



Mill•Direct News

Living the Log Home Lifestyle

Fall 2011

A VIEW FROM THE MILL

By Levi Hochstetler

1986-2011 - Our 25th Anniversary

With our humble beginning we are a perfect example that America is still the land of opportunity.

The math is simple. You add and grow little by little, don't go overwhelmingly into debt, and put your profit back into the business (if there is any). Be willing to make personal sacrifices, hire good people, take care of customers, and with perseverance you'll be blessed and rewarded.

This can be in spite of well-meaning naysayers. In my case it came from the likes of my grandfather who said "He'll never make it," or from a well-respected person, "He's kinda nix nüt-sich (frivolous)!" Looking back, it's a wonder the remarks weren't less complimentary.

My personal thanks go to everyone who helped make Hochstetler Milling a success. To my good wife and family who stuck with me through the hills and valleys and who didn't always have a loving father. To the 1000's of customers and builders who trusted their life savings in our hands and didn't always get the service and quality they deserved. To the good employees who toiled away and never got thanked like they should have.

And most important to the good Lord who blessed us way beyond anything we ever deserved and last but not least, to the hordes of others who somehow touched us either directly or indirectly, including Dad & Mom.

Around the Mill things are bustling, as everyone is getting ready for Log Cabin Days. We are looking forward to seeing our friends & making some new friends as well!

Log Cabin Days - Sept. 16 & 17

See our special 4-page pull-out section inside for more information and a schedule of events.

Log Cabin Days is slated for Friday, September 16 (11-7) & Saturday, September 17 (9-5) at the Hochstetler Milling site 5 miles north of Loudonville, Ohio at 552 State Route 95.

Among the exciting things visitors can expect to see include:

- Self-Guided Log Home Tour
- Lumberjack Competitions
- Amish Food, Pastries, & Ice Cream
- Log Home-Related Exhibitors
- Log Cabin Seminars • Mill Tour • Breakfast
- Hand-Peeling & Hand-Hewing • Silent Auction
- Log Cabin Raising • Much More!

Make plans today to attend this educational and fun event for the whole family.



Hochstetler Milling Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

2011 marks the 25th year that Hochstetler Milling has been in the log and timber business. And, although many things have changed over the years the dedication to excellent craftsmanship and honesty and integrity in dealing with our customers has remained the same.

Levi Hochstetler, the owner, was exposed to the building trade as a young man. Being Amish, he got an early start by helping out at several barn and house raisings. At 16, he built his first log home. This proved to be a life-changing experience for it challenged his love for working with wood and painstaking attention to detail.

Soon afterwards he met Roy Teide, owner of American Timber Frames, who had graduated from Case Western Reserve University and was willing to share

his knowledge about timber frame construction. He worked with Roy for 5 years, absorbing as much as he could about the intricate mortise and tenon joinery that is the basis of a timber frame structure.

Wooden pegs held the joints together and

required quality craftsmanship. He later built several conventional homes at Muirfield Village - an upscale Jack Nicklaus community in Dublin, Ohio - and gained a better perspective of the business side of the industry.

continued on page 4

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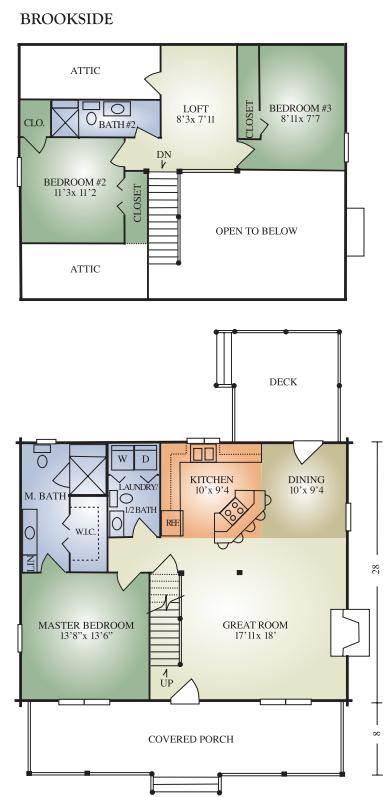
Brookside



The Brookside offers most of the features of our popular McKay model but is slightly smaller and costs less. You'll still find the open-concept great room with timbered ceiling and large fireplace, master bedroom with convenient adjoining walk-in closet and master bath, and step-saving first-floor laundry. The L-shaped kitchen has an angled island with a raised serving counter and is easily accessed from either the great room or dining area. The dining area, in turn, opens to the rear deck.

