



# Mill-Direct News

Living the Log Home Lifestyle

Fall 2020

## VIEW FROM THE MILL

By Levi Hochstetler

We have had a wet spring but we are blessed with a relatively dry summer so far. It helps us from both ends, both the loggers and the building crews can work most days which makes things go smoother and faster.

With this issue, you will see the advertisement for our Log Raising. In 2007 we had a "log raising" for the Black fork model here at the mill. Now we are doing an addition to it, mostly for offices. We invite you to come and see how it's done. Our goal is to have most of the heavy timber rafters put in place by evening. We hope to be in by Christmas. Hopefully, by now everyone knows that Log Cabin Days has been postponed 'til September of next year—not to be confused with the log raising.

Covid-19 has been hammering us like everyone else. So far, we have been able to limp along. Fortunately, we have been able to maintain our manufacturing obligations on schedule and keep everyone on payroll the whole time. This pandemic seems to have affected everyone but who would have thought that it would even affect the manufacturing of an Amish buggy? My son, Jacob, ordered a buggy over a year ago from a local buggy shop. (Buggy's are custom-made and their lead times can be long). When he went to check up on its progress the owner of the shop reported that he doesn't know when they will have it done as a certain part for a light is made in China and at this point they have no idea when it will arrive!

See you all at the log raising.

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continued on page 2

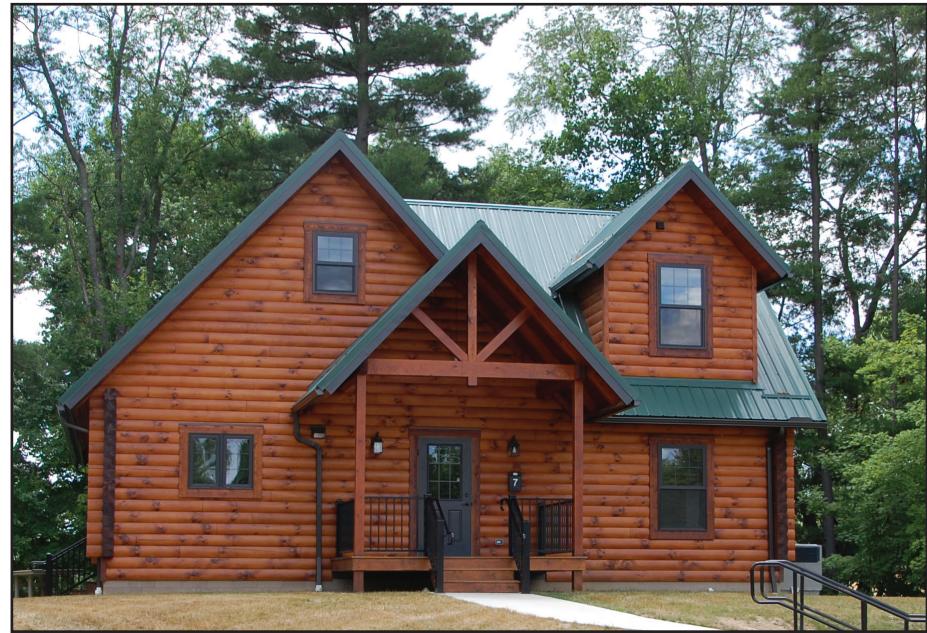
## Pleasant Hill Lake Park Rental Cabins

- by Bill Dinkins

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District has state-owned land that it leases out to oil and gas companies. In 2015, the District decided to put those funds to work and build log cabins to rent at Pleasant Hill Lake Park. The park is comprised of 1345 scenic acres surrounding the popular lake. A natural setting for rustic log cabins. The District members visited the nearby Hochstetler log models and facilities, were duly impressed, and arranged a meeting to discuss their future plans. The 10 log cabins would be built among a stand of towering pines and would overlook the lake and be within walking distance of the beach and hiking trails.

Just completed this spring, the cabins are, "a family-friendly, one-stop destination," Louis Andres, Park Manager, said. "You can come with your family or small group, enjoy the outdoors and have all the amenities that you'd like to have. All you do is bring your food and personal items, and we furnish the rest."

