



# Mill • Direct News

*Living the Log Home Lifestyle*

Summer 2016

## A VIEW FROM THE MILL

*By Levi Hochstetler*

After a week-long birding vacation it feels good to be back in a regular routine. Each year, I try to take time off in early May to watch birds with the family. This year during my week vacation we found 169 different species of birds.

Being back, one of my first priorities is to get this newsletter in the mail. My second priority is to get a letter out to you log home owners to ask if you would consider "showing off" your log home during Log Cabin Days and at the same time help fight cancer. All the donated proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society. We would like to have at least 10 homes on the tour if possible. For all of those who are coming to Log Cabin Days we would like to encourage donating even if you don't go on the tour. Cancer is a terrible disease and one of the easiest ways to help is by supporting charities like the American Cancer Society.

It seems more and more of our clients want to go with our complete "convenience" package. We basically provide as much as you want, though we steer away from electrical, HVAC, plumbing, floor-covering and cabinets. To help accommodate this trend, we are having covered cantilever racks installed along the one side of our loading area. This will keep to our "lean thinking" in order for our associates to pull material when loading trucks and also add to our under roof storage capacity.

Hope to see y'all in September!

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## Hochstetler Milling's 30th Anniversary - *By Levi Hochstetler*



*Our Black Fork model located on Hwy 95 next to the mill*



*Our McKay model located at Hwy 95 & 60*



*(Continued from the Spring Issue)*

Our business showed steady growth through the next couple years where by 2003 over 150 log homes left our mill. But one piece was still missing - a model that our customers could visit and see first-hand the quality workmanship that goes into our homes. In 2003, we broke ground for our McKay model. This 2000 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, 2 bath home would be the ideal family-size home and, in addition, would give us much-needed office space. A professional interior decorator was consulted and added the finishing touches. Today, the McKay floor plan is still one of our most popular models and the inspiration for many custom variations. We hired a manager, several salespeople, draftsmen and a secretary to host visitors.

Although the McKay was the ideal family-size home we felt we also needed a smaller, vacation-type model, so we built the Black

Fork in 2007. This 1100 sq.ft. model has one bedroom, one bath, and an open sleeping loft suitable for an additional bedroom and bath. It is conveniently located 1/2 mile up the hill from the McKay, beside the mill.

Where are we going from here? It seems that our clients want the convenience of getting everything at one location. Accordingly the last several years we have been working on accommodating that desire. Recently we have had cantilever racks installed. This will help us be more efficient in serving our clients with complete packages.

Today, seven of our oldest boys and two girls work in the business, with three being partners. They all seem interested in what they are doing. My challenge is to keep them interested.

*Continued on page 2*

**LOG CABIN DAYS**  
**September 16-17**

*See page 3*



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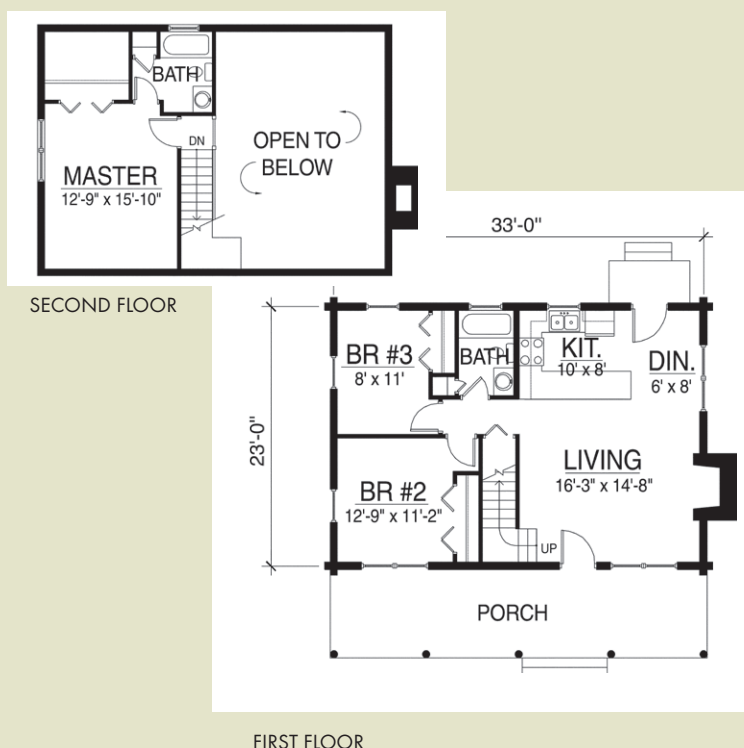


We've packed a lot of features into a smaller package with the popular Fairview. Perfect for that vacation retreat or if you're downsizing, this also comes with an affordable price tag.

Downstairs, it features the ever-popular open-concept great room with comfortable and attractive stone fireplace and awe-inspiring cathedral ceiling with exposed Douglas Fir timbers.

