THE TAPROOT

WEST WIND HARDWOOD INC.

(P) 1-800-667-2275 - (F) 250-656-9663 - (W) www.westwindhardwood.com - (E) westwind@islandnet.com

Volume 7
October 2006
By: Shelley Nielsen

Forest Facts:

Garry Oak
(*Quercus Garryana*)

Garry Oaks have been here about 8000 years, and named for Nicholas Garry of the Hudson's Bay Co.

According to legend, carrying an acorn in your pocket helps preserve a youthful appearance.

Oaks were sacred to the God of Thunder.

The oldest oak in Victoria is estimated to be well over 400 years old.

Quote of the Month:

"Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises."

Demosthenes
(Greek Orator, 384-322 BC)

Links

Latest News

FSC

SMARTWOOD REDISCOVERED
SW-RW-054

OUR DOUGLAS FIR FLOORING

Old-Growth – Classic Collection
Heart Fir – Sap Restricted
The colour of warm cognac, it offers a natural sophistication that is timeless. A clear, consistent look with tight grain.
It is a cut above!

Second-Growth – New Fir
Coastal Fir – Coarse Grain
Create harmony with texture and colour. A sustainable, distinctive look with a handsome pinstripe grain pattern. A fresh, contemporary appearance; adding warmth, charm and interest to any décor.

Sustainable Growth – Enviro Collection
FSC- and SmartWood-Certified
Rustic charm as a responsible choice. Globally recognized accountability; every board offers a uniquely warm look.
Crafted with the environment in mind.

Of Interest

60-SECOND CRITIC
TELL US HOW WE ARE DOING!!

West Wind Hardwood would like to take this opportunity to ask its readers what they like, dislike or want to see more of in our newsletter.

We invite you to participate in our 60 second critic survey.
As the title suggests it is brief. Take survey now

Feature Story

REAL BEAUTY FOR REAL LIFE - REAL WOOD FLOORS

Indigenous woods from the Pacific Northwest offer a West Coast '*organic*' feel. With this feel comes an attitude that reflects a desire for a simpler, healthier lifestyle. And like all organic materials, wood floors have character and eccentricities; responding to its environment and changes over time.

There's no doubt about it - of all the flooring options available today, none offers the enduring beauty and long-term value of real wood floors. Real wood floors offer an alternative that will last a lifetime with easy care

materials, minimalist lines, a contemporary look with warmth and charm. This is not the "*tail wagging the dog*" trend. No matter what your decorating style, wood floors will add beauty to your vision.

Unlike other flooring options that need to be replaced over time, wood floors are a flooring alternative that can be renewed time and time again. Wood floors have been a part of our lives for centuries. Examples can be found in some of the oldest castles, estates and galleries in Europe; installed hundreds of years ago and still beautiful today.

Wood floors are easy to maintain. They offer one of the easiest ways to reduce environmental allergies. Wood floors do not harbour allergens, microorganisms or harmful pesticides tracked in from the outdoors. In addition, dust, mold and animal dander can be kept to a minimum.

Advances in the past few decades have made it possible to have easy care wood floors anywhere in your home; available in a variety of colours, styles and price ranges to compliment any décor and budget.

A combination of qualities should be considered in your selection process. Keep in mind the following points:

- Types: solid or engineered
- Styles: plank, strip or parquet
- Species: light, medium, dark or exotic
- Finish Methods: factory finish or on the job-site
- Finish Sheens: gloss, satin or matte
- Finish Types: Water-base, oil-base, conversation varnish, moisture-cured, wax
- Customization: borders, medallions, hand-distressing, mixed media

Every building product used comes from a natural resource. How do we balance our use of these products with their environmental consequences? We can learn which building materials cause the least burden on our environment, where each material is best suited, which natural resources are renewable and sustainable. Making wise choices can lessen our environmental impact.

Wood is an environmentally friendly material, a naturally renewable resource, and an ecologically sound choice. Choices. It comes back again to choices.

To find out more about the benefits of wood flooring, visit the "Why Wood Floors" section of the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) at http://www.woodfloors.org/consumer/, or phone West Wind Hardwood Inc. at 1-800-667-2275 and ask for Joel. Joel Radford's email is joel@westwindhardwood.com.

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Volume 8
December 2006
By: Shelley Nielsen

Forest Facts:

The Golden Spruce - Prophetic Tree

In Haidi folklore, this sacred tree embodied the spirit of a young boy, along with a prophecy that if the tree was allowed to die, the Earth as we know it would soon follow.

