



Mill-Direct News

Living the Log Home Lifestyle

Winter 2019-2020



VIEW FROM THE MILL

By Levi Hochstetler

We are experiencing the mildest fall that I have seen in recent years. It seems we are two weeks behind normal. Generally, we have very few leaves left on the trees by now other than a few oaks. However, this year at October 28 we are having our peak foliage colors.

Wanting to visit us, planning to come for Log Cabin Days, or just wanting to get away? If you are, you may want to book one of the 10 new cabins at Pleasant Hill Lake. They are now taking reservations for next year starting in April. There's no better way to test drive a log home then to rent one of these log cabins that came from us. If you are thinking of renting one for Log Cabin Days you may want to hurry as I'm sure they will go fast. To reserve your cabin go to MWCD.ORG or call 1-855-822-6764. Note: Log Cabin Days is planned for September 18 & 19, 2020.

We are changing our logo! You may soon see the new one on our advertisements.

This Holiday season again we are having a Christmas Open House. It is no coincidence that it is being held between the holidays. We wanted it timed so that folks, like you, can come during Christmas vacation and don't have to take off from work. There is no better time to sit down with one of our designers then now to get your "dreams interpreted" on paper. However, you're also welcome if you are only interested in touring our models and enjoying some good cider along with homemade pastries! Regardless, everyone is welcome! Hope to see you soon!

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Log Home Tour - *by Nathan Hochstetler*

One of the more exciting and enjoyable benefits Hochstetler employees experience is the opportunity to see the "fruits of our labor." Levi Hochstetler, the founder, invited the Hochstetler "team" to visit several homes that we have created – including the design and the materials supplied for our customer's dream homes.

The first stop on our log home journey was at Mark Bricker's home. Mark had been researching log homes for over 10 years before finally deciding on the Honey Creek floor plan, with a few modifications made by him and our in-house designer. Mark had a contractor come in and do the shell of his home, while he did the finish work himself. Including making his own cabinets with White Pine tongue & groove supplied by us! He is still putting the final touches to his dream home.

Stop no. 2 was at the home of Joe and Kris Sokol. Their log home journey began years ago while on a vacation and staying in a timber-framed cottage with tongue & groove pine walls. Joe, being the creative type, came up with a custom plan that included a unique mix of round and square timbers for the roof system, along with hand-hewn logs for the walls—the rustic look is stunning! It suits their lifestyle and, as Joe said, "it's like being on vacation every day."

Next stop was at the home of John and Mary Goers, just a short drive away. Their home is based on the Fairview with a few modifications. Our in house designer was able to make these modification and, with the help of an experienced builder, the home was completed in 2017. Nestled among the shade trees, with a beautiful view of the

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Goer's Home was the 3rd Stop on the Tour

Log Basics 101: Part II

*(continued from Fall 2019 Issue)- *by Levi Hochstetler**

Milling: After drying the cants, they are now ready to be milled into a profile. Most of the industry uses a 4-sided planer for milling cants into log cabin logs. It is a large planer that has at least 4 and sometimes 6 rotating heads with blades mounted on them. It can take an 8x8 square rough-sawn cant, and mill it into tongue & groove stacking log in just one pass! Dimensions are carefully checked with a dial-indicator to make sure they fit together tightly. Some manufactures use a 4-sided re-saw instead.

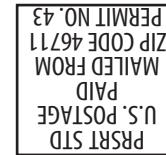
After they go through the planer they are graded and are trimmed on both ends, which we call, "end-squared," they are graded per the Log Homes Council grading rules, based on knot size & placement, slope of grain, free from decay and other defects. The grading assures clients that the logs are structurally sound for use in their home. Structural engineers & building departments need them graded, otherwise they have no way of knowing what the load capacity is of the material.

After the logs are graded and milled they are wrapped with lumber wrap and put in storage until the home owner or builder is ready to receive them.

Normally the logs are loaded on semi-tractor trailers and delivered to the job site. A typical log home consists of about 5 loads, but depending on the size of the home can be quite a few more.