Upstairs, the loft provides a dramatic view of the great room below and is large enough for a TV and a couple chairs or a small sofa. There are also two more bedrooms and a full bath.

The Deluxe shell package for the Brookside is \$28,146. and includes 8x6D logs for exterior walls; our timbered roof system with rafters, tongue-and-groove and insulation panels; timbered porch roof and loft system; and siding for gables. This model would "turnkey" for between \$150,000. and \$175,000. For you DIY'ers, figure between \$90,000. and \$110,000. If you're looking for a compact and feature-filled three bedroom home for a reasonable price, look into the Brookside!



MOVING?



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AT 800-368-1015

If you will be moving and you would still like to receive a copy of Mill-Direct News please let us know your new address.

2 • See our Mill-Direct Newsletter online at... Mill-Direct.Henley-Graphics.com

What Type of Log Home Would You Like?

Log homes can be built in different styles with different log and corner types that supplement the home. See below.

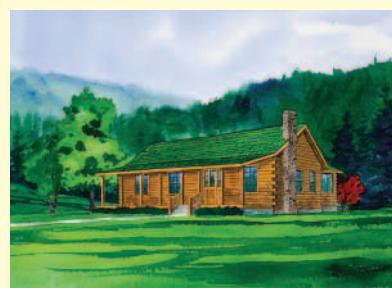
Cape Cod with a Porch and Dormer



This traditional shape will fit almost anywhere and will never go out of style – a good choice when conscious of resale. It's hard not to like this style.

It looks best with D or square logs with butt & pass or dovetails, though double round with saddle notch doesn't look out of place.

Single Story Bungalow



A good choice for retirement. Why go steps when you don't have to?

D logs, square logs, double round with saddle notch, butt-and-pass, along with dovetails all look good, though traditionally butt-and-pass seems to fit it best.

Two Story with a Country Colonial Flavor



This design makes efficient use of material, more square foot for the dollar. Fits best in front of the woods instead of in the woods.

Square logs with dovetails seems to compliment this style though D logs with butt and pass don't look out of place either. Hand-hewn logs can be a nice touch as well.

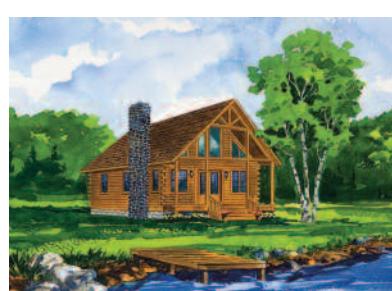
Vernacular



This contemporary style can be a mixture of many styles to suit your personal taste.

A D-log or double round log with all three butt & pass, saddle notch, and dovetail corners look good. Even square logs don't look out of place.

Chalet



This is often used for a vacation home, and traditionally used on mountainside living.

To get a real chalet appearance, square logs do it best with either dovetail or butt & pass with no log overhang. However, in modern times a round log with saddle notch seems to be the norm.

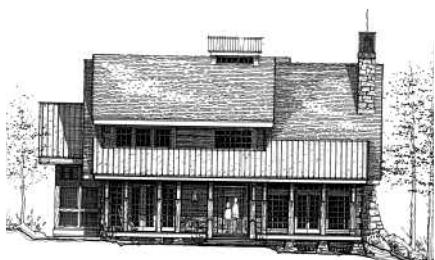
Lakefront



This can be used for both a vacation and primary home – an ideal design with an outstanding view.

D logs and double round logs with both butt & pass and saddle notch will do this design justice, although dovetails can't do this design any damage either.

Contemporary/Craftsman



This is the latest in log home living. You can't help but like this different type of style. These are often custom home designs.

Large square logs with butt & pass with very little log overhang and rough sawn on the outside are its trademark. Dovetails can make the grade as well.

Watch for future articles on "Steps to the Good Log Home"

Hochstetler Milling Design Service

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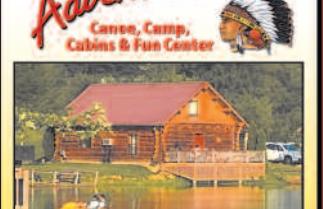
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.... continued from front page

In 1986, with no actual business experience, Levi approached the late Ron McMillian from First Knox National Bank, to loan him \$15,000. to buy a planer and hopefully start his own business. Somehow Ron believed in the young man and Hochstetler Milling became more than a name - it was a fledgling business. But using \$15,000. of his own money, together with the bank loan, still wasn't enough to keep the planer going - so he had to work a full time job to have a steady income and make the payments. Although the business seemed overwhelming at times - Uncle Eli, who had a lumber business, and offered hands-on support and encouragement. He was a big help.