K'iid K'iyaas, loosely translates as "Old Tree".

Quote of the Month:

"There is no excellent beauty that hath not some strangeness in the proportion."

Sir Francis Bacon

Links

Latest News

Of Interest

60-SECOND CRITIC
LAST CHANCE 2006

TELL US HOW WE ARE REALLY DOING!!

West Wind Hardwood, over the past issues, has asked its readers their likes, dislikes and topics they would like to see more of in order to improve or newsetter.

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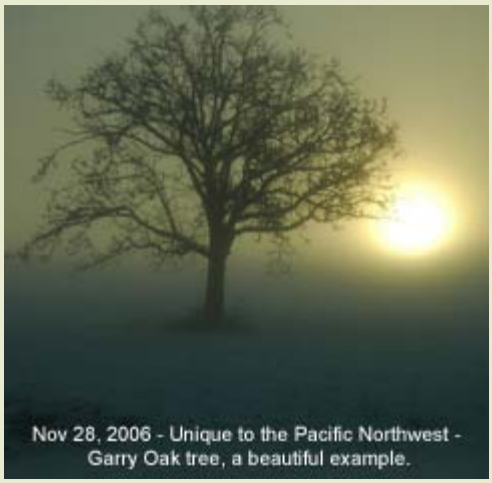
Take survey now


Nov 28, 2006 - Unique to the Pacific Northwest - Garry Oak tree, a beautiful example.

Feature Story

NATURAL RHTHYM

With few exceptions, wood is classified as a hardwood (deciduous trees) or a softwood (coniferous trees). Scientifically, it's all in the *pores* and how water is transported from trunk to leaves. Softwoods have no pores, and water moves by way of fibrous-like cells called *Xylem*. Hardwoods have either open or closed pores. The size, number and distribution of the pores are determining factors in the appearance and hardness of a particular wood.

In further comparisons, hardwoods generally lack resin canals and have greater variation in the size of rays; even to the point of visibility with the unaided eye. It is believed that hardwoods evolved much later than softwoods and have a greater complexity of cells.

Wood comes from living trees. That is the most important fact to remember when attempting to understand the nature of your wood boards. Generally

whatever qualities wood possesses, good or bad, they are traceable to the mother tree. Thus, understanding the basic nature of tree growth helps determine the success rate of the project. Once correctly worked and created into the final object, the initial investment will multiply in pleasure and value many times over. This is why it is critical to understand wood movement.

Wood absorbs water from the air during high humidity causing it to expand; during low humidity, water evaporates causing contractions. This process is called "movement in service". The process of reaching equilibrium moisture content (EMC) is every woodworker's fantasy. Bringing the wood in to balance with the surrounding air (not gaining or losing moisture) is a slow process with lots of variables. All work environments are different.

Quarter sawn lumber is more stable than plain sawn or rift cut. Wood that is kiln-dried between 6-12% moisture content is considered optimal. Incorrect kiln drying can cause a variety of defects such as honeycomb checks, end splits and twists. A moisture meter is a good investment that could save you much in the way of time and money.

If your project requires multiple species, remember that each species will have different movement characteristics. Keep *like with like* for optimal results, otherwise stress and tension could compromise glue joints or cause cracks with weaker woods. A larger project requiring multiples planks would lend itself to a careful selection process from the same bundle, same business. As even within species, pieces of wood will vary in density from different geographical areas. Allow enough time for the wood to acclimatize to its environment.

The greatest amount of movement occurs across the grain (width). Thickness has a lot less movement and even less occurs lengthwise. The narrower the width and thickness, the less movement there will be. Coating the wood will not stop the drying process, but it will slow it down.

It is suggested that there are five fundamental issues involved with dimensional change in wood: preshrinking by drying (kiln or air), control of humidity, mechanical manipulation, chemical stabilization and design. All will play a roll, whether alone or in combination, in dealing with you're your wood.

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Volume 9
February 2007
By: Shelley Nielsen

Forest Facts:

British Columbia's land base is 95 million hectares (235 million acres), larger than France and Germany combined.

Two-thirds of BC's land base is forested (60 million hectares or 149 million – this is twice the size of all the New England states and New York state combined.

BC harvests less than one-third of one per cent of its forests each year.

