



Mill • Direct News

Living the Log Home Lifestyle

Fall 2014

A VIEW FROM THE MILL

By Levi Hochstetler

Fall ushers in the cool, comfortable nights and warm, wonderful days - the perfect setting for our 7th annual Log Cabin Days. It normally attracts about 3,000 people from as many as 25 states and as far away as England. This year promises to be as good as or better than ever. Note; we decided to make LCDs into a biennial event. So after this year's event, we are planning to skip 2015 and have our next Log Cabin Days in September of 2016.

Our two new SII dry kilns are up and running just in time for our busy season. With our continued commitment to improving the quality of our log home logs and timbers, we felt we needed to invest in these new state-of-the-art kilns. You are welcome to see them first-hand during LCDs.

We have six of our boys involved in the business. Two, Joseph and Samuel, are partners. Joseph does a good job coordinating builders and Samuel takes good care of production. Edwin is the head of maintenance and keeps everything running. Steven does most of the grading, some planer set-up and forklift operation. Nathan takes good care of the dry-kilns and Jacob likes to build up his muscles stacking logs and lumber. We look forward to seeing everyone during Log Cabin Days.

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www.HochstetlerLogHomes.com

Log Cabin Days - Sept. 12 & 13

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 12 (11-7) & Saturday, September 13 (9-5) at the Hochstetler Milling site 5 miles north of Loudonville, Ohio at 552 Hwy. 95.

Among the exciting things visitors can expect to see include:

- Self-Guided Log Home Tour
- Lumberjack Competitions
- Delicious 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.



How to Fit the Log Home You Want into Your Budget

- By Levi Hochstetler

This story is part four of a continuing story series. In part one (see our winter issue at www.HochstetlerLogHomes.com) we mentioned 32 steps that will be described more as follows.

#21 Shingled roof vs. standing seam metal roof. Additional cost for a 2000 sq. ft. home with standing seam metal is approximately \$5,000 to \$7,000.

Most shingles will have to be replaced every 20 years whereas standing seam metal can go as long as 50 years, translating into a more maintenance-free roof; plus it's recyclable! When the home is in a moist environment like in a wooded area that's shaded all the time, metal roof should be considered because of its resistance to algae growth.

For folks who like a standing seam metal roof but feel their budget won't allow the extra cost, consider the standard "pole barn metal" 36" metal panels with raised ribs every 9" or so. This is a less expensive alternative and costs about the same as shingles. With standing seam, builders use hidden metal clips to hold down the panels so that no screws penetrate the surface. This is an advantage over the pole barn metal, where the fasteners

continued on page 2

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Creekstone

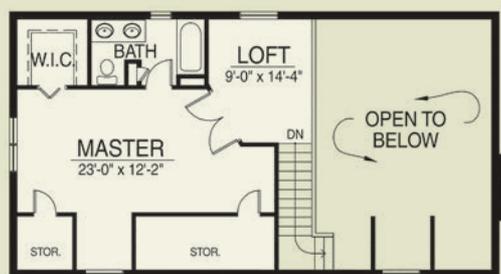
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The Creekstone is the epitome of what log home living is all about. It features a full wrap-around porch and a spectacular open-concept great room with large stone fireplace and a cathedral ceiling highlighted with exposed Douglas Fir timbers.

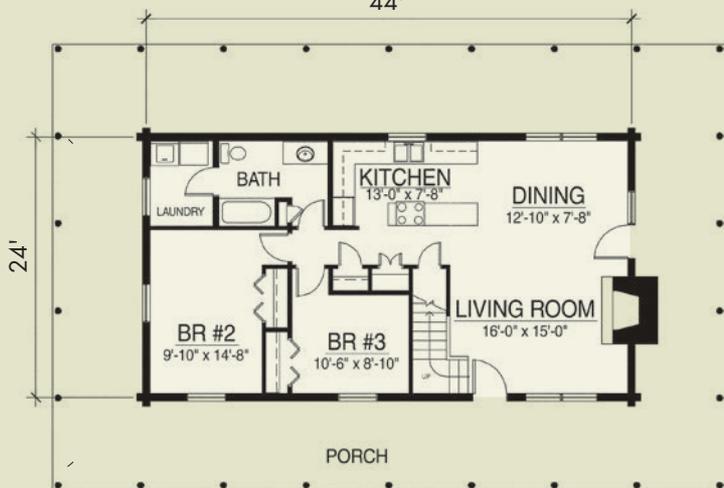
A first-floor laundry and two bedrooms with a shared bath complete the convenient main floor. Upstairs, the spacious master bedroom is king with the isolated privacy it provides. A full master bath with double sinks and plenty of storage in the walk-in closet and two wall closets are both convenient and practical. Plus, the open loft offers additional space.

A beautiful upscale home that offers a lot for a reasonable price.



SECOND FLOOR

44'



FIRST FLOOR

How to Fit the Log Home You Want into Your Budget - *continued from page 1*



Standing Seam

go through the metal. With time, as the metal expands and contracts, it can wear around the fasteners creating leaks; where with the standing seam it can slide over the hidden clips.