The planer was set up in a clearing surrounded by a 2-acre cornfield on Earnest Road, near Amity. An 8'x20' concrete slab was poured to support the planer. An 8-cylinder International gas motor provided the power. A governor had to be added to keep up with the variable loads and a jeep engine was used for the blower. Everything was set up via direct motor drive with belts and pulleys. No electric was used. Surprisingly, this can still be the most cost-effective way to power heavy machinery. With air clutches and guards, it can also be as safe and convenient as electricity. The planer itself was an older 4-sided timber sizer weighing in at a hefty 9 tons. It had continuous lubrication and could plane 4-sides smooth in one pass, with a maximum capacity of 15x30. After working out a few "bugs," they nervously "fired her up" and stood by to witness their handiwork. How gratifying they were to see rough timbers being fed in one end and smooth timbers coming out the other - with shavings flying out the side. All the hard work was about to pay off!

Most of their early jobs were custom milling for homeowners & businesses that owned their own material. Today, they still do some custom milling, but it's a small part of their business.

About this time, Levi and Johnny Miller formed a partnership which became Oakbridge Timber Frame. This provided a good fit since Levi could handle design and sales and Johnny's family would handle the actual timber framing. Johnny was a real perfectionist, so he was equally satisfied with the arrangement.

In 1987, Levi met and married Katie, who has been a in-

strumental in growing Hochstetler Milling to its present size. Her handling of the personal budget, in particular, was so important and enabled Levi to put money back into the business the first 15 years.

Slowly and surely, the company started to grow and he was finally able to erect a pole barn with a 32'x96 roof to shelter the planer - but with no sides. Shortly after that he did replace the old International with a Cummins Diesel.

In 1993, Levi made the decision to sell his interest in Oakbridge and concentrate on Hochstetler Milling exclusively.

In '97, the business was moved to its present location on St.Rt 95, about 5 miles north of Loudonville. The family had moved there in '95, so this would be the opportunity he had hoped for - to be closer to the family with his job and also enable him to spend more time with them. This was a great change in the workplace as well - going from an unheated 4,000 sq.ft. building to a heated 13,500 sq.ft. structure. In addition to the more comfortable environment their productivity increased substantially. From '98 to 2003, they went from 50 log home packages to more than 150 per year. As a result of this growth an additional 15,000 sq. ft. was added to the existing building and a state-of-the-art Yates planer was installed. This was a significant step up in providing the finest quality logs and timbers to their growing list of customers. A dry kiln was also added, again with the intention of producing only the finest quality.

Their first model, The McKay, was built in the spring of 2003 at the intersection of St.Rt.'s 95 & 60 and now serves as a sales office and model. This was built in response to prospective customers who wanted to see an actual Hochstetler home.

Log Cabin Days was another step in introducing people to the log home lifestyle. Now in its 4th year, the 2-day family event includes a log home tour, a lumberjack show, seminars, and some mouth-watering food.

