

Woodworking on the wild side in Sisters Country

By Katy Yoder
Correspondent

Adam Bronstein has two passions: fly-fishing and woodworking. He moved to Sisters from New Hampshire back in July; his reason for choosing Sisters is simple—Trout.

Bronstein took some time away from shop production work to talk about his craft and the business he is building in Central Oregon. “I’ve traveled all around the country fishing,” he said from his shop on Ash Street, “but I always seemed to come back here.”

A regular along the Metolius River, Bronstein is sinking roots in Sisters. His business, Spring Creek Woodworking, is gaining recognition for creations ranging from cutting boards to massive dining-room tables.

His signature creations exhibit the figuring and unique characteristics found through careful wood selection. Often keeping the “live edge” intact. He keeps his designs simple and prefers to alter the wood as little as possible.

“I try to bring out the inherent beauty of figured woods to the maximum extent possible. This is accomplished through finishing techniques that I have developed over the years; techniques that I am continually trying to improve upon. For me, it boils down to letting the wood speak for itself. There is so much beauty to be teased out,” he said.

Bronstein is challenged and inspired by the projects

he undertakes. “Fine furniture building is just like fly-fishing for wild, wary trout. They both present an opportunity for a lifetime of learning and discovery.”

A burl coffee table in his studio comes alive with swirls and grain that continue to reveal more and more texture and detail. Each piece that Bronstein builds is one-of-a-kind and is created with his hands only. His burl coffee table will be donated to My Own Two Hands for the Sisters Folk Festival’s fundraising auction in May.

Largely self-taught, Bronstein was always a do-it-yourselfer who loved a challenge.

“Once I research it, I can usually accomplish it,” he said. A real student of the craft, Bronstein is learning all the time. “I learn from the woodworkers who came before me. These methods have been passed down since ancient times.”

Spring Creek Woodworking offers products from \$50 cutting boards to 10-foot-long, majestic walnut slab tables that fetch \$6,000. He has many mid-range options available as well that he hopes will give more people access to quality, handcrafted furniture.

“Part of my mission is to provide quality, affordable furniture that lasts a lifetime,” he said. “It’s true that they don’t make it like they used to. Buying a handcrafted piece of furniture is practicing sustainability. If you buy a cheap piece of furniture it will end up in the landfill

instead of being passed on to your kids. I create furniture that adds aesthetic beauty to any room and can be enjoyed and used every day.”

Bronstein puts a lot of energy into sourcing his wood and vetting wood sources. The larger slabs he uses are salvaged urban trees.

“The urban trees grow so large because they are not competing for sunlight and water in the forest alongside other trees. They grow big and often gnarly. And the gnarlier, the better. That’s usually where the best figuring can be found.”

Adam welcomes new clients and the opportunity to create something unique and intriguing.

“If you can think of it, I can probably build it,” he said. “Custom tables, desks, beds, chest of drawers, gun cabinets ... you name it,” said Bronstein. Currently, Bronstein is working with galleries in Napa and Sonoma. “I appreciate the work and their interest in what I do, but I want to work mostly locally.”

He hopes to focus on direct sales and plans on doing some local shows in Sisters and Bend this year. He will be at the Camp Sherman store over Memorial Day and Fourth of July. No doubt, his new home location will make it easier for him to slip away and get a little fly-fishing in between sales.

To learn more about Adam Bronstein’s work and to contact him, visit his website at www.springcreekwoodworking.com.

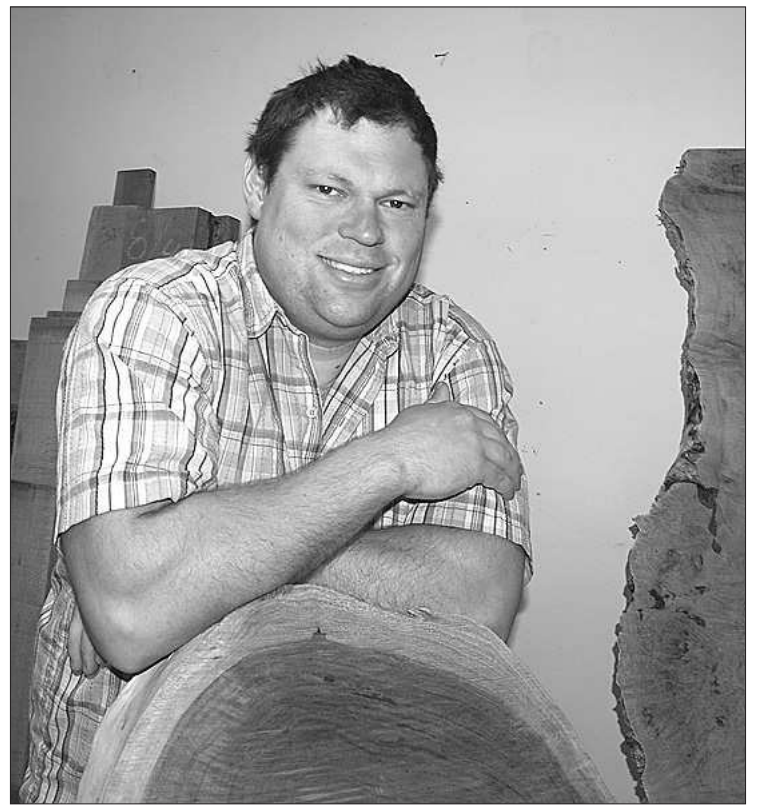


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