Upstairs, you have the privacy of the master bedroom with its own private bath.

The Fairview blends the built-in beauty of a log home with the functionality of a contemporary stick-built home. And, at a comparable price!



## Hochstetler Milling's 30th Anniversary

*continued from page 1*

Joseph, the oldest boy and a partner, works in sales and as a builder coordinator. Samuel, also a partner, is head of production. Edwin, the youngest partner, takes care of shop and equipment maintenance. Steven does estimates and quotes. Nathan helps Samuel line up trucks and does misc. sales. Jacob does whatever is needed in the shop. Mathew helps put lumber on stickers to dry. The two girls, Rachel and Rebekah, who don't want to become too involved in the business, help out part time wherever they are needed.



Our recently installed cantilver racks

As always, challenges will come our way but with the family being **involved** and the blessing from above we should be able to **continue**. **Be sure and come during Log Cabin Days and help celebrate our 30th anniversary.** 

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- Attend free seminars with valuable information on planning, designing, financing and building your log home.
- See authentic hand-peeling and hand-hewing demos, log stacking & lumberjack contests.
- See a log cabin being constructed and auctioned off at the end of the day.
- Sample mouth-watering barbecue chicken, pastries, home-made apple cider and delicious kettle popcorn.
- Bid on an original Amish quilt, furniture, crafts and other home decorative items through the silent auction.
- Take the always-popular log home tour which features several beautiful area log homes with proceeds going to the American Cancer Society.

Hours: Friday, September 16, 11am-7pm &  
Saturday, September 17, 9am-5pm. We hope to  
see you there!



# A NEW *Beginning*






For Dave and Janet Cole, the idea of someday owning their own log home began many years ago - and somehow simmered in the back of their minds through many trials and tribulations. The Coles were married in 1985; then divorced, but found they couldn't live without each other and remarried July 20, 2015.

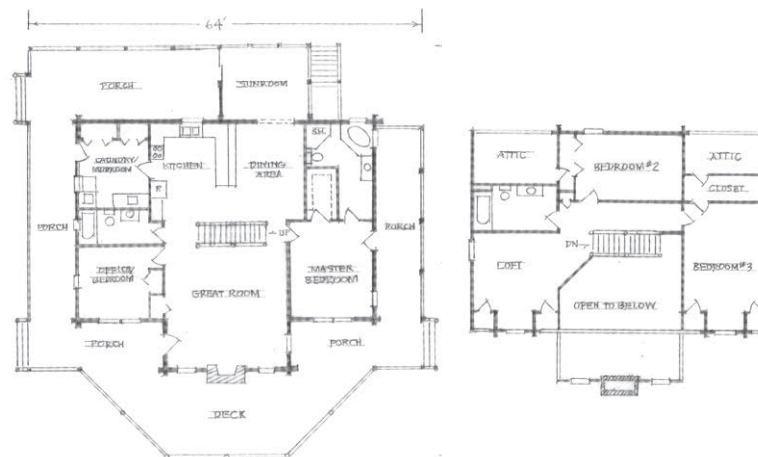
Both had lived in log homes before and embraced the carefree, rustic and relaxed lifestyle it provided. On a whim, one weekend they attended a log home show in Seven Springs, Pennsylvania and met a saleslady from Hochstetler Milling. Quickly, the wheels were set in motion and they decided, at their ages, it was a now or never deal. Dave had purchased 35 acres of hilly, mostly wooded land in southwestern Pennsylvania in 1977, hoping someday to build there. He invited his mother to view the property and she loved a site "up the hill," amidst lush vegetation and towering hardwoods. It was an oasis of flora, fauna - and critters! Samuel Mast, owner of Cedar Creek Log Homes and long-time Hochstetler builder, was then consulted. Dave had a large photo of a log home, which he had torn out of a magazine years before and served as a constant reminder of his ultimate dream. In fact, he even made a 4x6 copy to carry around in his truck! When Dave met Samuel at the site, he held up the picture, and asked him, "This is what I want, and I want it to be magnificent - can you do it?" Samuel simply replied, "I'd prefer to have my work speak for me." That was all the assurance Dave needed. When Dave told Janet about his plan, she was delighted - and both agreed this home would be their "new beginning."

Dave is the owner of KC Excavation - and together with his son, Karl, started cutting in the driveway and clearing the area for the foundation in November of 2014. They hauled 52 truckloads of dirt, gravel, and rocks down the hill before they could even think about pouring the footers and building the foundation. Soon, Samuel and his entire family went to work. The Coles were amazed at the pride they took in their work, the expert workmanship, and the cheerful nature they went about it. Janet often surprised them with a homemade meal, for which they were very grateful after a long day's work.