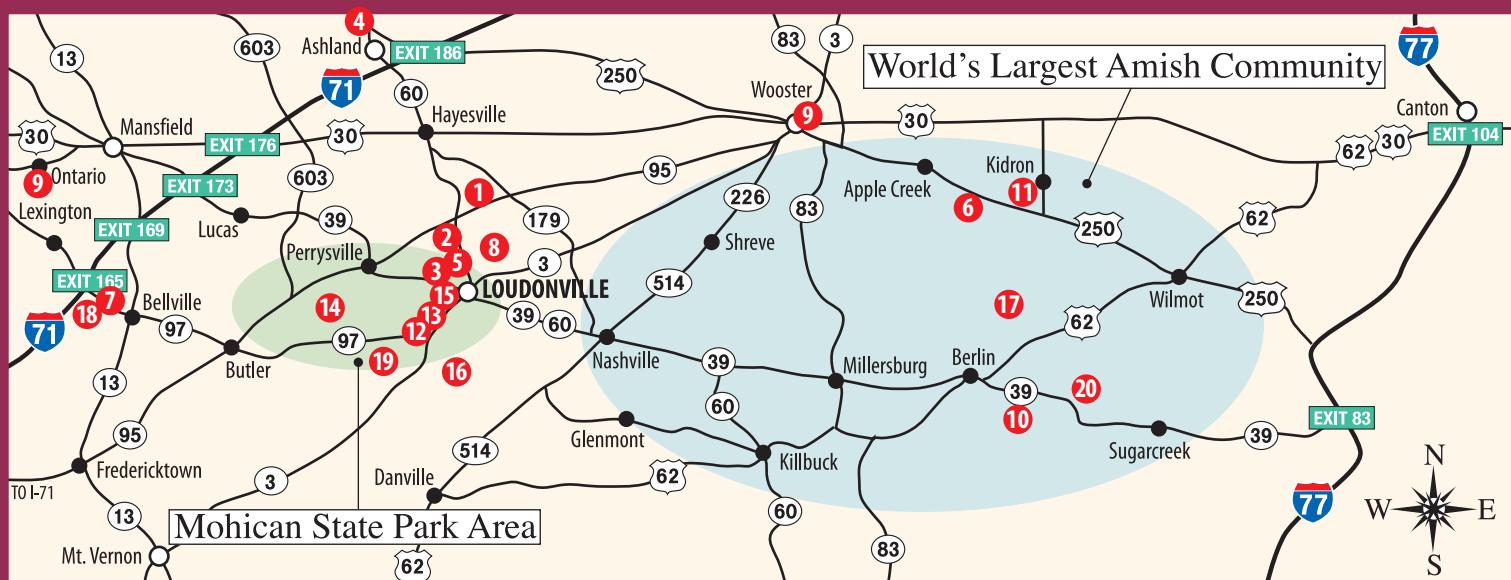
Our talented workforce at the model includes two designers and three sales consultants with many years log home experience, an office manager, and two secretaries. In addition, there are seven skilled craftsmen at the mill including a second generation of Hochstetlers', a foreman, a builder coordinator, and a kiln operator. Their second model, the Black Fork is also the office for Levi, his son Joseph, and a secretary.



25th ANNIVERSARY

- 1981 Levi built his first log home and starting working at American Timber Frames.
 - 1985 Secured loan to purchase first planer.
 - 1986 Started Hochstetler Milling. Joined Johnny Miller to form Oakbridge Timber Frame.
 - 1993 Sold partnership to Oakbridge.
 - 1997 Moved Hochstetler to present location, north of Loudonville.
 - 2000 Purchased state-of-the-art Yates Planer. Added 15,000 sq. ft. to existing building.
 - 2003 Purchased dry kiln. Built first model, the McKay.
 - 2008 Built second model, the Black Fork.

Today, Hochstetler Milling is the largest log home producer in Ohio.



ADVERTISERS & NOTABLE LOCATIONS

- 1** ...HOCHSTETLER MILLING and Black Fork Model Home
 - 2**McKay Model Home
 - 3** ...Amish Oak Furniture Company
 - 4** ...Ashland Convention & Visitors Bureau
 - 5** ...Blackfork Inn
 - 6** ...Coalway LLC
 - 7** ...Comfort Inn & Suites
 - 8** ...Eicher Woodworking
 - 9** ...Farm Credit Services of Mid-America
 - 10** ...Hiland Supply
 - 11** ...Lehman's
 - 12** ...Mohican Adventures
 - 13** ...Mohican Little Brown Inn
 - 14** ...Mohican Lodge and Conference Center
 - 15** ...Mohican-Loudonville Visitors Bureau
 - 16** ...Mohican Reservation
 - 17** ...Mt. Hope Planing, LTD.
 - 18** ...Quality Inn & Suites
 - 19** ...Red Brush Cottage
 - 20** ...Walnut Creek Furniture

★★★ SPECIAL SECTION ★★

LOG CABIN DAYS

September 16 & 17 at Hochstetler Milling

Log Cabin Days Hours: Friday, September 16: 11am-7pm • Saturday, September 17: 9am-5pm

If building a log home is in your dreams, or are lucky and already own one, or like the back-to-basics lifestyle — then you won't want to miss Log Cabin Days.

At this writing we have 8 log homes and one timber frame home scheduled to be on the self-guided auto log home tour. Of these 9 homes, 5 are homes that were not on last year's tour. There are 2 modified McKays, 2 Pleasant Hills, 1 Hudson, 1 Cambridge, and 2 customs, along with the custom timber framed home. This is in addition to our own furnished models, the McKay and Blackfork.

We will be taking a suggested \$10 per couple or \$15 per vehicle for the tour, benefitting the American Cancer Society. These homes are private residences, so please thank them for their generosity to open up their log home for the 2-day event. Last year \$2,000 was raised. If you want to see all the log homes on the tour,

plan on most of one day for it.

