

Salvaging
Sawmilling
& Marketing

urbanWOOD

FEATURING:
*THE EMERGING
ECONOMY OF
URBAN WOOD*

*Woodworker Builds
Business Salvaging
Urban Trees*

**Utilizing Urban
Timber in The
Far West**



Wood-Mizer



Sam Sherrill
Author of *Harvesting
Urban Timber*

Every year in our cities and towns, thousands upon thousands of trees and the billions of board feet they contain are thrown away as garbage. What isn't dumped in landfills is buried on construction sites, ground up for mulch, or cut for firewood. At the same time, we pay dearly at lumber yards and home centers for many of the hardwoods and softwoods we continue to burn, bury, grind, and throw away. Our forests cannot be treated as an inexhaustible source of timber. Along with sustainable forest management, we must make better use of wood from other sources, like the trees that grow in our own yards, parks, and even near our city streets.

The purpose of this booklet is to educate and encourage you to support a “tree-roots” effort to make better use of urban timber by saving the best logs for lumber that can be used to build furniture and other fine craft items. As I see it, every urban tree we use for lumber is one less tree that must be cut from our forests and one less piece of green waste that would be dumped in our landfills. This booklet describes the basic ways you can harvest urban timber and a number of individuals and businesses who are making a living doing so.

Sometimes the timber we retrieve comes from trees that were very important to their owners. As a woodworker, nothing I've built has meant more than furniture my son and I made for a local family from a 500-year-old oak felled by a high wind several years ago. The tree was on a farm owned by the family since the middle of the last century. Losing it was almost like losing one of their own. Though the tree is gone, eventually, every member of the family, from the youngest to the oldest, will have something made from it. Everyone I talk to about harvesting urban timber is enthusiastic about the idea. Almost daily, I hear from people all over the world who want to know what they can do in their cities and towns to help make a difference. You've just taken your first step.

Sincerely,

Sam Sherrill
Harvesting Urban Timber

urbanwood

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The Emerging Economy of

URBAN WOOD

By Megan Offner

Photography By Megan Offner,
Jimmy Pham, and Rose Kallal

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Megan Offner co-founded New York Heartwoods, a woman-owned social enterprise LLC in Warwick, NY in 2010. Her mission is to regenerate forest vitality and local economies by building systems and relationships that maximize the value of "waste" trees.

New York Heartwoods (NYH) began in 2010, with the help of Dave and Steve Washburn, Hugh Herrera, myself, and a Wood-Mizer LT40 Hydraulic portable sawmill. Our plan to manage and harvest trees ourselves was scratched when we realized how many were falling over, dying and being removed by arborists. Multiple severe storms and several invasive insect epidemics have led to unprecedented challenges to our forests and communities while budgets of municipalities and landowners are stretched with the reoccurring removals of downed or dying trees. Landfills across the country are struggling to keep up with the amount of wood waste that is

being generated and at the same time, people need jobs and communities are evolving to become more resilient. By processing urban wood, we participate in creating solutions: *reducing wood disposal expenses, redirecting material from our waste stream*, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, fueling the demand for local wood products, and growing an exciting new economy.

UNDERSTANDING SUPPLY & DEMAND

Community relationships are the key to both supply and demand. Due to annual weather events like Hurricanes Irene and Sandy along with the arrival of pests such as the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB),



Joe Eubanks, NYH's primary sawyer, re-sawing a cherry slab. (Photo by Megan Offner)

we have access to more logs than we are equipped to process. Harvesting logs ourselves is labor intensive and therefore, in most cases, cost-prohibitive at our scale. By working with tree services we can have waste logs delivered for free or, at most, for the cost of gas and the driver's time. Beyond the tree services that provide logs and clients to buy wood, are landowners, institutions, land trusts, the Department of Transportation, utility companies, municipal land managers and local officials. We have found the latter is an especially fruitful connection as they control what the contracted arborist does with city trees. As most towns and cities are burdened with increasing costs for citywide services, decreasing revenues, rising landfill costs, and decreasing landfill space, redirecting logs creates waste management solutions and reduces storm clean up expenses, which can generate wood for park benches, picnic tables, fencing, flooring and cabinets for city buildings. The ability to ameliorate local issues while creating valuable lumber may lead to municipal contracts and resources that

will support both log supply and the demand for products.

MARKETING URBAN WOOD PRODUCTS

Portable band sawmills have a great advantage over large circular sawmills when working with urban trees. Their ability to travel to sites can eliminate logistical challenges and expenses of transporting or disposing of logs. For example, after Hurricane Sandy landfills were at full capacity so many cities and towns across New York State designated parking lots for the staging of logs. Local sawyers were invited to come mill what they wanted for free, and even still, it took months for many of those piles to diminish. The possibility of hitting metal, common in urban trees, is too expensive a risk for commercial circular sawmills. Metal can dull blades and slow down band saw production, but since the narrow band blades are inexpensive and easy to sharpen, that value can be recouped with proper marketing of the tree's story and the wood's character.

Urban trees generally have lower branches and contain metal or other foreign objects, creating



The wood used in our holiday displays is harvested from naturally fallen trees and sourced from a woman-operated lumber mill. At the end of each season, we donate all our props to local arts organizations and nonprofit groups.