Pole Barn Metal

Another thing to keep in mind is the paint on metal roofing tends to fade after several years, particularly with some colors like hunter green. Also, some folks like the sound of rain on their roof at night while others can't stand it. Considering one over the other depends more on what you like and can afford, than anything else. Remember that the roof covering isn't hard to replace later if you're not happy with what you initially choose.

#22 Basic grass vs. complete landscaping. Additional cost for landscaping a 2000 sq. ft. home is approximately \$7,500 to \$12,500.

Good landscaping can make a considerable difference in the overall appearance of your home, as well as in functionality by keeping it cooler in the summer and sheltering it from the cold wind in the winter. Unfortunately, it can be very expensive. Fortunately, it can be upgraded later. If your budget doesn't allow your dream plan, come up with an overall plan now and do the things like planting trees as soon as possible so they can start growing. Then do the other parts and pieces as you can afford it. Never start without a plan as you might plant trees and shrubs in places where you will regret later and end up having to remove.

#23 Paved drive vs. gravel. Additional cost for an average paved drive is approximately \$5,000 to \$15,000.

Not much explaining on this subject, some clients want the pavement and others don't. While pavement, both concrete and asphalt, is more expensive initially, there is less maintenance down the road. It's faster and easier to remove snow in the winter, plus you don't have to spend hours every spring raking the gravel out of the yard that seems to always get pushed in with the snow plow. Also, there's less gravel, dirt and dust dragged inside the garage. Pavement can easily be added later if your budget initially doesn't allow it.



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#24 **Factory cabinets vs. custom made. Additional cost for custom cabinets in a 2000 sq. ft. home is approximately \$5000 to \$15,000.**

Depending on the quality and brand, factory cabinets can be more expensive than custom cabinets. On the average though, custom cabinets are pricier. With factory cabinets built in a high production environment, you naturally get more cabinet for your dollar or as the saying goes, "more bang for the buck". Unfortunately, in the factory environment, quality, both in craftsmanship and material, often gets compromised in exchange for production and price. With custom cabinets, quality is generally easier to maintain. For instance, factory cabinets may have more laminated parts than custom cabinets.

Factory cabinets come in standard modules that aren't easily modified like the custom cabinets, which are made to fit. So when you intend to use them make sure your designer puts the kitchen window, and anything else that you want the kitchen sink to center with, in the right place to accommodate standard sizes. Also, be careful that the window doesn't get moved during construction as even one inch off center can be noticeable.



This article will be continued in our next issue.

FREE BLUEPRINTS

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For a limited time only, with \$2500 deposit down, from September 12 (Log Cabin Days) thru October 31st, you get free blueprints on a deluxe package plus. Offer good up to a 3000 sq. ft. home. Engineer stamp, if required, is an additional cost. Call Hochstetler Milling at 800-368-1015



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If you've ever wanted to design your own log home you'll want to attend this one day, "hands-on" design workshop, Friday, Sept.12 from 8am - 12p.m.

Bring your ideas, sketches, and notepad and let us help you design a practical, energy-efficient home that suits your lifestyle - with curb appeal on the outside and breath-taking beauty on the inside.

Steve Lykins and Bill Dinkins will address design concerns in short, interactive talks and follow-up with individual consultations.

This workshop should prove beneficial in "opening your eyes" to new ideas that will save you time and money - and help turn your dream into a reality!

Please fill out this application and return with your payment of \$49, which includes the workshop and comprehensive design kit.

To ensure that we have time to consult with each applicant, we are limiting this offer to the first 10 that apply. Each person may bring one guest free of charge. Call 800-368-1015 for more information.