Quote of the Month:

"The true magic of forests is that even when you leave them, you never really do."

Abundant Forest Alliance

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Latest News

Roasted Birch Solid Lumber– looks like black walnut but half the price with consistent dark colour throughout. It is highly rot-resistant due to the smoking process. A great buy at $4.25 per bdft.

New woodwork facilities– including a SCI Sander. We offer custom stair and flooring components such as stair-treads and risers, bull-noses and transition strips to complement your custom floor.

Of Interest

French Beach (Vancouver Island), BC - with permission by Danny Schaftlein

Feature Story

The Art of Buying Lumber (excerpts)

With Permission - Dick Burrows
Full text may be found here

One of my woodworking specialties is the art of cajoling lumberyard workers into letting me sort through their lumber piles, looking for that perfect board for my next project. Sometimes I have to pout and threaten to take my big-time business elsewhere. Usually, though, I get permission simply by promising to restack everything when I'm done. And so, I've spent many a morning working in another guy's business, lining up about a quarter ton of lumber just to get a few boards that suit me.

Finding Diamonds in the Rough

The first thing you need to do is rid yourself of the idea that you have to use top-grade lumber or a perfectly clear board for everything you make. Most furniture makers don't. They use fairly short or narrow pieces that can be cut from even the

lower grades of lumber. You can, too. Just take the time to analyze the size and type of parts you need before you start…

Another thing to consider when buying wood is what you want to build. This might sound exceptionally long, clear board, something like a clear 14-ft. 1 x 10, to build a coffee table with no component longer than 36 in. Many apparently just total up all the needed components and specify that size board. This strategy is expensive and wasteful and can be aesthetically unwise, too. Often, better boards don't display as much beautiful figure and character as lower-grade ones…

Looking Beyond Wood Grades

The question of lumber grades can be confusing, so it's best not to get too hung up on them when picking stock. Grades give you an indication of the number of defects in a board, not the board's total quality.
Instead of grade, concentrate on the yield, which tells you the grader's estimate of how much clear wood a board contains….But, how do you figure the amount of wood you need when you have to work around all those knots? The easiest thing to do is buy 20 to 25 percent more wood than you think you'll actually need. "Working wood is not like slicing loaf bread," says Hil Peel, manager of Wall's lumberyard. Waste is inevitable even if the board is free of defects because you lose to saw kerfs, jointing, and other milling operations. Don't underestimate the waste from kerfs; some carbide blades take nearly 1/4 in. per pass.

And, stay away from the elaborate cutting diagrams sometimes found in project articles. These diagrams are supposed to show you how to cut lots of little parts out of a board, but they can become very restrictive. Peel tells of one woodworker who spent hours making four pages of diagrams and then had to spend another couple of hours searching for boards to fit the diagrams. "I think it's better to buy about 100 bd. ft. and get the stock you need without worrying about cutting diagrams," Peel advises. "Plus, if you buy at least 100 bd. ft., you usually get a quantity discount and can use what's left on the next project."

Wood Movement

Once you've chosen your wood, consider how the new environment of your shop will affect it. I like to buy wood at least a week or two before I need it so it can adjust to my shop's humidity level. This generally reduces problems with wood movement from differences in humidity between the shop and the lumberyard. To minimize chances that kiln-dried stock will pick up moisture after it leaves the lumberyard, keep the wood inside in a dry, perfectly flat area. Lumber dealer Wall also advises against putting stickers between layers of kiln-dried wood, saying they promote air circulation and moisture changes.

Moisture can wreak havoc on surfaced stock, and that's a good reason not to buy lumber that way. Wall said some of his customers have been especially discouraged with surfaced stock after seeing how much a species like oak moves and twists shortly after they get the lumber to their shops.

Here's another tip: It's often more economical and easier to mill part of a rough-cut board to produce a project than to process the whole board. If you only need a 3-ft. long piece, it doesn't pay to joint, flatten, and thickness-plane an entire 8-ft. board. Besides, cutting the board into shorter segments can significantly reduce warp in the leftover piece and make subsequent milling operations easier.

Processing your own wood gives you an opportunity to learn more about the material and how it changes with the seasons, says Wayne Raab, head of the woodworking program at Haywood Community College in Clyde, North Carolina. Raab encourages people to use moisture meters, although the actual moisture level of a piece of wood is not as much of a problem as mixing stock with divergent moisture levels in the same project. "If you mix a piece at 12 percent with pieces at 8 percent, there's a good chance that you're going to have popping joints," he says.

