



Mill • Direct News

Living the Log Home Lifestyle

Fall 2018

A VIEW FROM THE MILL

By Levi Hochstetler

Where have these 2 years gone? After a nice break last year we are all excited about having Log Cabin Days again this year. So, needless to say, we are in the middle of getting ready. Hope to see many of you again this year!

In celebrating our 32nd Anniversary during Log Cabin Days, we are offering 32% off the suggested retail price on all Sikkens Proluxe products in stock. Also, we will offer for sale Conceal caulking and some other miscellaneous items. Look for the Sikkens Proluxe booth inside the exhibitor area.

The men are installing shelving and getting it ready to move inventory into our new storage building. This extra storage will benefit our clients in two ways. First, additional inventory will help improve our customer service and secondly, enable us to pre-buy in the winter when wholesale material prices are lower, which we in turn, can pass on to you. This becomes especially important during hurricane season-stabilizing our prices as well. Also, with the added storage capacity it will make it a lot easier in hosting Log Cabin Days. We hope to have it up and running by the end of August.

A few more new highlights during Log Cabin Days this year that you may want to take advantage of. First of all is our demonstration tent where we will have a variety of trades people demonstrating their 19th century era Americana skills. Also, a builder's picture show on Friday evening promises to be exciting. See the Log Cabin Days pull out for more information. See y'all in September. **CORRECTION: NO BUILDING MATERIALS AUCTION WILL BE HELD.**

Hochstetler Milling, LTD
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800-368-1015

Log Cabin Days - Sept. 14 & 15

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 14 (11-7) & Saturday, September 15 (9-5) at the Hochstetler Milling site 5 miles north of Loudonville, Ohio at 552 Hwy. 95.

- Craftsmen Demonstrating 19th Century Trades like Broom Making, Wool Spinning, Pottery, etc.
- Lumberjack Demo
- Self-Guided Log Home Tour
- Silent Auction on Hand-Made Items
- Delicious Food, Pastries, & Ice Cream
- Log Home-Related Exhibitors
- Log Cabin Seminars • Mill Tour
- Hand-Peeling & Hand-Hewing Demos
- Petting Zoo

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



State-of-the-Art Log Technology - By Bill Dinkins

Although it may seem a stretch to unite the basic age-old log with today's advanced technology, recent changes in the configuration of the log as well as log building systems themselves, have moved the industry to the forefront in "building green." And, although the log home is hundreds of years old, there are ongoing innovations which still make the log a viable building material.

One of the first major innovations in making the log more energy-efficient was the design of the tongue-and-groove configuration, which not only sealed off the surface between the logs but helped the builder stack logs faster, easier and straighter. So, beginning with a groove on the bottom surface and a raised tongue on the top - a newer, more efficient system was created. Over the years, after much trial and error, many design changes were made until today when logs are extremely tight fitting and energy-efficient. The profile on page 2 shows our current profile. Unfortunately, since these features are hidden they don't receive the attention they deserve, but are nevertheless essential to the overall performance of the log.

Critical to any building system is a strong and solid foundation and a log wall is no exception. Notice how the top log rests securely on the bottom one with wood-on-wood in three areas. So even as a log dries it will

continued on page 2

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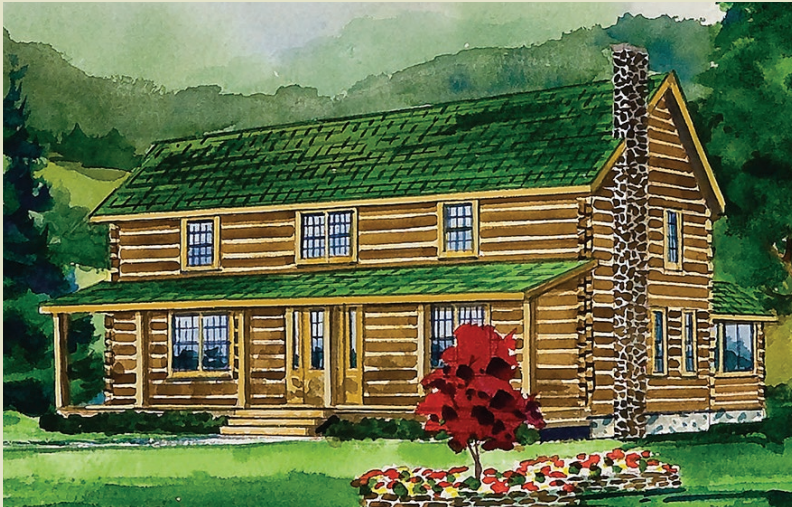
FEATURED FLOOR PLAN