The cabins are open year-round and are fully furnished. They feature open-concept



*Cabins are located in a grove of towering pines and surrounded by hiking trails to enhance the outdoor experience.*

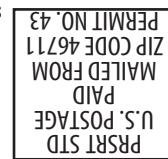
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## Log Home Advantages - by Levi Hochstetler

### Log Homes are Safer

Derle Schlabach and his wife Kay both woke one stormy night with a "loud bang" when a large tree blew over onto their new log home. One of the firemen said, "had they been sleeping in a conventional stick home, nothing would have stopped the tree from coming down on top of them!" Needless to say, he was thankful that his wife had insisted on building a log home! It may very well have saved both their lives!

Log homes with a post and beam loft and timbered roof system are stronger. In fact, a lot stronger. George Twiner feels as "snug-as-a-bug" and secure in his Hochstetler log home—even during a tornado. Living near Yazoo City Mississippi, he observed the destruction a rare twister, called a wedge, did to his community in 2010. His log home was barely scratched. However, his neighbors weren't so lucky. Many of the neighboring houses, including brick homes, were in ruin. The tornado claimed 10 lives and injured many more that were trapped in their collapsed homes.

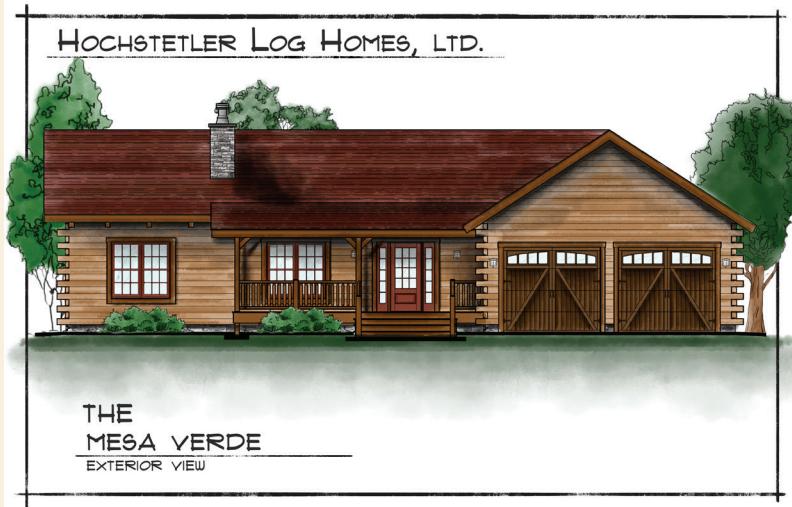


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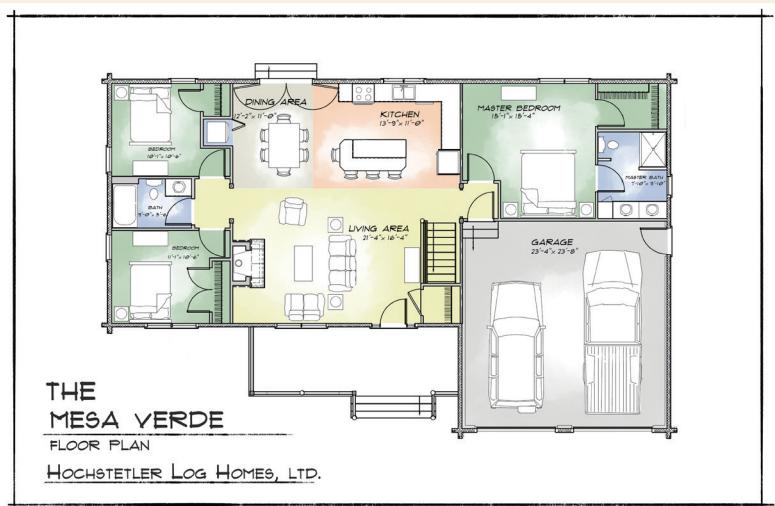
## FEATURED FLOOR PLAN

# MESA VERDE

Sq. ft. 1504  
3 BR / 2 BA



The 1504 sq. ft. Mesa Verde ranch has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and a 2-car garage. It features the ever popular open-concept great room with stone fireplace and timbered cathedral ceiling and a large master bedroom with walk-in closet and master bath with double-sink vanity. Convenience features include an island with a serving counter in the kitchen and closet for a washer and dryer in the dining area. Each room is designed for the utmost in efficiency and practicality. Outside, the covered front porch and patio in the back are likely gathering spots for friends and family. Although this ranch is somewhat traditional, the logs and timbers give a comfortable, relaxing appeal that only a log home has!