We have some exciting speakers lined up to lead our free workshops. Leading the way is keynote speaker Rich Hersha of Hersha Design. You will want to take advantage of the rare opportunity to listen in on a designer that architects go to for their own personal homes. Rich has many years experience in designing homes (masterpieces) from 200 to 20,000 square feet. Undoubtedly you will be able to pick up ideas for your own log home.

Log cabin financing will be covered by Jennifer Reed of Farm Credit. She will be explaining how to come up with a budget and the loan process.

David Grom from Sikkens will handle log home maintenance. This is always a popular workshop both for future and existing log home owners as well.

Bill Dinkins will be doing the Log Basics 101, a helpful presentation in selecting log sizes, wood species, and profile types for your dream home.

Bill Laughrie from Anderson Windows will fill

Two of the nine homes on the tour.
Pick up tour map at
Information Booth.



SELF-GUIDED
LOG HOME TOUR



Lumberjack competitions Fri. 4-6 & Sat. 11-1.

you in on all you need to know about windows.

A bonus seminar presentation on Saturday will be interior designer Gretchen Snyder. She has over 30 years experience as a professional designer.

For those with questions that we don't address at one of our workshops, we will have a question-and-answer session with a panel of experts including the Hochstetler Milling staff Friday afternoon in our work-

continued on next page

Self-Guided Log Home Tour • Lumberjack Competitions • Log Cabin Work

shop/seminar area.

Walk the exhibit hall and meet the various exhibitors showing their wares, including interior and exterior wood finishes, cabinets, solid oak furniture, log home furniture, bent hickory rockers, windows, and both interior and exterior doors. Local, as well as national builders and log stackers will be on hand to answer all your construction questions, along with a bank that specializes in log home lending to take care of all your financial questions. A landscaper will fill you in on landscaping. Wouldn't hurt to bring a trailer!

New this year is a log home cutaway with a staff showing you the various steps in actual building your own log home. You might even get to stack a few logs yourself if you want.

During the two days, a crew will be building an actual log cabin from start to finish. This 13' x 24' cabin with an 8' porch on the end is on skids and sized to be shipped on the road. At 4 p.m. on Saturday the 17th, it will be auctioned off. This would make an excellent guest or hunting and fishing cabin. If interested contact us for more details.

The mill can be toured at your leisure. We will have people explaining the operation. You will also be able to step inside one of our dry kilns and see first-hand how the kiln works to dry lumber.

There will also be demonstrations of hand-hewing, hand-peeling, portable band sawing, and chainsaw carving, not to mention the blacksmith pounding out unique iron items for your log home. Also on board is a wood carver carving one-of-a-kind fireplace mantels.

Always a favorite is the can't miss lumberjacks competing for the prize, with axe throwing, crosscut sawing, and axe chopping.

There will be plenty of fun things to watch. Amateurs, and not so amateurs, compete in the log-stacking contest for the prize. Or better yet, compete yourself. Take a covered wagon ride or educate yourself with forestry information and take a forestry tour scheduled on Saturday. Also, be sure and sign up for a free bundle of white pine seedlings and don't forget to register to win a free chainsaw carving.

Make sure the children get the chance to dig through shavings to find nickels and candy.

Highlight for this year's silent auction is a 5' raised bar kitchen island made of knotty Hickory featuring a laminate countertop with a wood edge. Other items you can bid on are an Amish quilt, hand-crafted log home related items including rustic furniture, bird feeders, and clocks. Somewhat unique is a breakfast for 10 in an Amish home. The closing for the silent auction is 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Enjoy homemade ice cream, delicious kettle-cooked popcorn, fresh pressed apple cider made in an antique cider press, apple butter being stirred, an Amish bake sale highlighted by fresh pies and homemade bread, and delicious food including barbequed chicken, noodles, potato salad, and open-kettle baked beans, along with dessert. Don't forget to take some locally made Swiss cheese and trail bologna, along with fresh produce home with you.



Come early on Saturday morning. Breakfast will be served starting at 7:00 with scrambled eggs and bacon done on an open kettle, real stuffed sausage, pancakes, and delicious cinnamon rolls.