HERITAGE SERIES

NEWBURY

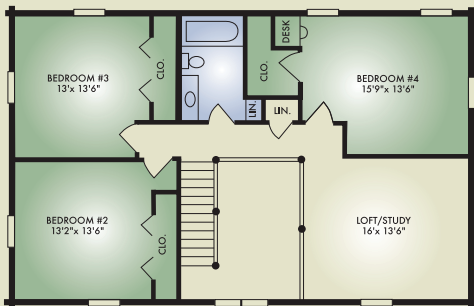
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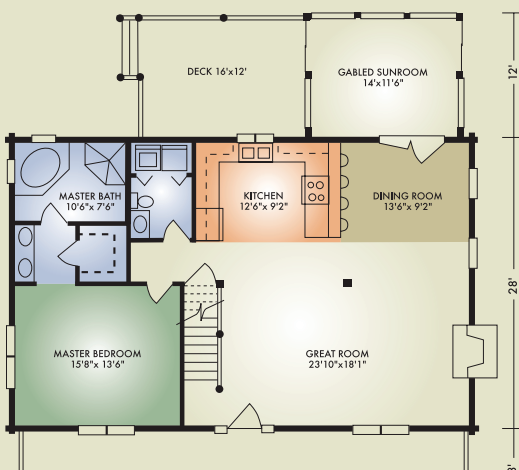
The Newbury is a truly Appalachian style home which harkens back to a time in our nation's history when a log home was a safe and secure shelter against the elements, as well as the host for family meals, tales around the fireplace and finally, a well-deserved night's sleep.

The first floor is similar to our popular model, the McKay, while the second floor includes three bedrooms instead of two.



SECOND FLOOR

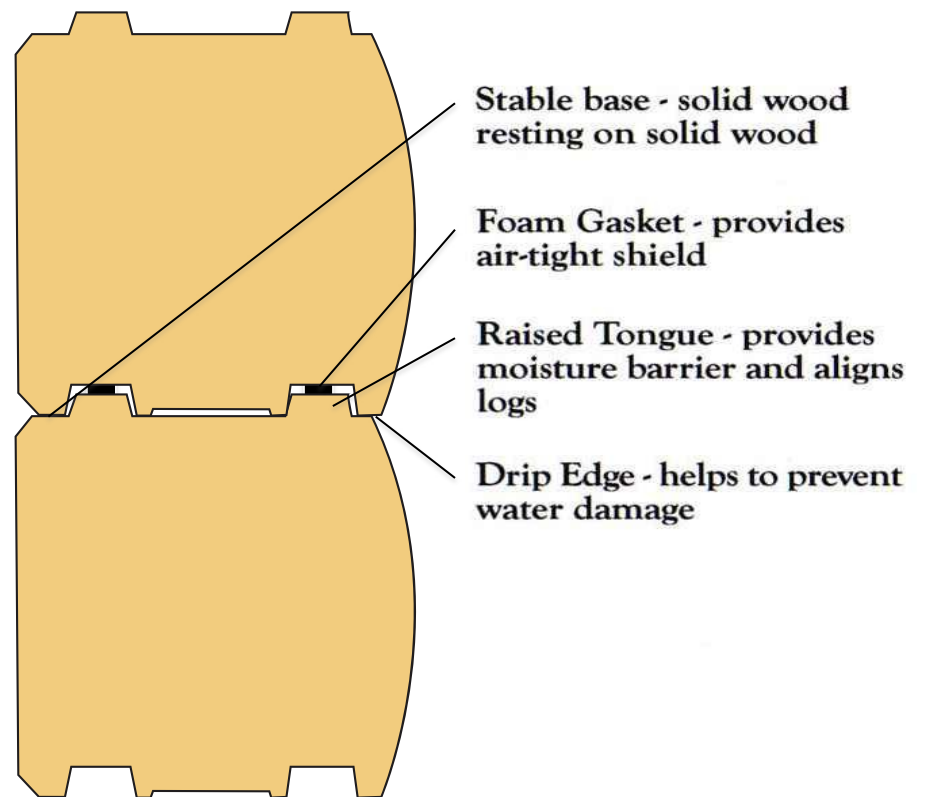
It still features the exposed timber ceilings, open-concept great room with fireplace, master bedroom with walk-in closet and master bath, and inviting gabled sunroom.



Outside, large square logs with dovetail joints and the full-length front porch reflect its proud American heritage.

State-of-the-Art Log Technology - continued from page 1

Hochstetler's Energy Efficient System



be "locked-in" and will seal off any air or moisture infiltration. Another key feature in the prevention of moisture infiltration is the placement of the outer tongue. By placing it close to the outside (the weather side) it will halt any moisture from working its way between the logs and eventually rotting them. A flexible 1/2" gasket is placed atop the tongue and, when the logs are stacked, is compressed to further seal off the area between the logs. The tongue is also tapered which makes it much easier for the builder to stack the logs and keep them aligned. The drip edge is another feature which diverts moisture from between the logs and down the wall. The most recent design change is the recessed notch which insures that logs will remain solidly in position even as the logs dry. Most of our recent log profiles incorporate a double tongue which gives you increased energy-efficiency. Regardless of the size of log you choose, each one has these important features so you can rest assured you are buying among the most technologically advanced logs in the industry.