Once you learn to deal with wood movement and to work with the random widths in which hardwood comes, you can build anything. Gluing up narrow stock to make wider boards produces components that are stronger and more stable than many wider boards. For Raab's students, "Working with narrow stock makes them more appreciative of wide, exceptionally beautiful boards and convinces them to hold these special pieces for more decorative work. It helps build an appreciation for material, " he says.

Grading Wood

Wood grading is part art, part science for the pros, but mostly confusion for novices. Not only is the grading system complex, but also the rules applied to hardwoods differ from those applied to softwoods. Plus, each species is likely to be eligible for several exceptions to the general guidelines.

Fortunately, you can take advantage of the grading system without actually knowing much about how a lumber grader does his work. You just have to understand a few basic terms.

When a grader evaluates a board, in a way he is actually doing some of the preliminary work for you by gauging the number of defect-free areas, how large they are, and what percentage of the board they make up. Of course, he's not evaluating beauty, figure, and other design variables.

Graders judge hardwoods using standards the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA) has administered since 1897. The grader checks each board with a lumber rule to gauge the number of board feet, then uses several fairly complicated systems to determine how many clear cutting units the sawyer can obtain. Typical diagrams for firsts and seconds (FAS) and No. I common boards are shown in Fig. 2. The fewer the defects, the higher the grade and value of the board.

Wide boards are much more expensive than those less than 9 in. but are more prone to cupping and cracking in the drying process, so the sawyer must rip them apart for the maximum yield of high-quality lumber. This is one reason hardwoods are sold m varying lengths and widths.

Pine is graded and processed differently because softwoods are used primarily for construction. Rather than expect the builder or manufacturer to process the lumber, the m& do it and produce stock in standard widths and lengths.

"Whatever you do in hardwood grading, do the opposite in pine and you'll probably be doing the right thing," says William 0. O'Kelley, chairman of the Haywood Community College wood products department, which runs a sawmill and kiln. "With hardwoods, you try to put a defect on the edge so it can be ripped off. On framing lumber, you put the biggest defect in the middle where it will have least effect on strength."

Hardwood grades generally are based on the poorest quality face. Withpine, the best face sets the grade for boards likely to be used by furniture makers. Many defects are prohibited in some grades of hardwoods, but you can have a little of everything in pine, although the grade drops with the increased number of defects.

Pine graded for construction follows rules that would sound very familiar to a builder. There are bans on defects that would destroy the nailing edge, limits on how much pieces can be out of square, and standards that permit crooking to the degree that it can be removed with the pulling force of a nail.

For additional information, check Rules for Measurement of Hardwood and Cypress, ($6, NHLA, Box 34518, Memphis, TN 38184, 901-377-1818), Standard Grading Rules for Southern Pine Lumber ($5.25), and Grader's Manual for Boards and Two-in. Dimension ($5) (both available from Southern Pine Inspection

Bureau, 4709 Scenic Highway, Pensacola, FL 32504, 904-434-261 1).

These technical manuals won't make anyone's top 10 list for exciting reading, but they do contain a lot of interesting information on various species as well as concise definitions for defects and other woodworking terms. The pine manuals offer a rundown on types of knots and how they affect the strength and appearance of boards. -D.B.

BUYING WOOD BY MAIL

I used to shy away from mailorder lumber, figuring I just wouldn't be satisfied with anything I hadn't personally picked. Then, one day a co-worker asked me to go in with him on mail-order purchase; he wanted to meet the minimum for free delivery. The price was good, so I took a chance.

The selection I received was pretty good. The boards had defects, but there was plenty of clear stock, lots of interesting color and figure. What's more, working the stuff and finding the parts I needed was fun.
Since then, I've had good luck with purchases from the five or six companies I've dealt with. If the company offers free shipping for a minimum order, I always buy enough to take advantage of that. If I have to pay the freight, I shop around until I find a deal where the cost of the lumber plus the freight is competitive with local sources. Now and then, I get a board that is unusually difficult to work, but that can happen even if I select each board personally. I chalk it up to the witchcraft of wood, not really a problem worth complaining about.

One way I've found to assure a successful purchase is to study the company's catalogue and call the customer-service department to discuss any concerns or questions before ordering. If the dealer seems too busy to bother with questions, I assume that's my hint to do business elsewhere.