"Design Your Dream" Workshop - Sept. 12

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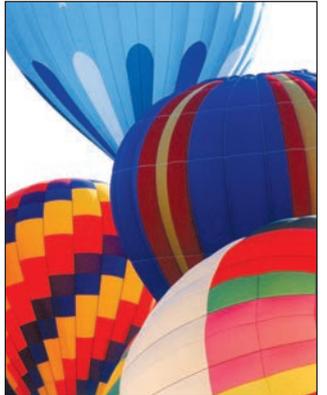
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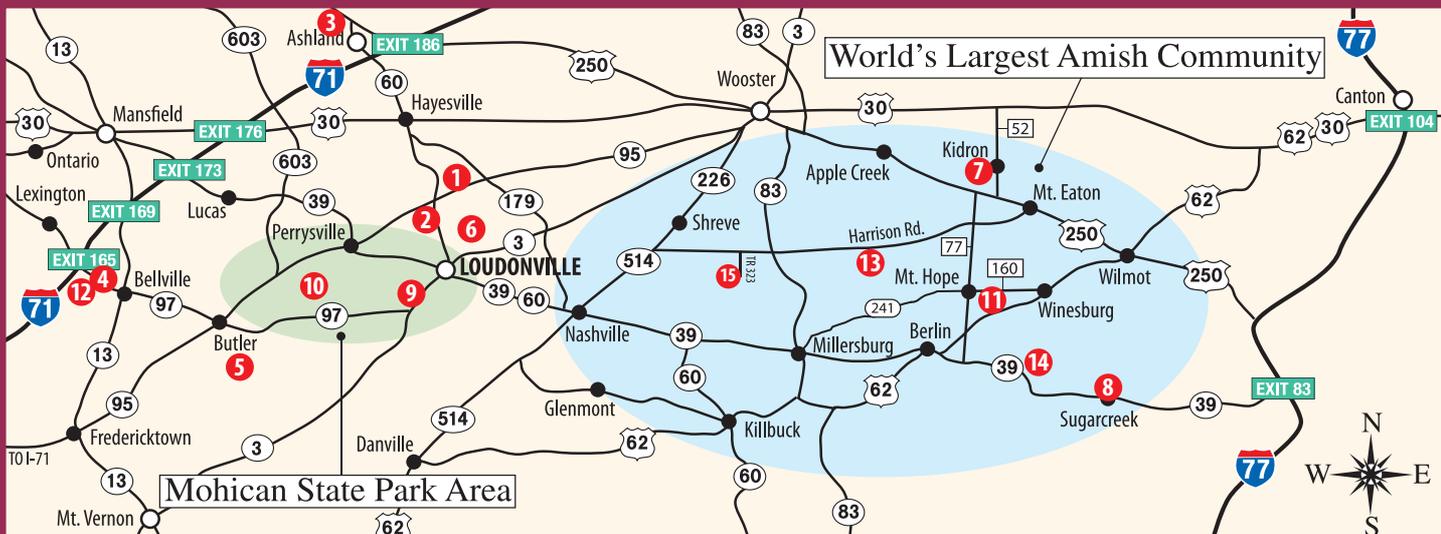
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★ ★ ★ SPECIAL SECTION ★ ★ ★

LOG CABIN DAYS

September 12 & 13 at Hochstetler Milling

Log Cabin Days Hours: Friday, September 12: 11am-7pm • Saturday, September 13: 9am-5pm

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

This year will again be highlighted by the popular self-guided log home auto tour. At this writing we have 6 private log homes committed to being on the tour. Of these 6, 3 are homes that were not on last year's tour, which include 1 Pleasant Hill, 2 modified Black Forks and 3 custom. These are in addition to our own furnished models, the McKay and Black Fork - giving us a total of 8. We had a late start contacting potential home owners and hope to add a few more before Log Cabin Days. If you would like to help out the American Cancer Society and live within forty miles of the mill, then consider contacting us for potentially having your log home on the tour.

We will be taking a suggested \$10 per person



donation for the tour, benefitting the American Cancer Society. These homes are private residences, so please thank them for their generosity in opening up their homes, giving us this rare opportunity during this 2-day event. If you want to see all of the log homes on the tour, plan on most of one day for it.

We are very excited about our lineup of speakers to lead our free seminars.

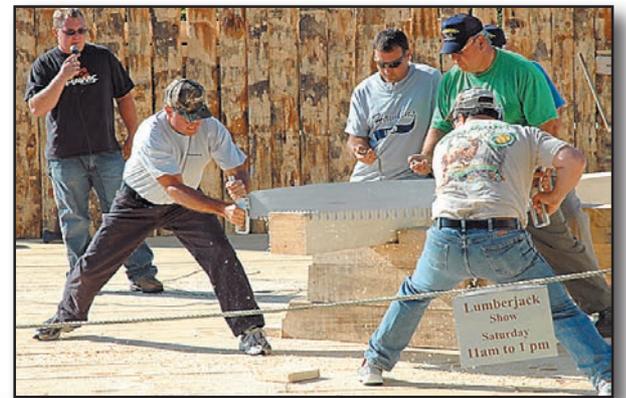
Log cabin financing will be covered by Ashley Weaver of Farm Credit. She will be explaining how to come up with a budget, and the loan process.

Steve Lykins of Hochstetler Milling will be sharing with you his years of design experience and talent for good design. Certainly you will be able to pick up ideas for your own log home.

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

Log home maintenance will be covered by yours truly and a Sikkens Company representative, a normally popular workshop for both future and existing

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



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

log home owners.

If you've ever wanted to design your own log home you'll want to attend our 4-hour hands-on "Plan your Dream" design workshop on Friday morning from 8:00 to 12:00, presented by Steve Lykins and Bill Dinkins. There is a nominal charge for this workshop, please go to page 3 for more information and to sign up.

continued on next page



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



Exhibitors will be showing off their wares, including interior and exterior wood finishes, cabinets, solid oak furniture, log home furniture, bent hickory rockers, windows, and interior and exterior doors. 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 ideas. Note: this could be the largest assembly of rustic furniture makers ever assembled in North America. Hint-- bring your truck!

During the two day event, Buckeye Log Builders will have their crew build an actual log cabin from start to finish. This 13' x 24' cabin, with a 6' porch on the end, is on skids and sized to be shipped on the road. At 4 p.m. on Saturday the 13th, it will be auctioned off. This would make an excellent guest or hunting and

fishing cabin. If interested, contact us for more details.

The brand new state-of-the-art SII dry kiln, along with the mill, can be toured at your leisure. We will have associates available to explain the operation.

