



Top: This work bench emphasizes the wood's natural character.

Right: Rustic beam work is featured in Jay's Locust Log Pavilion.



Left: Bar stool still in process.

Below: Outdoor spigots don't have to be an eyesore in your garden.



HAND CRAFTED FURNITURE BY JAY EARLY

BY: ABIGAIL SUTTON



Finished decor table Jay crafted for his wife.



Decor table still in process.

Wood crafter, Jay Early is fairly new to the art and craft show scene, as his work is mainly just a hobby he started to make use of left over logs from worksites. An overwhelming customer response to his raw craftsman style of furniture may have surprised Jay at first but he is continuing to create beautiful handmade furniture for himself, his friends and art shows.

Originally from Reidsville, NC, Jay settled in Boone in 2003 and began working in land development with his brother. Worksites often needed to be cleared of logs and left over wood. He began bringing choice logs home and finding ways to turn them into functional pieces. Jay has always enjoyed wood working and any excuse to use a chainsaw in his spare time; this gradually segued into creating furniture and larger outdoor pieces for his own home, his friends and family.

Jay has only been creating furniture for the last five years or so and he is still building his repertoire. It has been a learn-by-doing process, he says, based on some trial and error until he achieves the result he wants. His creations are done in a finished but rustic style, the wood keeps its natural character and because no two trees are the same, no two finished pieces are the same either. The form of each piece is fairly simple yet the natural rings, grain and knots in the wood create stunningly unique patterns.

Jay's talent for wood working extends beyond furniture to outdoor structures as well. He constructed a pavilion on his property out of locust logs left over from a job site. He left the logs in their raw form so the structure fits seamlessly into the wooded area surrounding it. The large structure is perfect for entertaining and enjoying cool mountain evenings. Though he makes all manner of tables, work benches and even lamps, Jay creates benches and bar stools the most. They are a great accent piece for any room and the polished yet natural appearance would fit with a cabin décor style beautifully.

Jay's first time presenting his work at an art show was just this past May. A friend was hosting the bi-annual collaborative art and crafting show, "The Art Party!" She had invited him to participate and he thought he would give it a try just for fun. "I hadn't sold many pieces before" Jay said "I mostly gave a lot away as Christmas gifts". His first show was a great success; every piece he brought was sold within the first hour. Based on the great response to his work, Jay plans on being involved in more "Art Party!" shows in the future.