



Mill-Direct News

Living the Log Home Lifestyle

Summer 2019

VIEW FROM THE MILL

By Levi Hochstetler

After working on the "Our Partner" article for several weeks with hardly anything on paper, I knew I had to try something different. To make matters worse I was planning to go on vacation next week and the newsletter had to be ready before I go! I positively can't miss it as it's my annual bird watching week. And what's more, the birds are singing!

As all writers know when it starts to "flow" you better get pen in hand. The problem is if you get interrupted while it's flowing, often you have a hard time getting it primed again. So it was with me, no sooner would I sit down, I'd get interrupted. Finally, I took my information and headed to the house. In a quiet back room on a card table I did just fine. In a few hours I had more to show for than in the last several weeks. I might get to go on my vacation yet!

Every spring about this time (early May) during migration many song birds stop by on their way north. As all birdwatchers know, if you want to see them you will have to be out in the field. That is what I hope to do next week, look for birds. If you happen to be in the area and you see someone with binoculars followed by a few boys, chances are it's me. You all have fun building dreams while I'm out playing!

Hochstetler Log Homes, LTD

552 Hwy. 95, Loudonville, OH

800-368-1015

www.HochstetlerLogHomes.com

Our Partners/Suppliers - *by Levi Hochstetler* (continued from Spring 2019 Issue)

Roof windows: Builders tend to cringe when they see roof windows designed in their potential client's log home plan. Roof windows, also called skylights, have a reputation of leaking, condensation and causing problems down the road.

We chose VELUX for several reasons. For one, they are well known. What other roof window brand do you know about? My guess is very few to none. Most competent builders have had a good

experience installing them. While that is important, there are other things that make them everyone's first choice.

VELUX has come a long way in developing features that are important to our clients. Things like factory-installed blinds and operable "Fresh Air" skylights – operated manually, automatically and remotely with solar power. Their high-tech operable roof windows, which they call "VELUX ACTIVE", can be programmed with your smart phone to control and monitor the inside climate to your liking. Whether you're at home or away they will open and close as programmed for you, including close the blind as the sun comes out and open it again when it goes behind a cloud, for ideal temperature and air quality. No worry when a rain storm comes up, as it will automatically close the window for you.

The solar-powered skylight doesn't require any wiring and it will install just like any other of their skylights. They come with a rain sensor that automatically closes the window when it rains.

However, for those who don't trust high tech, it's no problem as they still make the manual kind, as well. For the ones you can't reach, a pole is available to adjust those. There's no gadget to quit working during a rain storm! (My kind.)

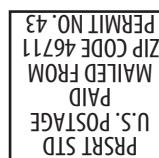
Their blinds come in numerous colors and in several textures. And, they are available in room darkening double-pleated blinds to light filtering single-pleated blinds – all depending on how light or dark you would want the room.

VELUX, in manufacturing these skylights, use a glazing that they call "Neat" glass. It's a special coating on the glass to keep your skylight cleaner longer, leaving them virtually spotless. Also, during rain they are easier to see out through.

In addition to their standard operable roof windows, they make fixed units, roof-access windows, balcony roof windows, top-hinged for egress, as well as the modular type, where you can put as many as you want next to each other. Also available are "Sun Tunnel" Skylight. Those are nice if you want natural light in an area where there is no exterior or roof access. With them you can virtually pipe natural light to wherever you want.

Their No-Leak skylight carries a 10-year installation warranty plus 20 years on the glass, 10 years on product, and 5 years on blinds and controls. Most of their products are ENERGY STAR certified in all 50 states. They have 6 locations