On display at Eileen Fisher, 5th Ave. NYC, copy reads: "The wood used in our holiday displays is harvested from naturally fallen trees and sourced from a woman operated lumber mill. At the end of each season, we donate all our props to local organizations and nonprofit groups."

What is an Urban Tree?

By Sam Sherrill

An urban tree, also called "city tree", is located in either an urbanized area or urban place which are classified as having a minimum of 2,500 residents. Places located outside urbanized areas with fewer than 2,500 residents are considered rural areas. Whether we live in hamlets, villages, small towns, cities, or in one of the largest metro areas such as New York, the trees that grow in these areas are considered urban trees.

By the Forest Service's estimate for the contiguous 48 states, we are talking about 74 billion trees, an amount equal to about one-fourth of the estimated 319 billion live trees growing in the nation's commercial timberland. Generally, most city trees become part of the municipal solid waste stream, ending up in landfills as debris (almost 15 million tons in the U.S. in 1994). Those that don't become solid waste are buried at construction sites, cut into firewood, used as fuel or are ground into mulch. Focusing on specific ways of making better use of urban trees, that eighty percent of us see every day, will have a significant effect on the urban forest (trees, soil, water, surrounding vegetation, wildlife, human inhabitants, etc.) and ultimately improve the quality of life in urban areas.

Why Cut Urban Trees?

By Sam Sherrill

Sending a tree from your yard to the landfill makes absolutely no economic sense. When people have an old tree in their yard that needs to come down, this is how they look at the situation: I've got this beautiful old oak in my yard that must be removed, so which is cheaper?

- A. Cutting down the oak and sending it to the landfill.
- B. Cutting down the oak, sending it to the sawmill, waiting for it to dry and paying to store the wood somewhere before you make something with it.

When you look at it this way, the landfill always wins. Salvaging urban trees has benefits to the community most people just don't think about. Here are a few:

Benefits to the Tree Owner

A landowner can spend more than \$1,000 to have a tree cut down and removed. And what does that leave them? Exactly \$1,000 poorer and one stump hole richer. If the tree's owner opted to salvage the tree instead, the woodworkers involved in the salvage could make something for the trees owner, who might be sentimentally attached to the tree.

Benefits to the Woodworker Who Salvages the Tree

Woodworkers who participate in salvage operations wind up with high quality wood they might not be able to find or afford in local lumber stores. Quarter-sawn white oak, black walnut, cherry and even rarer woods like osage orange and elm can be cut for pennies per board foot.

Benefits to the Woodworking Community

You're not going to be able to salvage trees yourself. That means you need to work with other woodworkers, and that means you'll get to work with others in your community who share your interests. And, your good deeds enhance the image of woodworkers in your community because you're helping the environment at the same time you're salvaging some great wood for your own use.

Benefits to the Whole Community

Keeping a tree from the dump saves valuable space in your local municipal landfill and prevents the tree from being burned in a fireplace—which also helps air quality.

Benefits to the Environment

Not only do you help the air, you help other trees as well. By salvaging lumber, you reduce the need for commercial lumber, which is sometimes harvested at great price to the land and wildlife.



Working with a local tree service to lower a maple log onto NYH's flatbed trailer. (Photo by Megan Offner)

dramatic knots, colors, and grain. *These unique characteristics, along with the tree's history, are desirable to artisans, fabricators, interior designers and architects for the creation of furniture, flooring and other custom products.* Documenting the tree's story and providing pictures of its transformation into finished products adds value by making it more meaningful to the buyer. Every industry uses wood in some capacity, which leads to a multitude of niche market possibilities. By reaching out to my previous networks to see how I could create solutions to their problems, I was able to build most of my business on personal contacts and word-of-mouth.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As my access to urban markets is one of NYH's strengths, I am increasingly brokering wood for other local sawyers with a similar ethos. I see that in the same way that

marketing and distribution hubs are being created to assist the success of small farmers, and local wood being the next "local food", there is needed support for the growing number of independent sawyers. The Illinois Urban Wood Utilization team and Urbanwood in Michigan are two wonderful non-profit models of networks that facilitate the wood use chain from arborists, sawyers, woodworkers, distributors to buyers. As our population grows, so does the amount of urban land in the United States. *According to the Journal of Forestry, by 2050 the amount of urbanized areas is projected to increase from 3.1% in 2000 to 8.1%, a total of 392,400 km, which is larger than the state of Montana.* With this, the production and sale of urban wood will also grow, and there will be more integration into municipal management systems. For now, innovation is happening on the ground - one mill at a time. **w**



How to Start a Harvesting Urban Timber Program in Your Town By Sam Sherrill

Some good old American initiative is what's needed to get a "Harvesting Urban Timber" program started in your community. And, of course, it really requires someone to take that first step and lead the project. Will you rally fellow woodworkers in your area, send for the literature, call the first meeting? We hope you will. The project will be easier to initiate if an area woodworking club takes up the program, but even if there isn't a club around we can help you find other interested woodworkers nearby.

A Club Approach

If you are a member of an established woodworking club, setting up a Harvesting Urban Timber program for club members could be easily done.

