NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE

TIMBER TALK

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In This Issue

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The Nebraska Forest Service publishes ***Timber Talk*** four times annually (February 1, June 1, September 1, and November 1) to serve the forest industry of Nebraska. All questions and correspondence concerning ***Timber Talk*** should be directed to: Adam Smith, ***Timber Talk*** Editor, Nebraska Forest Service, University of Nebraska, 201B Forestry Hall, P.O. Box 830815, Lincoln, NE 68583-0815. Phone 402-472-1276, FAX 402-472-2964.

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Note from the Editor: "Open for Business" Series

The September 2015 edition of Timber Talk will feature the first article in our "Open for Business" series, which will highlight Nebraska's marketable forest resources. The state's diverse forests offer a wide range of opportunities including veneer-quality black walnut in the eastern hardwoods, large cottonwood along the riparian forest corridors, and mature ponderosa pine and eastern redcedar in the north and west. Each edition of Timber Talk will feature a new "Open for Business" article, highlighting a different forest resource or forest products topic of interest. Mark your calendar for September 1 for our first article of the series, "Open for Business: Nebraska's Pine Ridge."

Lumber Market

NEWS

HARDWOODS

Northern. Reports from the Northern region continue to point out an ample supply situation for logs, as well as for green and kiln dried lumber. The surpluses are most apparent in Hard Maple, Red Oak, and White Oak, but the pressures are centered on the common grades. Even if the seasonal shift from whitewood production gives Hard Maple some relief, it likely will heap more volume on the Oaks. The imbalances are keeping prices unsettled.

Appalachian. There has been a great deal of discussion about lumber production and supplies moving towards summer. A slight lull in mill output the last two weeks of April and the first week of May relieved pressure temporarily. Now, information shows sawmill production has regained traction and is pressing end users' ability to process inbound lumber. Pricing for green lumber has been affected, also. Kiln dried inventories are high, too. Conversations should likely be more focused on demand improving enough to absorb backlogged supplies. Domestic business has increased but only slightly. International demand is off of last year's levels. It would seem additional lumber supplies are not needed in the near term.

Southern. In much of the region, drier weather conditions increased logging activity. Several mills that had run out of logs indicate supplies are adequate to sustain consistent production levels now. The mills with fewest logs are those that typically operate with limited log inventories. Production has picked back up after a slight lull in late April and early May. There is not much evidence demand has gained any traction. Domestic customers understand there are ample inventories ready to ship for immediate needs. And, prices are not yet settled, which are affecting business locally and globally.

(Source: Condensed from *Hardwood Market Report,* May 15, 2015. For more information or to subscribe to *Hardwood Market Report,* call (901) 767-9216, email: hmr@hmr.com, website: www.hmr.com)

Hardwood Lumber Price Trends—Green

Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	3/15	12/14	9/14	6/14	3/15	12/14	9/14	6/14	3/15	12/14	9/14	6/14
Ash	1155	1100	1075	1075	775	710	710	710	500	475	475	475
Basswood	885	885	885	895	565	565	565	575	310	310	310	320
Cottonwood	725	705	685	685	515	500	480	480	260	260	260	260
Cherry	1310	1355	1355	1355	955	955	955	955	600	620	620	620
Elm	650	650	650	650	420	420	420	420	300	300	300	300
Hackberry	530	530	530	530	480	480	480	480	305	305	305	305
Hickory	980	1000	1000	1000	820	835	835	835	615	615	615	615
Soft Maple	1295	1295	1295	1320	830	845	880	880	535	550	565	565
Red Oak	1185	1200	1275	1430	785	885	940	1045	625	750	770	780
White Oak	1385	1430	1430	1430	900	900	900	900	620	685	700	700
Walnut	3015	3040	2990	2840	1620	1645	1645	1550	1015	1035	1015	990

Note: Lumber prices quoted in dollars per MBF, average market prices FOB mill, truckload and greater quantities, 4/4, rough, green, random widths and lengths graded in accordance with NHLA rules. Prices for ash, basswood, northern soft grey elm, unselected soft maple, red oak and white oak from Northern Hardwoods listings. Prices for cottonwood and hackberry from Southern Hardwoods listings. Prices for cherry, hickory and walnut (steam treated) from Appalachian Hardwoods listings. (Source: *Hardwood Market Report Lumber News Letter*, last issue of month indicated. To subscribe to Hardwood Market Report call 901-767-9126; email hmr@hmr.com; or go to www.hmr.com.)