## Log Home Advantage - *continued from page 1*

Our engineer who specializes in log & timber construction, Steve Lykins, stated that, "Log walls are like a giant built-up beam (imagine an 8" thick x108" tall glulam beam!) with tremendous strength. An F-5 tornado (the highest-rated tornado) has wind speeds of up to 260 mph. That equates to about 173 lbs. per square foot of wind velocity pressure." He goes on to say, "According to my calculations the log wall in our McKay model with 8" thick logs fastened every 12 inches could withstand the effects of an F-5 tornado!" Goes to show why George's home is still standing!

Safety in a log home comes in various forms. Wildlife officer, Jim Kuenzle, was looking to build a home next to a state forest near St. Louis, MO. During the hunting season loads of hunters entered the woods surrounding the area where he wanted to build his house. He felt unsafe in a conventional stick home with all the stray bullets flying around. He knew as a wildlife officer that ½" drywall and OSB along with 3 1/2" fiberglass insulation wouldn't do much to slow down a rifled 12 ga. slug flying at 1560 feet per second. With the log home he and his family feel very safe behind their 8" thick logs. It's "literally" what a home should be, "a shelter."

### Log Homes are more Cozy, Warm and Beautiful



There is no building material as beautiful, and, at the same time as warm, as wood. Steel, concrete or drywall doesn't even come close. And, no home has as much wood as a log home! I have been in large, multimillion-dollar homes, some even with timber, but I have yet to experience in these the charming coziness that you do when you're in a log home. Imagine yourself sitting next to a fireplace with a glass of fresh-pressed apple cider and eating a bowl of popcorn, while the flames dance in the reflection against the warm hue of the log wall, while playing checkers with your grandson, totally oblivious to the raging thunderstorm that's going on outside. You may want to sit down early as the rest of the family will want to gather there, too, and who knows, someone just might take your favorite chair! But you don't have to sit by the fireplace to experience the warmth of a log home, its everywhere. Simply-put there is no home as cozy and homey or inviting as a log home.

This is what one of our clients wrote: Our 12 year old granddaughter recently asked me if I knew what her favorite part of the house is- I wasn't sure what she had in mind but her answer tops them all, "It's the way I feel, when I'm here!"

However, a log home is far more than being warm and cozy. They can be very inviting, attractive and their beauty is absolutely stunning. Long before friends get to the front door they will sense the inviting feeling. What's so cool is when your home is so attractive that people traveling by will stop and want to see the inside!

A log home is an honest home. What you see is what it is, inside and out. Many stick-homes on the other hand, are designed with false elaborate roofs and embellishments in order to make them half-way appealing. Not so with log homes, the logs themselves are attractive—they don't need to be embellished to look good.

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

# LOG CABIN DAYS POSTPONED!

As most of you already know, Log Cabin Days has been rescheduled and will be held September 17 & 18, 2021. We look forward to reconnecting with our friends and new guests when Covid-19 is a thing of the past and our lives can return to normal!

# LOG RAISING

Sept. 5 (9am-4pm) at Hochstetler Log Homes



Hochstetler Log Homes is adding to their Blackfork Model, and will have a log raising to stack logs, set timber, and roof covering. You are invited to attend and learn "first hand" the techniques involved in log home construction and to tour our log mill. Our staff will be on-hand to answer any questions.

**Reservations appreciated or for more info  
call 800-368-1015**

## CUSTOMER TESTIMONIALS

"Very good experience with Hochstetler Log Homes. The quality of materials was great. Our Design Consultant was very helpful. Answered all the questions and concerns we had. He steered us toward a builder that was very good, knowledgeable and very cordial, along with his crew. Fun to work with, would do it again!"

