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Address Correction Requested

Spring In the Methow

Everyone has a favorite time of year and Spring is mine. We live in an area with few manmade diversions so when Mother nature puts on a show, we pay attention.

After five months of white, and a month of mud brown, the first green in the trees comes over this valley like an electric current, uplifting the soul with its energy. Close behind come the hillside wildflowers: bluebells followed by golden balsam root; Indian paint brush and lupine explode as the ground dries out. Bursts of color are followed by the wild blossoms, elderberry, serviceberry, wild strawberry and chokecherry which whiten sections of the landscape in a false frost, signaling the onset of summer. Last of all arrive the true fruits: cherry, apricot and apples, whose fragrance knocks you down when you venture into the orchards. Our glorious springtime blue skies will erupt with afternoon thunderheads but it's still too wet for the lightning to produce forest fires. Instead we can relish the brief rains that hold down the desert dust. As the snow recedes up the mountains, this road show moves with it, lasting from April (at valley level) until July (at the treeline of the highest peaks).

We invite you to come visit us at Bear Creek, check out the lumber and enjoy the magic!



Salesmen Mark Buck, left and Sy Bannick clearly back on the job.

Welcome Back

Salesmen Sy Bannick and Mark Buck returned to their respective offices in March to resume work as lumber salesmen.

Sy had been working in the main lumberyard for much of the past year after a long Y2K vacation. During his time off, he coached baseball. After the season ended, he was asked to fill a skilled position in the lumberyard for the remainder of the year. This spring, he returned to sales. Sy is looking forward to working with past clients as well as meeting new folks. His work in the yard gave him a better appreciation of the lumber products and grades. He knows the inventory as well as anyone in the company. He will be a great asset to anyone who needs his help.

Mark Buck was only gone for a few months, having taken a well deserved break from work. He spent his time in Mexico where he visited the Baja Peninsula. The Baja's fish population will be glad to hear Mark is back at his sales desk after he caught more than a few of them for his dinner! Mark is refreshed and ready to make some great deals on lumber products. He will be focusing on FSC (certified products) and helping people with boat building needs as well as with his line of saunas and sauna accessories.

We are happy to have both these fine lumber salesmen back on the job.

Customer Corner



Dear Sir,

We are still under construction, but 99% complete. Two years ago, for six weekends straight, Jimmie Childers, his cousin Kenny Childers and friend, Howard Bennett went to Kentucky to tear down a 1826 log cabin. This cabin as a 18 x 26 ft., 2 story, 4 room building. They put it back together as one room (the living room) Half of this room has a loft bedroom overlooking a dry stack fireplace (which will be built in the spring). This room has a cathedral ceiling made out of 2 x

6 tongue and groove pine. We want this room to have a hunting lodge look. The roof of this building has cedar shakes (pictured above right).

Attached is a timber peg barn, which is a 23 ft. square kitchen. This kitchen has a cobble stone floor, a Count Rumford fireplace and a cathedral ceiling made with 2 x 6 tongue and groove pine. The kitchen has a copper roof and will be covered with stone in the spring. Jimmie is shown working on the ceiling (pictured above left). He has gotten a lot of compliments on how nice it looks.

We purchased all the tongue and groove and cedar shakes from Bear Creek Lumber. Even after paying shipping, there was a substantial savings over what we could have bought locally. We have been blessed to have found you.

Love,

Jimmie and Lora Childers
Parker City, IN



Harper Project: 1 x 6 T&G Cedar V-Edge siding; cedar soffit and porch ceiling is 1 x 4 T&G V-joint; porch and decks are 5/4 x 4 radius edge. All Bear Creek material. Beautiful porch posts are eastern red cedar hand peeled, cut from customers property.

“I like the service and availability of hard-to-find stuff here in the east. Also fair prices. I also enjoy the newsletter, it is very balanced. I like the info on building trends, special interest articles on wood and carpentry.”

Dave Talbert
New World Homes
Millboro, VA

Here are some pictures from a job this last summer. Yellow Cedar, CCA frame, two curved corners. We do curves with 3/16” lams in a form, and a bunch of clamps. I really like Bordens Poll. glue and I use SuperDeck stain/sealer from over Chico, CA way. Shop built bench.