Hardwood Lumber Price Trends—Kiln Dried

Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	3/15	12/14	9/14	6/14	3/15	12/14	9/14	6/14	3/15	12/14	9/14	6/14
Ash	1640	1570	1515	1515	1150	1075	1060	1060	800	785	770	770
Basswood	1210	1190	1170	1170	815	785	765	765	510	495	480	480
Cottonwood	940	900	855	855	695	660	625	625	—	—	—	—
Cherry	1880	2145	1905	1905	1330	1515	1370	1370	905	1010	920	920
Elm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hackberry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hickory	1575	1575	1575	1575	1335	1335	1335	1335	1105	1105	1105	1105
Soft Maple	1735	1780	1780	1780	1120	1140	1155	1155	820	835	835	835
Red Oak	1675	1765	1765	2005	1220	1350	1465	1560	1030	1080	1180	1255
White Oak	2015	2040	2040	2040	1440	1500	1520	1520	1100	1180	1200	1200
Walnut	4255	4090	4090	3795	2300	2320	2300	2185	1580	1595	1520	1345

Note: Kiln dried prices in dollars per MBF, FOB mill, is an estimate of predominant prices for 4/4 lumber measured after kiln drying. Prices for cottonwood and hackberry from Southern Hardwoods listings. Prices for ash, basswood, northern soft grey elm, unselected soft maple, red oak, and white oak from Northern Hardwood listings. Prices for cherry, hickory and walnut (steam treated) from Appalachian Hardwoods listings. (Source: *Hardwood Market Report Lumber News Letter*, last issue of month indicated. To subscribe to Hardwood Market Report call 901-767-9126; email hmr@hmr.com; or go to www.hmr.com.)

The Top Ten Family Forestry Issues for 2015

Access to wood markets is again the #1 concern of family landowners by a big margin, followed by taxes, invasives and Extension Forestry.

Back in 1986 when NWOA began ranking the Top Ten Family Forestry Issues, timber taxes and private property rights were clearly the #1 and #2 concerns. They stayed at the top of the list until 2001, when the issue of markets for wood appeared near the top. Until this year, those three issues have dominated the Top Ten.

The invasion of invasive species has jumped from #5 to #3, possibly because of the in-depth stories in the Winter issue that have alerted the leaders of NWOA's independent state affiliates how serious invasives can be to forest health and productivity. Another big change is property rights, including the right-to-practice forestry. It dropped to #6, indicating that private landowners are succeeding in getting meaningful state legislation in place to protect these rights.

Extension Forestry Education programs, which last year ranked in the #3 position following a steady climb all the way from #8 in recent years, earned a strong #4 rating, followed closely by water quality and quantity at #5. These annual evaluations and rankings are selected by the leaders of the American Alliance of Landowner Associations (NWOA's 42 independent state affiliates).

#1 Timber Markets, Biomass and Fair Trade

For the third time in five years, concern for developing and maintaining markets for timber and forest products is #1, and this year by a convincing margin. This suggests that a majority of NWOA national and affiliate members do manage their woodlands for timber and forest products, as well as income. The gradual recovery from the recession is visible in the rebound of new housing starts with real improvement in both hardwood and softwood market prices.

While prices for pulpwood continue to be variable, the market for woody biomass is strong, especially for pellets exported to fuel European power plants as a replacement for coal. Questions have been raised over just how carbon neutral wood fired power plants are, and their long-term impact on climate change. The Environmental Protection Agency is evaluating that science. Not wanting to miss out on new market opportunities, states with ports are providing grants and other incentives to construct state-of-the-art export facilities.

The surge in support for newly constructed local biomass fueled utilities, along with the rising export markets, has led several national environmental organizations to declare that wood from naturally regenerated forests (just about 100 percent of the eastern hardwood forests) should not be eligible for federal biomass assistance programs as a matter of public interest. Their concern is that family landowners will clearcut diverse hardwood stands and plant rapid-growth monoculture pine stands to supply the biomass market. For an in-depth review of the biomass issue see the Winter 2014 issue of National Woodlands.

NWOA is a Free Trade organization advocating minimal governmental intervention. This is not always a popular position, especially with the Canadian softwood lumber issue, which is expected to resurface later in 2015. We believe America's premier forest products—quality hardwoods, dimension softwood lumber and logs and treated pine products—can compete effectively at home and in the world market without protective tariffs which can lead to retaliatory actions that take money from our pockets as effectively as taxes.

#2 Fair Income, Inheritance and Property Taxes

Concern over income, inheritance and property taxes returned to the #1 position in 2013, and back to #2 for 2014 and 2015. With the recent proposal by the House Ways & Means Committee to greatly simplify the federal tax code by removing most special tax regulations, including forestry, the issue remains a top concern. These include the credit for reforestation expenses, capital gains treatment of timber sales, and limit some expensing of forest management costs.