-- Carners – London, OH

"From our first meeting with the design team they quickly caught our vision for our dream home. When the most amazing lot became available , we were thrilled with the architects plans and ideas to make it happen. Joe helped us with supply issues as they arose, making sure we had the materials we needed even as the plan was changed and adapted on-site. When they say they'll modify and plan to fit your needs, they are not kidding. We'd do it all over again!"

-- Thomaes – Perryville, OH

"We highly recommend Hochstetler Log Homes for their incredible, structural and superior quality future log home. But that is only the beginning, they have a first rate, matchless group of experts that are not only willing, but go out of their way to resolve any issues that may emerge. These folks stand behind their product 100% and are continually available to you. They put their lives on the lines for no other reason, but integrity and strong moral principles. The support given throughout the whole process was exceptional right from the first person you met to the finished project. If 5 stars is the highest rating, they would easily get a 10. My husband inspects homes for bank draws and has seen lots of log homes in Colorado. It's hard to find anything that even comes close."

-- Bruns – Westcliffe, CO

"Hochstetler Log Homes was fantastic team to work with when we built our dream home. They made the process very easy and we were pleased with the results."

-- Wickhams – Fredericktown, OH

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See Mill-Direct News back issues at [www.HochstetlerLogHomes.com](http://www.HochstetlerLogHomes.com) • 3

LIVING THE  
LOG HOME

# Lifestyle

by Bill Dinkins



- Photography by Style Life Photography

*F*

For Keith and Linda Gaspari, a log home was not in their plans until they happened to talk to a builder, W&W Construction, who highly recommended Hochstetler Log Homes for their quality and reputation. They decided to make their trip from Pennsylvania to tour the models, and to get acquainted with the company and staff. After perusing some of the customers' homes, they focused on one, but wanted to add some "lifestyle" changes, which the design team was able to make. They made the home wider, and instead of having a full-length, covered rear porch they made an 8'x14' covered deck off the master bedroom and another 7'x15' covered deck off the den. Upstairs, a V-Shaped extension adds a unique, decorative touch to the loft which overlooks the great room. The garage was enlarged to 20'x30' with a vaulted ceiling, which makes it seem even larger. Note: Very few of our stock house plans are built as the original but are modified to each individual's taste—we want each home to suit your lifestyle accordingly.

The Gaspari's purchased their land in 2015. It was originally a dairy farm but had been vacated for many years. Keith heard the subsequent owner was willing to



sell part of it, and bought 47 acres, with approximately 20 acres of it being wooded. Maples, Ash, Cherries, and towering 80' Oaks dotted the landscape. It was scenic, secluded, and full of wildlife. Deer, turkey, small game and several species of owls call this home. I spotted 6 deer in the short time I was there!

The 3,055 sq. ft. home was started in May, 2016 and finished a year later, delayed somewhat by a wet spring. The home has an Adirondack "appeal" with its large exposed timber entry and flanking gabled dormers. Add the stone – pillars across the front porch, the 8x8 D logs, and the standing seam metal roof and you

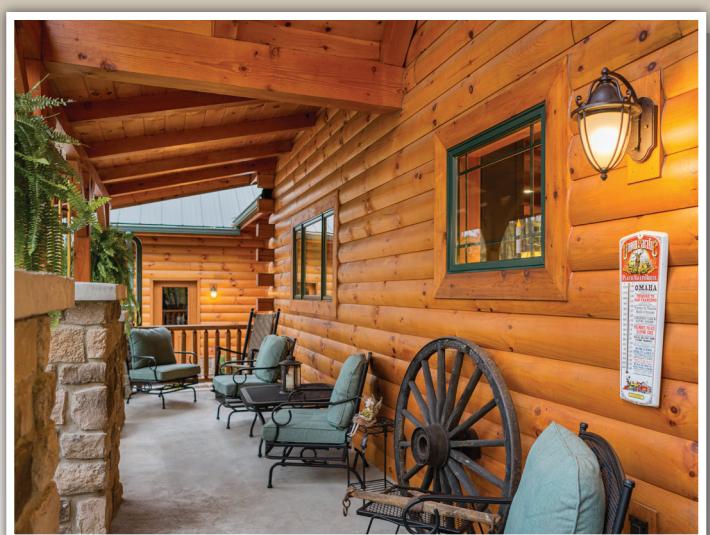
have a unique masterpiece of design. The interior is equally impressive with an eclectic collection of old and new items. Authentic Indian arrowheads are proudly displayed in a shadow box, along with an antique rocking horse, grandfather clock, "crank" telephone, hand – made baby cradle, and several western paintings. An old civil war musket, which Linda won at a raffle, hangs above the fireplace mantle. Caribou, Elk, Mule Deer, and Moose mounts enhance the rustic theme.