There will also be demonstrations of hand-hewing and hand-peeling; a Steam-powered sawmill and shingle mill; and chainsaw carving. A blacksmith will be pounding out unique iron items for your log home. Also on board is a wood carver carving one-of-a-kind fireplace mantels and a watercolor artist giving a demonstration.

Watch a vintage Case steam engine sawing various size logs into timbers and dimensional lumber (just like the good ole' days!).

Always a favorite is the can't miss lumberjacks competing for prizes in axe throwing; crosscut sawing, and wood chopping.

There will be plenty of fun things to watch and do. Take an old-fashioned covered wagon ride down through the woods or watch amateurs, and "not so" amateurs, compete in the log-stacking contest for a prize. Or better yet, compete yourself. Be sure and visit our forestry booth 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 play "gold digger" and sift thru shavings for nickels and candy. They will, no doubt, be fascinated by our small petting zoo with a chance to visit up-close animals

like a pony, a calf, puppies, rabbits, and kittens.

Check out our silent auction where you can bid on an Amish-made quilt and hand-crafted log home related items including rustic furniture, bird feeders, and more. The closing for the silent auction is 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

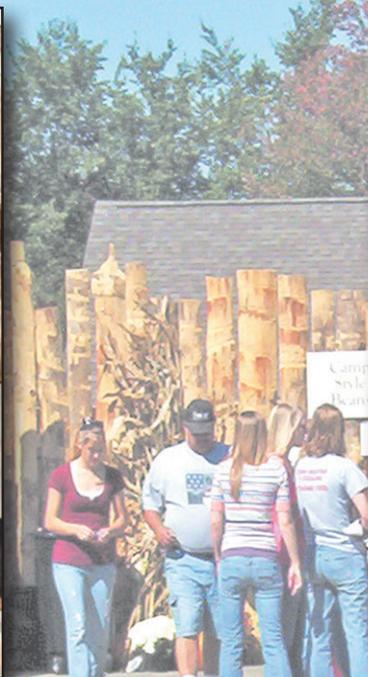
Log Cabin Days would not be complete without some good old-fashioned, mouth-watering, finger-lickin' food-and this year is no exception. Delicious barbecue chicken, noodles, potato salad, kettle cooked baked beans and a variety of pies including L.C.D's famous fry pies will highlight the menu. There is also homemade ice cream, fresh-squeezed apple cider, apple butter and kettle-cooked popcorn. Be sure and plan on taking home pastries from the Amish bake sale, highlighted with fresh pies and homemade bread, along with locally-made Swiss cheese, trail bologna, and fresh produce.

Come early on Saturday morning for the "Early Bird" breakfast, which will be served starting at 7 a.m.; with scrambled eggs and bacon done on an open kettle, real stuffed sausage, pancakes, donuts and coffee or juice.

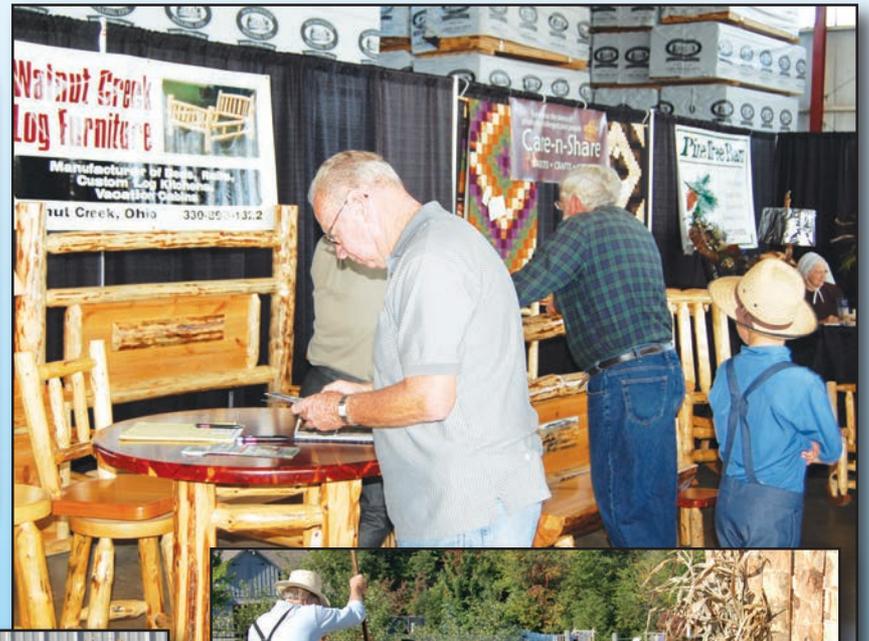
Proceeds from the sale of refreshments, bake sale, and silent auction will benefit the Mohican Parochial School and the American Cancer Society.

Last, but not least, both our models – the McKay and Black fork – will be open for tours as well. While the Black fork 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. 



