

# Southeast Kentucky Economic Development

## SKED Micro Loan Puts East Kentucky Woodworker in Business



*"The folks at SKED have a 'keep working on it 'til you get there' attitude you won't find at any other lending organizations. Thanks for sticking in there with me, SKED."*

**John Marcum**  
Owner  
Cherry Ridge Wood Products Inc.

*John Marcum's business motto is: "Be it one item or one thousand items, let every wood product send a special message or tell your personal story." He's pictured with some of the customized products he produces. For more information or to place an order, go to: [www.cherryridgeinc.com](http://www.cherryridgeinc.com).*

*Hardwood trees are plentiful in the mountains of Breathitt County. That, along with the support and mentorship provided by the University of Kentucky, Department of Forestry located at Robinson Center, is why John Marcum chose it as the home of Cherry Ridge Wood Products. Marcum specializes in customizing Appalachian handcrafted wood products, using only sustainable and renewable hardwoods grown nearby. He spends his days producing handcrafted wooden boxes, cutting boards and wooden hymn plaques, among other items. What's not so plentiful in East Kentucky is access to capital. A SKED Micro Loan was just what he needed to put his skills to work and help fuel his entrepreneurial spirit.*



**Partner:** U.S. Small Business Administration

**Total Project:** \$15,000

**Jobs Created:** Two

**SKED**  
A Regional Growth Corporation

Contact SKED to learn how we can assist you in expanding your business, obtain low-cost financing or receive free professional site selection services.

Visit us at: [www.southeastkentucky.com](http://www.southeastkentucky.com) or call (606) 677-6100