In the final hours of the 114th Congress in December, legislation to make permanent the recently expired enhanced income tax deduction for donating permanent conservation easements on woodlands failed to pass. Similar new legislation has already passed the 115th Congress and awaits action in the Senate where it is expected to pass, but no one is sure when. NWOA will be working closely with our partner advocates, the American Forest Foundation and the National Alliance of Forest Owners, to maintain these proven and important tax provisions.

Inheritance and income taxes aside, steadily rising property taxes continue to concern landowners at the local level and in some cases with state involvement. Even with land-use regulations in place in almost all counties, property tax rates continue to rise in many jurisdictions. Settlement of these issues lies primarily with the state landowner associations, but NWOA will help whenever we can.

In past years, we have shared important wins led by our state affiliates. There is no justification for taxing woodlands for schools, hospitals and other community needs. Unfortunately woodlands have little voter constituency. The best hope is to secure support of people who do not own woodlands but do appreciate the benefits everyone receives from healthy forests. As a rule-of-thumb, tax rates on woodlands should be no higher than \$3/acre/year. ln some cases a lower rate (\$1/acre/year) is reasonable, especially if wetlands are present.

#3 Invasives & Forest Health

The Winter 2015 issue of National Woodlands explored in depth the serious spread of invasive plant species into American woodlands and the expensive damage that results. This special issue is a follow-up to the Spring 2014 issue that described serious risks resulting from a growing number of invasive insects and diseases on forest lands. The introduction of unwanted plants, insects and animals, the spread of disease and insect infestations, the implementation of quarantines, and grim prospects for damage control place this at #3, up one from last year.

If not controlled, the thousand cankers disease (TCD) has the potential of devastating the black walnut industry, which uses one of the most widespread and valuable hardwoods in America. Every year the emerald ash borer (EAB) continues to

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spread. Among invasive plants, cogon grass, Japanese stilt grass and wild mustard are among those causing serious failures in natural regeneration, the primary method through which hardwood forests are propagated. Even with control efforts, they continue to spread and infest more woodlands.

#4 Extension Education & Service Forestry

Since its founding in 1983, NWOA has been the most active and outspoken advocate of Forestry Extension with the motto: "Forestry Education Beats Forest Regulation." The leaders of the landowner associations voting these issues agree, raising the issue to the Top Three for the first time in 2014 with a strong #4 position in 2015 for forestry and natural resources Cooperative Extension programs.

Federal funding remains fairly strong, but is harder to identify in the budget. However, state legislatures are responding to the efforts of the state landowner association by continuing to match federal extension appropriations $5 to $1. With a decline in field extension foresters there is more emphasis on the use of webinars on the Internet. NWOA understands the new directions in education, but remains strongly in favor of face-to-face mentoring and demonstrations, especially with neighbor working groups.

In the past decade there has been a decline in the number of county level service foresters employed by many state forestry agencies. In some states they remain at the local level, but their duties shift toward law enforcement. Still, most state forestry agencies continue to provide introductory visits from service foresters in every county in the country because it is important. Family landowners own half the woodlands in the U.S. and teaching good forest practices through service foresters and Extension forestry programs is less expensive than enforcing the growing number of laws and regulations. NWOA continues its unqualified support for the federal Forest Stewardship Program administered through state service foresters.

#5 Right-to-Practice Forestry & Private Property Rights

Respect and recognition of private property is guaranteed in the Constitution and is as jealously guarded as the right to bear arms. Both issues are expensive to defend and stir strong emotions all around. As rural America contiues to transform from working farms and forests to home sites sans working landscapes, the character of the neighborhood changes. Newer rural residents often complain about unexpected logging on nearby lands, especially if it is in their viewshed.

As the composition of state and local elected officials' changes, reflecting the votes of the new arrivals, there is a growing likelihood of more "anti-forestry" or even outright "anti-logging" local ordinances. The best defense for woodland owners is to act before it is too late and enact state laws that prevent restrictive local ordinances from being enacted by county and township governments. Many states have such laws with varying degrees of effectiveness. Check with your state association to see how well your land is protected.

NWOA asserts that a landowner's right to own and steward private property is fundamental to the American way of life. Woodland owners can and should assert these rights through responsible and sustainable land stewardship. Twenty-eight years ago NWOA announced the widely respected Private Property Responsibility Code, which is still our standard (see *www.nwoa.net)*.This code is our commitment to protect and honor the bundle of rights and responsibilities that go with the stewardship of private land. Twenty six of our 42 state affiliates have adopted the same or similar codes.