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FEATURED FLOOR PLAN

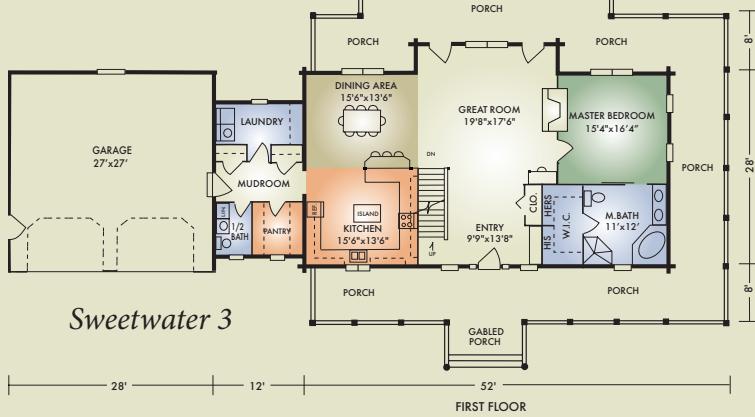
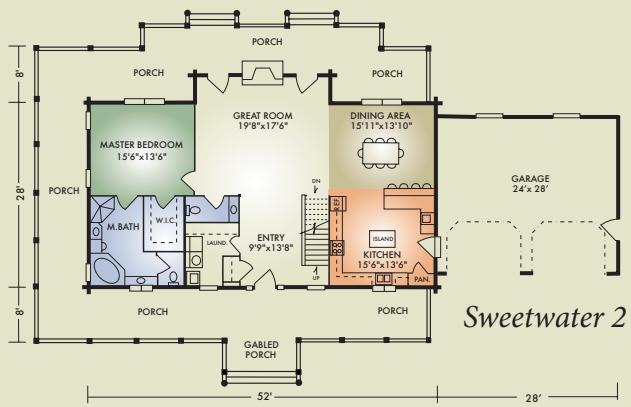
Sweetwater

Sq. ft. 2312

3 BR / 2-1/2 BA



The Sweetwater offers all the amenities of an upscale home in a convenient, efficient floor plan. This impressive home features a separate entry; spacious, open-concept great room with exposed timber ceiling and impressive fireplace; chef-size kitchen with built-in pantry and convenient island; first-floor laundry; and large master bedroom with walk-in closet and master bath. Upstairs, there are two large bedrooms and a bath, plus an open loft which overlooks the great room. Outside, this stylish home with its imposing timbered front gable and wrap-around porch welcomes guests.



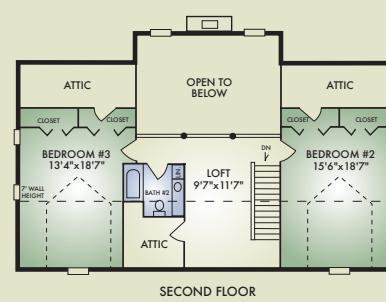
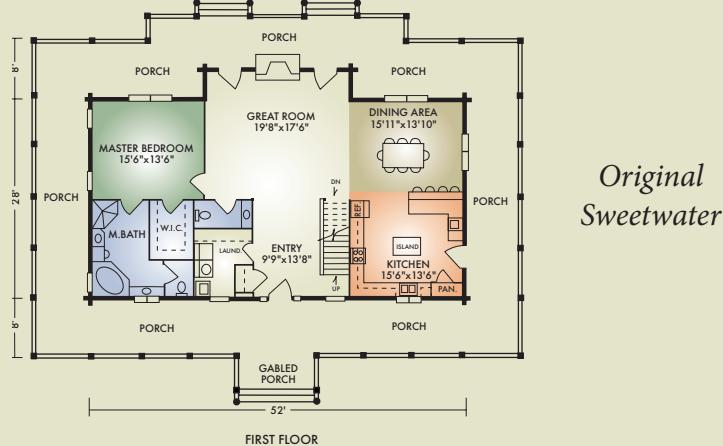
Our Partners/Suppliers - *continued from page 1*



spread throughout the country to serve you. For more information, you can find them online at Veluxusa.com or whyskylights.com

Overhead Doors: Wayne-Dalton was our choice because they have many options that our clients appreciate, have a well-built door, good reputation and brand name. We are delighted to be able to offer their quality products to our clients.

With their 9605 series classical steel doors (which come standard in our Premium package), has 5 different styles, available in 7 different colors, and various window options ranging all the way from contemporary to colonial. In addition, with special order they have what they call Tru-Choice color system where a client can have more than 6000 color choices! The glass can be clear for max lighting, to obscure for privacy. Also, there are several hardware options.



Three-layer construction steel comes standard with foamed in place up to an R-10 insulation. For those in coastal high-wind areas they make a special wind load model. These meet or exceed the load requirements of the international Building Code along with the Florida Building Code and the Texas Department of Insurance.

They have a Limited Lifetime Warranty against cracking or splitting due to rust-through and against degradation of the foam insulation.

For our Supreme packages, the 9800 series fiberglass comes standard. It's available in 10 different stain colors. Otherwise, they come with similar options as the 9605 door.