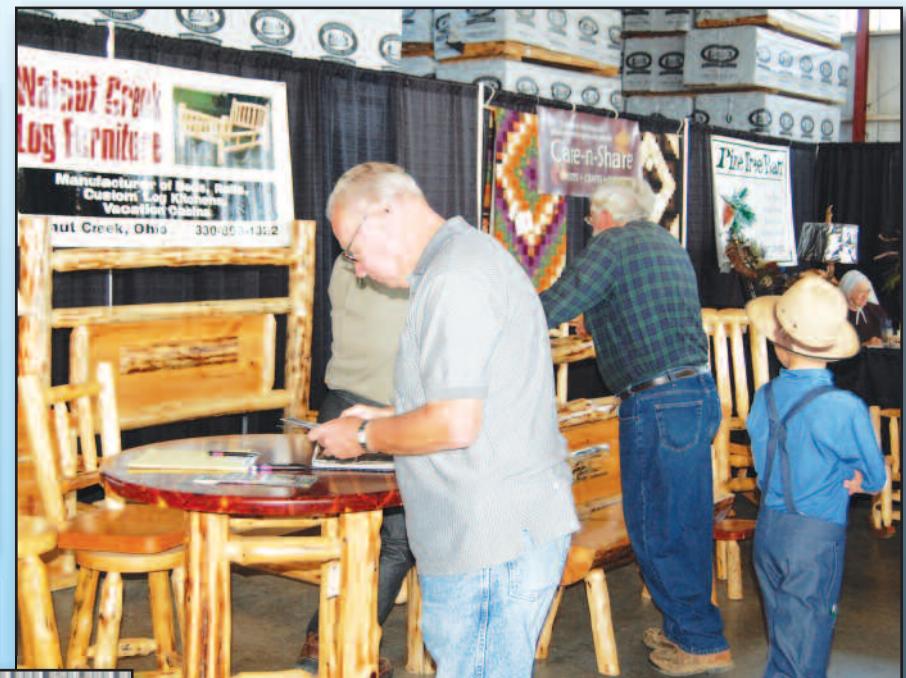
Proceeds from the sale of refreshments, bake sale, and silent auction will benefit the Mohican Parochial School and the American Cancer Society.

Last, but not least, both our models – the McKay and Blackfork – will be open for tours as well. While the Blackfork is at the Mill where the event is held, a trolley will shuttle people down to the McKay model.

Our goal is to make Log Cabin Days an enjoyable 2-day event that is both educational and beneficial for the whole family. Come early and stay both days. See you there.



Workshops • Amish Food, Pastries & Ice Cream • Log Home-Related Exhibitors



WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 16**

- 12:00 Log Home Financing
- 1:00 Log Home Designing
- 2:00 Log Basics 101
- 3:00 Window & Door Design
- 4:00 Log Home Maintenance
- 5:00 Ask the Experts

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 17**

- 10:00 Log Home Financing
- 11:00 Interior Designing
- 12:00 Log Home Designing
- 1:00 Log Basics 101
- 2:00 Landscape Design
- 3:00 Window & Door Design
- 4:00 Log Home Maintenance



Log Cabin To Be Auctioned



This log cabin (floor plan shown to left) will be erected at Log Cabin Days and will be auctioned off by Bachus - White Auctioneers at 4:00pm on Saturday.

Does not include interior walls.

Partial Exhibitor List

- Amish Oak Furniture Co. – Solid Oak Furniture
- Andersen Windows – Windows & Exterior Doors
- Buckeye Log Homes – Local Log Home Builder
- Cabin Furnishings – Rustic Log Furnishings
- Coalway – Stoves and Fireplaces
- Convention & Visitors' Bureau – Visitor Information
- Cook'in Tyme LLC – Iron Kettles
- County Lane Bulk Foods – Produce & Swiss Cheese & Bologna
- County Line Doors – Interior Custom Doors
- Decra Roofing Systems – Stone Coated Steel Roofing
- Eicher Woodworking – Kitchen Cabinets
- Farm Credit Services – Log Home Financing
- Hersha Design - Designing Your Dream
- Hiland Supply – Chimtek Chimney Liners
- Hochstetler Milling – Log Home Manufacturer
- J&D Dreambuilders – M.E.P.A. Log Home Builder
- Junior Yoder – Fireplace Mantel Carving
- Larry Roger – Exotic Wood Display
- Legacy Stone Design – Cultured Stone
- Mt. Hope Planing – Hardwood Flooring
- Oak Ridge Log Furniture - Rustic Log Furniture
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Forestry
- Ohio Tree Farm – Forestry Tour & Free White Pine Seedlings
- Pine Lane Metals – Metal Roofing
- Pinney Custom Builders – National Log Home Builder
- RayMar Log Homes – Local Log Home Builder
- Richardson's Greenhouse – Landscapes & Design
- Ron Obrecht – Scroll Saw Demo
- Sikkens – Exterior & Interior Finishes
- Triple Forge – Architectural-Metal
- Union Currigation Co. – Metal Roof
- Walnut Creek Furniture – Rustic Log Furniture
- Walnut Valley Log Homes – Local Log Home Builder

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Event Information:

Located 5 miles north of Loudonville and 1/2 mile east of the St. Rt. 95 & 60 intersection on St. Rt. 95.