#6 Water Quality and Quantity

Whether the extreme weather events in recent years are the result of global climate change, one thing is abundantly clear: water—either too much of it or too little of it—is an issue of national importance. Well-managed forested watersheds are without question the safest and most cost effective way of providing a continuous quantity of clean, good quality water. As the world is learning, the cost of water to society is whatever it costs to produce it.

There was a big water win in the 2014 Farm Bill which overturned the costly Ninth Federal Circuit Court decision that identified logging roads as "point sources" of water pollution and reinstated Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (the provisions for forestry and silviculture) and restored reliance on the proven application of Best Management Practices (BMPs). However, as reported in the Winter 2015 issue of *National Woodlands,* this controversy has been resurrected by plaintiffs in Oregon and Washington and could again rise to become a nationwide issue. Still to be resolved, after two decades, is a workable definition of wetlands which would be helpful to landowners. This may finally be resolved when Congress eventually considers reauthorization of the Clean Water Act.

#7 Stewardship Incentives: Cost Sharing & Tax Credits

Federal forestry cost share programs (FIP, SIP, ACP, FLEP, Soil Bank) have disappeared in the last two decades. As a result largely of efforts by the "Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition," (of which NWOA is a member) the 2014 Farm Bill continued and even expanded programs available to woodland owners under the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Appropriations for the Forest Stewardship and the Forest Legacy programs, funded through the U.S. Forest Service and administered by the state forestry agencies, remain fairly constant, even in a tight budget, which reflects the effectiveness of the programs.

#8 Keeping Forests as Forests

The most recent addition to the Top Ten, "Keeping Forests as Forests" was added in 2009 to reflect emerging concepts in landscape forestry, ecosystem corridors and forest fragmentation. Still in its infancy as a national concept, the idea is catching on with regional land use planners who see it as a tool to guide future development—including suburban subdivisions and location of industrial parks. With the involvement of NWOA's affiliated state landowner associations, this could better define the role of working private woodlands within the urban sprawl.

Although primarily a state issue, landscape forestry also has a potential federal role as revealed in the recently proposed Berkshire National Forest in western Massachusetts with the land remaining under private ownership and management under conservation easements. While far from a done deal, if ever, it is an example of new thinking about how landowners can maintain their woods within a larger forest system. Participation by landowners would remain voluntary.

#9 Wildfire: Suppression, Fuel Reduction, Early Detection & Woodland Fire Insurance

The catastrophic wildfires forecast for last year came to pass, especially in the drought-stricken West, with an even worse forecast for 2015. What the media reports miss is that these huge fires are occurring in the South, most recently in Oklahoma, and in the Lake States. Wildfires continue to occur in the Appalachians as well. Private landowners can limit their risk by forest thinning and reducing ladder fuel loads necessary to sustain crown fires. Often this can be accomplished by careful use of prescribed fire to restore natural ecosystems. Congress reauthorized and expanded the Healthy Forests Restoration Act with the goal of reducing fuels and fire hazards. Some of these goals on public lands have been slowed by environmental lawsuits, but they are gradually being tried and resolved.

As it turns out, the timing was appropriate for NWOA to announce the first nationwide wildfire insurance policy. It is a nationwide master policy in NWOA's name, which is *much* less expensive than individual policies. The coverage is well explained and easy to apply for. For only $115/year NWOA members can insure their woods for $25,000 by using the application form on page 55. Larger amounts of coverage are available, but require a review by an underwriter *(see the instructions on the form).* This lowest cost insurance with an A+ underwriter (Lloyds of London) has quickly become a popular NWOA member benefit.

Every year NWOA reminds members of Congress that "small landowners can only afford small fires." About a fifth of the active fire lookouts in the U.S. are now staffed by volunteers organized by the Forest Fire Lookout Association, helping provide the earliest detection.

#10 Certification of Loggers, Foresters & Forest Practices

Although the issue remains in last place, certification of loggers, foresters and woodlands remains important. In addition to ourselves, loggers are the most important people we allow on our woodlands. Since 1986 NWOA has openly advocated the use and education of certified or trained loggers. Most states have active training programs for loggers, but they are voluntary. Be sure your logger is currently trained.

The ability of landowners to locate competent and experienced professional foresters is essential. The Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF), Society of American Foresters (CF) both certify foresters with those initials behind their name. Forest Practice Certification programs as a group—including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Tree Farm, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Green Tag—continue to improve and become more widely available to family forest landowners. With the exception of niche markets (mostly FSC and Green Tag) landowners are not reporting a stumpage price premium. The certification of forest practices is evolving into a market access issue, with lumber and forest products buyers requesting "certified" wood, but not yet offering a premium to cover the additional expense of certification to landowners.