The model 9800 uses the Accugrain technology of Therma-Tru, the most respected name in fiberglass doors. The artfully molded wood-grain fiberglass surface, combined with durable steel construction, produces a realistic, natural-looking wood texture, pattern and appearance. It will stay nice and straight and won't dent like steel might, providing years of outstanding performance and beauty.

Both the 9800 and the 9605 come standard with what they call their pinch-resistant panels. Pinch-resistant door panels help push fingers out of harm's way if accidentally placed near a closing door.

With the Wayne Dalton doors we supply GENIE openers. Our clients love its reliability, safety, security and convenience. They can have a DC Motor Technology, for durability; Safety-Beam, for safety; Sure-Lock Control, for security; and Pre-Programmed Remote for convenience.

Wayne Dalton is a division of Overhead Door Corporation.

Joist Hangers and Brackets: You guessed it, it's Simpson Strong-Tie. Anyone that has been even marginally involved in construction knows about Simpson Strong-Tie. But that isn't the only reason we chose Simpson.

I like their mission statement which is, "We provide solutions that help people design and build safer, stronger structures". While their products are mostly hidden inside walls behind drywall, and in the basement where they aren't noticed, they are a very

continued on page 6

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"This was our first experience with log construction and we felt comfortable and well informed regarding the plans and construction. Communication was great. We managed to build and furnish while 2, 000 miles away. Hochstetler's coordination with our contractor and area business was great."

-- Joseph Wise, OH

"The entire process with Hochstetler Log Homes, LTD has been a very positive experience. The visit to the site and working with Joseph to choose the plan and package of the log home I wanted was so easy. Joseph was so helpful with this process. He was also helpful in coordinating with the local building codes to make sure everything would move along smoothly as well as helping me find a contractor. Hochstetler's was also very prompt in the delivery of materials and working with the trades people working on my log cabin. We are on the last phase of my cabin. All that is left for Hochstetler's to do is deliver my garage doors when my contractor requests them, which will be soon. Everyone has commented on the quality of materials provided in my log cabin package."

-- Deborah Rowens, MD

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FAMILY Retreat

by Bill Dinkins



Alex and Heather Nicolozakes purchased 10 acres of scenic, forested land near Salt Fork State Park in 2007, with the intent of eventually building a home there. The area was familiar to Alex since he grew up near Cambridge and rode his moped up the hills, golfed on the rolling courses, and fished in the surrounding lakes, as a youngster. But not until they visited the McKay model did they envision it being the home site for their log home.

Their log home journey began after that initial visit and meeting with the Hochstetler sales team, and later with their builder, Marion Miller. The McKay floor plan seemed about the right size, and with the help of the in-house designer, a few changes were added to suit their lifestyle. The sunroom was moved to the side and a guest closet was added, along with another closet in the master bath, after eliminating the garden tub space. Downstairs, a bunk room and laundry were

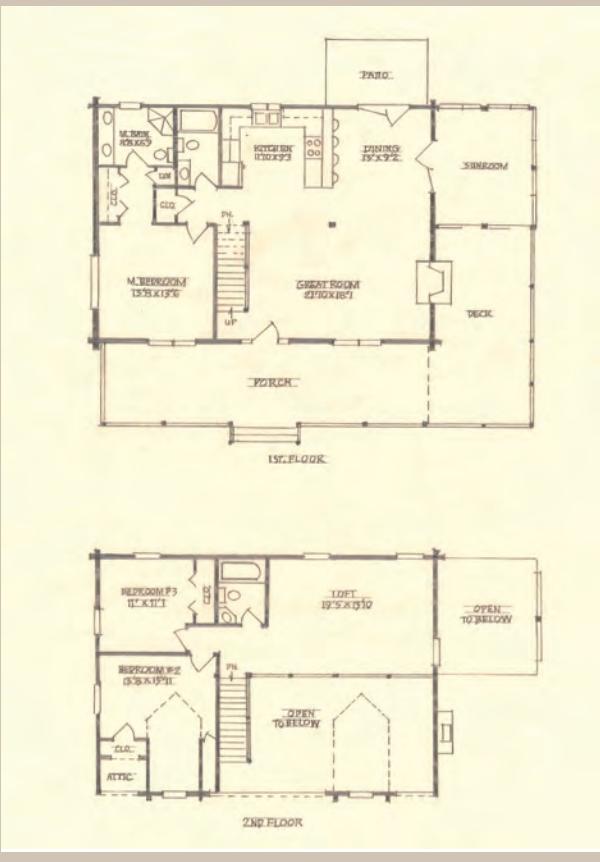
added. Outside, to take advantage of their views, they added a wrap-around porch on the side and an additional 2' to the front porch for a picnic table. A large 32'x 28' garage was added under the house for their boat, a jet-ski and Yukon X-el truck.