As important as the consideration of the log itself is the drying method. Many manufacturers will only offer one method so your choice is limited, but the most common are **air-dried**, **kiln-dried**, and **dead-standing**. **Air-drying** means the cants (square timbers that are milled into logs) are stacked outside, preferably where they receive lots of sunshine and a prevailing wind, until they are relatively dry. This can take over a year, but even then they are not as thoroughly dried as kiln-dried and subject to some settling. The cost is less than kiln-drying, however. **Kiln-drying** means cants are stacked in a dry kiln and heated at temperatures up to 150 degrees for as long as it takes to get to the required 18-19% average moisture content level. This, in addition to having dryer logs, also has the benefit of assuring the logs are sanitized, killing any larvae or bugs that may have entered and also it "sets the pitch," which eliminates most of the seepage of the sap. We use a combination of the two methods - air-drying for a minimum of 6 months and kiln-drying for 10-20 days, or as long as it takes to get them down to 18-19%, before processing. This is the best way of insuring there will be minimal settling in your logs. Our McKay model, which was built with kiln-dried logs, only settled about 1/2" for the entire wall. Some folks are hesitant to buy a log home because of the settling issue but if built by an experienced builder and in accordance to our construction manual you should have no problems. A third drying method, more common out west, is **dead-standing**. These trees are usually the victims of nature - storms, fires, insects or disease. Bad sections are removed and the resulting timbers are harvested and sent to sawmills where they are cut into cants. Like air-drying, this is an inexact science so the moisture content is unknown. Also with these you can potentially carry in unwanted visiting insects. We do not recommend these for a home without first kiln-drying them.

The selection of the log species is another energy-efficiency consideration. All logs

are not created equal. R-value is the common index for measuring a log's insulation value - the higher the number the better. Many manufacturers will only carry one species, and not surprisingly, tout that as being the best. Of the most commonly used species of logs the Northern White Cedar has the best R-value: 1.41 per inch. Eastern White Pine, the most common log in the Midwest, also has a very good R-value: 1.32 per inch. Western Red Cedar at 1.09 and Cypress at 1.04 are next. But the issue of R-value is only a small part of the equation. You must also consider other factors like workability, decay resistance, shrinkage, and of course, cost. It is best to talk to your salesperson or designer before finally deciding on a specific log or drying method. They can provide invaluable insight and suggestions in finding a solution that is best for you.

In conclusion, take your time and compare various manufacturers and their products, always keeping in mind the importance of the log's profile, that hidden area that is so vital in saving energy and saving you money in the process. 🏠

New Storage Facility! - *By Levi Hochstetler*

In our continuing effort to provide our customers with the highest quality products at the most reasonable prices, we have expanded our operation to include a new 8,000 sq. ft. storage facility. It will be used to inventory doors, windows, plus conventional building materials like framing lumber and sheathing. Our goal is to purchase these items during slow selling seasons, especially winter, and be able to offer them to our customers at a more reasonable cost. This is especially important during natural disasters, like Hurricane Katrina, when unscrupulous builders and suppliers would take advantage of people in desperate situations. In short, it gives us the ability to manage our costs more equitably.

In addition, this facility will enable us to service our customers in a more efficient manner with a quicker response time.



Racks will be used to store doors, windows and building materials

FREE BLUEPRINTS



For a limited time only with \$3000 deposit down now thru September 29th you get free blueprints on a premier package plus. Offer good for up to a 2500 sq. ft. home. Engineer stamp, if required, is an additional cost.

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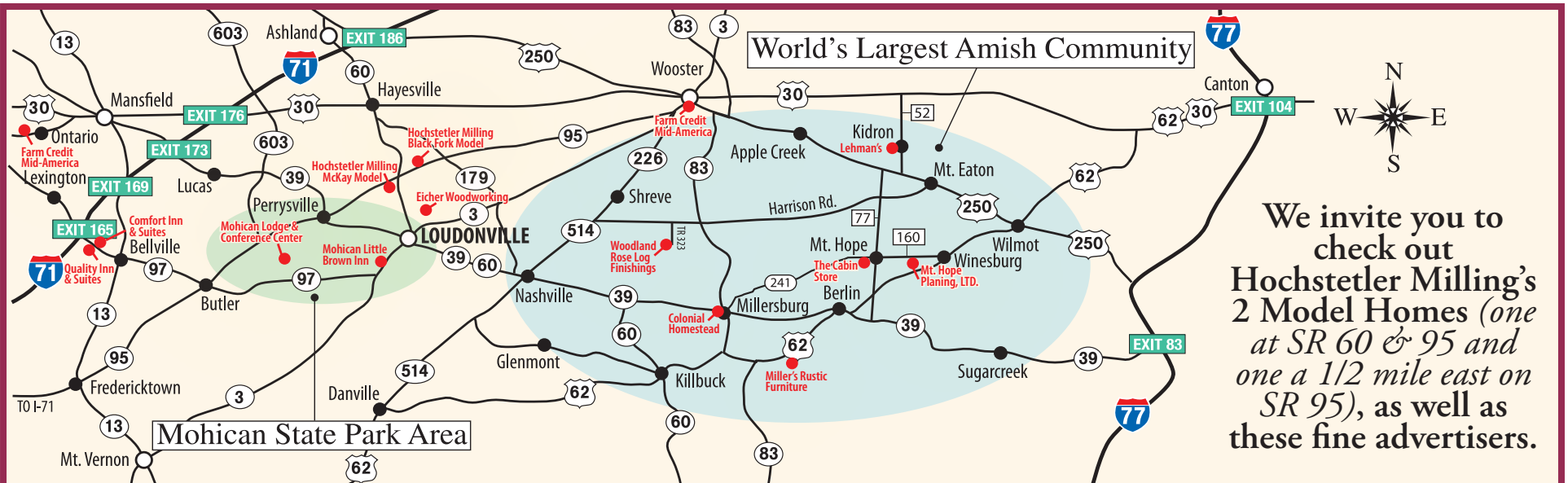
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★★★ SPECIAL SECTION ★★★

