

# FROM THE RIVER TO YOU

## RIVER-RECOVERED HEART PINE™ AND HEART CYPRESS™



Historical photos courtesy of the Florida Archives

These Heart Pine and Heart Cypress “sinkers” have been preserved for more than 100 years by the cool water in their oxygen-free sanctuary, maintaining the heavy, dense heartwood in perfect condition – full of pizzazz and rich in color. Goodwin mills this fine timber into magnificent flooring, paneling, cabinetry and stairparts for your fine homebuilding needs. From the river to you, a precious and unique treasure.

We have strong feelings about our wood and our craft. Once you understand the story and see the quality and beauty of the wood, we think you will share our passion for Antique Heart Pine and Heart Cypress. Then you, too, may choose to give history a place in your home with the elegance of these distinctive woods.



**ABOVE:** *In the heyday of Heart Pine timbering, railroads took over from oxen and mule teams. Train tracks were laid, then pulled up when the timber crew moved on.*

**LEFT:** *Divers examine the logs, one at a time by hand on the riverbottom, to find the few among them that are old-growth.*

**RIGHT:** *Decorate with wood registers, tables, handrails, mouldings and accessories in Heart Pine, Heart Cypress, and other fine antique woods.*



**O**ld-growth Heart Pine and Heart Cypress are among the world's most beautiful timber. Their story is fascinating because of their source and rich history, yet heartbreaking because of the way in which these magnificent resources were depleted in a few short decades over a century ago. Today, the only place to find the last vestiges of this virgin antique wood is where it was left behind – under water in the southern rivers used by many timber operations in the 1800s to raft their logs to nearby mills.

Goodwin has carved its unique niche in the lumber industry by recovering from these river bottoms the original-growth logs that were lost during transport. Owner George Goodwin and his crew actually don wetsuits and retrieve each sunken log by hand. It's a slow process, but definitely worth it because there is no disturbance to the riverbed environment.

### GOODWIN HEART PINE COMPANY

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# GOODWIN

Heart Pine Company

River-Recovered Heart Pine Specialists™

# LOG ME A RIVER

## SUNKEN TREASURES RECLAIMED ONE LOG AT A TIME

To lumbermen living in the 1800s, the supply of precious Heart Pine and Heart Cypress trees seemed limitless. Forests of Longleaf Pine – also called Heart Pine – once covered some 80 million acres from Virginia to eastern Texas. Towering Bald Cypress trees, many over a thousand years old, grew in a belt, mainly along rivers and swampland.

The common method for timbering in the South was to cut trees with axes and drag them by oxen teams to the river banks. Once in the river, the logs would be fashioned into rafts and floated downstream to nearby saw mills. Some logs, usually

*George and his crew know they are working with history. 'A lot of work had already gone into these logs before they were lost. Many still show the V-bottoms proving they were cut with a broad ax by hand!'*



the largest and densest, would slip off the pegs and sink to the bottom.

Clear-cutting of Longleaf Pine forests and Heart Cypress stands in the late 1800s has made these magnificent woods quite rare. Today, they are available only in limited quantities, either by salvaging timbers from old buildings, or like we do it – by retrieving the logs from riverbeds before these precious resources are lost forever.

These logs have rested underwater for as long as 200 years, preserving the unique qualities of lumber from these majestic and durable old-growth trees:

- **River-Recovered Heart Pine™** and **Heart Cypress™** not only are antique and original growth, the wood has never been used before and is clear of nail or bolt holes found in salvage lumber.
- Centuries of slow growth give the river-recovered logs a tighter grain and greater strength than the fast-grown young pine and cypress trees of today.
- Wood recovered from rivers has never been milled. You get timber that has never been exposed to oxygen or light because it has never been cut before. It has more life!
- Because we have the original log, we can mill in wider planks and longer lengths. Goodwin is the only company to offer solid Antique Heart Pine and Heart Cypress stair treads.



*Heart Pine was the "King's Wood" for boat-building; for its weight, it's as strong as steel.*

Your purchase of **River-Recovered™** products from Goodwin helps preserve history while conserving nature. As George Goodwin says: "I don't know how much longer the supply of sunken logs will last, but we've made it our business to recover as much of it as we can. We like the idea of providing some of the most beautiful timber you'll ever see, without cutting down a single tree. I guess that is what we are known for."