Corner joints: The three most common corner joints used today are the **butt-and-pass**, **saddle-notch** and **dovetail**. Structurally, there is no advantage of one type of corner over another. When people ask which corner is the strongest, the answer is "I don't know," but

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FEATURED FLOOR PLAN

North Cascade

Sq. ft. 1792

3 BR / 2 BATH

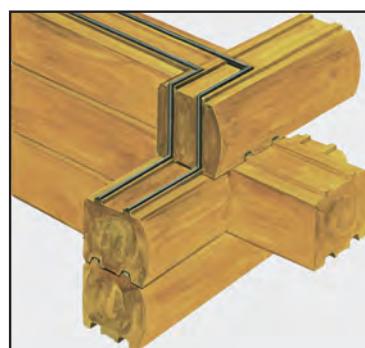


The North Cascade home harkens back to the beautiful, rustic look of the Adirondack lodges of yesteryear! With its large, gabled entry, huge stone fireplace and covered front porch it is particularly inviting. The great room has a double-sided fireplace and timbered, cathedral ceiling, opening to the kitchen & dining area. The mud room/laundry is conveniently located between the kitchen and 2-car garage. The master bedroom has a walk-in closet, and master bath with walk-in shower and tub. And, for privacy, is located on the opposite end of the home, away from the other bedrooms. Bedrooms 2 and 3, and guests, share the second bath.

Outside, the front and rear covered porches offer outstanding views of the surrounding landscape – no matter what the season brings. You'll love the "Adirondack" appeal of this plan, but with the convenience of today's log home lifestyle.



Log Basics 101 - continued from page 1



Butt-and-Pass

without doubt any of these three corners are many times stronger than any stick-built corner. You should select the corner you prefer or like.

The **butt-and-pass** (*see image to left*) is the most common corner used. Since it requires the least amount of additional cutting it is also the easiest to build and the most economical. Notice the continual gasket runs not only across the tongues, but also down the butt joints. This is a very important feature in achieving a tight, energy-efficient home.

Saddle-notch logs are normally associated with double round logs, but can be used with D logs, as well.

Saddle-notch gives your home a more western flavor. Some clients prefer them because there is no space between the logs where birds can nest.

Dovetail corners, on the other hand, gives your home an antique look. If you like antiques, this may be the corner for you. Square logs are supplementary with dovetail corners. The chinking, which is generally caulking with sand mixed in, is applied only on the surface instead of between the logs, like in the old days.

Maintenance: As you probably already know the biggest enemies of wood is moisture and the sun. However, the sun, or UV rays, breaks down the finish faster than does moisture. That is why extensive porches and large overhangs, which shield the logs from direct sunlight, are always a good idea. Incidentally, when you stain your logs—buy a quality product and periodically give it a maintenance coat. The extra cost of a quality finish, like Sikkens, is well worth your investment and can save you up to 75% in the long run. It takes the same amount of labor to apply a good quality material as a lesser quality.

Inside a log home there is virtually no maintenance. Once you have the finish of your choice on, there is very little, if any, maintenance.

Wood Species

| Species | R-Value per Inch | Decay Resistance | Relative Shrinkage | Cost | Ease of Installation |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Northern | 1.41 | High | Very | Moderate | Easy |
| White Cedar | | | Low | | |
| Eastern | 1.32 | Moderate | Very | Low | Easiest |
| White Pine | | | Low | | |
| Western | 1.09 | High | Very | High | Easy |
| Red Cedar | | | Low | | |
| Cypress | 1.04 | High | Low | Moderate | Fairly Easy |

Wood species: (*see the chart above*) Probably the most popular log species is the Eastern White Pine. It has several distinct advantages such as high R-value, low shrinkage and easy workability, but the most important is its relative low cost. This species is readily available and is well suited for most of North America. Hands down, of all the least costly materials Eastern White Pine is the best.

Northern White Cedar has slightly more R-value and is more decay-resistant than the white pine. However, it doesn't grow very tall which translates to more splices in your log wall because of the shorter logs. Note: there is a big difference in the quality of cedar. Because of its minimum advantage over white pine, I personally would save my dollars for areas where it makes more impact on my investment.

Red Cedar, like White Cedar, is also more decay-resistant but has less R-value than white pine and costs approximately twice as much as white pine.

Keep in mind that while cedars are more decay-resistant than white pine they still require the same maintenance.