LOG CABIN DAYS

September 14 & 15 at Hochstetler Milling

Log Cabin Days Hours: Friday, September 14: 11am-7pm • Saturday, September 15: 9am-5pm

Have you ever dreamed of sipping fresh apple cider with the family gathered around a crackling fireplace inside your very own log home? Perhaps you are of the lucky few that have already experienced it? Or maybe you are one of those that yearn for the days-gone-by when life was a lot simpler and everything was more relaxed and laid-back? Whichever it may be, Log Cabin Days is for you! Let us invite you to come and join the thousands of other like-minded enthusiasts that travel from as far as California to enjoy several days of fellowship during this event. Log Cabin Days is now an every two year event and 2018 is the year.

As always, the highlight again is the popular self-guided log home auto tour. At this writing we have 16 private log homes scheduled to be on the tour. Of these, there are 6 Custom, 2 McKay's, plus one

each of a McKay 44 with garage, Snowmass, Cambridge, Fairview, Sweetwater,

**SELF-GUIDED
LOG HOME TOUR**

Honeycreek, Manchester and a Black Fork. Ten of these homes have not been on the tour before. These are in addition to our own furnished models, the McKay and Black Fork. Note: you will have to pick and choose which homes you want to see as there is not enough time to see them all.

We will be taking a suggested donation of \$20 each for the first two and \$10 for each additional person for the tour. 100% of the proceeds benefitting the American Cancer Society. After signing up you will be given locations of each home. Sorry, we don't do any pre-registration of the event. These homes are private residences, so please thank them for their generosity in opening up their homes to give you this rare opportunity during this 2-day event. Never before has such a small investment had such a large benefit to your "log home building journey." And what's more, it's helping-out your favorite charity!

We are very excited with 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, a normally popular workshop for both future and existing log home owners.

Doug Coen will be giving you fresh ideas on, "how to find the ideal log home building property. All new and exciting for 2018 is a picture show put on by several of our builders. It starts at 5:00 on Friday evening the 14th Each participating builder will get to "show off" some of their favorite work. Don't miss it!

In celebrating our 32nd anniversary we are having a sale during Log Cabin Days on our Sikkens Proluxe wood finishes. It will reflect our 32nd anniversary by offering 32% off suggested retail price. This applies on all Sikkens Proluxe Wood Finishes in stock, while supplies last. We will also offer for sale Conceal caulking and other miscellaneous items.

continued on next page

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

Kettle Cooked Popcorn

Apple Butter Making

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, Insulated concrete forms, (ICF) windows, and both 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. Note: this again could be one of the largest assembly of rustic furniture makers ever gathered in North America. Hint-- bring your truck!

At 4 P.M. on Sat. the 15th we will offer, by auction, a 12' x 24' log cabin with an 8' loft and 6' porch. It will be on runners and sized to be shipped virtually anywhere. This cabin would make an excellent guest or hunting and fishing cabin. If interested, contact us for more details. The proceeds will benefit a local parochial school.

The new state-of-the-art SII dry kiln, along with the mill, can be toured at your leisure. We will operate the mill for 15 minutes on Friday the 14th starting at 12:45 and Saturday the 15th starting at 9:45 and again at 1:45. We will have associates available explaining the operation.

New this year is our demonstration tent, where we will have craftsmen demonstrating various different 19th century era log cabin related trades. At this point, demonstrating, we have commitments from a bowl & spoon carver, gun builder, broom maker, potter, wool spinning, wood carver, rug braiding and period furniture makers, period wood lath, jig saw, hand planes and more. On Saturday, we will have famous Freddy the woodcarver from Artwork Restoration

helping out. Some hands on activity and interaction with the attendees will be encouraged.

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

Also, on-site will be a vintage steam-powered shingle mill cutting shingles and a sawmill sawing pine logs into timbers and dimensional lumber (just like the good ole' days!).

Win a prize while trying your hand at being a real lumberjack. Throw the ax and hit the bull's eye, see how "cool" it is cutting logs with a cross cut saw and how "easy" it is to fell a tree with an ax.