It will likely attract more members, help publicize the club and could produce modest income to further the group's work. Here are some thoughts on how it could work.

1. You need four to six people to fell the trees, move the logs and assist in the cutting, stacking and storing of lumber. Obviously, these people would be entitled to the lumber, especially if they stood the expense of hiring the sawyer and mill operator. However, surplus material, and it's likely there will be plenty from even a moderately active project, could be sold to members of the club.
2. Project coordinators of the club might also consider providing "credits" for those who work in the project that entitle members to lumber, say, each credit, or hour worked, is worth 10 board feet of lumber. A large club might want to temporarily sell excess lumber for a bigger profit with the goal of buying a sawmill for their own program.

The Individual Approach

Even individual woodworkers can establish an effective program by simply seeking out like-minded woodworkers. This method can be just as effective as the club approach. For example, a pilot project in Cincinnati started thanks to the will and determination of weekend woodworkers. In just a couple years, they obtained several thousand board feet of prime hardwood lumber – air dried and ready for building. You can do it, too.





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Family cabin built by John Hubbard and his Wood-Mizer sawmill.

Start sawing your own lumber and slabs from salvaged urban trees with a Wood-Mizer portable sawmill.

12 sawmill models available starting with the LT10 at \$4,395*



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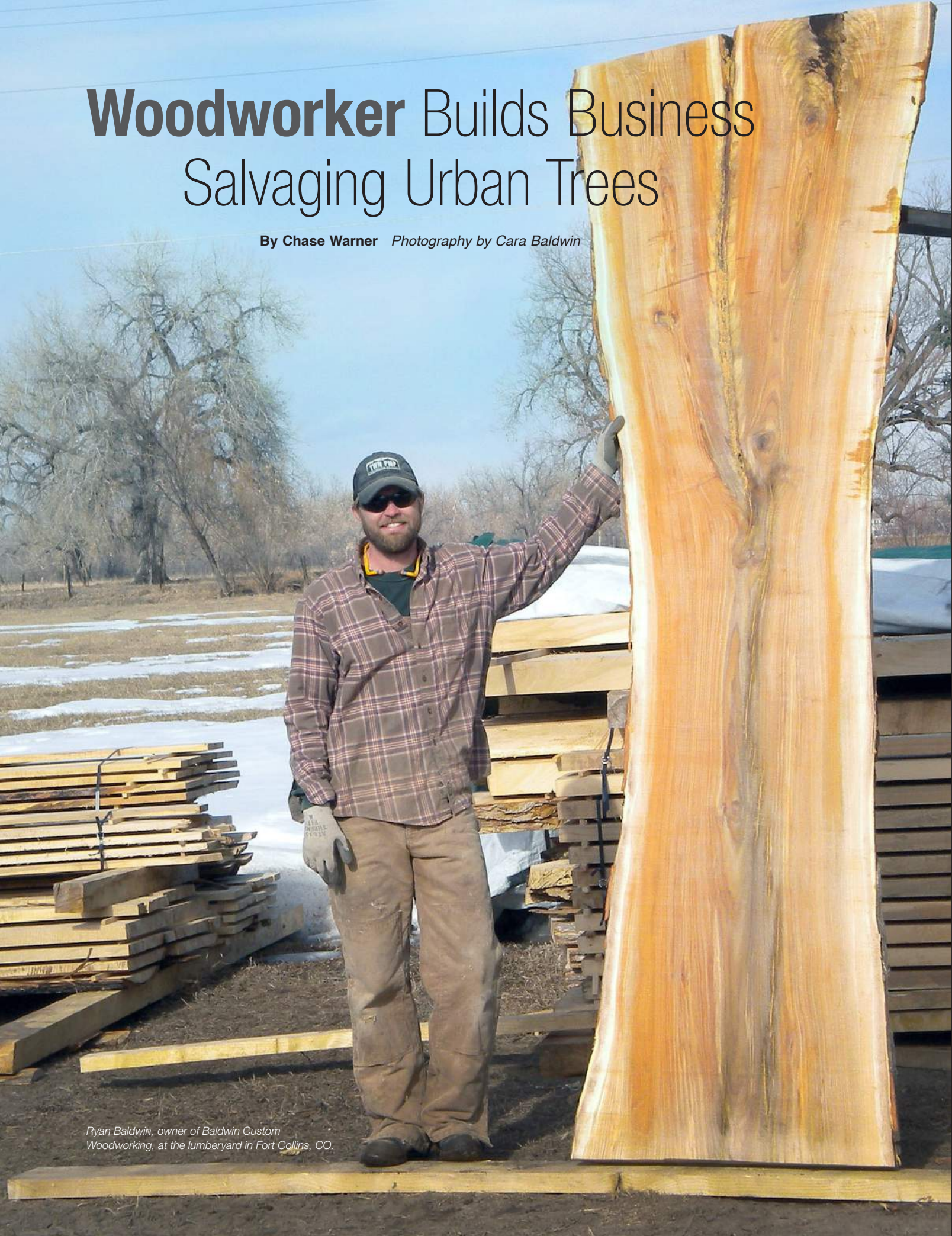
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Woodworker Builds Business Salvaging Urban Trees

By Chase Warner Photography by Cara Baldwin



Ryan Baldwin, owner of Baldwin Custom Woodworking, at the lumberyard in Fort Collins, CO.