Marion started the actual construction in the fall of '07 and finished up the following spring. When I asked Alex if their were any surprises during the building process, he was quick to mention one. "While we were excavating for the garage, the hillside collapsed, moving tons of dirt 25 yards away!" Fortunately, no one was hurt and after a few deep breathes, work continued. Because of the steepness of the hillside a French drain and retaining wall were installed. The driveway was enlarged to facilitate moving vehicles and boats in and out of the garage. Atop the retaining wall is a picnic area with a fire ring - perfect for socializing and cookouts. This idyllic setting is nicely landscaped and includes a row of pine trees for privacy.

Their two boys, Athan and Kosta, frequently invited their buddies to the home on the weekends, sometimes numbering over 20 guests. Many were members of the Ohio State marching band and loved the relaxing, fun-filled getaways. This was a primary goal for the Nicolozakes - a place where they could go, especially on the weekends, and just relax with their family and friends.

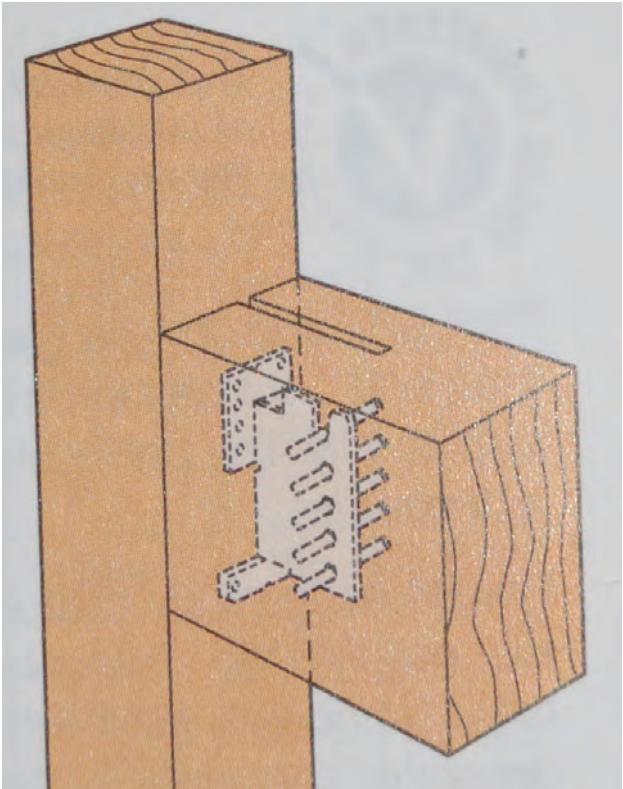
The interior is an eclectic mix of old and new. Heather has a number of antiques while still utilizing newer, more practical and time-saving items. Alex has added his decorative touch with several game and fish mounts. He is most proud of a 25 lb. King Salmon hanging in the great room, which he caught on Lake Ontario several years ago.

Although the Nicolozakas' don't use their hideaway as often as they once did, since both boys are in college, their memories of the times they enjoyed there will always be with them.



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

Our Partners/Suppliers - *continued from page 3*



Invisible joist hanger

important component of the structure. In fact, they have and can save lives in a natural disaster.

Simpson Strong-Tie has been in business since 1956. They became a publically-traded company since 1994. While headquartered in Pleasanton, CA they have 26 manufacturing locations and 31 warehouse, sales and R&D facilities scattered throughout the world, but are heavily represented in the US and Europe.

I appreciate their history. It reads something like this. One evening in the summer of 1956, Barclay Simpson's doorbell rang. A neighbor's brother had stopped by to ask if he could make a product to connect the ends of 2x4s for a roof. Barclay replied, "of course!" So he sat down with his plant foreman, developed some rough sketches and used a punch press to create his first joist hanger. Today they are the leading manufacturer of structural products. They are recognized as the genuine connector brand in the residential construction industry.