The Coles home was completed last fall, but Janet is still adding some finishing touches. There are antiques galore, family heirlooms, photos and many items that make this home uniquely theirs. A large buffet in the dining room was once a pie safe and dinnerware storage from her great grandmother's house and is well over 100 years old. She went "on-line" and ordered several "punched tin" items, including a beautiful lamp in the kitchen that casts a warm glow down on the countertop. Dave's original print of his "dream" home is framed, matted and signed by all members of the working crew - and is prominently displayed on an antique table in the great room. Other "workers" included Robert Eicher, who custom built the solid maple cabinets in the kitchen; and Ed Stutzman, who did all the finished woodwork and drywall, as well as lay the brick-patterned tile floor in the kitchen. Samuel's wife, Erma, and friend, Robin, did most of the interior painting, including the "faux" finish in the bathrooms upstairs.

Although this dream home represents a "new beginning" for the Coles, it also represents a long-awaited journey and a remarkable determination in seeing their "dream" come true. 

*For additional information about the home of Bob & Jane Ann Anderson please contact Hochstetler Milling at 800-368-1015.*



FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR







# TOADS



When I first discovered that the American toad, the common garden dweller, sings, I was dumbfounded. I was maybe ten years old when one April I crept up over the bank of the farm pond to look for the producer of that continuous trilling coming from the water's edge. There, as plain as day, was a warty toad, throat sac puffed almost to the size of a Ping-Pong ball, singing away. And it was a pretty song at that. A toad, that silent critter of summer which spends its evenings and nights snatching up slugs and other garden pests—singing?

This annual spring event had been going on for as long as there had been toads, I just wasn't aware of it. Despite all the rural folklore surrounding the American toad-handling them will cause warts, killing one will turn the cows' milk to blood (this one saved the lives of many toads)—I now knew that toads, at least the males, could sing. And I have been enjoying their spring songs ever since.

One week when the mercury climbed into the seventies for a day, the toads left the gardens and compost heaps where they overwintered and headed for their favorite ponds. The males, which are smaller than the females, are the first to feel the pull of the ponds. Unfortunately, I saw several that didn't make it; they were flattened on the road.

But many survived the hazardous journey and as I write this I can hear them singing, a—pure, sustained, musical trill. One of the true and most pleasing sounds of spring.

The spring peepers start piping much earlier than do the toads, and often get frosted into silence. Once the male toads begin serenading the females, however, we know that spring is here to stay and ready to move forward. The toads' steady trill mingles well with the sharper chirps of the peepers and the snorelike calls of the leopard and pickerel frogs.


After the male toads have trilled for a few days, the females begin showing up at the pond edges, where they soon pair off with the finest-voiced males. The mated pair then swims around the shallower parts of the pond, she leaving a double string of eggs, delicate as gelatinous lace, wrapped around submerged branches, weeds, and driftwood.

Once her five to six thousand eggs have been laid and fertilized, the female heads home to the garden or orchard, where she will spend the rest of the year as a dry-land creature. The male, however, continues to trill away, hoping for another mate. After all, if his musical ability attracted one female, it should be good enough to impress others. So he and others of his kind send their sweet voices

out twenty-four hours a day—unless extreme cold drives them to silence.

If the weather remains warm the toad eggs begin hatching within a week. Soon the bottom of the pond is covered with tiny black tadpoles looking like strewn commas. Of the thousands of one pair's progeny, fewer than a hundred will survive to leave the waters of their birth. If the tadpoles venture too close to shore where there is no cover, great blue and green herons, grackles, crows, and ducks will be waiting for them. Should the tadpoles turn to deeper water for safety, they become fish food. Life for a tadpole is along a razor-thin edge.

By midsummer the toad tadpoles will have developed lungs, grown four legs, and absorbed their tails for nourishment. One by one they now leave the pond and head crosscountry. In September I have seen young toads no bigger around than a quarter in the middle of fields plowed for wheat. The little toads must be finding food there, and life is probably safer in a field than in the pond where thousands of their brothers and sisters disappeared down the throats of predators.

Female toads don't mate until their fourth spring, when they are lured to water, often to the pond of their birth, by the songs of the males. Male toads may return a year or two earlier. By their efforts and skills as musicians, our springs are richer. 