While working as an arborist removing trees from backyards and along city streets in Fort Collins, Colorado, Ryan Baldwin saw an opportunity to turn city trees destined for the dump into useable lumber. With a growing interest in woodworking, Ryan began setting aside wood from trees that featured interesting burls or grain and started turning bowls, but after helping a friend mill a log on a Wood-Mizer mill, Ryan said he was hooked. “Suddenly I saw the waste stream that was generated in tree work and the potential to recapture this material and turn it into something useful,” said Ryan. Although the utilization of urban wood was not a new concept, milling and selling locally-sourced lumber was uncommon in the area, so Ryan took advantage and worked to occupy this niche market.

As the home of Colorado State University, Fort Collins has been influenced by the school’s agriculture, forestry, landscape architecture and veterinary science programs. “Our community has an unusually large population of american elm and due to CSU’s botanical influence, the city has a diverse urban forest including ash, walnut, elm, honey locust, oak, pine, hackberry, catalpa, mulberry, sycamore, Russian olive, linden, cottonwood, willow, and more,” said Ryan. From the sawmill, Ryan produces rough-cut dimensional lumber and large, live edge slabs in a variety of species harvested in Northern Colorado such as maple, elm, ash, and walnut while also providing custom milling services.

The uniqueness of these urban trees include finding many interesting items inside such as nails, barbed-wire, and even bullets, but Ryan uses the distinct wood characteristics produced by these items to his advantage in marketing his products. “These trees, living beings, tell a story and it’s an amazing experience to see the beautiful wood inside them,” he said.

“ALL THE LUMBER that we sell is urban wood reclaimed from the waste stream,” said Ryan. **“This homegrown product is very unique – unlike farm-raised lumber, it is not perfectly straight with uniform grain.”**

When milling became more frequent, Ryan increased his focus on furniture design and set aside hardwoods with interesting qualities. By supplementing his basic knowledge of tools and construction with a great deal of reading, research, and trial and error, Ryan established Baldwin Custom Woodworking in 2008 to create custom furniture in addition to his milling services. “I had a lot to learn – namely furniture design, aesthetics, finishing techniques, and the many intricacies of running a small business,” said Ryan. “I feel lucky that I’ve been able to turn a hobby into a real job.” Baldwin mills logs both for design projects and for the sale of lumber and slabs, splitting his time in half between both parts of the business. As an owner-operator, Ryan does it all from grading the driveway and sweeping the shop to milling lumber and working directly with customers to design custom furniture.



**“Most goods in today’s economy
are made in factories from
around the world.**

**That’s not what you’ll find here,
in my shop.”**

— *Ryan Baldwin, Baldwin Custom
Woodworking*

The majority of Baldwin Custom Woodworking furniture pieces are made from local, urban lumber, making each piece unique and truly one of a kind. “We don’t recycle our designs, instead preferring to work with clients to develop a design and choose a species of wood that best suits their needs,” said Ryan. “We feel honored to be able to produce heirlooms that will live on for generations.” Providing hand-made products such as desks, tables, chairs, china cabinets, armoires, kitchen islands, bathroom vanities, and more to both custom furniture and commercial customers, each client appreciates that the products are made with local materials.

“Our customers value that our products are unusual and not available from national retailers,” said Ryan. “The concept of having something custom-made is pretty special in today’s economy.”

Ryan has also found growth by diversifying his business and offering kiln drying services and says that he has expanded his customer base to include other furniture makers and sawmill operators because kilns are often more difficult to find than sawmills.

With years of hard work and a few key investments including a Wood-Mizer LT35 Hydraulic portable sawmill, Baldwin Custom Woodworking continues to grow. “The LT35 has been a critical asset that contributed to growth,” said Ryan. “It’s fast, efficient, easy to use and maintain— it’s truly an amazing machine and I love using it today just as much as the first day I bought it.” Ryan also points out that their two websites have been critical to the success of the business. “Customers love the websites, and we do our best to keep them updated with fresh content and recent photos of projects and inventory,”



*Custom dining table built by Baldwin
Custom Woodworking.*

said Ryan. Cara Baldwin, Ryan's wife, is a photographer with a marketing background, so her knowledge and expertise has been vital to the growth of the business as well. "We have also benefitted from word of mouth referrals— both from furniture and lumber customers," said Ryan. "It's amazing to me how word spreads when people are happy with a product. It moves like lightning."

Through all the day-to-day management of running a small business, Ryan finds the most joy in the satisfaction of his customers. "The best part of my week is when I deliver a piece of furniture to a client and get to see them see it for

BY OFFERING PRODUCTS made from alternatively sourced materials, commercial projects are on the rise for Baldwin Custom Woodworking as contractors and builders seek LEED certification (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) to reuse material from a site for trim, flooring, and furniture.

the first time," said Ryan. "It's a very cool moment, they usually can't take their hands off it – they just want to feel the finish and see it from all angles." The future is bright for Baldwin Custom Woodworking as Ryan plans to expand to a location where he can add a showroom for lumber and furniture and hire more help so he can spend more time with his customers. By identifying an untapped market and turning a hobby into a profession, Ryan has built a successful family-owned business that will continue to grow for years to come.