Source: National Woodlands, Spring 2015, Article by Keith Argo, President and CEO of the National Woodland Owners Association and Publisher of National Woodlands. For more information, visit www.woodlandowners.org.

Hardwood Floors with a Zip

ASH TREES from Minneapolis were used to make my floors. Because of the zip code origin of the flooring—55422—I can visit the exact neighborhood where the trees grew before they found their way into my house.

For many years, I've extolled the virtues of using downed city or urban trees for standard wood products. Reclaimed lumber falls into this same category. When my wife and I decided to tear out our old carpeting in the family room and replace the floor in the adjacent kitchen, I realized, "Now's the time to practice what I've been preaching!"

We looked into many forms of reclaimed lumber for hardwood flooring such as from old houses, torn-down barns, warehouses, and factories. However, we kept coming back to the idea of using local urban trees for our flooring project-urban trees that came down after many years of providing shade, beauty, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, etc. We thought, "Why not use city trees? Why not avoid the chipper and make a long-lasting product? Why not use a local product and support the nearby economy?"

Our hunt for the perfect tree species for our floor led us indirectly to the emerald ash borer (EAB). We didn't come face-to-face with EAB, but the ash loving critter played a role in our eventual decision. Here's a little background, and a short version of the story.

EAB

As of early 2015, EAB had been reported in 25 states plus Quebec and Ontario. The rapid spread of EAB, first discovered in Detroit in 2002, has been linked to the movement of firewood—either by pickup truck, camper/RV, or car trunk.

EAB was first detected in southeast Minnesota in 2009. The city of Minneapolis found the pest in 2010. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is pursuing a threat-of-EAB strategy to minimize impact of the pest. Ralph Sievert, Director of Forestry for MPRB, said, "We're following a preemptive ash canopy replacement plan." One of the sites with an abundance (some would say an overabundance) of green ash trees was the Theodore Wirth Park Golf Course in Minneapolis. Consequently, ash trees were removed from the park in early 2014 under the direction of MPRB. The removed trees were rescued by a small firm in Minneapolis, Wood from the Hood (WFTH). My flooring came from these trees.

Urban Recycling

WFTH sells a variety of wood products that are fashioned from discarded city trees. Cribbage boards, picture frames, growth charts, and flooring are just a few of their products. WFTH works with a number of local tree service firms (and the City of Minneapolis) to source logs for their operation. WFTH also has a tree donation program in place to reclaim urban trees.

WFTH contracts with a portable sawmill owner to mill logs into lumber. The sawmill operator has his mill set up at the WFTH headquarters in Minneapolis. In addition to ash logs, he often saws walnut, elm, and oak logs. "My trees" were converted into lumber in June 2014.

Following sawing, my ash lumber was sent to a local manufacturer that dried the boards and processed them into

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tongue-and-groove flooring (we chose 3-1/4-inch-wide, random-length boards for our project). After drying and processing, the finished ash flooring was delivered to my home about 10 miles from where the trees grew. The boards sat in my house about two weeks, acclimating to the humidity level so as to help ensure proper installation. A local firm installed the flooring in my kitchen and family room in July 2014.

Ash Flooring

Ash flooring is similar to oak in appearance. It is an open-grained species and has beautiful patterns. The installer put three coats of a satin oil-based finish on the floor. This finish accented the natural grain pattern, and really brought the wood to life. My wife and I enjoy the feel and look of our ash floor. Depending on the natural light, it seems we find a new and interesting grain pattern every day. And to think our floor could have easily been chipped or turned into mulch!

Yes, we could have installed hardwood floors a bit cheaper, but the cost of using local city trees was below typical reclaimed lumber prices. Plus our floor is now a conversation piece that will last longer than carpet, tile, or other floor coverings. And, our floor has its own zip code!

Opportunity

As the above story illustrates, there are opportunities to tap into, and better utilize, city or urban trees. Every year our nation's urban forests lose trees due to storms, pests, old age, hazardous conditions, and more. The volume of urban tree removals across the U.S. is mindboggling, with estimates ranging from 16 to 38 million tons per year. Many of these discarded urban trees can produce beautiful lumber products if given a second chance. However (and unfortunately), most urban tree removals never find their way into long-lasting solid wood products. Also, there is a misperception that trees infested or killed by EAB are only suitable for chips or mulch. In fact, EAB has no effect on heartwood and little effect on the sapwood of ash trees.