# HEART PINE

## THE WOOD THAT BUILT AMERICA

**B**ecause of its strength and durability, Heart Pine was declared the “King’s wood” for shipbuilding when America was first colonized. Old-growth Heart Pine was steadily logged as settlers moved southward.

The heartwood of Longleaf Pine was used for log cabins in the 1700s and 1800s, and later for the construction of fine Victorian homes, hotels and palaces. Heart

Pine once framed four of every five houses in the Carolinas, Georgia

*Architects and designers appreciate both the traditional applications of Heart Pine and Heart Cypress and the versatility offered in the variety of grain patterns and narrow to wide widths.*



and Florida, floored Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello estate and buttressed the keel of the USS Constitution (“Old Ironsides”).

Heart Pine played a key role in the growth and development of the United States as an economic power. Factories and warehouses built over a century ago were almost always framed with large Heart Pine timbers and many are still standing today.

Today, presettlement-growth Heart Pine is as rare as sunken treasure, with less than 10,000 acres of original-growth Longleaf Pine forests remaining. It takes up to 500 years for Heart Pine to mature.

Antique Heart Pine is prime flooring material because it wears well. Its attractive grain patterns and strength also give it a place in furniture, cabinets, paneling and stair parts – all adding to the ambiance and value of your home.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF HEART PINE

*(Longleaf Pine or Pinus palustris)*

- Red tones: light rose to deep burgundy in color
- Beauty: famous for a handsome variety of grain patterns
- Durability: heartwood lasts for centuries, comparable in hardness to Red Oak
- Rarity: once the dominant landscape of the coastal Southeast, now covers less than 3% of its original range



### Longleaf Legacies

We Can Save It – For Profit and Pleasure  
*Ask about our Longleaf publications. A portion of our profits go to produce Longleaf Pine educational materials and to support reforestation.*

## LEGACY HEART PINE™

If your project calls for timeless salvaged wood, consider Goodwin’s new line of Legacy Heart Pine™. Like its river-recovered counterpart, all Legacy Heart Pine™ comes in a 100 percent heart face, in either select (*shown at right*) or vertical grain, and in two grades.

- **Legacy grade** has infrequent nail holes. While a relatively low percent of the boards have any nail holes, you will need at least 20 percent extra if you intend to cut out nail holes.
- **Legacy Nailly**, often the best face that the carpenter used to nail into, has frequent nail holes in every board.

With all Goodwin Heart Pine, you get the added resale value of this precious native wood, while you add history, elegance and unique beauty to your home.



# HEART CYPRESS

## A MOST PRIMITIVE WOOD

**H**earth Cypress is truly a primitive American wood. Cypress logs estimated by scientists to be at least 100,000 years old were unearthed in excavations for the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.



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## CHARACTERISTICS OF HEART CYPRESS

*(Bald Cypress or Taxodium distichium)*

- **HONEY TONES:** rich red tans to light chocolates
- **BEAUTY:** uniquely fine grain often provides a feathering pattern
- **DURABILITY:** can be used as interior or exterior wood
- **RARITY:** 100% heart dense growth is more rare today than Heart Pine



Through centuries of adaptation, Bald Cypress has developed an inherent resistance to destructive forces not found in other wood.

the logs would float.

Bald Cypress trees over a thousand years old, towering to heights of over 100 feet, once were commonly found in virgin stands along rivers and tidewater swamplands of the southeastern coastal plain.

Today, the Bald Cypress silvery trunks and fernlike leaves still grace southern rivers. Some are 100 years old or more left from the previous century's cut. But the wood

Much of the finest cypress grew where the land was submerged most of the year. Trees were marked and girdled a year in advance of logging to allow the wood to lose part of its moisture, so that when cut,



from these young trees does not compare to the rich-toned heartwood of pre-settlement-growth cypress.

**ABOVE:** The Goodwin sawyers study a river-recovered log to isolate the defects and render the highest quality timber.

**River-Recovered Heart Cypress™** also is perfect for paneling, windows, furniture, flooring and just about any of your building needs.

**LEFT:** Millennium giant Heart Cypress trees grew all along southern riverbanks. The producer of *This Old House* and *New Yankee Workshop*, says the Goodwin Heart Cypress he used on his entryway vanity is "some of the prettiest wood in the world."

We replant both Bald Cypress and Longleaf Pine on nearby public prairies that were once covered by these wonderful old trees and we will gladly help you secure seedlings if you think your land might be suited to either. Now is the time to replant for a future of quality timber.



River-Recovered Heart Pine Specialists™