*David Kline is a local Amish farmer/writer and has three books to his credit - Great Possessions, Scratching the Woodchuck, and Lark Songs - and is the editor for Farming Magazine. His books are available at Wooster Book Company - 800-982-6651. We are grateful to David for giving us permission to use this article from his book "Scratching the Woodchuck - Nature on an Amish Farm"*



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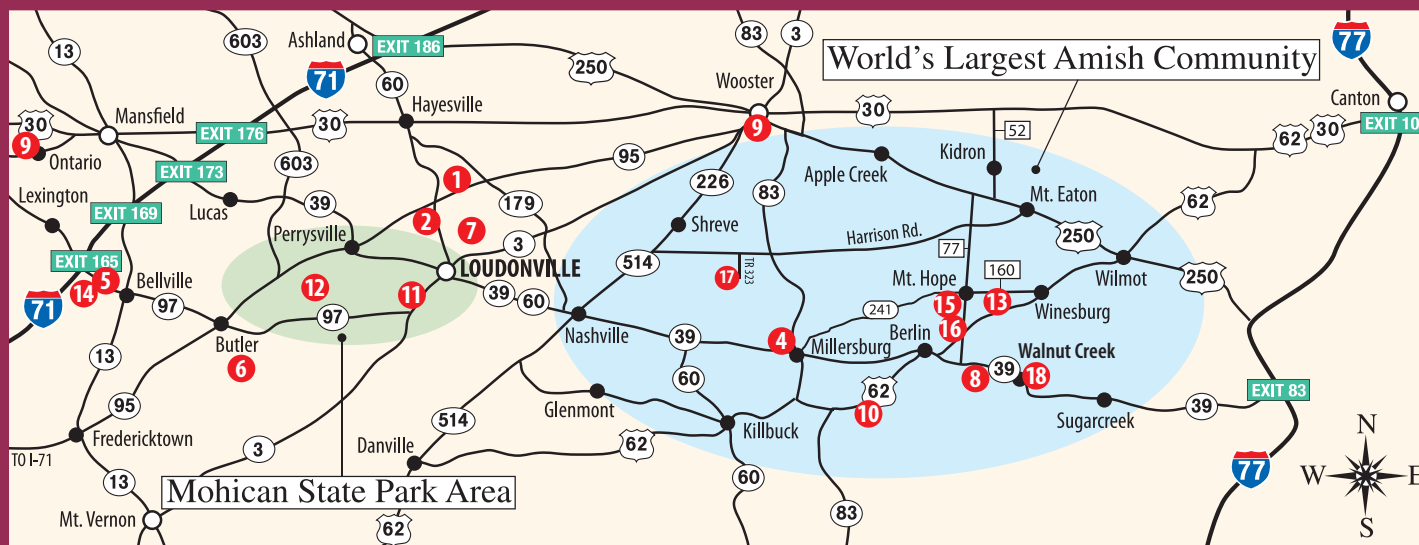
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# CABIN FEVER “My Son’s First Fish” by Bill Dinkins

Most married men, especially if they love the outdoors, can hardly wait to take their son or daughter fishing for the first time. It is a great way to introduce them to the out-doors in general, and build a bond that most children will always remember. It wasn't surprising, then, that Steve Lykins, our designer, was counting down the days when his son, Joseph, age 6, could join him on their first trip together.

Finally, the big day arrived. Steve had purchased an inexpensive kid's spinning rod and reel combo, an assortment of hooks, swivels and bobbers, and even packed a snack. On the way to the lake he told Joseph about the time he and Uncle Tyler had fished in this same spillway, below Pleasant Hill Dam, and how they lost a stringer full of fish in the churning waters when Tyler didn't secure the stringer tight enough. And, for several years, Steve relished the opportunity to tell the family about the “disappearing” fish.

It was early April and the spring Saugeye run had just started. Saugeye are a hatchery-produced hybrid cross made from a female walleye and a male sauger and is particularly well-suited for Ohio's reservoirs. Though they don't grow as large as walleye they are nevertheless just as delicious.

After trudging the steep dirt path down to the rushing stream, they quickly baited up with minnows. The technique involved placing a bobber just far enough up the line that the current would carry it just above the rocks where the fish would hopefully be. It wasn't long before Joseph had his first bite. As the bobber bounced along with the waves it suddenly hesitated, then slowly disappeared.

“I've got a bite, Dad.” Sure enough, not only did he have a bite but a thrashing fish was putting a nice bend on his rod. A short struggle ensued and Joseph carefully guided his first fish to the landing net as Steve scooped him up. “Great job, Joseph. Now, lets put him on the stringer.”

The action continued for another hour or so and their stringer had six Saugeye, each one bent on escaping and thrashing continually at the water's edge. Occasionally, Steve would glance over to see Joseph studying his catch.

“This is fun, Dad. Can we do this again tomorrow?”

“Well, I have to work tomorrow, but maybe next week.”

“Promise, Dad?”

“Yep.”

As the sun slowly sank below the treetops and the sky grew darker, they started picking up their gear and headed up the long hill; eager to taste the mouth-watering, golden brown fillets of freshly-caught fish.

Unfortunately, the fish had other ideas. When Steve bent down to hoist the stringer up, there was one thing missing - the fish! It was deja vu all over again as he watched helplessly as the strong current carried their entire stringer of fish bouncing merrily downstream.

This, no doubt, would be a new chapter in Uncle Tyler's fishing stories - for many years to come! 



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