Fortunately, those of us who have worked in forestry and forest products utilization for many years have seen an uptick recently in urban tree use. Thin-kerf mills, dry kilns that handle a small batch of lumber, and an entrepreneurial spirit are just three of the reasons urban tree products are finding their way-slowly but surely-into our homes and businesses. However, the primary reason for better utilization of urban trees is due to portable sawmills. Portable mills are typically smaller than traditional sawmills, and as the name implies, are portable. These mills can travel to the job site or be located in an area where logs are collected. Most portable mills employ blades that can be swapped out for often less than $30, thus avoiding the cost and danger of hitting a nail with an expensive circular saw blade. Also, portable mills are cost-competitive when compared to a conventional sawmill. F or these reasons and more, I believe the introduction and popularity of portable mills is the number one factor for an increasing use of urban trees.

How to Get Started

First and foremost, you'll need to find a mill to convert logs into lumber. If you don't have your own mill, network with folks who do. Manufacturers of portable mills often keep a list of their customers. Talk to these manufacturers and chances are they can put you in touch with a sawmiller in your area.

Next, you'll need a supply of logs. If you don't generate your own logs, do not despair. Many entrepreneurs in the area of urban tree use do not generate their own logs. Tree service firms work with trees every day—trimming, pruning, removing, etc. These firms likely have logs (tree removals) that are a disposal expense to their businesses, and you may be able to work out an arrangement with them. (If you're already in the tree service business, consider all your costs in disposing of tree removals from take-down, chipping, transportation, etc., and think about the alternative—better tree utilization.) Another option relating to log supply is to contact a local municipality. Municipal foresters remove from 1 % and up of urban tree canopy every year. These trees have to go somewhere-so why not your place of business?

Dry lumber is much more marketable than green (wet) lumber. When you contact manufacturers about local mills, ask about small dry kilns as well. You should be able to get a list of dryers in your area. Another good source for locating dry kilns is your state forest products and utilization specialist (often employed by the state Department of Natural Resources or Department of Conservation).

Last, but certainly not least in your quest to get started with urban tree utilization is to connect with users (customers) and producers (or potential producers) of urban tree products. It does little good to mill a log into lumber, and then dry the lumber, only to have little hope of selling the lumber (or final dried product like my tongue-and-groove hardwood floor). One strategy used by some tree service firms is to convert a homeowner's tree removal into a product like a table or chair (often manufactured by a third party) that goes back into the home.

My Zip Code Floor

All of the above how-to-get-started tips were used in the manufacture of my ash floor. First, a portable mill and sawyer were found and the mill was set up at the entrepreneur's place of business. Second, tree removal at a nearby golf course was coordinated through a municipality and a tree service firm, with the logs delivered to the portable mill for sawing. Next, sawn lumber was trucked to a small business where drying and manufacture of tongue-and-groove flooring occurred. Lastly, the hardwood floor boards were shipped to my house and installed (I knew of this particular product—ash flooring—via the entrepreneur's website). And because the entrepreneur, *Wood from the Hood,* knew the exact origin of my lumber, my green ash hardwood floor was given a zip code—55422.

Source: Independent Sawmill & Woodlot Management, April 2015, Article by Stephen Bratkovich, a forest products consultant in St. Paul, Minnesota. He also serves as Project Manager, Recycling and Reuse, for Dovetail Partners in Minneapolis, a nonprofit specializing in environmental information. For more information, visit the Sawmill & Woodlot website: www.sawmillmag.com

Nebraska Forest Industry Spotlight

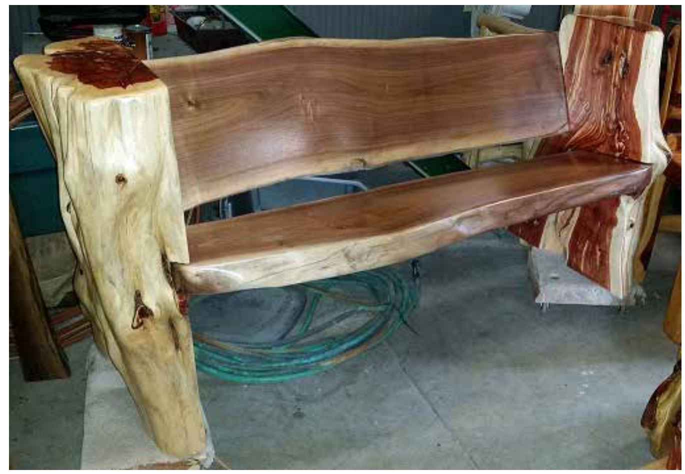
BARCEL CEDAR CREATIONS
"RUSTIC CEDAR FURNISHINGS"

