

Wood Lake Scout Reservation

Ranger made products.

All items made by the Ranger Staff are produced to give patrons a piece of camp to take and enjoy the beauty of the forest in their own home. We hope that looking at the item brings fond memories of their time spent at camp.

A second benefit is that the proceeds from the sale are put back into the shop and tools that make maintenance and product manufacture possible.

All wood used in making the products are taken from trees that have fallen, damaged or selected by the Conservation Committee or Properties Committee for removal. No tree is felled solely to provide building material for these projects.

The boxes are made by the entire Ranger Staff. Most boxes are hand fitted and finished to insure no box is exactly alike. The tree limb or trunk is placed on our sawmill, and cut into 1" slabs. The wood is taken to Sollitt Lodge on the south side of the lake and stacked using stickers between each board to insure even and complete drying. Wood takes about one year per inch to dry. After drying, the wood is brought to the shop and joined, planed and cut to detention. Sanding and finishing is the last step after it has been signed and dated. If known, the box will also state what type of wood and where the tree was located.

The bowls are a new experience. Currently Ranger George is the only one turning. Bowl blanks are cut while the wood is wet. These blanks are then roughly turned to shape and then soaked in denatured alcohol or placed in a paper bag with wood shaving. If the alcohol method of drying is used, the blank will be ready for turning in six to eight weeks. If bag drying is used it takes about a year before the final turning. Just as in the boxes, bowls are signed and dated along with declaring where the wood is from and what species.

Furniture making is a hobby that Ranger George has enjoyed for years. While new to the Ranger Staff tool fund sales, he hopes to be able to make one or two pieces every year. Like boxes, wood is brought from Sollitt Lodge and dimensioned. Most of his furniture is a combination of machine and hand tools. Most joinery is done with hand tools. All furniture is solid hardwood.