There will be plenty of other fun things to watch and do. Perhaps you would like to relive, "Little House on the Prairie" and go on a horse drawn old fashion covered wagon ride down through the woods. Watch the black smith shoe a few horses. Be sure and visit our forestry booth and receive a free bundle of white pine seedlings and don't forget to register to win a free chainsaw carving.

Since log cabin days is a family event we've tried to include lots of activities for kids, too. 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 get "up-close and personal" with the animals like a pony, a calf, puppies, rabbits, and kittens.


Check out the 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 barbecued chicken, done to perfection on our large outdoor pit; 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 will also be 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.

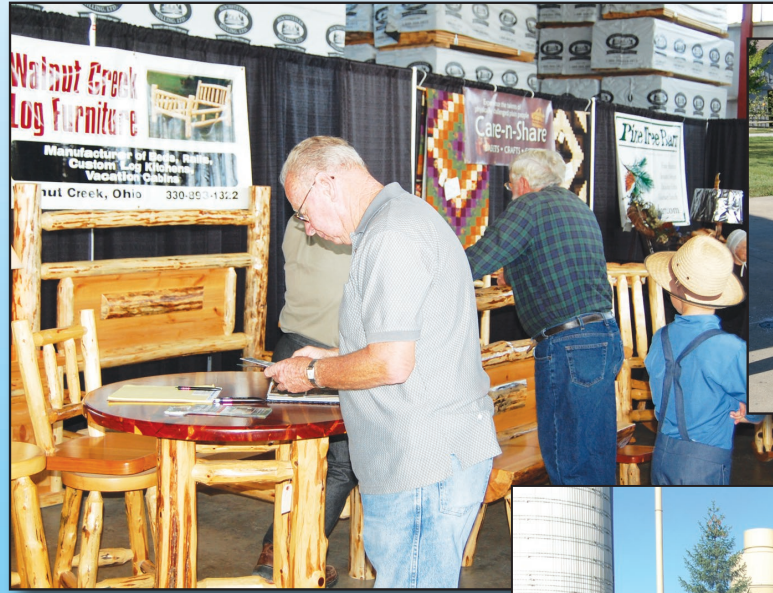
Proceeds from the sale of refreshments, bake sale, and silent auction will benefit the Mohican Parochial School.

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! 



