



the raw material to craftsman and the other is to convert it to specialty products. By converting raw material into finished products, producers add market value to their products.

Specialty wood products represent a niche market where demand is increasing. Unlike mass produced items made from plastic or metal, each wood product is a one of a kind item handmade by native craftsman, and its appearance reflects the unique characteristics of each tree. The end products can be marketed to environmentally conscious consumers seeking high quality "one of a kind items" produced in an environmentally friendly manner.

CONCLUSION

Specialized wood products make creative use of wood materials that are typically considered to have little or no value. Purchase of wood produced on a sustainable basis helps to contribute to the viability of Rhode Island's forests. By providing an alternative source of income for landowners, specialty wood products promote the sustainable management of our forests and reduce the likelihood the land will

have to be sold to pay property management expenses.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Wood Turning Center
PO Box 25706
Philadelphia, PA 19144
(215) 844-2188



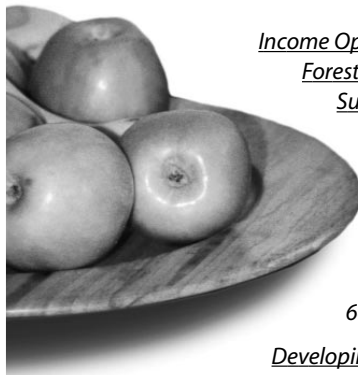
American Association of Woodturners
3499 Lexington Ave. N., Suite 103
Shoreview, MN 55126
(651)484-9094
<http://woodturner.org/>

National Wood Carvers Association
P.O. Box 43218
Cincinnati, Ohio 45243
<http://www.chipchats.org/>

Directory of Forest Science, Wood products, and Marketing. <http://www.forestdirectory.com/>

Portable Sawmills. About.com Forestry Guide.
<http://www.forestdirectory.com/>

Complete Guide to Wood Carving. Tangerman, Elmer J. Sterling Publications. 1984.



Income Opportunities in Special Forest Products: Self Help Suggestions For Rural Entrepreneurs. Thomas, Margaret G. and David R. Schumann. USDA Forest Service. Agriculture Information Bulletin 666. May 1993.

Developing a Custom Sawmilling

and Kiln-Drying Enterprise. Greason, Michael C. In *Proceedings, Natural Resources Income Opportunities for Private Lands Conference.* Hagerstown, MD April 1998.

Making Twig Furniture & Household Things. Ruoff, Abby, Sia Kaskamanidis, and Edward Turner. Hartley & Marks; 1999.

Turning Green Wood. O'Donnell, Michael. Guild of Master Craftsman Pubns Ltd. 2000

Country Woodworker: How to Make Rustic Furniture, Utensils, and Decorations. Hill, Jack and James Merrill. Chronicle Books; April 1997.

RI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & THE RURAL LANDS COALITION SUBCOMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE:

Rhode Island DEM:

Office of Strategic Planning & Policy
Division of Forest Environment
Division of Agriculture

Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization
Southern New England Forest Consortium
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

RI DEM, Division of Forest Environment
(401) 637-3367 or visit our website at:
www.state.ri.us/dem/forprod/forstprd.htm
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
(401) 828-1300

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How can I generate income on my forestland?



SPECIALTY WOOD PRODUCTS

as a sustainable land-based business

Sponsored by Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, in cooperation with the Rhode Island Rural Lands Coalition

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OVERVIEW

The unique characteristics of wood have made it a basic material for housing, furniture, tools, vehicles, and a multitude of other products throughout history. Although straight grained wood is valuable for its stability and uniformity, some craftspeople are looking for uncommon species or unusually shaped pieces of wood to create one of a kind artwork. Every item made is unique, its appearance shaped by the conditions the tree grew under and the techniques used to create a finished product.

