



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2008

Contact:
Sue Publicover
(207) 752-4802
info@clearlakefurniture.com

CLEARLAKE FURNITURE GOES FROM TREE TO TABLE FOR LUDLOW HEALTH CENTER.

LUDLOW, VT — There's a lot of talk about "going green" these days. Living and working in an environmentally friendly manner is not just a trend, but a necessary habit. The craftsmen at ClearLake Furniture, already a "green" business located in Vermont's Green Mountains, provided a strong remedy to Ludlow Health Center's growing pains by turning a felled tree into a beautiful piece of furniture.

When nearby Ludlow Health Center was preparing to move its practice to a more centralized location, they focused on finding providers that shared their commitment to conservation. The construction plan of restoring and expanding a brick farmhouse required the removal of two maple trees—each more than 100 years old—in order to make room for the necessary addition. The doctors didn't want the trees to be wasted and hoped to turn the maples into a conference table for the new center.

Several employees of ClearLake Furniture, a hand-crafting furniture company founded in 1992, were patients of physicians at the clinic and heard about the project. One of those employees, craftsman [Doug Ficken](#), drove over to check it out and learned that the doctors hoped to salvage as much wood as possible from the majestic maples. With tremendous width—one was 43 inches in diameter and the other measured 39 inches—the trees would provide plenty of lumber for a furniture project.

Ficken and the project manager for Ludlow Medical Center's construction project cut the trees in August, limbing them to make the lumber as long as possible. The trees were sent to the local mill in September. The wood was air-dried for several months and then kiln-dried to make it furniture grade lumber. When the wood was delivered to ClearLake Furniture, Ficken and his colleagues were surprised to find bits of copper embedded in the wood, remnants of electrical wires that had grown into the trees. Both the craftsmen and the doctors saw these flecks as character, not flaws, so Ficken carefully selected lumber to incorporate the copper specks into the construction.

"This is exactly the type of challenge that jump-starts our imagination and uses our skills," says Ficken. "Our whole team of craftsmen pitched in with ideas because we were all inspired to create something wonderful from those beautiful maples."

Ficken customized a mission style conference table for Ludlow Health Center and even built it himself. The finished table, measuring four feet wide and ten feet long, was completed just a few weeks after the lumber was delivered to ClearLake Furniture. After maneuvering the massive table — all in one piece — up to the second floor of the renovated building, the maple conference table presents far more than a beautiful contrast to the dark woodwork in the building. It is a lasting tribute to the heritage of the historic property.

—more—



ClearLake Furniture goes from tree to table...
Page 2 of 2

ClearLake Furniture designs and handcrafts custom furniture, one piece at a time, in a 19th century barn that they renovated for their large workshop and showroom. Owner [Brent Karner](#) is a master woodworker who trained at the world-renowned North Bennet Street School in Boston where he honed his skills in age-old woodworking techniques, like interlocking joints, splined miters, and dovetails. Karner's team of skilled craftsmen focuses on creating heirloom furniture, one piece at a time. For more information, visit www.clearlakefurniture.com or call 800-758-8767.

###