Hours: Friday, September 16, 11am - 7pm
Saturday, September 17, 9am - 5pm

Questions, call 800-368-1015 or 419-368-0004.

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Love of Outdoors Leads to Mountaintop Dream Home



Lou Poanessa and his wife have always enjoyed hiking through the wilderness and skiing down snowy slopes. Those seem to be challenging hobbies when living in San Diego, California.

With a lifelong dream of owning a log home, Lou finally asked himself, "Why not combine our dream with all the things we love to do?" So three years ago the Poanessas purchased five wooded acres in the mountains of New Mexico, where they could build a vacation retreat and pursue all their favorite interests right outside the door.

Lou began studying building plans in various log home magazines, and interviewed several log suppliers. Hochstetler Milling stood out from the others, and a long-distance relationship was born. Lou chose one of Hochstetler's standard layouts as a starting point, and began working with one of their designers on revisions.

"The folks at Hochstetler were great to work with. They were very cooperative through at least three major design changes, including flipping

the entire layout to take advantage of our beautiful view overlooking a valley."

Once blueprints were finalized, Lou hired a local contractor to begin building while the Poanessas stayed behind in San Diego. The builder had no prior experience in constructing log homes, which proved to be a bit of a challenge.

"It may have gone smoother had we used someone more experienced in working with logs. But Hochstetler Milling was very responsive to every question we had and helped us work with the builder through any issues that arose," Lou recalled. "In hindsight, my one recommendation to others would be to use a builder familiar with log homes."

The Poanessas were thrilled with their finished home, which includes a large wrap-around porch. The deck is covered on two sides, and allows them to sit and enjoy spectacular views even in inclement weather. Lou also chose a metal roof, an important feature to help shed the snow that falls on their mountaintop cabin.





The family loves their great room, where the design was customized to reduce the size of the loft and open up the kitchen area. A 1,000 square foot walkout basement creates room for a workshop and play area, as well as extra storage space. Also, the home's design with a bedroom and bath on the main floor allows for privacy when guests visit – who can enjoy their own privacy on the upper level.

The home was originally planned to be a vacation retreat and an escape for weekend getaways. However Lou and his wife now spend more time living at the cabin in New Mexico than at their permanent house in San Diego. **When they can wake up on a mountaintop in their dream home, and find all their favorite activities right on their doorstep, it's easy to see why.**



Would you like to have your home featured in a future issue? Please submit pictures and a few words to Hochstetler Milling, 552 St. Rt. 95, Loudonville, OH 44842. If selected, someone will call you for an interview.



**"When I said a log home,
they thought I was crazy.
When they saw the final thing,
they thought I was brilliant."**



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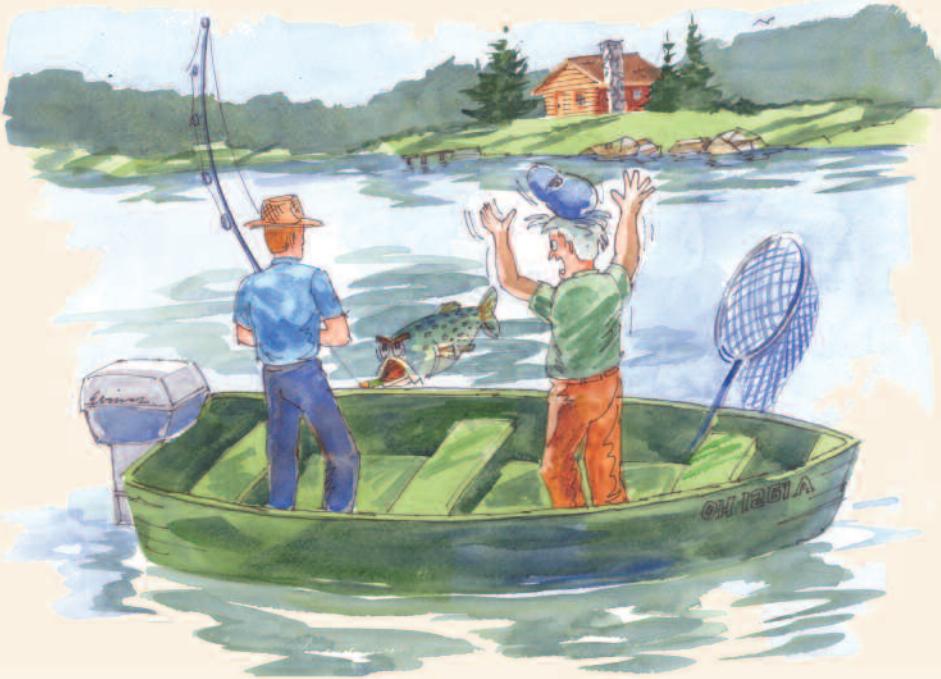