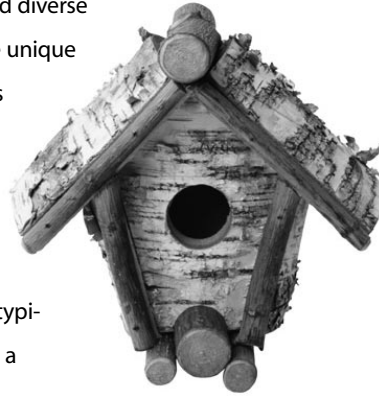
Specialty wood products include items made from trees, or parts of trees, that are not normally harvested in forestry operations. This could be due to tree species and form, or that the small volume of wood on the property makes traditional harvesting operations uneconomical. These raw materials can however be turned into valuable products by skilled artisans.

SPECIALTY WOOD PRODUCTS:

- Baskets
- Buckets
- Butcher blocks
- Rustic furniture
- Games
- Handles
- Lamps
- Planters
- Novelties and toys
- Walking sticks
- Dishes & bowls
- Household
- Decoys
- Craft wood
- Trellises

Management for specialty wood products may help prevent fragmentation of forestland by providing a way for forest landowners to pay their property expenses.

A wide variety of specialty wood products can be made from raw material available in Rhode Island's forests. Rustic furniture, material for carving and wood turning, as well as arts and crafts are among the many products. The product list is lengthy and diverse and all crafts are unique natural products since they are not produced from uniform pieces of wood typically available in a lumberyard.



WOOD TURNING

Wood turners make products like bowls, spindles, and art vessels by spinning a piece of wood on a lathe and using sharp tools to shape the wood. Wood turners obtain raw material (turning stock) by looking for sources where wood can be collected for free or by purchasing it. The American Association of Woodturners is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of woodturning. Their web site (www.woodturner.org/) provides a list of wood turning resources including companies selling equipment and supplies as well as links to local organizations. The Central New England Woodturners web site (<http://members.nbci.com/acmfox/cnew/>) lists contact information for members, information about

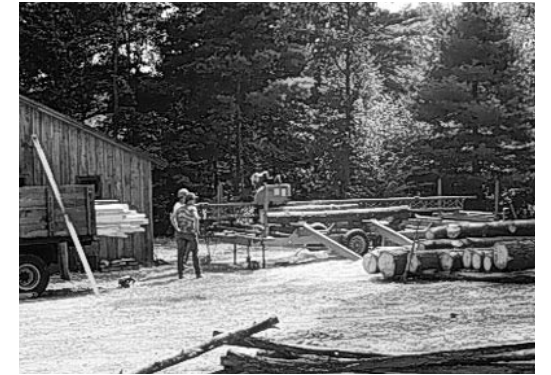
local craft shows, and links to other woodturning sites.

CARVING

Wood carvers use small or unusually shaped pieces of wood to create specialty items like clocks, wildlife carvings, toys, figurines, Christmas ornaments or gunstocks. Native tree species used include ash, birch, oak, red cedar or white pine. The National Woodcarvers Association maintains a web site (www.chipcats.org) that lists professional carvers, carving clubs, as well as carving resources.

RUSTIC FURNITURE

Rustic furniture, or twig furniture, uses small and unusually shaped trees to create furniture and accessories. The trees used are small, ranging in size from 1/2 to 6 inches in diameter, and usually have little value for other products. Native hardwood trees like sassafras, yellow, black and paper birch, ironwood, and pin cherry are used most frequently. Mountain laurel, red and white cedar can also be used. For more information about people buying material for specialty wood products contact, Rhode Island DEM, Division of Forest Environment at (401) 647-3367.



PORTABLE SAWMILLS

Portable sawmills produce only a small portion of the wood produced by the lumber industry, but their portability makes it practical to process trees ignored in conventional harvests. Pieces of wood deemed not commercially valuable because they're too short, too small, or not conforming to commercial lumber specifications can be used to create very useful material for woodworking.

Typically, a landowner contracts with the sawmill operator to process the trees into lumber, paying by the "board foot" of lumber produced. The lumber can then be sold to woodworkers or used by the forest owner. The material produced can be sold through newspaper ads or wood working web sites, like www.woodweb.com, where individuals post ads to buy or sell lumber or logs.

MARKETS

There are two marketing strategies for forestland owners to sell specialty wood products. One is to sell