

Sacksteder lines each box with leather because "my boxes will last hundreds of years, so any felt or velvet fabric would disintegrate."

Sized from a few inches upwards, boxes are available in African Blackwood, Pink Ivory, Swamp Kauri, Lacey She Oak, recovered Oak barn wood, Snakewood, Oregon Myrtle Burl and Washington State Maple Burl, to name a few.

"African Blackwood, one of the hardest woods in the world and very stable, is a member of the rosewood family found in South Africa," he said. "It was used to make clarinet musical instruments, but there's little instrument quality left."

"All of mine is recovered wood, pieces of wood left over from conservation projects."

Pink Ivory, a rare African wood found in forests from Swaziland to South Africa to Botswana, "is one of the rarest in the world," Sacksteder said. "Called the Wood of Kings because only kings of tribes possess it, it's a capital offense to cut it down."

"My source was harvested from a valley flooded for a hydroelectric dam project and no more can be cut, period," he said. "It's my most expensive wood."

New Zealand Swamp Kauri resulted when a natural disaster "40,000 years ago, or so, wiped out and buried Kauri trees in the top quarter of New Zealand," he said. "It's preserved, not petrified or rotted, wood and

Craftsman Kris Sacksteder, of Weird Woods, show some of his hand-made treasures.

theories from earthquake to meteorite to tsunami try to explain the origin of the disaster."

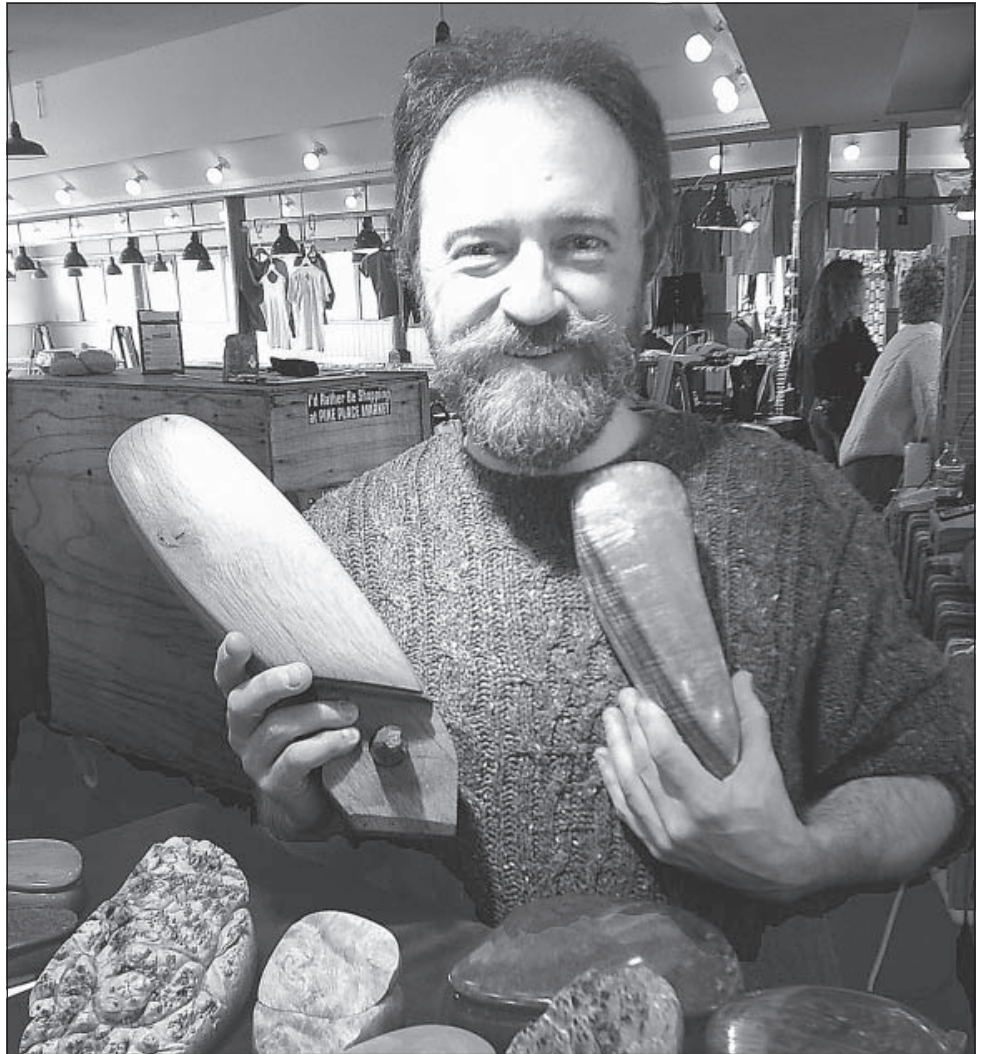
Lacey She Oak contains a lacy pattern found in one out of 100 Western Australia She Oaks. "The lacy growth is a mutation, maybe a genetic defect, probably triggered by some form of stress," Sacksteder said. "It's rare, occurs only around the town of Denmark in Western Australia."

"My recovered barn wood boxes are made from Red Oak recovered from a New England barn built in the early 1800s," he said. "These are boxes made from four-by-four roof rafters wooden pegged to wall supports."

Surinam Snakewood, patterned like skin on a snake's back, is found in Surinam, at the northeast corner of South America. "It's my rarest wood, considered by wood workers to be the rarest in the world."

His English Brown Oak, "from 1,000-year-old trees cut down for naval ships built during England's war with Napoleon, is another rare wood," he said. "For my clocks, I smooth the wood on the clock face and

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