



PRSTD STD
 US Postage
 PAID
 Ithaca NY
 Permit No. 780

Volume 20 Number 4 May 2006
 P.O. Box 669 Winthrop, WA 98862
 www.bearcreeklumber.com

In This Issue

Knotty Pine Takes the Prize
More Customer Pictures
Of Trees and Bears
McMansions Unwelcome
Industry News
More Clean Up Specials



What You Should Know About Bear Creek Lumber Lead Times

Bear Creek Lumber ships to destinations all over the globe. When you order from this company, how long will it take to receive your order?

Every order is different. While the company carries over a million board feet of inventory, many of our sales involve special order materials.

These can come from as far away as Asia and Africa, or as close as the mill next door. Getting products to our facility can be done in a matter of days or it can take weeks or months to process. Milling usually involves several weeks time, as can pre-staining and other special services. Add it all together and it takes time.



Time tables for custom orders

30-45 days minimum (in-stock orders only, 120-180 days maximum for products from other mills) Expect no less than 30 days from receipt of payment to time of delivery. Multiple special order requests can add to any of the times listed below.

Specifically:

Cedar beams, especially high end, long lengths	3-4 months
Pre-stain Services	4-6 weeks
Custom Milling	30 days
Kiln Drying	30-90 days

Other factors that add time to delivery:

Containerized/overseas and international shipments; non-stock items (45-60 days); whether truck is available to the area shipment is going to; special shipping such as to islands. Also, Bear Creek Lumber can not be responsible for delays by third parties, such as other mills or service centers. We make every effort to expedite shipments. Sometimes additional fees can be added to speed delivery, such as the customer paying for the entire trucking cost, as opposed to sharing the cost with another order. Air freight services are also available for additional fees.

Walk-in/will call local sales

Bear Creek Lumber has a policy of taking orders and delivering them as time and capacity allow. These orders can be readily available or may take a few days to process. We process orders in the order in which they are received. The more lead time a customer gives to Bear Creek Lumber, the more likely our company can meet the schedule needed by the customer. Our sales staff may try to offer a shipment schedule but it can change based on factors that involve both in-coming and out-going freight, mill processing availability, the volume the service provider already has and what time of year the order is placed.



Knotty Pine Takes the Prize!

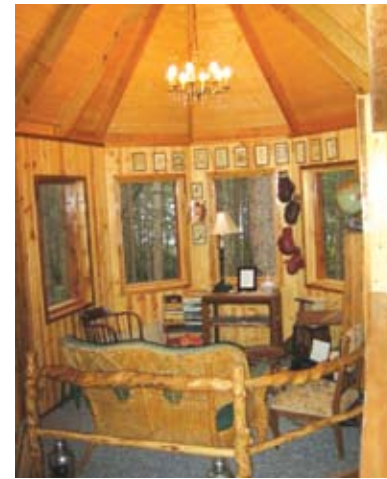
photos by Mike and Julie Curley
 See Story on Page 2

Knotty Pine Takes the Prize

Photo contest winners Mike and Julie Curley of John's Island, WA built their dream home with Bear Creek Lumber. The variety of pictures, and the story won them an iPod shuffle. Here is their story:



(Our Bear Creek Lumber knotty pine tongue and groove) was delivered to the Roche Harbor Boat Launch via your truck driver who was really nice! It was unloaded onto the ground. We then hand packed it into our 21 foot open boat, drove it to John's Island (6 trips), hand packed it up a pebble beach, loaded it into a hand cart, pushed it about 200 yards UP hill to our house, unloaded it into the house, brought it to the saw, then finally, nailed her up! We know each piece personally.



Knotty Pine tongue and groove from Bear Creek Lumber

There is no power on our island so we ran a generator for our saw. Quite a job and so glad to be enjoying it now. We get so many compliments on the character of the knotty pine and we will never tire of looking at it.

Thank you again!

Regards,

Mike and Julie Curley

What You Should Know

continued from front page

Your order and its paperwork

Bear Creek Lumber salespeople process many inquiries and have paperwork which they must fill out to be able to finalize your order. Before you sign off on that paperwork, take time to review and go over everything line by line with your salesperson. The salesperson will have notes that go on to the yard, where the order will be built. Specifics are important to all concerned. Because the company has set descriptions, the item you may need may not be listed and a substitute is. Your salesperson will note what product is to be used and how it needs to be altered to meet your needs. The more complete the information, the better the contract that will exist between you and Bear Creek Lumber!