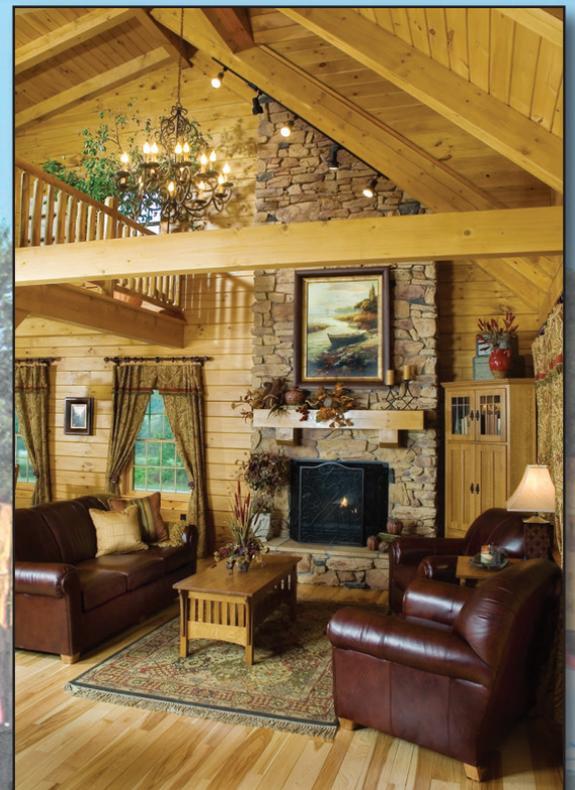
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WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

**FRIDAY
SEPT. 12**

**SATURDAY
SEPT. 13**

- 8:00-12:00 "Design your Dream" Workshop
- 12:00 Log Home Financing
- 1:00 Log Basics 101
- 2:00 Log Home Designing
- 3:00 Log Home Maintenance
- 4:00 Log Home Basics 101
- 5:00 Log Home Designing

- 11:00 Log Home Financing
- 12:00 Log Basics 101
- 1:00 Log Home Designing
- 2:00 Log Home Maintenance
- 3:00 Log Home Basics 101
- 4:00 Cabin Auction

- INFO/ LOG HOME TOUR
- FOOD
- EXHIBITS/ DEMOS
- CONTESTS
- MANUFACTURING FACILITIES
- RESTROOMS



**FRIDAY, SEPT. 12
DESIGN WORKSHOP**
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS.

Partial Exhibitor List

- Amish Oak Furniture - Hardwood Furniture
- Barnwood Furniture - Reclaimed Barn Wood Furniture
- Buckeye Log Builders - Local Log Home Builder
- Cedar Creek Cabins - S. Ohio & Kentucky Home Builder
- Charm Engine - Small Engine Equipment
- Country Lane Bulk Foods - Fresh Produce, Bologna & Cheese
- County Line Woodworks - Custom Interior Doors
- Eicher Woodworking - Custom Cabinets
- Family Firesides - Cast Iron Kettles
- Farm Credit - Log Home Financing
- Haugen Builders - National Log Home Builder
- Hiland Supply - Chimtek Chimney Liners
- Hillside Caning - Chair Caning
- HML Forestry - Timber Management
- Hochstetler Milling - Log Home Manufacturer
- Ivy Hill Farm - Hand Carved Birdhouse Gourds
- Larry Weaver - Rustic Slabwood Furniture
- Log Cabin Furnishings - Cabin Decor
- Lomac Rugs - Rag Rugs
- MHP Flooring - Hardwood Flooring
- Miller Trees - Pine Trees
- Miller's Rustic Furniture - Rustic Log Furniture
- Mohawk Sugar Bush - Maple Syrup & Supplies
- Mt. Hope Timber - Hand Carved Fireplace Mantels
- Owens Corning - Architectural Shingles
- Raymar Log Homes - Local Log Home Builder
- Richardson's Greenhouse - Landscaping
- RK Rustics - Rustic Log Furniture
- RN Cabinet - Rustic Cabinets
- Shakley Mechanical - HVAC & Plumbing
- Sikkens - Log Home Finishes
- The Spoonmaker - Wooden Spoons
- Walnut Creek Log Furniture - Rustic Log Furniture
- Walnut Creek Metals - Standing Seam Metal Roofing
- Walnut Valley Log Homes - Local Log Home Builder
- Woodland Rose Log Home Finishing - Log Home Staining

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 at 4:00pm on Saturday. Does not include interior walls or fixtures.

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Event Information:

Located 5 miles north of Loudonville and 1/2 mile east of the St. Rt. 95 & 60 intersection at 552 Hwy. 95

Hours: Friday, September 12, 11am - 7pm
Saturday, September 13, 9am - 5pm

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

A fun-filled, 2-day family event that all ages will enjoy!



Lighting for Log Homes

- By Steve Lykins

Light is one of the most important tools for architectural design, perhaps the most important. Light is what allows us to experience our world and our surroundings through our sense of sight. Without light there would be no color and no shadow, no perception of space and volume, no ornamentation. It can be said that the human experience is partially defined by light. So make no mistake: light is very important! Often times lighting and electrical design are an afterthought during the design of any home. With log homes in particular, lighting is especially important because the walls and ceilings typically have a natural wood finish, which is unique and beautiful, but does not reflect light like a relatively smooth painted drywall or plaster surface. This means that lighting should be given quite a bit of thought from preliminary design through construction. Think about lighting the interior of the home as well as the exterior of the home. Think about how lights inside the home will look from outside the home at night. With a log home it can be especially difficult to change lighting design after construction has started, so start planning early!

