

Subject: : Fly Tying

Topic: : What's your tying setup look like?

Re: What's your tying setup look like?

Author: : Fishidiot

Date: : 2010/12/7 22:24:20

URL:

Quote:

jdaddy wrote:

Quote:

Wow. Now that's a serious tying set up - nice!

Thanks. My carpentry skills far exceed my tying skills.

This will probably be of interest to you, Fishidiot. I had the opportunity a number of years ago to harvest a few select maple trees from the battlefield in Gettysburg. I lucked out and found some of the most amazing heavily figured curly maple. Really awesome stuff, with a historical significance of sorts (trees not that old but was on a famous national battle ground park). Getting them out of there was tough, as we could not impact the "landscaping". Anyway, we took them out, hand sawed the logs, solar kiln dried. All of this was done with traditional hand tools. I donated a good bit of the stuff I produced, gave a lot to friends and family that were into that type of history. The cool thing is I got to really refine my hand tool skills, while producing items that allowed for a fair amount of error in the learning curve. We used traditional finishes as well. I still have a few hundred board feet in a storage shed over in Ephrata. I have got to get back on that some day.

Neat story. I agree that wood from the battlefield, esp from very old trees ("witness trees" we call em) has some sentimental value. I'm told there was a time not too long ago that saw mills looked askance at lumber from around G-burg, esp oak and walnut, due to the problem of shrapnel and bullets in the wood that supposedly could damage saws. Whether it's true or not I don't know but we certainly do have hundreds of local trees that were standing during the battle. We lose a couple every year and woodworkers nowadays seem eager to get the wood for these sentimental reasons.