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CABIN FEVER



The Big Catch by Bill Dinkins

I've spent a great deal of my life outdoors and am always fascinated by the ever-changing world we live in. So it is doubly-rewarding when you get to spend that time with someone else who is equally fascinated by nature's mysteries. I particularly like to fish and had mentioned that to a fellow employee who also was intrigued by the sport but just learning. I asked Joseph if he would like to join me on a trip to Black Lake, one of New York's premier bass lakes. We would stay at a rustic little waterfront log cabin with a spectacular view of the sunsets. He agreed, and after several weeks of planning we headed up north in late June for the opening of bass season, eager to try out our favorite lures. We spent plenty of time looking at the endless variety of shapes, sizes and colors lures come in - trying to decide what lure the fish would find appealing. Talk about a daunting task!

Our first day out on the lake was "slow" as most fishermen would say. And, two small bass in three hours would seem to bear that out. Joseph was having trouble casting with his new baitcaster and the resulting "bird nests" (backlashes) were a constant source of frustration. But, by the second day, he was getting used to it and casting like a pro. Each day we probed the shorelines with our colorful assortment of lures, churning the water to a froth with our persistent casting. I'm sure the fish were swimming for cover when they saw our boat approaching. Even the critters on shore took refuge as our wayward casts landed in nearby trees.

However, we did manage to catch a few bass by mid-week and I was able to prepare our first fish dinner. After filleting the three bass I put them in a zip-lock bag along with my wife's Cajun seasoning, meant to "kick-it-up-a-notch." I fried the fillets to a golden brown and we eagerly sampled the result. To say they were hot would probably be an understatement, since both of us gulped down half a glass of water to keep our taste buds from charring. Nevertheless, they were tasty, and we both agreed to try the seasoning again, but with a liberal amount of pancake flour – "to kick-it-down-a-notch."

On the fifth day, we decided to try a new spot across the lake. The rocky shoreline had steep cliffs which continued out into the water, frequently resulting in 25 feet of water a mere 10 feet from shore. We tied on our deep-running crankbaits and cast parallel to shore and hopefully, keep our lures in the strike zone longer. As we proceeded down the shoreline I noticed a 6-8 foot "flat" that extended out from shore and was surrounded by

deep water. A promising "honey hole?" We tried this area and once again, turned up "empty-handed" before moving.

On the last day, we decided to return to that same area. I used a small plastic tube, which, when retrieved, looks like a real crayfish, or "crawdad" as some folks say. Evidently, it didn't look real enough! Joseph stuck with his crankbait, a bright yellow and green minnow imitation. He soon had a hit and as he reared back on his rod I asked him if he needed the net. "Not sure, but it doesn't seem very big," he replied. He steadily reeled the fish in until it was about fifteen feet from the boat. As we both looked down into the crystal-clear water we were shocked to see a nice-sized pike looking back at us. He paused momentarily, probably wondering who had invaded his territory, before turning and bolting away, intent on keeping Joseph's lure for himself. But Joseph has equally intent on getting his favorite lure back – as well as his first pike. The struggle continued for several heart-pounding minutes until the pike suddenly dove under the boat. Joseph held on as the reel's drag squealed. That is music to any fisherman's ears! Several anxious moments later and the pike was guided to the net. Once onboard, we wrestled the thrashing pike and eventually placed him on the steel rule. He was longer than the 24-inch rule, so we had to measure him back at camp. A very impressive 29 inches and the only pike brought in to camp that week. After a few snapshots he was released unharmed. Hopefully some day he will provide another fisherman with more of the same thrills we had.

Do you have an interesting short story about a favorite memory of a log home? Maybe it's a childhood vacation, a weekend at the lake, or a day visiting a friend. Whatever you remember and love to tell others qualifies. Don't forget - a picture to go with your story makes it even more interesting.

Please mail your submission to Hochstetler Milling, 552 St. Rt. 95, Loudonville, OH 44842. Hope to read about your log home adventure in a future issue!

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