There are four basic functions of lighting to consider in the design of a log home: general lighting, special task lighting, architectural lighting and security lighting. Look at every room and space in the home and decide how each of these functions will be met. How will you see in order to walk through the room safely? If it is a Kitchen, how will you light the work surfaces? Do you want to accent the beautiful heavy timber roof system with some directional lights? How will you know when someone approaches your home from the drive or street? There are many things to think about.

The next step is to consider what types of light you want to introduce. There are two basic types of light: natural light and artificial light. Building codes govern both natural and artificial lighting and the amount of light required for any given room or space. Often your most basic lighting needs will satisfy building code requirements, but you might choose to work with your designer and/or electrician to be sure that you meet building code requirements. The placement of windows, doors and perhaps skylights during the design of your home will ultimately impact the amount of artificial lighting required. Think about how you will orient the home on the site to take advantage of the rising and setting of the Sun during different seasons. Think about providing shades or awnings for big spans of glass so they don't gain too much heat during summer. Be sure to include generous amounts of glass (whether windows or doors) in the spaces that you spend the most time. Many times the Great Room, Kitchen and Dining Room are most frequently used. Some folks also spend a lot of time in their bedroom and/or bathroom. Perhaps your workshop in the Garage or your hobby room in the basement is where you spend most of your time? Natural light is said to improve human emotion and some experiments have supported this claim. Be sure that you will enjoy the time you spend in these spaces by adding some natural light!

You must also use some artificial light because natural light is not always available when and where you want it. While there are many many types of artificial light, there are a few that are well suited for log homes. As far as light fixtures go, track lights are a good choice for lighting log homes. They are installed from a single point but many can be pointed in almost any direction. This is a great way to achieve architectural lighting for a big stone fireplace, heavy timber ceiling or custom woodwork in the home. Wall

mounted fixtures (or 'sconces') are also a great choice for log home lighting. They can be installed easily on interior walls and they can invoke an intimate feeling very different from that of a basic ceiling mounted light. Chandeliers also have their place in log home design. A chandelier can be a great design feature for a Great Room or a Dining Room. Of course many task lights come in the form of an appliance (i.e., desk lamp, reading lamp) that can be moved around the home for flexibility. Other types of lights common to log homes are pendant lights over a Kitchen island, fluorescent strip lights for workshops/garages, vanity strip lights for bathrooms and of course ceiling mounted lights for a variety of applications. Recessed lights or 'can' lights are sleek and have a bit more contemporary feel, but they are difficult to install in a heavy timber floor/ceiling or heavy timber roof. You should consult your designer or electrician during preliminary design if you want 'can' lights in your log home as planning for them will be very important.

There are several types of lamps ('bulbs') that are available for most of the fixture types listed above. Incandescent lamps have been around for over 100 years and they produce a warm, amber-colored light. These lamps are great because they enhance the warm and cozy feeling that is part of the log home experience; however, many codes require lamps to meet energy efficiency requirements that most traditional incandescent lamps do not meet. Consult with your designer or your electrician. Fluorescent lamps are gaining popularity, especially as "compact" fluorescent lamps. These are the "spiral" type lamps that are so common now. These lights are great from an efficiency standpoint, but they emit a notoriously

"blue" colored light. This is often not desirable for a log home, but some manufacturers are now producing warm-colored, compact fluorescent lamps and there are also lenses available for some fixtures that will change the color of light being emitted. Another option is an LED lamp. LEDs are relatively new to the residential market so they may be expensive, but their efficiency is second to none. And, many manufacturers now produce LEDs that will emit just about any 'color' of light that is desired. At today's prices LEDs will not take long to pay for themselves, so they are well worth the added cost if you will be in your home for 5-10 years or more.

Some thought should also be given to the control of lighting fixtures. Dimmer switches can not only control the amount of light that a lamp emits (effectively changing the 'mood' of a room or space) but they can also greatly increase the efficiency of a lamp, too. If you choose to use some dimmer switches be careful in selecting lamps because most compact fluorescent lamps are not dimmable. Motion switches will detect motion in a room or space and automatically turn the lights on only when someone is using the room. Photo switches can automatically control a light fixture based on the light in the environment (turn a light on at night and off during the day). Timers can automatically turn lights on and/or off at a scheduled interval. Lighting controls are a great way to save money on your electric bill!

Again, light is one of the most powerful architectural design tools available so put some thought into it early on in the design process. Think about how it will allow you, your family and your guests to enjoy the natural beauty of your log home and how it can enhance the design of the home. Think about how you will use light to help define your own human experience!