When you decide to buy by mail, begin by telling the dealer what you are building. "Speak in English, and don't try to be Mr. Professional Lumber Buyer," says James Heusinger of Berea Hardwoods, Berea, Ohio. Talk about grades might sound good, but it can actually make it difficult for the dealer to provide what you want. If he knows what you are planning, Heusinger says he has a better chance of providing wood that best matches your project.

The two most common ordering problems Heusinger encounters stem from customers too precise about the sizes they need and customers who don't provide enough information about the wood's use. He says his company will try to provide exact sizes if possible. Most of the time, he tells customers that it's best to concentrate on stock that's suited to their project and to size it themselves rather than order specific sizes and end up with lumber unsuited for the planned project.

Once the dealer understands what wood is needed, the customer should ask what it will cost. Sometimes, the dealer can't provide the stock at a price that suits the customer, Heusinger also recommends customers ask up front about how to handle problems: Can the wood be returned? Under what circumstances? What about reimbursement? Does the buyer get a product credit or a refund? Who covers shipping costs, which can be considerable because of the weight of the material?

To help buyers get used to mail order purchases, dealers often have specials that allow customers to try various hardwoods. One dealer I know offers a 30-pound box of mixed hardwood shorts delivered prepaid in the continental U.S. for $29.

Heusinger advises hesitant customers to "place a small order and see what happens without taking a great risk." If the first order works out, he advises to order more and start building a good relationship with the company.-D.B.

This article is from the Sept-Oct issue of AMERICAN WOODWORKER 1992

Full text of article may be found here

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Volume 10
April 2007
By: Shelley Nielsen

Forest Facts:

Did you know that Douglas fir stands up amazingly well to winds, storms and earthquakes?

Quote of the Month:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-- I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost

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Latest News

Sarah Von Drasek is our quiet Ontarian who moved to the Island long enough ago to realize that she doesn't want to return anytime soon. New to the world of working with wood, she enjoys enough aspects of it to overlook the slivers!! She likes exploring new parts of the Island during her time off. Pet peeves include woodpeckers and termites.
She's a welcome addition to our warehouse staff. Stop by and give her a warm "wet" coast hello.

Of Interest

Home Grown is a Good Deal: Mexican Knotty Pine(Green)
$1.00US/Bdft

Feature Story

Ride the Wave in a Wooden Boat

Boats are notorious as a drain on the wallet; that foreboding bottomless pit…….*unless it's a classic wooden boat.* These are a bit like owning a Stradivarius violin. They are playable instruments, highly prized by aficionados and others who can afford them. Imagine gleaming decks, plenty of bright work, exotic woods and curves that just don't stop. These boats epitomize the glory days of wood. We consider it a myth that wooden boats are difficult to maintain however a boathouse is a must. Some wooden boat owners "baby" their investments but vintage boats should be enjoyed.

Designed and built by a variety of Canadian and US naval architects and builders,

dozens upon dozens of fine examples of launches, canoes, racers and runabouts can be seen throughout North America. Associations and clubs have sprung up across the continent bringing wooden boat enthusiasts together. Here are a few great sites to set the mood:

http://www.woodenboat.org/ - Wooden Boat Foundation – NW Maritime Centre
http://www.acbs.org/ - Antique and Classic Boat Society
http://www.wcha.org/ - Wooden Canoe Heritage Association
http://www.woodenboatclub.ca/ - Oarlock and Sail Wooden Boat Club
http://www.cwb.org/ - The Centre for Wooden Boats
http://www.cutwater.com/ - Woodies on the Web
http://www.saltsociety.com/ - Sail & Life Training Society

Why continue to use wood in today's era of technological marvels? Because it still gives a feeling of warmth and beauty. Walk on teak decks with your bare feet on a hot summer day or rub your hand on a varnished handrail. It's art on water.

There are various species of woods used for marine applications. Your location on this planet will define which species is readily available. Here in the Pacific Northwest we have rich resources of lumber for wooden boat construction; for example, Western red cedar is used for kayak and cold-molding construction, yellow cedar (Alaska cypress) for planking and general framing and Sitka spruce is mainly used to build spars and oars because its strength to weight ratio is high. Douglas fir (Oregon pine) is one of the more commonly used species because of its versatility, availability and cost. Although these species are most commonly available in the Pacific Northwest, there is a world full of woods that can be used on boats!!