Lets Go Get Em!

John Hyatt /Deckmasters
Oklahoma City, OK

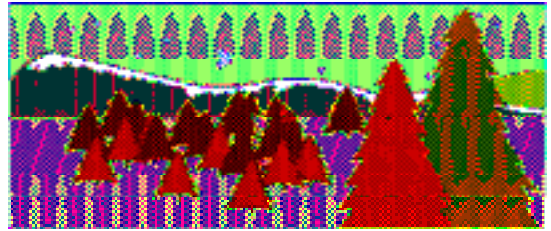
I clipped these two articles to illustrate the irony of the modern world. While some international efforts are creating net gains in forest and environmental preservation, the reality of the world is that often the more you try to protect, the more you end up alienating those whose alliance you need to preserve the fragile nature of that very habitat. We can throw a lot of money and lawsuits at people living in small communities, trying to protect wildlife but unless we also inspire those in the community to be part of the solution, we lose more than if we had left things on their own.

Readers, if you want to comment or add to information presented in this newsletter, technical or not, please feel free to send your ideas, info or pictures to me at the address listed below. Part of the uniqueness of this newsletter is the give and take we have with our readers. It also makes my job more interesting!

*Ela Bannick
TIMBERLINE Editor*



Industry News



Forestry Group Finds Global Deforestation Slowing

The rate of global deforestation is slowing, but huge swathes of forest still disappear each year, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said Monday. The Rome-based agency said the slowdown was mainly due to new plantations in Europe and the United States, where forest areas are actually increasing.

In global terms, the current rate of net forest loss amounted to nine million hectares per year, 20 percent lower than in 1995, the FAO said in its latest global forest survey. In Asia, new plantations are largely compensating for the reduction in natural forests, which are disappearing most rapidly in Africa and Latin America.

"These differences cannot be explained by population pressure on forests alone. Rather, they are apparently the result of economic developments at large, and national forest or land use policies," said FAO's Director-General Jacques Diouf.

"Forestry surveys should address, on a sustainable basis, further development of the forestry sector which constitutes a backbone of world food security," Diouf said.

Logging Economics Imperil Butterflies In Mexico

To regain protected forest land, loggers may have deliberately wiped out some 22 million monarch butterflies which migrate annually from Canada to Mexico for the winter, a top environmentalist said in March.

There has been a massive slaughter of the butterflies in two sanctuaries," Homero Aridjis, head of the environmental lobby Group of 100 told the press, "This will affect the reproduction process completely. Now we don't know how many butterflies will come this autumn."

Aridjis claims loggers sprayed pesticide on the orange and black butterflies in order to regain some 216 square miles of forest declared protected by the government. Millions of monarch butterflies migrate some 3,000 miles annually to flee the icy winter in Canada and the United States for the warmer fir forests in Mexico's central Michoacan state, some 70 miles west of Mexico City. For five months of the year, Michoacan's trees are turned into a flaming orange and the forest is carpeted with the delicate winged creatures. The migration has taken place for the past 10,000 years, Aridjis said. The butterflies normally arrive in early November and return north to lay eggs at the end of March.

In November last year, the government of former President Ernesto Zedillo extended the land devoted to five sanctuaries. The move was in response to a study showing that farming and illegal logging had destroyed 44 percent of the original forest since 1971. Without drastic action, the study predicted the original forest would disappear in under 50 years.

"The new decree could have prompted this," Aridjis said. "If there are no butterflies they can claim the trees without problem."

But government environmental watchdog Profepa said it had not heard of the butterfly slaughter, according to inspector Joel Rodriguez. "We haven't ever registered people using pesticides. But it's one of the zones where they have the most illegal logging," he said. "It (the butterfly deaths) could also be a result of the freezing this winter which happens every four or five years."

The U.S.-based nonprofit group Packard Foundation donated more than \$5 million to the Worldwide Fund for Nature to help the Mexican government rent or buy logging rights from local residents to compensate for lost income while developing alternative job sources. Aridjis said the loggers had targeted two sanctuaries -- Cerro San Andres and Las Palomas -- in the past two weeks.

"The wings of the butterflies found inert on the ground had a strange luster and there was a smell of pesticide and petrol in the sanctuaries," he said.