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



Authentic Amish quilt will be featured in silent auction



**FREE
ADMISSION**



WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

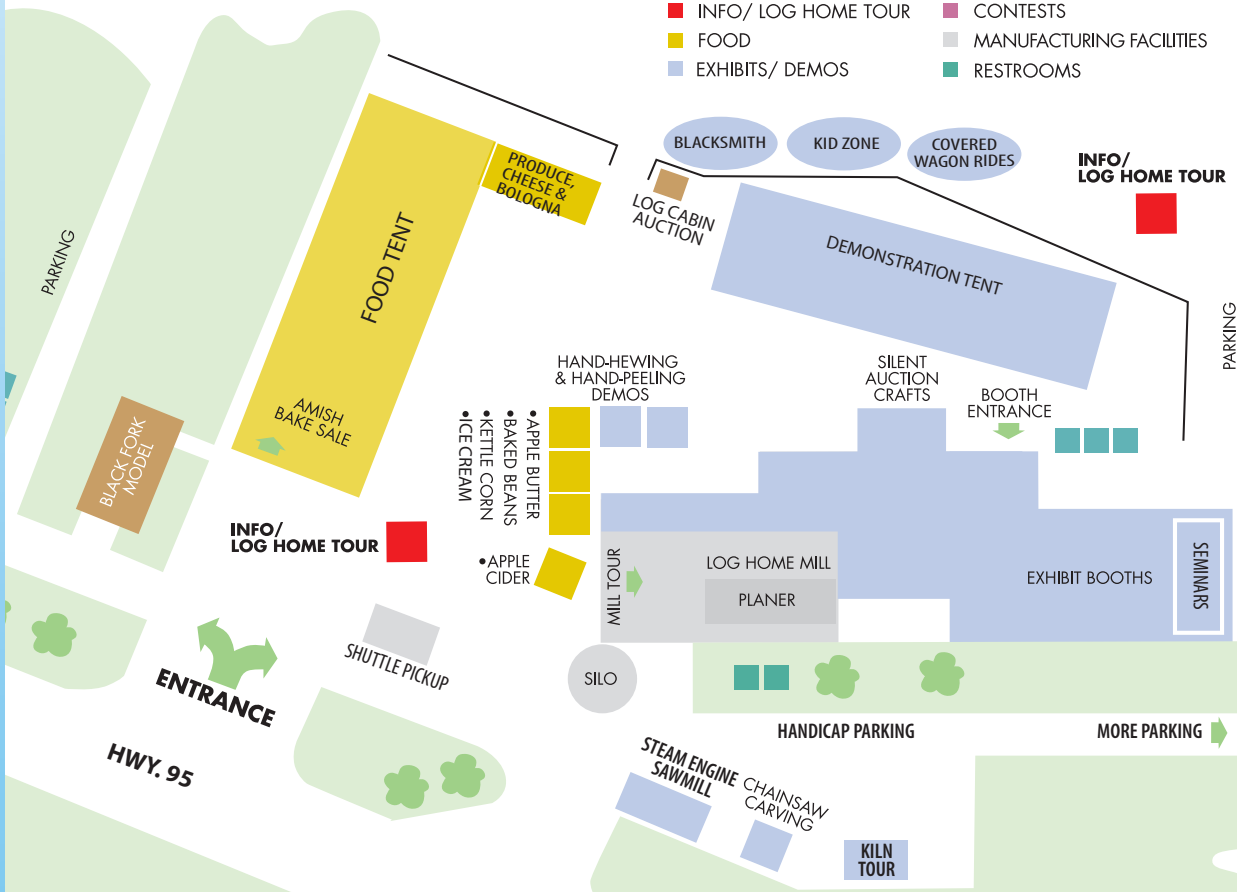
**FRIDAY
SEPT. 14**

- 11:00 Log Basics 101
- 12:00 Finding Land
- 1:00 Log Home Financing
- 2:00 Log Home Designing
- 3:00 Log Basics 101
- 4:00 Log Home Maintenance
- 5:00 Builders Picture Showcase

**SATURDAY
SEPT. 15**

- 9:00 Log Basics 101
- 10:00 Finding Land
- 11:00 Log Home Designing
- 12:00 Log Home Financing
- 1:00 Log Basics 101
- 2:00 Log Home Maintenance
- 3:00 Log Home Designing

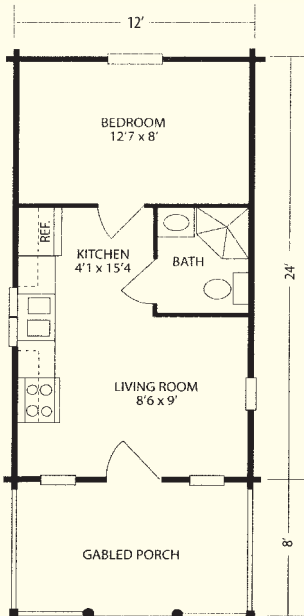
- INFO/ LOG HOME TOUR
- FOOD
- EXHIBITS/ DEMOS
- CONTESTS
- MANUFACTURING FACILITIES
- RESTROOMS



Partial Exhibitor List

- A Cottage Collection - Area Rugs
- AG-CO - Composite Footing Pads
- Andersen Windows - Exterior Windows & Doors
- Brad Birkhimer - Coal Fired Forge
- Buckeye Log Builders - Local Log Home Builder
- Cedar Creek Cabins - Ohio Log Home Builder
- Charm Engine - Small Engine Equipment
- Coalway - Fireplaces and Stoves
- Colonial Homestead - Primitive Tool Demo
- Country Lane Bulk Foods - Fresh Produce
- Countryside Rustic Log Furniture - Rustic Furniture
- Creekside Furniture - Cypress Lawn Furniture
- Donny Hochstetler - Chain Saw Carving
- Eicher Woodworking - Custom Cabinets
- Enviro Sol - Alternative Energy
- Erbs Hickory Wood Products
- Farley Forge - Forged Iron Decor
- Farm Credit Services - Log Home Lender
- Fireplace Grove Design - Pizza Oven with Sample
- Grandpa's Antiques - Antiques
- Grandpa's Rugs - Rugs
- HER Realtors - Property
- Hillside Flooring - Reclaimed Barnwood Flooring
- Hillside Gazebos - Rustic Furniture
- HML Forestry - Free Pine Seedlings
- JHKeystone Masonry - Stone Mason
- Knights Sugar Shack - Maple Sugaring
- McElroy Metal - Metal Roofing
- Miller's Hickory Rockers - Bent Hickory Rockers
- Miller's Natural Products - Soap Making
- Miller's Rustic Furniture - Rustic Log Furniture
- OHU Flooring - Hardwood Flooring
- Owens Corning - Architectural Shingle Roofing
- Provia Stone - Manufactured Stone
- R & J Construction - NY Log Home Builder
- Richardson's Greenhouse - Landscape Design
- Ron Obrecht - Scroll Saw Demo
- Rustic Creations - Log Furniture
- Seal Rite Door - Therma-Tru Door Systems
- Stallion Door - Solid Wood Interior Doors
- The Cabin Store - Rustic Cabin Decor & Carved Mantels
- Unique Designs - Interior Decor
- Wood Creations - Live Edge Tables & Wood Wheel Lighting
- Woodland Rose Log Homes - Local Log Home Builder
- Yoders Greenhouse - Mums

Log Cabin will be auctioned at 4pm on Saturday



Exterior finished with windows and doors. A log cabin (12'x24' with a 6' porch) similar to this will be auctioned off at 4pm 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 14, 11am - 7pm
 Saturday, September 15, 9am - 5pm
 Questions, call 800-368-1015 or 419-368-0004.