Ryan mills locally sourced logs for lumber, slabs, and custom furniture projects.

"I'D LIKE TO see us continue to grow and sell more lumber because that means less waste will go into our local landfills," said Ryan.

For more information about Ryan and Baldwin Custom Woodworking, connect on Facebook or visit www.baldwin-woodworking.com or www.baldwinhardwoods.com 



Ryan changing a blade on his LT35 Hydraulic sawmill.

A man in a cap and vest is operating a large orange Wood-Mizer sawmill. The sawmill is cutting through a log. The background shows a rural landscape with mountains.

Wood-Mizer

FIND A LOCAL SAWYER

Start salvaging urban trees with the help of a local sawyer.

www.woodmizer.com/localsawmills

Finding Trees

By Sam Sherrill

Finding fallen trees or trees scheduled for felling isn't difficult. Here are several local sources you can look into:

LOCAL PARK BOARDS

We started with the supervisor of the Park Board's maintenance crew by asking that they call us when street or park trees are scheduled for cutting. In addition, we call every month or so, or right after a severe storm to stay current on cutting schedules. In our case, the Park Board crew would cut the logs into sizes we needed as long as we were on-site to make the request, and haul them back to a storage yard for pickup. They would even load the logs into trucks for us. Because the Park Board also sells logs for firewood, they charge a small fee for each load of logs we take. Like most urban areas, there is more than one park system so that means more than one agency can be contacted.

TREE REMOVAL BUSINESSES

Tree removal businesses can also be a source of logs. However, most are in the business of cutting and disposal as well and are uninterested in trees as sources of lumber unless the connection either adds to their revenue or reduces their costs. A few have an ongoing relationship with loggers and sawyers who buy or haul away usable logs. Occasionally, for a fee, tree removers without these connections can be persuaded to haul a choice log to a sawyer or a storage site. Staying in constant contact, being able to move quickly to accommodate cutting schedules, and being prepared to pay for special cutting or hauling is essential to using this source as a viable option.



DEVELOPERS AND CONTRACTORS

Because they know when land will be cleared, real estate developers, general contractors, and excavating contractors are also knowledgeable sources. Either the developer or the general contractor will provide permission to take logs but it is the heavy equipment operator you need to know when clearing starts. How the tree is knocked over and moved by the operator determine how much usable wood will be available from the logs. Operators that partially uproot trees and then carefully push them over with the bucket leave more usable wood than those who simply demolish trees by ramming or running over them. This is important because the operator will be pushing or

hitting within 15 feet of the base of the trunk where most of the usable wood is located. Severe damage within this part of the tree can substantially reduce the amount of lumber than can be later sawn from the logs.

GENERAL PUBLIC

Once informed, the general public can be a major source of logs, although carefully pre-screening is important to separate workable and unworkable logs. Several years ago, an article appeared in a local paper on our efforts to convert street trees into lumber. We were flooded with calls from people who wanted to donate trees from their property. Some of the trees were on the ground, some were still standing, and a few had fallen on houses. Some wanted free tree removal, a few wanted to sell the trees, and one was prepared to provide standing trees in exchange for free furniture made from the lumber. We quickly learned to ask every person whether the tree was being given away, whether it was up or down, and if down, whether it was near a driveway or street. We would then visit the trees who were giving away trees or wanted furniture that were on the ground and accessible.



Utilizing Urban Timber in the Far West

By Jennifer Alger,
Far West Forest Products

Utilizing urban logs for lumber is not a new concept. I can remember many trips in the 1970s with my dad buying dead, dying, or fallen urban hardwood trees, and I'm sure it was happening long before I came along. I also remember the famous Hooker Oak tree that fell in Bidwell Park in Chico, CA, thought to be the largest white oak tree in the world, and an Oroville sawmill owner milled it into usable lumber in 1980 in an effort to preserve this historic landmark.

It was then, in the 1980s, that harvesting urban timber began to be a focus of attention. **In California alone, it was estimated that almost 4 billion tons of solid wood waste was going into the state's landfills** in the late 1980s. Legislation



was passed partially in an attempt to divert this wood waste, but it wasn't until the 1990s that salvaging

urban timber really took off to become a more well-known business model.

Since then, the focus has been: **"We know there is a lot of wood being wasted, what can we do to change that?"** Throughout the past two decades, I have organized and assisted with many urban forestry initiatives, conferences, and seminars to try and find a solution to this waste. One of the plans in place is to have cities plant trees that will have the highest economic value when they come to the end of their life cycle, but the big thing we have focused on is training and education.

One of the biggest obstacles keeping material from landfills

and mulch use is training and incentivizing tree service companies to cut logs into appropriate sawing lengths. Traditional removal of large logs isn't always possible in small urban spaces especially when trees are surrounded by buildings and infrastructure. Without specialized removal equipment, or the funds to make it economically viable, tree service companies may only be able to obtain logs in short lengths, making it difficult in many cases to warrant sawing into lumber. **Over the last few years we are making headway in educating the public as tree owners are beginning to demand that their trees are cut for re-purposing so they don't go to waste.** Tree service companies are also cutting logs to saw lengths when possible and calling us to source a local sawyer who can pick up the logs and utilize them.

