)



*We wrote about the East Indiaman Götheborg in the latest issue of Fresh Cut. You can read more about the project at [www.soic.se](http://www.soic.se)*

*Besides the usefulness of the gun stock, it provides an opportunity for the artist, as well. Sid Poor carved this ram's head.*



*Sid Poor's 45 caliber rifle. He estimates that he spent over 120 hours just on the wood carving of this one.*



*Dave Boyt of Neosho, Missouri shows off a gun stock blank. This one was cut from a walnut tree that had blown down three years before he got it. He sanded down and moistened the surface to show the grain. Boyt sells the blanks in the rough cut form and lets the buyer decide how to cut the gun stock from it.*

## Cutting Gunstocks

Imagine walking through the woods and—with the landowners permission—piling \$100 bills into your pickup truck. That's pretty much how I feel when I come in behind a walnut logging job to salvage the "scraps". Loggers here in southwest Missouri are so focused on the big logs, they ignore the potential for smaller pieces are left on the ground as "too much trouble to pick up." Landowners are usually glad to get rid of them, and charge a minimum, or even give them away.

**By David Boyt**

Walnut is known as the "king of the hardwoods" (any nominations for "queen"?) because of its beauty, dimensional stability, and durability. These characteristics, along with its light weight and shock absorbercy make walnut the preferred wood for the best gun stocks. If you hear of a walnut timber sale in your area, get there as soon as possible, or you may find the best scrap has already been cut for firewood.

As a band saw owner, I have spent hours trying to clamp down 2' long walnut forks to make gun stock blanks. The problem is, the band mill was never designed for this kind of cutting. The short, odd-shaped pieces are hard to clamp down, and often move and twist as they are being cut. The result is often a crooked cut, and occasionally a ruined blade, when the log breaks loose from its clamps.

I had the chance to see the Logosol M7 mill at the 2003 Portable Sawmill Shoot-out in Bangor, ME. Here, nestled in among band mills of all size was Rob Bjorklund slicing his logs with a chain saw. It took a few years for the idea of actually buying one for cutting gun stocks and other odd-shaped pieces to hit me.

### Support the log

The M7 mill is ideally suited to this kind of cutting. The log deck is high enough to make it easy to turn and clamp down the log. I use a flat 2x10 board to support the log, with an assortment of blocks and wedges to position it. I use long deck screws to hold the log in place, and keep a cordless drill and extra batteries handy to drive them in and remove them.

The value of a gun stock is closely tied to the shape of the grain. The most desirable grain is a "feather" that comes from cutting crosswise through a fork in the log. Getting that feather grain on both sides of the gun stock requires careful alignment. The log must be turned and tipped so that the saw slices evenly above and below the center. The ability to set the height of the log supports independently make this easy on the M7 mill. The M7 also makes it possible to precisely determine both the entry point and the exit point of the saw blade. Even 1/2" can make a big difference on the end product.

Some of my sawyer friends dismiss the chain saw mill as too slow. They measure success by the number of board feet produced in a day. I might spend half an hour cutting a gun stock (I often spend more time positioning it and clamping it than actually cutting it), and may

end up with less than five board feet. The 3" thick blank will spend the next two years drying before it is ready to use. The price of dry walnut blanks range from \$50 to \$800 and up, depending on the grain pattern. Even at the low end, that's a pretty good return on investment. Check on Ebay, if you want an idea of what is selling. I've had the most success dealing with gunsmiths directly. They usually like to come by and take a look at what I've got available. After a little friendly bargaining (and maybe bartering) we both end the transaction with a smile on our face.

### Cherry, maple and oak

Gun stock blanks are only part of the salvage potential. I have come across walnut logs over 3' diameter by 3' to 5' long left out in the woods. Too short for the mills to use, but definitely worth bringing home, if you can get it in the truck. Wood containing burls and other "defects" are also out there, so keep your eyes sharp and your mind open. And don't just focus on walnut. Depending on your location, you'll find cherry, maple and other valuable wood left behind. Even oak and hickory scraps are worth taking a closer look at. Furniture makers and wood turners are always looking for something unusual, and will pay a premium for it.

So the loggers can keep right on cutting the big logs, and I'll keep coming in behind them, picking up the scraps. At the end of the day, the loggers will have 10,000 board feet of walnut, and I may only have 100. But if that 100 board feet represents 20 gun stock blanks with an average value of \$100, that's \$2,000. Not too bad for a day's work.

### Be patient, and keep your eyes open!

The key is in the investment in equipment. The chain saw, mill, truck (a beat-up '87 Chevy flatbed), and drying shed represent an investment of less than \$6,000. The production logger may have hundreds of thousands dollars tied up in equipment, and employ several people. The only downside is the two year wait for the wood to dry. Be patient, and keep your eyes open. I'm always interested in networking, so if you have an interesting wood operation (anything from forest management to the end product), let me know. There's plenty of wood out there, and a lot of woodworkers who want it, so I'm not afraid of a little competition!

[dboytt@joplin.com](mailto:dboytt@joplin.com)

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