

# THE GOOD INVESTOR

FIRST QUARTER 2005

*Chittenden*  
SOCIALY RESPONSIBLE BANKING

## Furniture handcrafted from earth-friendly hardwoods

We are proud to introduce one of our Socially Responsible Banking loan recipients, ClearLake Furniture. Their gallery and workshop is located on Route 100 in Ludlow in an old restored barn nestled between southern Vermont's mountains and some of its most beautiful lakes.

ClearLake Furniture is a great example of our program's focus on supporting conservation. They are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), an independent, nonprofit, non-governmental organization made up of environmental institutions, timber and trade organizations, forestry professionals, and community forestry groups, just to name a few.

Wood certified by the FSC is guaranteed to come from a well-managed forest - a forest that will provide wood products, while also providing wildlife habitat, clean air, recreation, and natural beauty for generations to come. ClearLake's FSC certification means that they are part of the "chain of custody" which follows



*Belmont table and ClearLake dining chairs.*

a particular tree from a particular forest through the process of being crafted into a beautiful piece of furniture.

ClearLake purchases wood from companies who are paying attention to the environmental and social impacts of logging. "We have seen aerial photographs of the forests where our wood is harvested from and were impressed by the buffer zones around all streams and waterways and the ban on logging from steep

grades that might cause erosion," said Brent Karner, co-owner of ClearLake.

"Our livelihood comes from the forests," said Brent. "We feel good, and our customers will too, knowing that we're buying wood from folks who harvest it responsibly. We are taking action to protect the integrity of our forests."

ClearLake was created in 1992 by Brent, master craftsman,

and Frank Procopio, designer. Brent honed his skill in the art of fine woodworking at the prestigious North Bennett Street School in Boston. Frank is a design graduate of Newbury College in Boston. Their commitment to excellence sparked by creative energy has produced a spectacular collection.

"At ClearLake Furniture the customer is able to create their own design," Brent added.

"Everything is handcrafted from start to finish by one craftsman using traditional techniques such as interlocking joints, splined miters, and dovetails. Each piece is signed and dated along with the family name, creating a personalized heirloom that will last for generations to come."

In addition to their Ludlow location, ClearLake Furniture also has a gallery on Elm Street in Woodstock, Vermont. For more information, call 800-758-8767 or visit their Web site at [clearlakefurniture.com](http://clearlakefurniture.com).

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*Craftsman and Ludlow resident, Doug Ficken.*