You do not have a traditional wooden boat? All boats offer an opportunity to use wood. There are a lot of applications where wood can be used as trim. The classic woods – teak, genuine mahogany and purpleheart – represent the romantic character of seagoing. Purpleheart is from Central America, and is the cheapest of the three. It is incredibly hard and rot resistant, and best used in high-impact areas that require strength; such as, guards, caps and ice sheeting. It glues easily and takes a finish. Genuine mahogany is from South America and is an excellent wood for marine applications primarily because of ease of machining and sanding, its strength and rot resistant properties, and its moderate pricing. Teak, mostly coming from Southeast Asia, is the most expensive but probably the best all purpose wood to use on a boat because of its high oil content. Take care when using teak, as it will dull your tools.

The health of these species is essential to the maritime tradition, and each one, to a degree, is in danger. It is difficult to know precisely how serious the problem is. So what can one do if concerned about the use of these wood species and the impact using them has on our forests and environment? One practical and straightforward solution is to use local woods harvested in or near your community. With today's finishes, tropical woods no longer outlast local ones. Strength comes from other materials layered over or under the wood: steel, epoxy, composites and fibreglass. Today's materials offer strength and durability superior to any wood (with the surprising exception of Douglas fir). But, in the Pacific Northwest, most local woods are pale in colour and much of the beauty of tropical woods is their deep, rich hues. Consider darkening your local woods with water-based aniline dye. With the right mix of dyes, almost any colour match can be achieved.

Harvesting for tomorrow requires innovative thinking and approaches today. Know where your wood comes from. Certification practices such as Forest Stewardship Council and SmartWood; both endorsed by Rainforest Alliance offers a certification system. This is the philosophy of "chain of custody – COC" in

action in which wood is tracked at every stage in its progress from forest to final sale.

Further information on the merits of these certification programs you can visit these websites:

http://www.fsc.org/en/
http://www.fern.org/
http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/

The appeal of wood derives from the beauty of its structure and the romantic significance it imparts. Much of this resonance involves the past, and notions of endurance. As mariners, we honour the spirit of that endurance by ensuring its future. Know and respect your woods.

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Volume 11
June 2007
By: Shelley Nielsen

Forest Facts:

The Forgotten Plywood

The first patent for what could be called plywood was issued in 1865 to John K. Mayo of New York City. It was described as follows: “The invention consists in cementing or otherwise fastening together a number of these scales of sheets, with the grain of the successive pieces, or some of them, running crosswise or diversely from that of the others…”

Mayo may have had a vision but apparently not much business sense since history does not record that he ever capitalized on this patent.

Quote of the Month:

"There is nothing
-- absolute NOTHING --
half so much worth
doing as simply messing-
about in boats."

From Kenneth Grahame's
"The Wind in the Willows"

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Latest News

NEW SUMMER HOURS

~ JUNE THRU SEPTEMBER ~

Open Monday through Friday
7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Closed Saturday and Sunday

LOOK FOR OUR NEW HOURS IN SEPTEMBER

Of Interest

Inventory for Marine Plywood, Joubert Les Éliots, Rouillac, France

Feature Story

BETWEEN THE LAYERS

ply·wood (pli'w d')
n. A structural material made of layers of wood glued together, usually with the grains of adjoining layers at right angles to each other.

Laminated wood panels are not a modern invention; layered wood has been found in ancient Egyptian tombs. Musical instrument makers have used laminated wood since mid-1850. It has been popular in boat building since the 1930's, and World War II pushed the advance of plywood in both boat and aircraft construction.

Today, designs for plywood boats are abundant. Fast becoming the material of choice for amateur builders for a variety of building techniques – tack-and-tape, stitch-and-glue, glued lapstrake – all offer a wide range of hull shapes. Each year, thousands of amateur builders construct kayaks, canoes, small sailboats and rowboats from marine plywood.

What makes marine plywood different from construction grade plywood? Marine plywood is specially made plywood that is designed to resist rotting in a high-moisture environment. The advantages of marine plywood are durability, strength, workability and resistance to warping. Truly the only disadvantage is the price in comparison to standard plywood. A builder using inferior plywood risks the cost of not only the wood and other materials, but most important, the labour of the project. In this instance, you do get what you pay for; the price for marine grade plywood is good insurance.

