



a natural state

Artist: Phil Greene

Video 4: The Wood Barn

Phil Greene: Uh, this is ebony from Africa. It's called gaboon ebony. It's black...very dense. You put this in water, it will sink, without a doubt. And very expensive. A board like this is worth about forty dollars.

This is basically how much wood it takes to build one canoe. Normally, when I build a canoe, I use lumber that's twenty feet long for the hull but, in this case, we'll have to take small boards like this and splice them together to make planks that are twenty feet long. And then we'll cut them into strips.

All right, we can move on to this, this pile of red lumber here. Tim, you want to tell them about that...

Tim Greene: Sure.

Phil Greene: ...that red lumber?

Tim Greene: I had somebody call and ask me to come cut up a red cedar tree. It was huge. It was about three feet in diameter. They had had a tow truck pull it over. And then it's on the ground, they were saying, "We don't have a saw big enough to cut that. What do we do with it now?" So, they called me, and I come and cut it up.

I took out some real interesting pieces, which we'll get to in a little while. They were very, you know, snarly...ideal for my media. I cut some up...cut some scraps off. Phillip was looking at the scraps and he said, "Wow! If you have some straight pieces, let me know." "Well, the straight pieces are still back on the job." So we got back in my dump truck and went and filled up my dump truck with the rest...

Phil Greene: And this is the results.

Tim Greene: ...and brought it out here.

Phil Greene: And then this is a little bit different. This is macassar ebony. And macassar ebony...instead of being pitch black, is, is nearly black. And you have some, some wood grain showing through there...lighter colors and darker stripes. And it's also equally as hard to work with as, as gaboon ebony.

This is bloodwood. You can see how red that is. That's natural color. This is not stained. And what I'll do is I'll build the boat primarily out of this bloodwood, and then I'll put the pinstripes and maybe plug

some holes. You can see this little black dot. This is an ebony plug. And so there'll be little ebony highlights all over this whole boat. If...this boat I would actually try to sell to somebody that was, say, a South Carolina Gamecocks fan.

This is a piece of bird's-eye maple. This is probably the best piece of bird's-eye maple I've ever had in my shop. Very expensive and extremely hard to find a piece of this quality. And when I say quality, what I mean is, this many eyes. There's just...there's almost as many eyes as there is non-eyes.

We actually will take a piece like this and we'll, we'll use a...we'll use a sandblaster on it and clean it up. And then we'll turn it in different directions, and we hold a paddle at an angle across it. And when we find a direction, or an orientation, that the paddle looks good on, then we'll start carving away at it so that the paddle fits in it.

Some people like this because it's a rough, coarse medium, with a finely tuned piece of art on top of it.