This story will be continued in the next issue of Mill-Direct News

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIALS

"I was shocked when Levi took me on as his client but felt "Special." I mean, he was the owner of the company and I surely expected to be assigned to a salesperson. So, thank you, Levi, for adopting me. You had a great selection of log cabin plans and you redesigned a plan I really liked to a one floor. And, introducing us to our builder-his crew has done a terrific job. Staff at McKay was especially very helpful also. So thanks to everyone involved-you've done a great job for us."

Pat Hamilton, Ohio

"When we look back on our exciting log home building experience we find ourselves feeling extremely grateful that we chose to work with Hochstetler Log Homes. We were fortunate enough to work with Joseph for our total experience. I don't know how we would have ever managed without him! He helped keep both of us sane! (And that is a big task!) From the moment we met Joseph , he listened to us very carefully to ensure that our log home would be exactly what we hoped for. Joseph was exceptionally knowledgeable, patient and kind. He graciously offered his expert opinion on all matters whenever he was consulted. We thank all Hochstetler staff members for their professionalism, dedications and prompt follow through."

The Greene Family, Ohio

"Building a Log Home isn't an easy task but people at Hochstetler made the process go smoothly. They were always available by phone to answer questions that came up. I ordered a complete package and all the material was there with no missing items. Hochstetler's recommended builder started as soon as I got the foundation in and home was complete in about 6 months."

Alan Doyle, Ohio



Come One, Come All! HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE at Hochstetler Log Homes



It's that time of year when we wish to invite you to come in and enjoy the casual and relaxing lifestyle that makes a log home so special. Refreshments will be served.

This is also an ideal time to discuss your building plans with our experienced design staff and get a free, no-obligation estimate. Our McKay model is at the intersection of Hwy. 60 & 95, 5 miles north of Loudonville, Ohio. The second model, the Black Fork, is only a 1/2 mile up the hill at 552 Hwy. 95.

Open House days are: December 26, 27, 28, 30 & 31.
Closed on December 23-25 & January 1. We hope to see you!



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Our Neck of the Woods

by Bill Dinkins



The log home journey for Loren and Brenda Stayer began auspiciously several years ago when Loren was traveling throughout the state on his job. He searched for many years for secluded hunting property near Columbus, which would also be central to his territory. Finally, he discovered a promising site on the internet - 190 acres, mostly wooded, teeming with wildlife, just south of Newark.

When he first visited the secluded property he was immediately impressed and told Brenda who responded, "We'll buy it, but only if you promise to build me a log cabin on it." And with that the deal was sealed.

They began researching log home companies on the internet, in magazines, and attending log home shows. During a visit to Hochstetler's Log Cabin Days they went on the tour and realized this was the company. They met with the designer, Steve Lykins, and the plans were set in motion. Brenda surprised

Steve with her very detailed scale drawings of the custom home she dreamed of. Together, they formulated a floor plan that suited everyone in the family.

She designed the kitchen with an island and custom hickory cabinets; a laundry room, again with custom cabinets, conveniently located between the kitchen and master bedroom; a first-floor master bedroom with adjoining master bath and walk-in closet; and a sunroom in the rear, which offers an unobstructed view of the wooded ravine and meandering stream below. Loren wanted a place to display his trophy game mounts, which are arranged in the great room on either side of the fireplace. The unique staircase, composed of square posts with rebar in-between, leads up to the loft with a trundle bed, and two bedrooms. A favorite getaway for the kids is the walkout basement, with an oversized bedroom and five beds, including two sets of bunks. They've hosted up to 22 guests on the