Payment terms

Bear Creek Lumber generally works with pre-payment as its only term. For long term commercial customers, accounts may be set up, but because we ship all over the world, we prefer pre-payment. Customers may make a amount of deposit (50-75%) to start up the order, but products will not be shipped unless paid in full. Any C.O.D. amounts will be charged a surcharge for third party collection (this can be \$150 or more).



Delivery Terms

It is the customer's responsibility to off load the product they have purchased, either by hand or preferably by forklift. If the delivery location is not suitable for larger trucks, it is the responsibility of the customer to let the salesperson know the location of a site suitable for a large truck to be unloaded. Maps should be sent prior to delivery, so that the truck driver has the best information. We also need a phone number for the driver to call when they are ready to schedule delivery. Customers will always be contacted prior to the delivery. They should also try to contact the driver themselves so as to be able to discuss any details a driver should know about the delivery sites prior to arrival.



Peeled fir logs from Bear Creek Lumber

INDUSTRY NEWS

It's Out With the Old and In With the New?

McMansions Unwelcome

A man's home may be his castle but should it tower castlelike over the rest of the neighborhood? Communities across the country are grappling with the issue that has been labeled the "tear-down phenomenon," where wealthy buyers replace turn-of-the-century bungalows on tiny lots with so-called McMansions. From Delaware to Georgia to California and Florida, historic homes are being demolished and replaced with 6,000-square-foot palatial properties.

There exists a battle in neighborhoods and cities across Texas -- and nationwide -- over property rights and neighborhood ambience, new developments and old traditions. In Austin, Texas neighborhoods, with their long, distinctive histories, homeowners and speculative developers are tearing down older homes and replacing them with sparkling, mammoth houses that many think are better suited to the suburbs than the narrow blocks of inner cities. Average home sizes have more than doubled in recent decades, and as cities fight sprawl and commuters tire of traffic, more people are moving into urban centers. The result: large, out-of-scale homes and towering townhouses that brew conflict and resentment.

Cities are dealing with it in various ways, by offering incentives to builders to model homes on the neighborhood's characteristic, or adopting neighborhood-friendly size restrictions for new homes. Austin already regulates the amount of land a particular development or house can cover on a single lot. The new rules, and some that are under consideration, include restricting how much a homeowner can expand a home and how far back from the property line a home can be built.

In DelRay Beach, Florida the tear-down phenomenon is creating a fear of losing history, as well as community character. Historic homes often have prime locations near city centers, making them attractive to wealthy buyers and developers wanting to snap up scarce urban land. But the trend is also appearing in more contemporary neighborhoods, due to the increase in the average size of homes in the United States in the past 20 years, growing from 1,905 square feet in 1987 to 2,349 square feet in 2004, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

Although the argument for the new construction is a larger tax base, and the right of the individual property owner. Tradition, including the perceptions of neighbors and community historical societies, may slow this trend down as cities and towns start to lose their distinctive character.



Of Trees and Bears

The whitebark pine tree has been disappearing during the past 100 years because of an exotic fungus, hungry beetles and wildfire suppression, leaving only a few stands in the Selkirk Mountains of Northern Idaho. This pine tree is a critical food source for grizzly bears, birds and other forest animals.

Local rangers and researchers have been working to save the tree, but federal budget cuts could serve as another obstacle to the tree's restoration. About \$50,000 used to help save the trees has been left out of the Forest Service's budget. The money has been used in the past to grow new seedlings and to protect them from other plants and animals. Grizzly bears west of the continental divide depend on seeds in the trees' cones for about 40 percent of their diet. The seeds are a rich source of fat, protein and carbohydrates and readily available for bears emerging from hibernation, said Robert Keane, a research ecologist with the Forest Service in Missoula, Mont.

Scientists also have noted that the trees' decline may be a reason for the decline in the number of bears in Idaho. The Forest Service is cutting back competing tree species and using seedlings from wild parent trees and placing them in a greenhouse to ensure maximum survival. At a time when the bears actual endangered status is being questioned, the correlation between bear and tree has never been more important.