DONNIE'S *Dream*

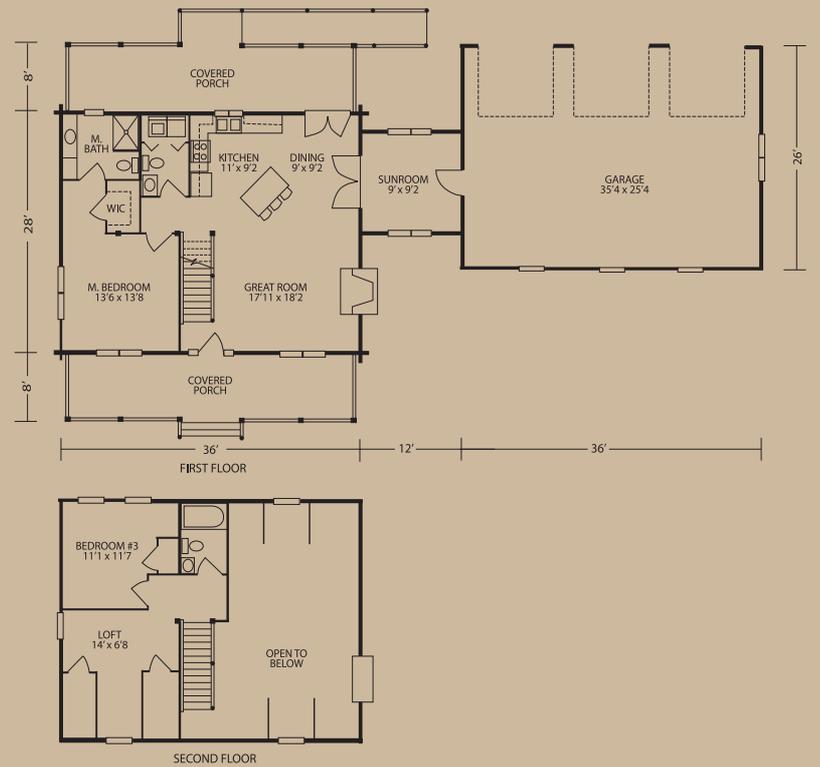
- By *Bill Dinkins*

Few people will experience what Donnie Thimmes did on April 5, 2010. It was then that he came face-to-face with death and, fortunately, lived to tell about it. On that day his life was changed forever.

Donnie is a warm-hearted person, always smiling, who looks at life through rose-colored glasses and enjoys helping people - so it is not surprising that he was a volunteer in the local fire department. On April 5th, he got a call to respond to a wild fire just outside town. The night before a violent storm had knocked out power, and an electrician was summoned to find the cause. After alternately turning the power off and on he left, apparently thinking it was OK. A short time later an electrical spark from a downed power line ignited the field and set it ablaze. Donnie quickly followed three firefighters up the hill to the blaze when suddenly a jolting shock shot up his leg. He looked down and saw he was standing on the power line but was unable to move. 7500 Volts surged through his body as he heard the rhythmic b-z-z-z-z coursing up his leg and trunk. He was being electrocuted.

A fellow firefighter quickly turned the hose on Donnie and the encircling spray mist "confused" the current enough that they were able to drag him to safety, while being shocked themselves. A call went out to local paramedics, but when it was determined his condition was critical he was life-flighted to a hospital in Columbus. Doctors didn't give Donnie much hope - his heart stopped beating twice and he was in an induced coma for 18 weeks. 11 Burn specialists performed 15 surgeries to put him back together. They even took bones from his ribs to put in his legs to enable him to walk, minus one kneecap. The road to recovery was





long and arduous and painful but somehow Donnie made it. Doctors call him the “Miracle Boy” when he goes for his periodic follow ups and tell him “God must have had a plan for you.” Indeed, Donnie takes nothing for granted and greets each day knowing he’s lucky to be alive. His ever-present smile and sunny disposition are further proof!

Donnie has always loved the outdoors and dreamt someday of owning a log home. Somehow a log home just fit his lifestyle. So when he visited a log home built by a local builder, Jedd Dawson, the wheels were set in motion. But with his limited mobility was this even realistic? Luckily, his close friends, Jeff and Deb Slagell, agreed to help him with the project. Jeff would act as a general contractor and coordinate the day-to-day operation with the builder. Later, Deb would lend her interior decorating expertise. Donnie liked the overall floor plan of the popular McKay but with a few wrinkles. Working with the Hochstetler designers, he added a breezeway/sunroom between the house and garage, plus a third bay to the garage which would become a horse stall and readily accessible from the house. The portable stall would also open out to a small paddock outside. And, the lucky horse that would call this home would be “Duke”, a “senior citizen” of 28 years and beloved friend of Donnie’s. This aging quarter horse occupies a place not only in Donnie’s heart but atop the mantle in his great room. Jeff, a very accomplished artist, painted the beautiful watercolor of “Duke” and presented it to Donnie, who didn’t hesitate to hang it where all could see. After all, isn’t that where family pictures should go!



Many of the features in Donnie’s home are for his convenience and the result of Jeff’s planning. A kitchen island, for instance, makes it easy for Donnie to prepare meals and seat his friends. Jeff also purchased a chair lift to transport Donnie upstairs and had oversized doors installed throughout if he should become wheelchair-bound. Right now he is able to get around well enough with a cane and his unbridled enthusiasm.