All those years at the State and County fairs are paying off and tree owners are starting to realize that there are more resourceful options than the status quo. Other than by customer request, **tree service companies can also be incentivized by knowing that there are sawyers who are interested in the logs – and will take them. This can be an advantage to the tree service company as it can save on costly disposal fees.** In many cases we have trees dropped off at our location from a tree service company, or construction company doing a removal, simply because we are closer than the county landfill – and if there is a good amount of saw quality logs, we will deal with the residue at no charge.

But beyond statistics, official measures and assembly bills to reduce wood waste, there are also companies who




From urban trees, to lumber, to finished product. Creating unique products out of salvaged urban wood is becoming increasingly popular in today's marketplace.

are utilizing urban timber because it's economically viable. At the end of the day, if you can't make a living from it, you aren't going to be able to do it for very long - no matter how good it feels to save trees from the burn pile. **There are many companies who, like my own, are cutting urban woods because it's a win-win situation. It's good for the environment, it's good for the tree service company, and it's good for our business.** It's an amazing feeling to be able to give a historic landmark tree, or a tree with sentimental value a second life and allow it to live on for future generations to enjoy.

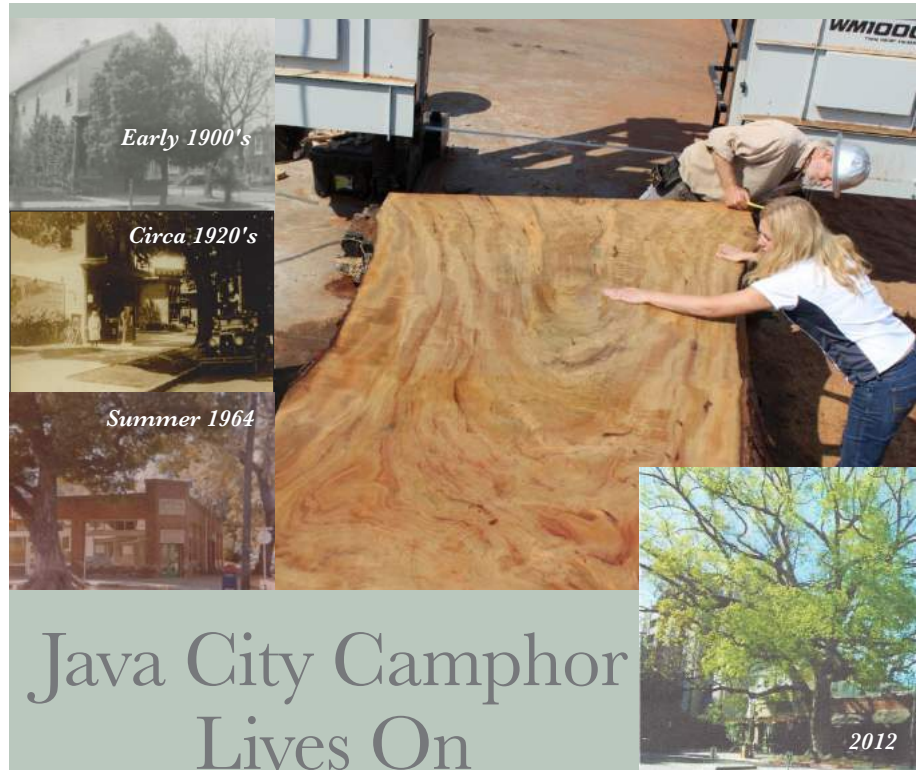
Giving a back story on where the wood originally came from is a major benefit with urban, salvaged, and reclaimed woods.

Our end lumber consumers find the history of a piece fascinating and the uniqueness of that story gives them something they will tell others which expands our opportunity for word of mouth referrals. In addition, consumers may also be able to use the story of the wood to fulfill their Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) green building projects for

recycled product, or product that was sourced within a 500 mile radius. All over the country you will see craftsmen making unique tables, benches, fireplace mantels, pens, and bowls out of urban wood. Urban lumber is gaining popularity in the U.S. at a rapid rate as people are becoming more aware that it is a viable option. **If people are presented with two options that are fairly comparable in appearance and price and one just happened to be saved from a landfill or chipper – most people will choose the green, eco-friendly alternative.** Also, with the affordability of portable sawmills and the accessibility to local sawyer listings like Wood-Mizer's Pro Sawyer Network, everyone from sawyers and tree services to homeowners and city leaders has an opportunity to make urban wood a useful resource for years to come. 