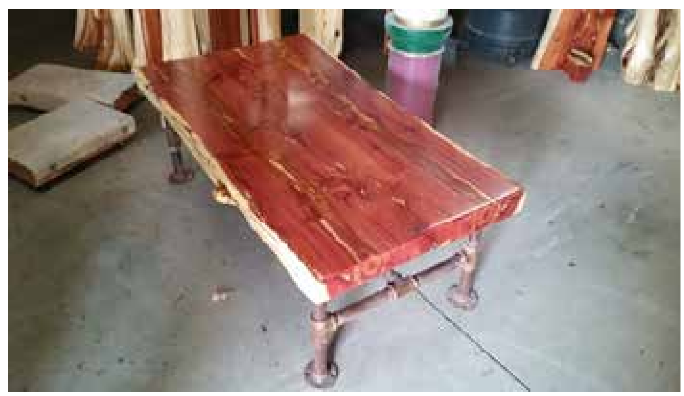
The Barcel family has been in the logging business for over 80 years. Anton Barcel, Kurt's grandfather, started by cutting lumber part-time. In the late 1940s his father Donald began logging and milling as a full-time profession. In 1971 the current sawmill was built and in 1978, Kurt and his brother Larry started the Barcel Logging business. The majority of the trees which they harvested were cottonwood, eastern redcedar, and a variety of other hardwoods. After their father passed away in 1993, their brother Barton took over running the family mill.

With Barton operating the mill, Kurt began looking for additional outlets to utilize the hardwoods being harvested. He researched firewood processing and decided to build his own firewood processor to market bulk firewood. In 2000, Kurt purchased a firewood packer and started packaging firewood which is currently being sold in a ten state region.

Approximately 15 years ago they were approached by a company that had an outlet for redcedar logs. As Kurt was harvesting the cedars he began to see the character and color in the in the logs and decided to try his hand at creating cedar ranch gates, fences, and pergolas.

In 2012, Kurt and his sons Nick and Jason, his son-in-law Joe, and his grandson Zach, started Barcel Cedar Creations. Since then, the business has also expanded into building an array of indoor and outdoor furnishings, with every piece being totally unique. Barcel Cedar Creations makes tables, chairs, mantles, vases, hall trees, or about anything a customer requests, including porch pillars, bars, barstools and entire countertops for outdoor living spaces.





Above: Cedar bench and table made at Barcel Cedar Creations.
Opposite: Kurt Barcel at the family business near Bellwood.

Kurt says, "Customers love our ability to build items that have sentimental value, creating everlasting memories. All items can also be personalized with either a metal or wood carved plate. To view many of products which have been constructed, visit our Facebook page at Barcel Cedar Creations." You can also contact Kurt at 402-649-5203 or Nick at 402-690-3842.

BARCEL CEDAR CREATIONS

"If you dream it. We can do it."

The Trading Post

The Trading Post is provided as a free marketing service for forestry industry. Only forestry-related advertisements will be accepted with the exception of products manufactured in the normal course of your business. Please submit written ads to the *Timber Talk* editor at least 15 days before scheduled *Timber Talk* publication dates. Ads may be edited to meet space constraints.

For Sale

Sawmill. Sanborn Minimax band sawmill, new 80 hp Deutz motor with 232 hours, 36" log capacity, hydraulic-operated belt on/off table, hydraulic log cleaner, digital levels, new track system, straight angled pressure guides. Also includes 60 extra 6" blades, Armstrong filing room equipment, box of new grinding stones. $30,000. Contact George Hawley, Home 620-473-3468 or Cell 620-365-9744, email: hawleylumber@gmail.com.

Sawmill. TimberKing portable sawmill, 34" x 20' log capacity, 50+ extra blades (some new). $16,000. Contact: David Champlin. Phone: 785-275-2181.

Sawmill. Mighty Mite band sawmill. 20 horse electric motor, tandem axles with brakes on one axle, 36" x 24' log capacity, (I have cut 46" beams) hydraulic operation includes winch, knees, taper, near arm, dogging arms, far arm, dogging spike, log loading arms, and electric clutch and blade lift. Also includes automatic blade sharpener, setting machine, 12 used blades and 4 new blades. Excellent condition. Never been used commercially. $17,500. Contact: Gary Fisher, Crawford, NE. Phone: 308-665-1580; email: fisher@bbcwb.net.

Edger. Corley SN E536-054, chromed in-feeds and out-feeds with no visible wear, 6 cylinder Deutz engine, and laser lights. $20,000. Contact George Hawley, Home 620-473-3468 or Cell 620-365-9744, email: hawleylumber@gmail.com.

