

N O R T H C A R O L I N A ' S

High Country

M A G A Z I N E

Volume 2 • Issue 7 • June 2007

FREE

Share the Journey

Partake of Parkway Pleasures

Stars of Summer

See Them Shine on Stage

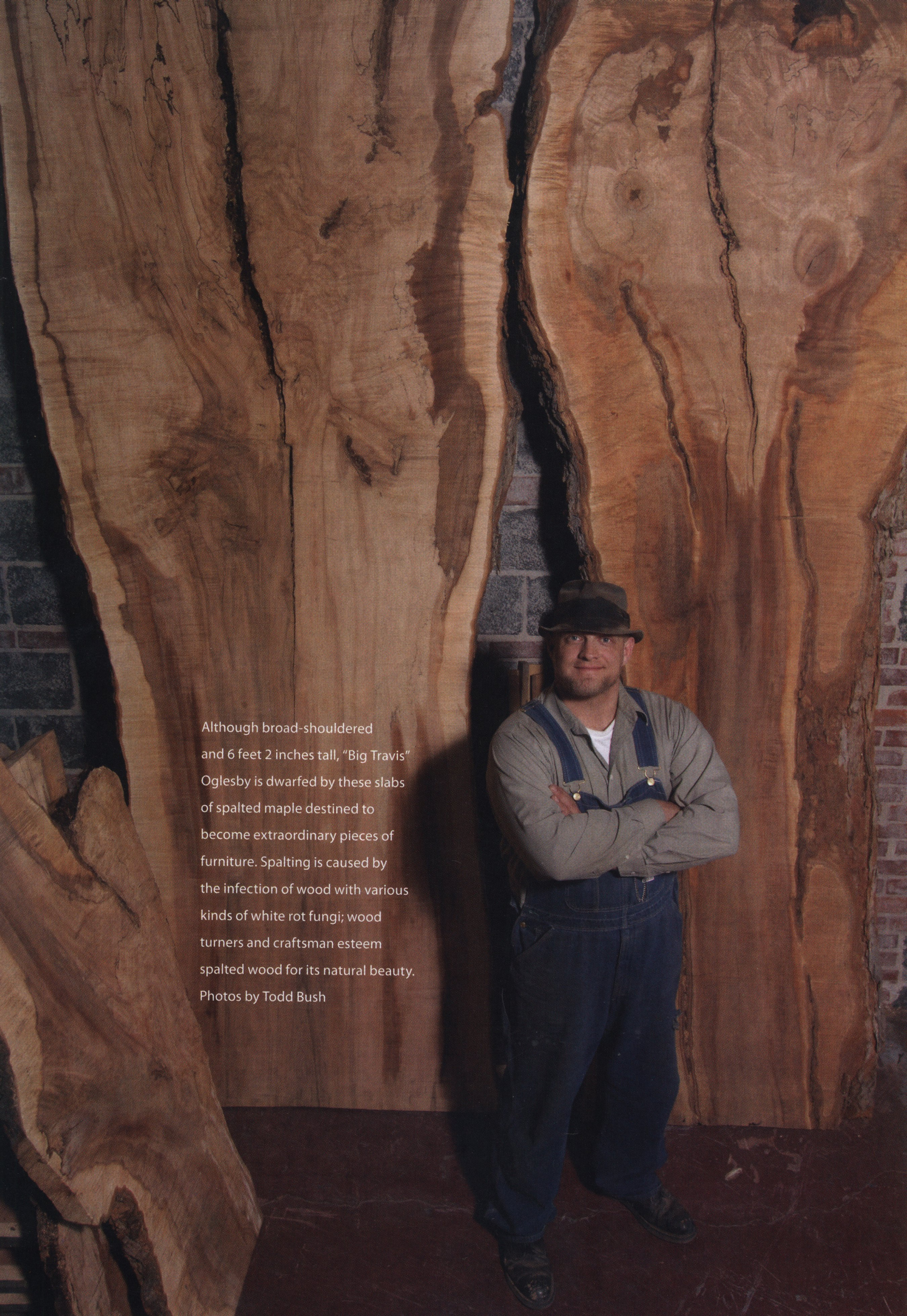
At Home at Hound Ears

More Than Just a Golf Club

Places You've Got To See

Play Tourist Right Here at Home



A man with a beard, wearing a hat, a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, and blue overalls, stands with his arms crossed in front of large, vertically oriented wood slabs. The slabs show a prominent spalting pattern, with dark, irregular lines and spots against a lighter wood background. The man is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the frame, looking directly at the camera. The background is a wall made of large, irregular stone blocks. The floor is dark and appears to be made of wood or stone.

Although broad-shouldered and 6 feet 2 inches tall, "Big Travis" Oglesby is dwarfed by these slabs of spalted maple destined to become extraordinary pieces of furniture. Spalting is caused by the infection of wood with various kinds of white rot fungi; wood turners and craftsman esteem spalted wood for its natural beauty. Photos by Todd Bush





Before You Buy...

As more and more people have come to love bark shingle style, the inevitable cowboy operations have sprung up, and let the buyer beware. Here's what you should know.

There is no industry standard for thickness or quality and no oversight. Standard or premium grade is whatever the salesman says it is, so pick a company with integrity. Bark that's too thin will split or cup easily, and consistent grading is important to create an even flow of shingles.

Newly cut shingles should be stacked and placed under pressure to prevent curling. Once dried, they should be stored indoors until delivery and application. Your shingles should come to the jobsite flat, with no curl or bow evident.

Proper kiln drying is essential for product stability. Excessive moisture content will cause shrinkage after the shingles have been applied and your contractor has left, leaving your house vulnerable.

Proper heat sterilization kills all insect larvae and mold spores. If you receive a shipment of wood with mold on it, reject it.

Shingles should be perfectly square on delivery and should not have to be re-cut onsite, except for sizing to fit.

Installation is key. Be wary of inadequate nailing patterns that can allow shingles to curl. An in-depth installation guide should be provided at the time of product purchase.