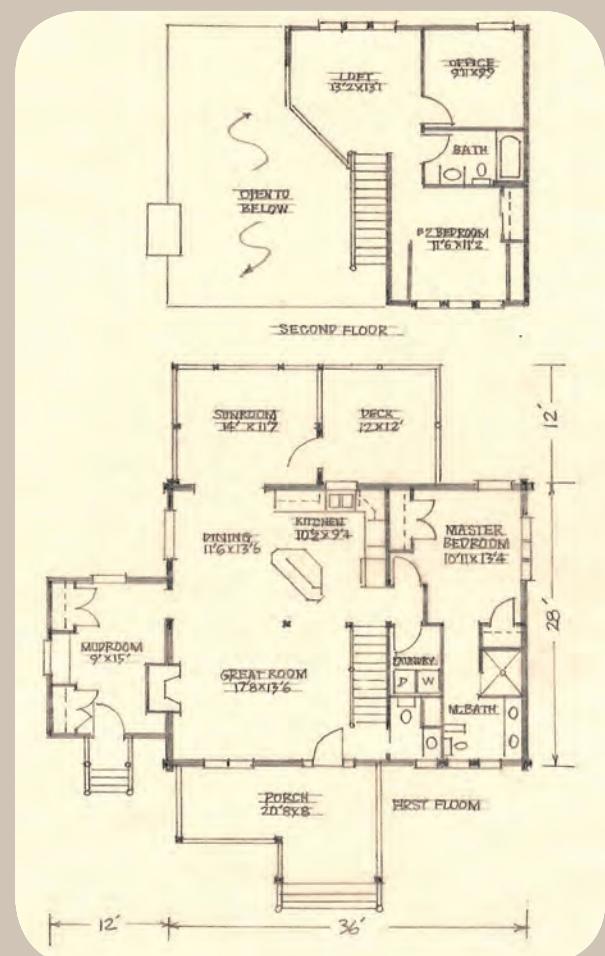
weekends! The adjoining rec room has a large, built-in TV, sectional sofa and ping pong table. Outside, there are trails for the 4-wheelers to explore.

The Stayers' built a pole barn to house their machinery and tractors in July, 2013 and broke ground for their home in August, 2015. In September, the house was under roof and completed in May of '16. The results are unique and impressive. The exposed timbers above the double-gabled entry and the large 8x12 square logs with contrasting chinking give the home an authentic Appalachian charm. A three-window shed dormer also adds a unique decorative touch.

Inside, Brenda's knack for decorating is also evident. The mantle above the

stone fireplace is from a 100-year old barn where Brenda grew up. Upstairs, there is a beautifully restored antique buggy seat in like-new condition. Additional antiques are scattered throughout the home.

Brenda and Loren's attention to detail and planning really emphasizes the benefits of a custom plan. By incorporating her ideas into their family's lifestyle the final plan is truly their dream home!



*For additional information about the home of the Stayers
please contact Hochstetler Log Homes at 800-368-1015.*

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CABIN FEVER

“Wild Ride”

as told to Bill Dinkins by Levi Hochstetler

My dad, Edwin, told me about a harrowing experience he had while growing up, when things could have turned out much differently, but luckily someone was looking out for him that summer day.

We lived in the country and Dad had been visiting with friends and was heading home on a young horse named Babe. It was only a 2-mile ride on a lightly-traveled country road so he felt safe and didn't bother with a saddle. Dad was an experienced rider and felt a pair of reins was all he needed. The melodic clip-clop of Babe's hooves were particularly relaxing and a light breeze added to the enjoyment of the ride. Just him, his horse and the solitude of nature ... it added up to a perfect day!

That is until a neighbor's dog burst on the scene. Buster was an ill-tempered mutt that all the kids avoided like the plague. Unfortunately, his owners didn't keep him chained up, so Buster was free to terrorize the neighborhood. As Dad approached the Miller's place he became a little apprehensive and gripped the reins a little tighter. The day seemed to change from one of peace and quiet to one of ominous overtones. The sky got darker, the birds stopped singing and even the horse seemed a little squeamish.

In the distance, Buster had already noticed these "strangers" on his road and raced towards them, baring his fangs and growling relentlessly. His owner yelled out for the dog to stop but it was too late. Babe reared up, Dad lost his grip on the reins but luckily managed to hold onto the horse's neck and soon was hanging upside down, looking at Babe face-to-face! With eyes peeled back in fright the horse bolted down the gravel road, Dad hanging on precariously and Buster in hot pursuit.

Finally, the dog gave up the chase, but not 'til Dad had breathed a giant sigh of relief.

When Dad and his brothers got home they vowed to "get even." That dog had to go. They loaded their trusty 12-gauge and proceeded to walk back down the road to "settle things."

"Let's see how Buster likes buckshot," Jonas muttered. As they approached the house Buster bolted towards them, ears laid back in attack mode. Big mistake! Jonas took careful aim and fired. Buster dropped! The boys turned and ran, but as they looked back that malicious mutt was crawling back home.

Next day the owner came over to investigate and gave them the dreadful news. Buster was going to be okay, but there was a substantial vet bill to be paid. When Dad's father, Levi, heard about this, he made the boys pay the bill...all \$200 worth! 



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