This concludes the "Our Partners" article. There are many other lesser components that go into a log home too numerous to mention. They range from roof insulation down to trim nails. However, the main, more important, items that we source through

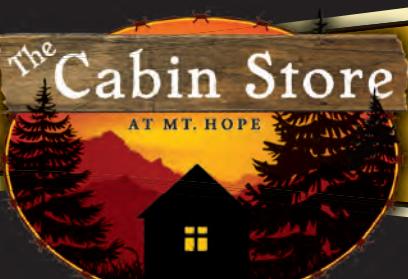
others I believe is covered.

Here at Hochstetler we do ongoing research on performances of new and better products. While we feel we have found good quality products it doesn't mean we won't find better or more suitable products in the future. The key words are more "suitable products." Superior products don't mean our clients can afford or even want them. Our clients are looking for things made of natural materials but not of high priced silver or gold! We have, in the past, changed suppliers simply because of service. Some supplier may have the best solution for the money but if we don't get the service we need we won't be able to serve you as well, either.

Our goal in sourcing material from suppliers is the same as is our production guideline – finding good quality products at a fair price.

Many of our clients in building their dream log home want a place where the family and grandchildren can gather and enjoy for many years, even after they're gone. So that makes it far more than just building a home – it's building a legacy. With that in mind it becomes very important to build it well, with good quality material.

Build your dream to last!



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The following workshops will bring you up to date on all aspects of building a log home. Please call to reserve a seat, 800-368-1015.

Friday, July 5 (afternoon):	Saturday, July 6 (forenoon):
1:00-1:30 Finding Land	8:00-8:30 Finding Land
1:30-2:00 Choosing Your Builder	8:30-9:00 Choosing Your Builder
2:00-3:00 Log Home Financing	9:00-10:00 Log Home Financing
3:00-4:00 Log Home Design	10:00-11:00 Log Home Design
4:00-5:00 Log Home Maintenance	11:00-12:00 Log Home Maintenance

UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

A great opportunity to visit a Hochstetler Log Home being built and the building techniques involved during July "National Log Home Month."



Several log homes will be under construction and available for tour. For dates and more information, please call 800-368-1015.

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See Mill-Direct News back issues at [www.HochstetlerLogHomes.com](http://HochstetlerLogHomes.com) • 7

CABIN FEVER

“Cornfield Caper”

by Bill Dinkins

Three boys, William Hostetler and his brothers Raymond and Danny, were walking down a country road late one night when they suddenly noticed a man dart into a cornfield up ahead. “What was up,” they wondered. As they continued they became increasingly curious about what they had just seen.

“What was that man doing?” Checking his corn - not likely since it was dark. Maybe using the cornfield ‘cause “nature called” - possibly. Or, just maybe, checking his “patch of pot,” discreetly hidden among the corn rows - a definite possibility. Whatever it was, word of the strange encounter spread fast. Neighbors Leroy and Johnny had heard and went to William’s house to hear what had happened. They all decided to return to the cornfield that evening, along with their curious cousin, Edward. Johnny’s older brother, Andrew, also caught wind of the plan, and unbeknownst to the others, also planned to be there.

That evening, as the sun sunk into the horizon, the boys met at the cornfield and a sense of suspense took hold. One-by-nervous-one they entered the field, unsure of what would happen next. Each step more apprehensive, even frightening. Leroy stooped down and suddenly noticed a pair of boots about 10’ away, partially hidden by the corn. A thunderous “BOOM” rang out and the earth shook beneath them. Leroy let out a yelp and the boys quickly turned and ran. Corn stalks parted and fell in every direction. A second shot rang out and the boys shifted into a yet faster gear. When they reached the fence at the edge of the cornfield, they nervously made their crotch-clearing leaps, barely clearing the barbed wire, and landed awkwardly on the other side. Exhausted, Leroy was bleeding from his nose, Edward had broken his glasses and lost his hat, and Johnny was sulking in disbelief.

Still shaking, they noticed an unfamiliar car coming towards them. Johnny was so nervous he was ready to call the cops, but decided not too when he saw Andrew up ahead. Andrew, trying his best to keep a straight face, finally burst out laughing.

“It’s amazing how loud a gun sounds from 10’ away when you’re not expecting it.” Then he calmly added, “I’m surprised you didn’t recognize my boots, Leroy.” 



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