Our Partners/Suppliers *(continued from Summer 2018 Issue) - by Levi Hochstetler*




and technical know-how, they have built a reputation for delivering high-quality, low-maintenance exterior door products second to none. Can anyone fault us for signing up with Therma-Tru? Find them on-line @ Thermatru.com



endorsed them with no reservation for interior door knobs. However, I was not keen on using them for exterior doors, as when you open them they let you out but would not unlock. So, consequently, you could go out and forget to unlock, locking yourself out. My fear was that a small child or elderly person would, in a confused state, go out during a cold night and lock themselves out. But today they offer the type that does release the lock making them an all-around best choice.

In our standard packages, we provide what they call their F-Series. They are easy to install and come featured with their safe and easy-exit unlocks. This allows you to leave quickly in an emergency and at the same time re-enter easily if need be. We use the same series for the interior as well. They come in various different styles and finishes including knob or levered. In addition to their popular F-Series products they have a huge line of other choices including their keyless electronic versions.

Schlage has an excellent warranty. On the F-Series they have a lifetime limited mechanical and finish warranty, as long as the original user occupies the residence.

Schlage is part of the New York stock-traded company Allegion, which is a global pioneer in safety and security around the door and adjacent areas. They produce solutions for home, businesses, schools and other institutions. Allegion is a 2 billion company with products sold in 130 countries. You can find more information @ Schlage.com 

Exterior Doors: Therma-Tru Doors is another household name throughout the building industry. We make no apologies promoting their door system. You can choose from their many door selections to complement any log home style you want. There are a variety of texture and material options. Wood-grained or smooth, in stainable or paintable textures, both in fiber-glass or steel pre-stained or painted – in short, a door to fit most any taste or budget.

A few other choices are vented sidelights, WBDR & HVHZ compliant for high-wind areas, noise and fire rated doors, lots of different glass options including leaded, beveled, cut, frosted, low-E, triple pane, internal blinds, grilles between glass and simulated divide lites in all patterns and shapes. Most come with an Energy Star rating and have a lifetime limited warranty.

Of their higher-end line they have a door they call the Classic-Craft Collection and the Fiber-Classic Collection. Both can be stained that look very much like wood. Their Profile Steel and Traditional Steel door lines normally get painted and are more economical.

The Fiber-Classic comes standard in our log home packages for the exterior doors and the Profile Steel for fire-rated garage doors.

Truly, our customers will appreciate the peace of mind that the Therma-Tru door brings them. Not only do they make a good door they also have been around for over 50 years. With all their experience

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Call of the Wild



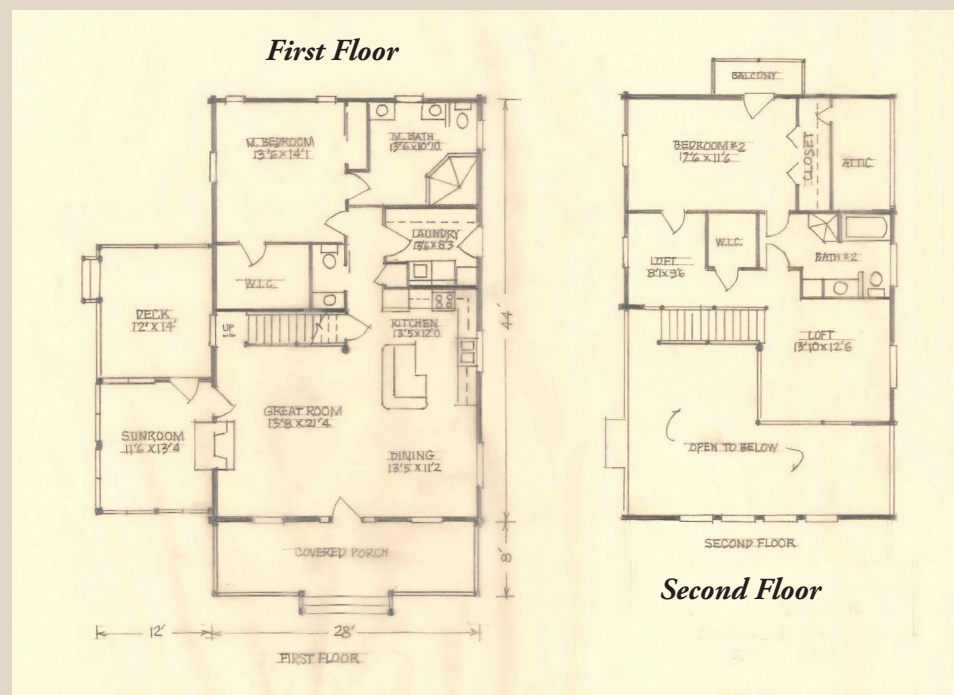
For Ken and Stephanie Wilson, the “Call of the Wild” must have been playing in their heads as they contemplated building a log home near Ashland, Kentucky - ideally located in the woods and removed from the constant noise of the city. In fact, after their home was completed Stephanie said, “When we’re out here we feel like we’re a hundred miles from town. It’s so peaceful and quiet ... and it feels like we’re on vacation.” They both fell in love with log homes years before while staying in one in Gatlinburg. Days were spent hiking the trails and enjoying nature while evenings meant huddling around the fireplace. Later, they visited several log home models and soon became convinced that the rustic, outdoor lifestyle seemed to suit them.