Things that can make a slab special to a customer, aside from the unique “look” of the piece are:

- *A historic place of origin*
- *The fact that it was recovered from a log that would have been turned into firewood or mulch*
- *An identity linked to a specific or local place*
- *A species unusual to the area and, if possible, a bit of a story about how the tree came to be growing there*
- *An unusual grain pattern caused by some foreign object found when I milled the log up*
- *Basically, anything known about the log the slab came from that makes the piece unique*




Java City Camphor Lives On

In 1886, 9-year-old George H.P. Lichthardt planted a camphor tree on the corner of what is now 18th and Capitol Avenue in Midtown Sacramento, California. As the camphor grew throughout the years, it got to see the city streets change from dirt to pavement and the vehicles change from horse drawn to motorized. It also saw the corner turn into a bustling street with many stores and pharmacy businesses coming and going. While it was a pharmacy, legend states that escapees from Folsom State Prison attempted a robbery and stray bullet ended up in the wall of the building. The camphor even had a street-side view of the grand opening of the original Java City Coffee House in 1985 and has since been known as the “Java City Camphor”.

The Java City Coffee House became a hub for artists, authors, and poets to discuss literature, politics, and current events. The discussions frequently ended up outside under the massive canopy of the ancient camphor. “That was the hip epicenter of city in the late 80s,” said local historian William Burg. “Many 24 hour poetry marathons and discussions of music and writing would take place there.”

Over the years the tree began to succumb to verticillium wilt and sadly had to be scheduled for removal to ensure

the safety of the buildings and people in the surrounding area. There was such an outcry from locals who had loved the camphor tree through the years, the officials decided to delay the removal to allow for a proper farewell celebration of the landmark tree. A yellow ribbon encircled the base of the tree at the final farewell as city residents gathered to say one last good bye. Many said goodbye in silence, while others with tears flowing told stories, read poems, and shared various memories they had enjoyed under the Java City Camphor in its more than 120 years of life. At the time of its removal it held the title for the oldest Camphor Tree in Sacramento.

Woody Biggs from Woody's Urban Forestry Products brought a log to us at Far West that was about 13 feet in length and nearly 6 foot in diameter that he was able to salvage from the mighty camphor tree. Woody has a mill that will cut average diameter logs, but knew he would be wasting a piece of history if he were to cut this beautiful treasure down to fit onto his sawmill. He decided it would be best to bring it in to us to mill on our Wood-Mizer WM1000 headrig and preserve the Java City Camphor so that the slabs could be enjoyed for years to come as dining and conference tables. 

What to Consider When Choosing a Tree for Lumber

Some trees are harder and more expensive to cut than others. Here are some tips for keeping your costs and your time requirements down.

Old Logs are Hard to Cut

If the logs are already on the ground, find out how long they've been there. Some sawyer will charge you more because older logs are tougher and take longer to cut.

Look for Consistent Logs

Large-diameter logs can take extra time to handle and very small logs involve too much handling to be worth your time.

Look for Clean Logs

Logs that have been dragged through the mud will take extra time to debark and will quickly dull the sawmill's blade, which is an extra cost for a sawmiller.

Bulk is Cheaper

Your costs per board foot will be lower if you have a large job. Some sawyers charge extra for jobs less than 1,000 board feet.

Scan for Metal

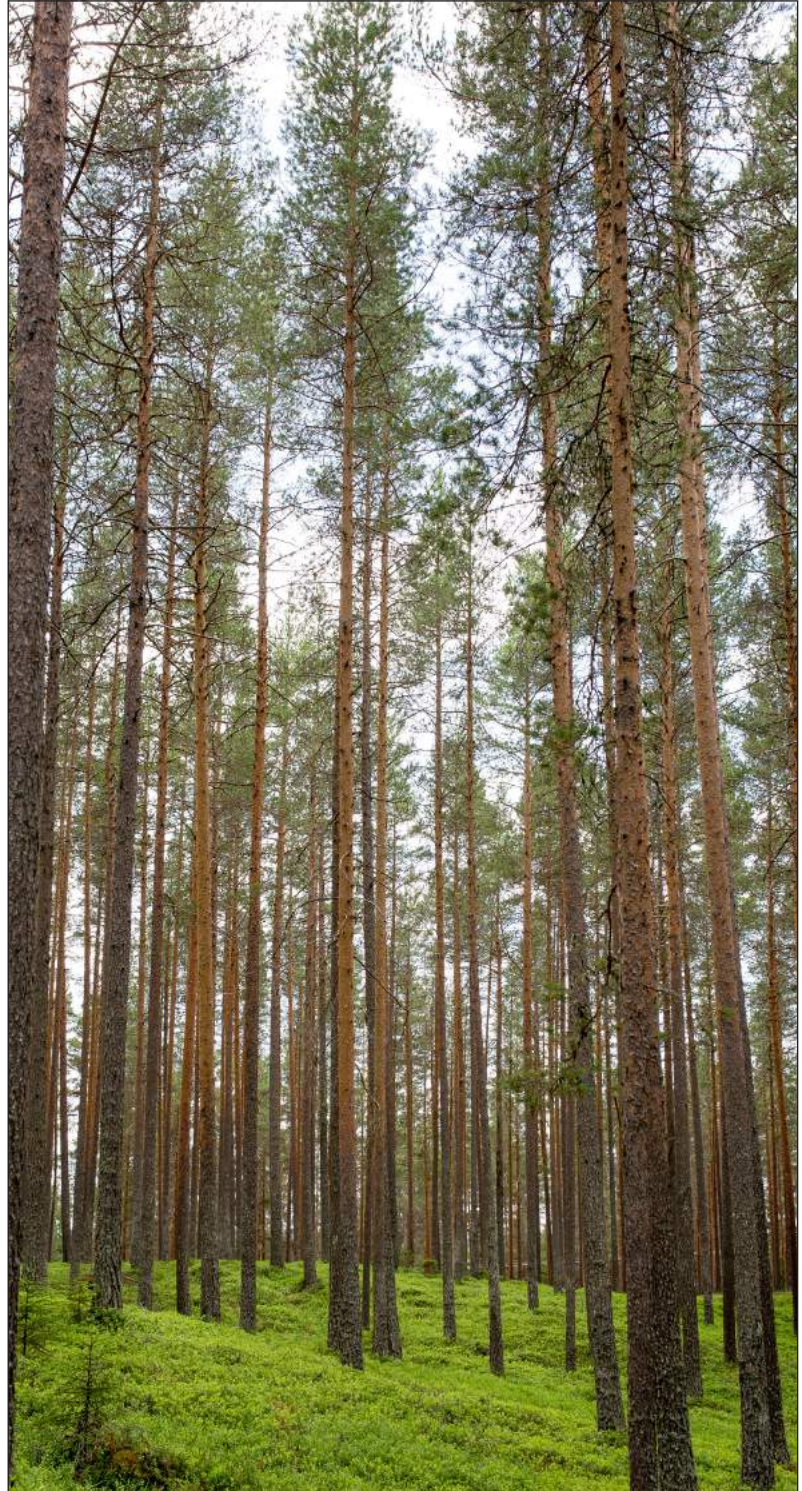
Urban trees have a high likelihood of containing metal pieces such as nails, stakes, etc. Invest in a metal detector and scan for metal pieces before you saw, your blades and pocketbook will thank you.