When asked what the most pleasant surprise was in living in a log home Keith replied, "They're very economical to heat and cool. And rock solid. They're Tanks."

Linda loves the feeling of being close to nature and has excellent views from the kitchen, with windows front and back of the house, as well as from the front porch and rear deck.

How was the entire building process, I asked. "Things went very well, not a single hiccup," Keith replied.

And that is what we love to hear! 



*For additional information about this home, please contact Hochstetler Log Homes at 800-368-1015.*

## Pleasant Hill Lake Park Rental Cabins" - continued from page 1

great rooms with large gas fireplaces, a 50" TV and Wi-Fi, vaulted ceilings; kitchens with all the cookware and appliances, two bedrooms and two baths, and hot tubs on the rear decks. The deluxe cabins also include washers and dryers and pull-out sofas in the loft upstairs. Two of the cabins are handicap-accessible and all have central air and heating.

The natural setting of the cabins really lend themselves to enjoying outdoor activities. There is the lake with boating, water-skiing, tubing and fishing; a nice beach; marina and boat ramp; numerous hiking trails; and nature programs for the children.



Cabins can be booked through the Pleasant Hill website:  
[pleasanthillpark.mwcd.org](http://pleasanthillpark.mwcd.org) - under the "Accommodations" menu



And, who can remember a childhood without a campfire, hot dogs and s'mores? In addition, nearby Malabar Farm, home of Pulitzer prize-winning author, Louis Bromfield, has many family events throughout the year. The lavish home is available for tours and the education center is a must-stop, especially for the children.

Another popular activity is canoeing on the Mohican river, about 5 miles away. Lots of ways to enjoy family time in the great outdoors!

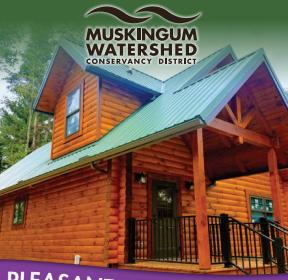
Week-long reservations for the cabins are required in-season - June through August - and a two-night minimum is required during the off-season, September through May.

The four deluxe cabins can accommodate up to eight guests and run \$210 a night, Monday through Thursday; \$310 Friday, Saturday and Sunday; and \$1,350 for a full week.

The other six log cabins are smaller and can accommodate up to six. These cabins rent for \$175 Monday through Thursday; \$275 Friday, Saturday and Sunday; and \$1,175 for a full week.

Hochstetler Log Homes is proud to have been a part of this very exciting and rewarding venture and look forward to creating many happy memories for those visiting these wonderful (with all the comforts of home) cabins. 

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# CABIN FEVER

## "Magnificent Yellowstone!"

by Bill Dinkins

Among the most visited National Parks, Yellowstone stands alone in its rich variety of scenery as each bend in the road offers a wonder rarely seen. There are majestic waterfalls cascading down rocky gorges several hundred feet high; mountains reaching for the clouds in a panorama of colors from steel gray to copper; and glacial pools of vibrant turquoise and orange. It is truly God's country and was No.1 on our "Bucket List."

