

Michael Houston Rocking Chairs & Furniture

In 1974, in the stunning hardwood forests of Eastern Kentucky, my best friend Jimmy Cooper forced me to make a walnut settin' chair "from the stump" with an axe, drawknife, chisel and pocket knife. Ever since, I've been hooked on chair making. After moving to Florida to rebuild a derelict wooden sailboat, I began incorporating highly figured and exotic woods into my chairs using basic power tools. I never stayed too far away from the mountains and my home state of Colorado. When a family friend told us about her friend Stuart Mace and his Toklat Gallery at Ashcroft, I went up to meet him with a Purple Heart and Curly Teak rocking chair. In Stuart I met a kindred spirit and a good friend; and I do believe he sold that rocker in about two days. Toklat at Ashcroft was a dream for a guy like me, and after we lost Stuart, Lynne started the Labor Day Sale, which became a wonderful yearly reunion for a small core group of artists. Lynne went out of her way to make it special, and even hired my mother Maggie one year to cook a big Persian Dinner for everyone. After sailing the Caribbean, the Pacific and Alaska I settled in Colorado Springs and married Angelita Surage. Now, in a small shop, I create one-off dinner sets with tables crafted of select and exotic handmade veneers. I've incorporated original wrought iron designs, from an unique dinner chair seat frame to garden benches and table bases made from sections of old iron wagon rims.



Number 315, the “Toklat” rocker, features fiddle back Claro Walnut that was personally collected by Stuart Mace. It was built to celebrate this 70th anniversary of Toklat, and my renewed relationship with the gallery. It has an ergonomically shaped hickory bark seat that you will not find anywhere else. Already vintage and heirloom, this furniture is built to use and admire every day, and to make meaningful and long lasting gifts for a first birthday, wedding, anniversary, retirement, or any other occasion.



Fiddleback claro walnut with hickory bark seat \$6000

Toklat Gallery 255 Gold Rivers Court #150 at Riverside Plaza on Two Rivers Road Basalt
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