

OUR TOWN

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SECTION B, PAGE 7

A return to the Lakes Region spurs local woodworker's creativity

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TUFTONBORO — It feels good to come back to the Lakes Region, says Nicholas Moore. A summer resident of Sandwich from the ages of three through 16, Moore returned in retirement to those New Hampshire roots with the purchase and rebuilding of a camp on Chase Point around five years ago. Nestled in the woods, it's around 900 square feet, retaining the simple charm of life along the shoreline.

This past year was the first in which he remained through the winter. He says that when he shared with a friend the decision to eschew winter in Carmel, Calif. for winter in Tuftonboro, he added that he had a project to work on. The friend suggested that he'd better have a number of projects to last until spring.

That wasn't a problem. He spent considerable time in his workshop turning wood into bowls, platters, vases, and custom pieces, an activity that can absorb his attention for hours at a time. He says, if his wife is not there, the sun can set without notice as he shapes wood into new forms, each different from the last. He has put some of his pieces on display at the Tuftonboro Free Library this July, and is willing to part with some. He's donating



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The ambrosia beetle is responsible for the interesting patterns in this chunk of maple. At left, is a deep bowl, turned by Nicholas Moore, placed on its side to show how those markings can be used to artistic effect.



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Nicholas Moore holds up a bowl made of ash wood with an ash tree as a backdrop. The bowl retains a natural bark edging and pattern suggested by the wood as Moore turned it into its present form.

a portion of any proceeds to the library.

Before we enter the workshop, he points out stumps of trees outside the building from which particular items in the exhibit were made. Inside, there's a grouping of bulky sections of tree trunks that he's gathered from the area. He says he spotted some good prospects along Union Wharf Road cast

aside by a tree crew. They were glad to let him have them, so here they are, awaiting inspiration.

Moore knows places to buy wood in the area, including exotic woods, which he also enjoys working with, but he can't resist seeing potential in the wood close by. He explains that each piece he makes is dictated by



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Nicholas Moore sits among a collection of wood discarded from a tree cutting operation along Union Wharf Road and offerings from arborist Shayne Lovering of Lovering Tree Care.



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Moore applies a tool to the outer side of a piece of poplar he has hollowed out into a bowl, shaving away wood as he turns it along the curving surface.

the form presented by Lovering, of Lovering Tree Care, brings him

interesting specimens, burls — those gnarly protuberances on tree trunks, and a section of ambrosia maple with a splatter of grey emanating from the center out, the work of ambrosia beetles, which awaits his attention.

There's one particular small bowl that he says is the most insignificant piece of work in terms of quality but the most sentimental by far. It comes from a piece of wood from a fallen tree on Melvin Island. He and his wife enjoyed watching a beautiful Bald Eagle perch atop the tree almost daily in the summer time. When the tree was taken down to avoid danger to campers, Nicholas and his wife paddled out to retrieve a piece of it. He made a small bowl, named it Eagle's Perch, and set it on a window sill in sight of the island.

Moore's retirement from a career in institutional sales for broker and investment banking firms has given him the opportunity to return to an interest in woodworking that began at age 13. He has a seemingly unending supply of natural resources closeby to engage his imagination and his skills gained with more than 150 hours of intense instruction and hours of practice. To enjoy photographs of his work, visit arrowwood-turning.com.