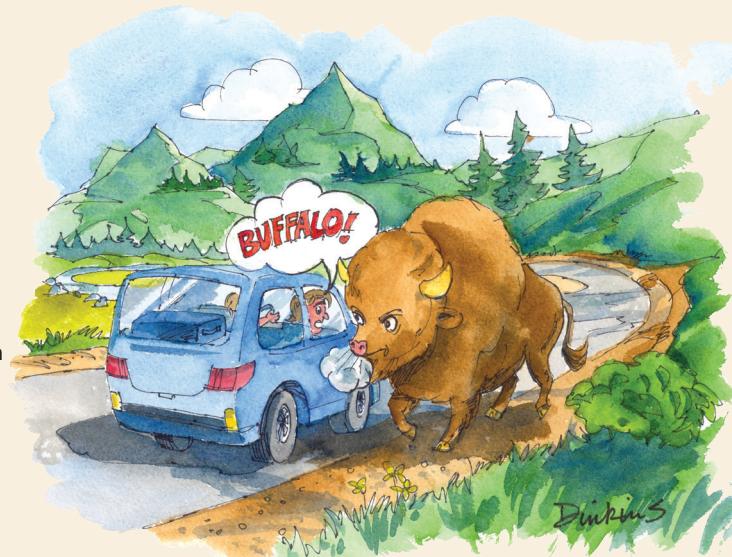
My wife, Sandy, and I first visited Yellowstone back in 2008. I remember driving on a mountain road and looking down a sheer cliff to a meandering, crystal clear river below, while searching for a pull off where I could capture this calendar photo. Suddenly, my wife screamed, "BUFFALO", as a huge 2,000 lb. bison approached us on the right berm and passed within 2' of her. She had no idea that bison lived there and certainly hadn't planned on seeing one up that close. To this day, she likes to yell, "BUFFALO", when we encounter any animal, large or small, on the road!

After our first trip we talked about a return trip and the opportunity came up last year when we went on a bus tour with my in-laws, Jim and Charlene, that encompassed Bryce Canyon, Zion, and Yellowstone National Parks. Each park has it's own awe-inspiring vistas, and the opportunities for great photo opportunities are endless. Bryce Canyon National Park is unique with its brilliant orange steeples, "Hoodoos", that rise magically out of the mountain sides, forming various rocky configurations and arches. The views are measured in miles, the colors in paint chips!

Next stop was Zion National Park with its beautiful combination of streams, mountains, and valleys. We were fortunate to see a family of endangered California condors on a steep cliff recess several hundred feet away with high-powered binoculars provided by the park service. The mountains here seemed to change color every 5 minutes as the sun arched its way across the sky...from cerulean blue to deep purple and all shades in between.

We stayed at the historic lodge while visiting Yellowstone. The lodge is a traditional log structure with a towering stone fireplace and a massive timbered, ceiling and is located only several hundred feet from "Old Faithful". This geyser erupts about every 35-120 minutes, spewing water up to 180 feet into the air. There are others that also erupt, but are not as regular and are generally smaller. Another sight to behold is the glacier basin. Walkways lead you through this labyrinth of colorful pools holding boiling water. Each year several visitors are boiled alive when they accidentally fall into these cauldrons of sizzling water. I couldn't believe the vivid colors of those pools. Minerals have formed to create a kaleidoscope of unbelievable hues...from bright turquoise to vivid orange.

One of my favorite pastimes while visiting the parks is photography, especially wildlife. And few places on earth host the variety of creatures that Yellowstone does. Elk, deer, bison, moose, bears, coyotes, wolves, beavers, wolverines, as well as many smaller critters roam its landscape. There are now about 94 wolves from the 14 originally introduced in January, 1995. The elk population is also healthy and flourishing. Nearly 6,000 make their yearly migration to the summer grazing areas and are followed by the wolves. Bison are also numerous and graze throughout the park, especially close to the lodge. While waiting in line for dinner one evening I spotted a mature male outside, a couple hundred yards away. I told Jim I'd be right back and rushed out the door, camera in hand. Once outside, I saw he was on the other side of a stream and actually closer to the trail which encircled the valley. I followed the trail but couldn't get much closer—and besides he decided to lay down. Somewhat dejected, I headed back to the lodge. As I rounded a bend I got the surprise I was looking for. A magnificent one-ton bull was peacefully grazing just off the trail ahead. I carefully went around him and watched him along with an elderly lady. I got a great shot with colorful trees and mountains in the background. Finally, the shot I'd been waiting for. Standing about 60' away, the lady asked, "Do you think we could outrun him if he charged?" My answer, "Nope!" 



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