

ROCKLER TEAMS UP WITH HARDWOOD FORESTRY FUND TO SUPPORT FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT IN TEXAS

MEDINA, MN. (April 21, 2016) — In celebration of Earth Day 2016, Rockler Woodworking and Hardware is donating more than \$11,000 to the Hardwood Forestry Fund to support a forest restoration project in northeast Texas.

The Gilmont Upland Hardwood Restoration Project involves the planting of 11,396 seedlings of five different oak species on 22 acres where drought and disease had damaged an existing stand of hardwood trees. Rockler's \$11,396 contribution will cover costs for ongoing support and management of the project.

"We're proud to continue our long-standing partnership with the Hardwood Forestry Fund," said Scott Ekman, Rockler's vice president of marketing. "Projects like the Gilmont restoration site benefit the environment and help guarantee the availability of precious resources for future generations of woodworkers. We're excited to be able to support it."

The 22-acre project site is part of the Gilmont Camp and Conference Center, a 400-acre retreat area about 125 miles east of Dallas that's open to the public. Rockler's contribution will help the camp develop a forestry management plan that will address recreational and educational opportunities for guests, timber production through sustainable forestry practices, wildlife habitat and environmental quality.

The project is the latest collaboration between Rockler and the Hardwood Forestry Fund, a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to establishing sustainable hardwood forests. Rockler and the Forestry Fund worked together to plant 7,000 hardwood seedlings at a conservation center in southeastern Ohio in 2014 and a total of 16,000 trees at sites in southwestern Wisconsin and central Pennsylvania in 2013, as well as tens of thousands of trees in earlier projects.

Since 1990, the Forestry Fund has planted and managed more than 3.5 million trees in 26 states and four foreign countries. Native tree species are selected for each unique site, but common species planted include black cherry, black walnut, red oak, hard maple, hickory and ash. Every sponsored project is required to have a management plan and harvest and regeneration schedule.

Rockler's contribution to the Hardwood Forestry Fund for Earth Day also is part of its celebration of National Woodworking Month. Throughout April, Rockler has offered a series of hands-on project kits and classes that introduce new people to woodworking by helping them make useful projects for their homes. For more information, go to www.rockler.com/national-woodworking-month.



Rockler's donation to the Hardwood Forestry Fund will help with ongoing support of the Texas project, where 11,396 oak seedlings like the one with the pink marker were planted.

ABOUT ROCKLER WOODWORKING AND HARDWARE

Celebrating its 62nd year as a family-run business, Rockler Woodworking and Hardware is the nation's premier supplier of specialty hardware, tools, lumber and other high-quality woodworking and do-it-yourself products. Rockler has 31 retail locations in AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, IN, MA, ME, MI, MN, MO, NH, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, WA, and WI, as well as extensive catalog and internet operations.

To learn more about Rockler, please visit www.rockler.com or call 1-877-ROCKLER.