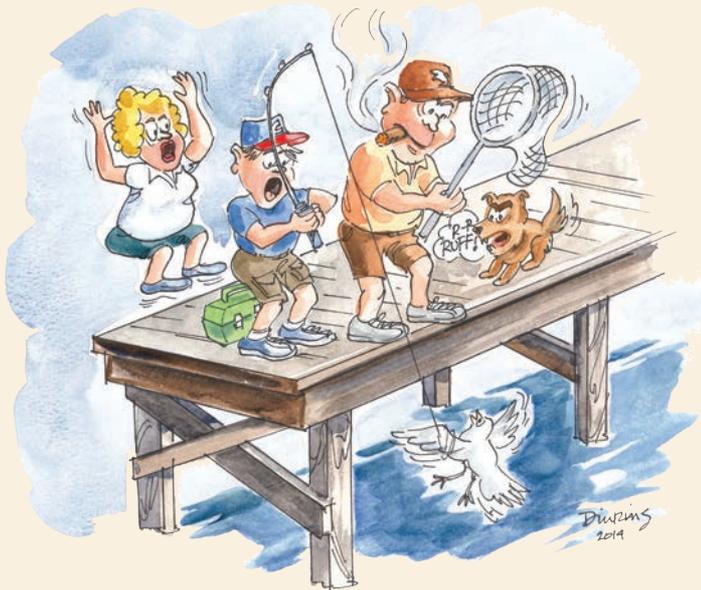
Deb did a wonderful job of bringing the outdoors “in” with her outdoor theme. Paintings of wildlife, including birds, small animals and deer adorn the walls. Downstairs, the “man-cave” features a floor-to-ceiling wildlife scene and rustic wall hangings and decorative rugs. Upstairs, she created a fire house “bunk room”, an everpresent reminder of his much-appreciated service to his community. His jacket and helmet on the bed are poised and ready to “answer

the call.” Outside, several bird feeders are a constant source of entertainment from his “feathered friends”. In the spring, his backyard is a wildlife sanctuary for all sorts of critters - from squirrels to raccoons to deer.

Although Donnie had to wait to realize his lifelong dream of owning a log home, I’m sure the wait was well worth it, thanks to the help from his friends, especially Jeff and Deb. 🏠

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

CABIN FEVER



“Jacks are Wild” by Bill Dinkins

There is a certain camaraderie that exists among outdoorsmen. No matter if its hunters, fishermen, campers or basically anyone that spends time and appreciates the great outdoors. This outdoor fraternity consists of men and women of all ages who find nature fascinating and simply love to share funny stories and observations with each other.

On a recent vacation to Florida I happened to meet several “snowbirds” at the fishing pier each morning. There was the grizzled truck driver from Rhode Island who I called “Rhode Island”, for short; the chatterbox lady from Michigan named “Connie”; the young college student from Michigan State simply named “hey kid”; and the resident fishing expert, “Big Joe” with his canine companion, “Scruffy”, an unlikely half-Golden Retriever - Pekingese mix. It was this unlikely collection of diehard fishermen and a single fisherwoman that provided misguided input and wisdom on almost every topic known to mankind. A virtual font of entertaining, but mostly worthless, information!

One morning as we praised ourselves for having the intelligence to head south and escape “the winter that wouldn’t stop”, we were surprised by a rare occurrence. Simultaneously, hundreds of fish churned the surface to a froth chasing a large school of bait fish all around us while dozens of seagulls and pelicans descended to pick up the scraps. “Jacks”, shouted “Rhode Island” as we all hurriedly cast out in all directions. No sooner had the small jigs hit the water than all of us shouted, “fish on”. Miraculously, each fish headed directly under the pier where razor-sharp barnacles sliced through the lines as they slid across the large support posts. 5 minutes later the “Jacks” had all but disappeared and the water became calm again but for a short time it was crazy, non-stop action. Trevally, or “Jacks” as they are more commonly called, are a great fighting fish, averaging about 3-5 lbs. and amazingly adept at separating themselves from your line. Unlike

their look-alike cousins, Pompano, Jacks are not considered tasty. Some might even say, “wild.”

But this adventure was just starting. In the midst of casting for Jacks, a seagull flew into my line, sufficiently tangled around and through its wing. Immediately, my fishing buddies gathered around and “Scruffy” went ballistic. I reeled the gull in where “Big Joe” was able to scoop it with his landing net and hold it - while it squawked its displeasure. I couldn’t believe how entangled it had become so it took us awhile to unwind it but finally Joe sent it skyward - looking non-the-worse for the unfortunate encounter. Unbelievably, a few minutes later a pelican flew into my line. Fortunately, it broke the line and I was soon back to fishing, while overhearing some snide remarks like, “wonder what he’s fishing for” or “doesn’t he realize pelicans are out of season”.

In all, it was what I like to call a mixed bag: one Spanish Mackerel, one Lady fish, two “Jacks”, and the aforementioned seagull. Not a great day - but wildly entertaining! 

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 Hwy. 95, Loudonville, OH 44842. **Hope to read about your log home adventure in a future issue!**



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