Tree Shear. 14" Dymax Model 2135D1, Double grapple. Used very little. Excellent condition. Fits universal skid loader mounts. $4,000. Contact: Gary Fisher, Crawford, NE. Phone: 308-665-1580; email: fisher@bbcwb.net.

Walnut Lumber. All dimensions. $3.00 per board foot. Falls City, NE. Contact: Bruce Walker at 402-245-2031.

Wanted

Wood Residue. Slab wood, cutoff's sawdust, mulch, bales, etc. Lincoln, NE. Call Scott Hofeling at 402-432-0806 or e-mail scott@hofelingenterprises.com.

Logs and Slabwood. Cottonwood, cedar and pine. 4" to 26" diameter and 90"-100" lengths. Below saw grade logs acceptable. Contact: American Wood Fibers, Clarks, NE at 800-662-5459; or email: Pat Krish at pkrish@AWF.com

Cottonwood Logs. Veneer-quality cottonwood logs, 16" to 36" diameter, 7' and longer. Pick up service available. Contact: Barcel Mill & Lumber, Bellwood, NE 68624. Ask for Barton or Megan. Phone: 800-201-4780; email: bj@barcelmill.com.

Services and Miscellaneous

Woodshop Services. Millwork made from your lumber on my planer/molder. Chris Marlowe, Butte, NE 402-775-5000. Marlowepasture@nntc.net.

Sawmill Service and Supplies. Saw hammering and welding. Precision knife and saw grinding. Contact: Tim Schram, Schram Saw and Machine, PO Box 718, 204 E. 3rd St., Ponca, NE 68770, 402-755-4294.

Used Portable Sawmills. North America's largest source of used portable sawmills and equipment. Contact: Sawmill Exchange 800-459-2148, website: www.sawmillexchange.com.

Timber Sales

The following listings are for stands of timber or logs being offered for sale by owners or persons of delegated authority. Timber was cruised and/or marked for harvest by Nebraska Forest Service or other professional foresters. Volumes in board feet (Doyle scale unless otherwise indicated) are estimates by the forester. If no volume is listed, the trees or logs were not marked by a forester and the listing is included only as a marketing service to the owner. Listings are prepared according to information at the time of publication.

Item	Forester/Date	Contact
1. **Black Walnut** (36 trees) Veneer 2 – 250 bf Veneer 3 – 1,138 bf Lumber 1 – 2,394 bf Lumber 2 – 2,795 bf Lumber 3 – 1,840 bf	Seaton 12/2014	David Molinaro 7608 Baldwin Avenue Lincoln, NE 68507 Ph: 402-304-5254 Location: Cass County
2. **Black Walnut** (55 trees) Veneer 2 – 485 bf Veneer 3 – 629 bf Lumber 1 – 2,917 bf Lumber 2 – 4,223 bf Lumber 3 – 3,136 bf **Green Ash** (8 trees) — 1,040 bf **Hackberry** (2 trees)— 540 bf **Bur Oak** (1 tree) — 130 bf **Red Oak** (1 tree)— 170 bf **Elm** (1 tree) — 190 bf	Karloff 4/2015	Tom Loucks 2007 Yacht Vigilant Newport Beach, CA 92660 Ph:(949-677-5535 e-mail: tom@trloucks.com Location: Richardson County
3. **Red Oak** 38-40 cords Firewood (Already marked)	Seaton 5/2015	Jay Seaton 3125 Portia Street Lincoln, NE 68501 Ph: 402-476-2729 Location: Cass County
4. **Ponderosa Pine** U.S. Forest Service Landscape Restoration Project Forest thinning material Currently several decks available	McCartney 5/2015	John Lee Pine Ridge Ranger District 125 North Main Street Chadron, NE Ph: 308-432-0300 Location: Dawes County
5. **Ponderosa Pine** Green sawtimber (not burned) Commercial sawtimber harvest - light entry cut (15-20 years ago) Good forest road network 800 timber acres (estimate)	Nickerson 5/2015	Robert (Bob) Bentley 1200 Island Way Winter Haven, FL 33884 Off. 863-324-2100 Res. 863-324-7453 Cell. 863-287-8564 Rch. 308-862-4242 Email bobwbentley@mac.com Location: Sheridan Co. approx. 16 m. N & 3 m. E of Rushville
6. **Black Walnut** (39 trees) Veneer 3 – 436 bf Lumber 1 – 552 bf Lumber 2 – 1,641 bf Lumber 3 – 1,656 bf	Karloff 11/2011	David Bartek 1719 S. Stillwood Dr. Leland, North Carolina 28451 Ph: 910-371-3779 Email bartek1719@live.com Location: Butler County