



David Barnes

Kenly, NC
LT40 Hydraulic

A Forest Steward's Cabin in the Woods



The summer after his son's sophomore year of high school, David Barnes and his son began work on a hunting cabin. His son, Kalen, was 16 years old and David wanted to teach him a lesson in commitment. "My son needed an experience to teach him what it means to have a good work ethic, and he needed to learn what it takes to stick with a job," David says. They worked on the cabin themselves, with no outside help. After three months, the cabin was finished. David says, "My son grew up that summer."

David and Kalen sawed the lumber for the cabin using David's Wood-Mizer sawmill. They built their own block and tackle and used it to hoist the large oak ceiling joist. The rest of the work, David says, "was routine construction." "It was an unforgettable experience, working side by side with my son," he says.


David purchased his Wood-Mizer sawmill in 1996 after Hurricane Fran blew down over 200 oak trees on their 120-acre farm. After sawing hundreds of felled trees into lumber, David was more than ready to teach his son how to put a Wood-Mizer to good use.

David and Kalen built the 392' square foot, 14'x28' cabin using Southern Yellow Pine and Swamp Chestnut Oak. David estimates he saved \$40,000 in costs using

the Wood-Mizer. Now, David's family and friends use the cabin as a hunting lodge and a weekend getaway. David started using the cabin to host forest and environmental workshops during the summer as well.

David is a certified Environmental Educator and Forest Steward, teaching young students about environmental awareness and multi-use forest management. David was awarded Johnston County Soil and Water Conservation District's Tree Farmer of the Year in 2002.

When Kalen turned 18 years old, David and Kalen decided to keep a stretch of river bordering their land free of debris. "We recycled logs we found submerged, sawing them into boards," David says. They continue to maintain the stretch of river, allowing efficient water flow during flooding. In 2007 David and Kalen were chosen as River Friendly Farmers of the Year.

David is proud to be a Wood-Mizer owner. "It has been a useful tool and has helped make a man out of my boy. We could not have accomplished as much without it." 

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