Their journey began a few years ago while on a Sunday afternoon drive - when they ran across a vacant, wooded lot with a dirt driveway leading up to a ridge. They decided to investigate further, and, after going to the Ashland Court House, found the owner and payed him a visit. He was understandably surprised but replied, “Funny you should ask, but my wife and I had just thought about selling that”. And so, the wheels were set in

motion and the Wilson’s soon became the new owners of that little “piece of God’s country” - 3 secluded acres atop a mountain ridge and heavily forested with hardwoods and teeming with wildlife. From small critters like squirrels, chipmunks and rabbits to the larger ones like turkeys, deer and bear - this was their “zoo.” In addition, the Oaks, Maples and Hickory’s provided seclusion and a dazzling display of color each fall.

They went “surfing on the internet” and found Hochstetler Milling and decided to visit their model. They were immediately impressed with the quality and workmanship, as well as the helpfulness of the sales force. Later, they attended “Log Cabin Days” and went on the log home tour,





which convinced them Hochstetler should be their choice. After settling on the Black Fork model they met with Steve Lykins, the designer, and discussed their options. They wanted dormers and a hip roof added, plus a second bedroom and bath upstairs, a first-floor laundry and sun room, and a garage with a covered walkway.

Samuel Mast, one of Hochstetler's builders, broke ground in April of 2016. The project moved steadily along as Ken lived in the sparsely furnished homes and did much of the work such as staining and laying tile. This "labor of love" continued throughout the year and the Wilson's moved into their "dream" in the spring of 2017. Ken was very impressed by the professionalism of Sam and his crew and they became good friends. Sam even invited them to the wedding of their daughter, Emma.

There are usually many friends that help out on a large project like this and the Wilson's was no exception. A stone mason, Alan, did the stonework

outside and for the large fireplace, and even found the Red Pine log that became the mantle. Ken worked on the railroad for many years and was given an old pot-belly stove from a railroad crossing shed when they started using gates. I now occupies a prominent place in the great room. Another antique with a fascinating history is the large storage cabinet once owned by Stephanie's great-great-grandfather, Pickle, Well over 100 years old, this naturally became the "Pickle cupboard". There are numerous other antiques scattered around the house - each one with an amusing history but much too long to detail in this short story!



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



“Lake Waynoka Pet Bass?” *by Bill Dinkins*

A heavy mist rose slowly off the lake as that big golden globe climbed over the distant tree line and created vibrant orange streaks across the sky. A new day and a new adventure awaited. I lifted my mug of fresh-brewed coffee in a toast to the natural beauty of this picturesque, southeastern Ohio lake, Lake Waynoka. The pristine lake has many “fingers” that reach into the surrounding hillsides and adds to the seclusion and quietness of the lake. If you closed your eyes you would swear you’re the only person on the lake. My favorite time of day.

We were visiting my brother-in-law and sister-in-law, who have a lakeside home there and I usually manage to “wet my line” a couple times during our stay. On our last visit, one morning in early May, I decide to try my luck and eased myself into the little paddleboat along with my rod and tackle bag. Paddling along the shoreline, I cast my 5” Yamamota plastic worm to any likely bass hangout.

My goal was to catch at least three fish for our traditional fish supper - golden brown fillets, complete with baked beans, my wife’s secret recipe potato salad and, of course, velvety-smooth, New York style cheesecake.

I was getting a little impatient since I’d been fishing for 2 hours without a single fish. My fishing buddy always says, “now you know why they call it fishing - not catching!” No sooner had I made a perfect cast back under a dock, then I felt a little tug, and knew I was in business. That fish wasn’t too happy about me invading his territory and made a quick lunge around one of the front posts holding the old dock. I quickly moved the paddleboat up against the dock and reached my 6’ rod back under the dock, while swinging it back towards the front of the dock. It worked! That fish went under the boat, came up on the other side, did an impromptu dance across the water, and splashed

down amid a cascading spray of water. After a heart-pounding couple minutes, I slid my thumb down his gaping mouth and swung him (or her) aboard. With a lunker this size maybe I wouldn’t need three! Looking around, I soon realized I had forgotten my stringer, which meant I had to improvise. So I cut off a 12’ piece of fishing line, tied him to the frame and continued down the shoreline.


That fish was not too happy being towed and jumped out of the water several times to show his displeasure. As I approached one elderly gentleman sitting on his dock, he seemed particularly amused.

“Sir, do you know you have a fish following you,” he asked.

“Oh, yes,” I responded.

“Is he your pet,” he laughed.

“No, but he is my supper!” I replied, before telling him the whole story.

A short time later I was met back at the in-law’s dock by my wife and the in-laws, who were eager to learn if I had caught supper. Without a word, I lifted the answer! 

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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