It is important that any plywood used for boat construction be "balanced". This means that there is a centre-ply with an equal number of veneers on either side; and the corresponding veneers are all the same thickness. With cross laminations, marine plywood gives high strength and stiffness to weight ratio, and high dimensional stability. Resistance to impact damage is key. High quality finishes can be accomplished. And as with any wood, whether solid or laminated ply, care should be taken in applying protection, especially to the edges.

International standards for grading marine plywood
There are few international standards for grading marine plywood. Most commonly seen is marine plywood evaluated by Lloyd's of London as compliant to British Standards. The standard is associated with Lloyd's of London as they perform the testing of products to this standard. Although the initials BS are for "British Standard", the finished product does not have to be "British made". Two frequently seen marine grades are BS1088 and BS6566. BS6655 standard has been withdrawn and replaced, but because this term is understood in the industry, it is still referred to.

- Domestic (American) marine plywood is made to standards formulated and monitored by the American Plywood Association (APA). It is not a US government standard.

- BS1088 sets down requirements for wood species, construction, lay-up and adhesives used. These specs apply to plywood produced with untreated tropical hardwood veneers that have a set level of resistance to fungal attack. Resistance to biodeterioration determines the wood species chosen. Plies are bonded with WBP phenolic or melamine formaldehyde containing a phenol. BS1088 standards also limits the number of defects allowed in the face and inner plies. There should be no voids or open splits, bubbles, checks or grain runoff on the face veneers. The list of standards goes on. BS1088 also requires that the manufacturer test occasional panels to ensure these standards be consistently met.

- BS1088 uses more select material, and is a superior panel to BS6566. However, having said that, there are many rough and tumble projects that can "afford" to use this lesser marine grade product. Ensure you are using the product appropriate to your project.

Boats are synonymous with pleasure; whether in the creation of the craft or in the on-the-water pursuit. Enjoy your passion!!

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If you do not see the graphics below, click here to view in a new window.

THE TAPROOT

WEST WIND HARDWOOD INC.

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Volume 12
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By: Shelley Nielsen

Forest Facts:

Although we at West Wind Hardwood measure our success in terms of satisfied customers rather than board footage. Our customers should pay attention the board foot calculation used on their purchases.

Do you know the difference between **green** and net tally?

Sales of hardwood lumber measured and sold after kiln drying is known as net tally; there is no calculation of, or an additional allowance for, the shrinkage from kiln drying. Net footage is the **actual** board footage.

Sometimes the lumber will be measured before kiln drying, dried and then sold at the pre-dried measurement. There is a loss of 5-8% in shrinkage. This is green tally. It is the customer's loss.

Ensure you know what you are buying. West Wind Hardwood sells their lumber as net tally.

Quote of the Month:

I like nonsense; it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living. It's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope. Which is what I do, And that enables you to laugh at life's realities.

~ *Dr. Seuss*

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Latest News

A Tribute to the Robertson II

The Robertson II, a tall ship affectionately known to generations of Victorians as "the Robbie," went down on at Minx Reef off Saturna Island on Canada Day.

For 20 years the schooner served as a training vessel for thousands of young people in the Sail and Life Training Society, or SALTS. The Robertson II was one of the best-known vessels on south Vancouver Island, since she was anchored for a prolonged period in Victoria's Inner Harbour.

Jan and I inadvertently stumbled upon her on Sunday - Canada Day. It was beyond believing at first. Intensely sad to witness this wonderful lady's distress.

Shelley Nielsen

Of Interest

Customer Accomplishments

Boat name: Chebacco
Built by: Jamie Orr
Designer: Phil Bolger
Construction: Marine plywood supplied by West Wind Hardwood.

The picture was taken on the water below Dallas Road in Victoria, with Juan de Fuca and the Olympics in the background.

Feature Story

SMOKIN' HOT

SMOKE [smok] such as meat, fish, or cheese with wood smoke. The visible

West Wind Home Page

exhalation, vapour, or substance that escapes, or expelled, from a burning body, especially from burning vegetable matter, as wood, coal, peat, or the like.

In the beginning, there was wood. The appeal of wood is primal, and with summer upon us, the transition to outdoor cooking calls.

Smoking is the process of flavouring, cooking or preserving food. Fish and meats are commonly subjected to this process; however, cheeses and vegetables along with some beverages such as Scotch whisky and lapsang souchong tea also benefit from smoke.