Big Boards Cost You Less

Cutting 1 x 4's instead of 2 x 12's can more than triple the amount of cuts needed, and some sawyers charge a premium for cutting narrow boards because it takes them longer to cut. At the same time, extremely wide boards, such as those two feet wide can take longer to cut.

Don't Move Around

If you're hiring portable sawmill owner, they likely will charge you extra to move their mill during a cutting job. Having all the logs you want cut in one location will save you money.





"SLABS FROM OUR WM1000 CAN BRING US UP TO \$20,000 AS WELL AS A GREAT DEAL OF SATISFACTION FOR THE CRAFTSMAN AND THE CUSTOMER."

- Jennifer Alger
Far West Forest Products, CA



START SAWING

high VALUE LOGS



THE SAWMILL FOR MASSIVE LOGS

With a **MASSIVE CUT CAPACITY** of 67", the Wood-Mizer WM1000 sawmill is ideal for sawing large logs, slabs, burls, and crotches. The durable and easy to use WM1000 sawmill with thin-kerf bandsaw blades provides **less waste and more material recovery** when sawing high-value hardwood, softwood, and tropical species. Learn more at woodmizer.com/wm1000.



GO ONLINE FOR DETAILS!

*Prices and specifications subject to change without notice.

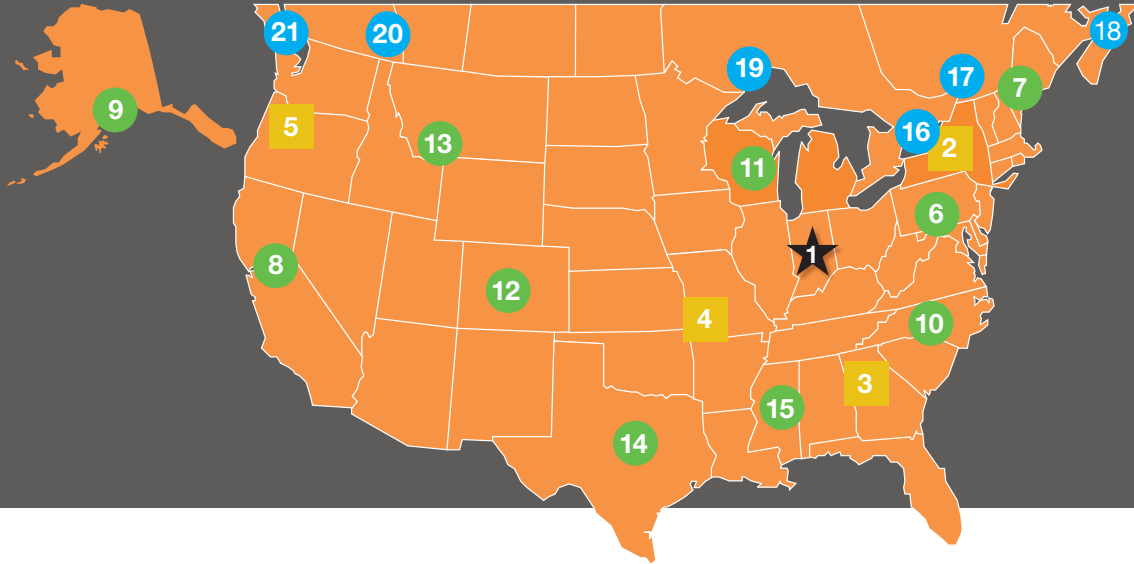
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