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## NC URBAN WOOD GROUP

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### In this Issue

This month, we hid from the heat in the air conditioning and sought shade in Charlotte. We visit with Damon Barron at Carolina Urban Lumber. We meet the a giant woodchip processor from Rotochopper. We take a brief look at some online resources and news stories. And, finally, we get a look at what is going on in the field with Christian Edens of Asheville Arborcare.

My email address is below and at the end of the newsletter for joining or unsubscribing. Please contact me direct for your questions and concerns.

Thanks!

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*The NC Urban Wood Group is a combined effort of the NCFS Urban & Community Forestry Program and the NCUFC*



In June, I stopped in at Carolina Urban Lumber on Old Pineville Road in Charlotte for a visit with Damon Barron. Damon is hard at work reclaiming urban wood from the Charlotte area and putting it to use any way he can. From dimensional lumber to artisan pieces. From firewood to a kindling wood delivery service. Damon even cuts to order for wood burning pizza ovens. When I dropped by he had a supply of tulip poplar and white oak air drying in the tent.



He has a Lucas Mill for larger logs, a Timber King band mill and a kiln drier all on site.

Damon currently works on a “free drop off with barter” system. This means that he accepts a number of loads to be dropped off at no charge. As you can expect, some of the wood is of low-quality or has metal in it. The barter part comes in when Damon needs that removed from the site. If you can dispose of a few loads for free and only have to haul away the really bad stuff, that’s not a bad trade. He also uses the barter system to help clean up his operation site. You can dispose of logs for free, but you might have to trade some chipper time as his operation expands. Even with his on-site expansion he is always looking to save the best trees on the site. A visit on a hot day shows you how important the shade is.

For more information and some pictures of his products, visit the [Carolina Urban Lumber Facebook site](#).



## We Have Met the Enemy and He is Us... Pogo

Urban wood utilization, as with most things in life can be good, fast and cheap. But only if you are willing to choose 2. Wood utilization can be good and fast, but won’t be cheap. It can be good and cheap, but won’t be fast. And, finally urban wood utilization can be fast and cheap, but the end product isn’t really much good. That brings us to the new Rotochopper B-66T. Heck, it is big, portable and sexy (why else have it in red?). It is a beast at 950 horsepower. It has tank treads and a remote control! It is every waste manager’s dream. How do we make big, heavy stuff small and light? What is the fastest way of dealing with storm damage? What is the quickest way of “getting rid” of “landscape waste”?

Is it easier to convince a municipality that urban wood isn’t a waste product, or is it easier to sell a municipality a wonder machine that handles it all? Now I am not bashing Rotochopper. Heck, I want one... But, when you see what this thing does to 22 logs in less than 4 minutes, how do we work at getting urban wood recognized as a resource, not a waste? If time is money, this thing is almost an ATM.

The following video link is graphic not for the wood product sensitive:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzEL1YmnMAc>

## On Line Resources

### [Hats off to an urban wood pioneer](#)—By Rich Christianson

For those of us who think the concept of converting dead or dying urban trees into valuable lumber is a 21st century construct, think again.

I literally stumbled upon this YouTube video of a Sept. 17, 1993 report from ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings. In fact, I was only the second viewer when I did so. It's about George Hessesenthalen of Salt Lake City, UT. He was inspired to start Uniquet Industries, a business focused on turning logs destined for landfills into value-added lumber.

### [Cutting the cost of urban forestry](#)

BY REBECCA WALLACE - USDA - FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY

Removing urban trees is an ongoing and necessary process for protecting public safety, eliminating conflicts within the built landscape, and promoting forest health. But felling, bucking, transporting, and processing removed trees is a costly process.

Researchers have previously cataloged ways to generate profit from the recovered logs as a means to making the process more affordable. In this current study, [Forest Products Marketing Unit Program](#) Manager Rusty Dramm is working with partners to identify process improvements that can reduce the costs of urban forest management.

For more information, see this [Research In Progress](#) report.

### [Salvaging Urban Wood with a Wood-Mizer Sawmill](#)

New York Heartwoods is paving the way as a model for future businesses interested in becoming a part of the growing urban wood industry. By Megan Offner

As Wood-Mizer owners utilize the benefits of their portable, thin-kerf sawmills, they are discovering economically and environmentally effective solutions to salvage fallen and diseased city trees that would've otherwise gone to waste. Learn how Megan Offner and her social enterprise, New York Heartwoods, is paving the way as a model for future businesses interested in becoming a part of the growing urban wood industry.

### [Salvaging Urban Logs](#)

The Norwood HD36 band saw mill is the ideal machine for milling urban lumber and turning “trash” to “treasure.” By Dave Boyt

How many times have you taken down a tree and wondered whether there just might possibly be more than firewood, mulch, or—as is all too often the case—landfill material? Conventional wisdom is that lumber comes from trees, and trees come from forests, not out of someone's yard. The stuff that comes out of yards is waste.

### [Dovetail Partners mid-year report is available here.](#)

As we do twice per year (June and December), this month offers a chance to play catch-up! This month's newsletter is a recap of things that we've been working on during the first half of 2015 - and a chance to catch our breath before the second half!

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## [Photos](#)



Photo Credits to Christian Edens, an ISA certified arborist with Asheville Arborcare. A common use for urban forest waste is firewood. Although Christian and Asheville Arborcare were not involved in the heritage tree removal on the right, a unique club house was built on the stump in the Montford area.  
[www.ashevillearborcare.com](http://www.ashevillearborcare.com)



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