The Properties of Wood Smoke

Hardwoods are made up mostly of three materials: cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin. Cellulose and hemicellulose are the basic structural material of the wood cells; lignin acts as a kind of cell-bonding glue. Some softwoods — especially pines and firs — hold significant quantities of resin, which produces a harsh-tasting soot when burned. Because of this, these woods are generally not used for smoking.

Cellulose and hemicellulose are aggregate sugar molecules; when burnt, they effectively caramelize, producing sweet, flowery, and fruity aromas. Lignin, a highly complex arrangement of interlocked phenolic molecules, also produces a number of distinctive aromatic elements when burnt, including smoky, spicy, and pungent compounds like guaiacol, phenol, and syringol, and sweeter scents like the vanilla-scented vanillin and clove-like isoeugenol. Guaiacol is the phenolic compound most responsible for the "smokey" taste, while syringol is the primary contributor to smoky aroma. (Hui 512) Wood also contains small quantities of proteins, which contribute roasted flavors. Many of the odor compounds in wood smoke, especially the phenolic compounds, are unstable, dissipating after a few weeks or months.

A number of wood smoke compounds act as preservatives. Phenol and other phenolic compounds in wood smoke are both antioxidants, which slow rancidification of animal fats, and antimicrobials, which slow bacterial growth. Other antimicrobials in wood smoke include formaldehyde, acetic acid, and other organic acids, which give wood smoke a low pH — about 2.5. Some of these compounds are toxic to people as well, and may have health effects in the quantities found in cooking applications. The compounds best demonstrated to have long-term health consequences are the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, many of which are known or suspected carcinogens. Hotter wood fires make more PAHs; hot-burning mesquite produces twice as much as cooler-burning hickory.

Since different species of tree have different ratios of components, various types of wood do impart a different flavor to food. Another important factor is the temperature at which the wood burns. High-temperature fires see the flavor molecules broken down further into unpleasant or flavorless compounds. The optimal conditions for smoke flavor are low, smoldering temperatures between 300 and 400 °C (570–750 °F). This is the temperature of the burning wood itself, not of the smoking environment, which sees much lower temperatures. Woods that are high in lignin content tend to burn hot; to keep them smoldering requires restricted oxygen supplies or a high moisture content. When smoking using wood chips or chunks, the combustion temperature is often lowered by soaking the pieces in water before placing them on a fire.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (Redirected from Smoking (food))

So What Makes For A Good Smoke!!

In Europe, alder wood is the traditional choice, with oak and beech optional. In North America, hickory, mesquite, oak, pecan, alder, maple and fruit-tree woods such as apple, cherry and plum are commonly used.

Hickory takes the lead as King. It has a sweet flavour and some liken it to bacon; probably as so many commercial brands of bacon are flavoured with hickory. And as such, pork and lamb are a natural pairing with hickory smoke. Pecan is similar to hickory though milder and less bitter.

Mesquite is another popular choice with one of the hottest burns. It has a strong flavour similar to hickory, and is a good choice for all meat types including chicken and fish. Mesquite does contain a potent allergen responsible for respiratory problems for susceptible people. Take care.

Oak has a strong smoky flavour. There are two common types of oak: red and white. White oak has a longer burn rate than red. Some swear by red oak for their ribs.

Cherry, as well as other fruit-tree woods, is popular. It has a mild, sweet flavour. Take note that fruit tree woods does not produce fruit-flavoured smoke. Light meats, such as poultry, fish and sea foods benefit from these lighter, more mellow flavours. Experiment and give other fruit trees a try.

Maple wood produces a deeper smokier flavour, still mild and sweet. Try maple with poultry, pork and cheese. Birch is an acceptable substitute.

Jan's personal favourite– Alder. He says "It's just plain sweet".

Additionally, you could experiment with sawdust, chips, chunks and round wood. However, the chips and chunks are primarily for the back-yard griller; sawdust for the smoking and liquid smoke business and the round wood for the restaurant trade. Quality control is critical – watch for mold and fungus, insects and allergy sensitivities. Ensure your wood is resin (sap) free as it will burn causing flare-ups.

All these woods will naturally enhance the grilled experience. The differences are subtle. It comes down to personal and acquired tastes, just as with wine.

> "All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better."
> *~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Lastly, have you tried a Western red cedar plank for your bar-b-que salmon. Stunningly delicious!! Just remember to soak the plank in water well before using.

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