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PREMIER ISSUE
*Country's Best Cabins
and Cabin Life*
together in one bigger,
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**18
RUSTIC
DESIGN
IDEAS**

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PLANS**

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PLUS!

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publisher's page



Dear Friends:

Welcome to the new **Cabin Living** magazine, a merger of *Cabin Life* and *Country's Best Cabins*. After reading this premier issue, we hope you'll agree: One plus one equals three!

Cabin Living is now the biggest magazine serving the cabin enthusiast. Whether you are building, remodeling or relaxing in a cabin, there is a lot worth reading in every issue. We'll publish two more **Cabin Living** issues this year and eight issues in 2016.

I'm delighted to be working with **Cabin Living** editor Mark Johnson, a 14-year veteran of "the cabin life." Mark joins the existing cabin, log and timber team within the Home Group of Active Interest Media, a special-interest magazine, conference and digital content producer headquartered in Boulder, Colo. You may know some of AIM's other magazines like *Backpacker*, *American Cowboy*, *Ski*, *Sail*, *Yoga Journal* and *National Park Journals*.

Cabin Living is part of AIM's Home Group which also publishes *Log Home Living*, *Timber Home Living*, *Old House Journal*, *Period Homes* and *Arts & Crafts Homes*. We also produce the Log & Timber Home Shows and the Log & Timber Home University in 14 cities around the U.S. and Canada. You can find additional cabin topics on www.mywoodhome.com or by reading the new Cabin Living e- newsletters.

We are also excited to be a sponsor of the Lake Home and Cabin Shows in Minneapolis, Madison and Chicago next year. Whether you read magazines, do research on websites, stay current with e-newsletters and webinars, or attend cabin trade shows, we want to help you indulge your passion for cabin living.

Enjoy,

Rob Clutter

Group Publisher

Log Home, Timber Home and Cabin Group





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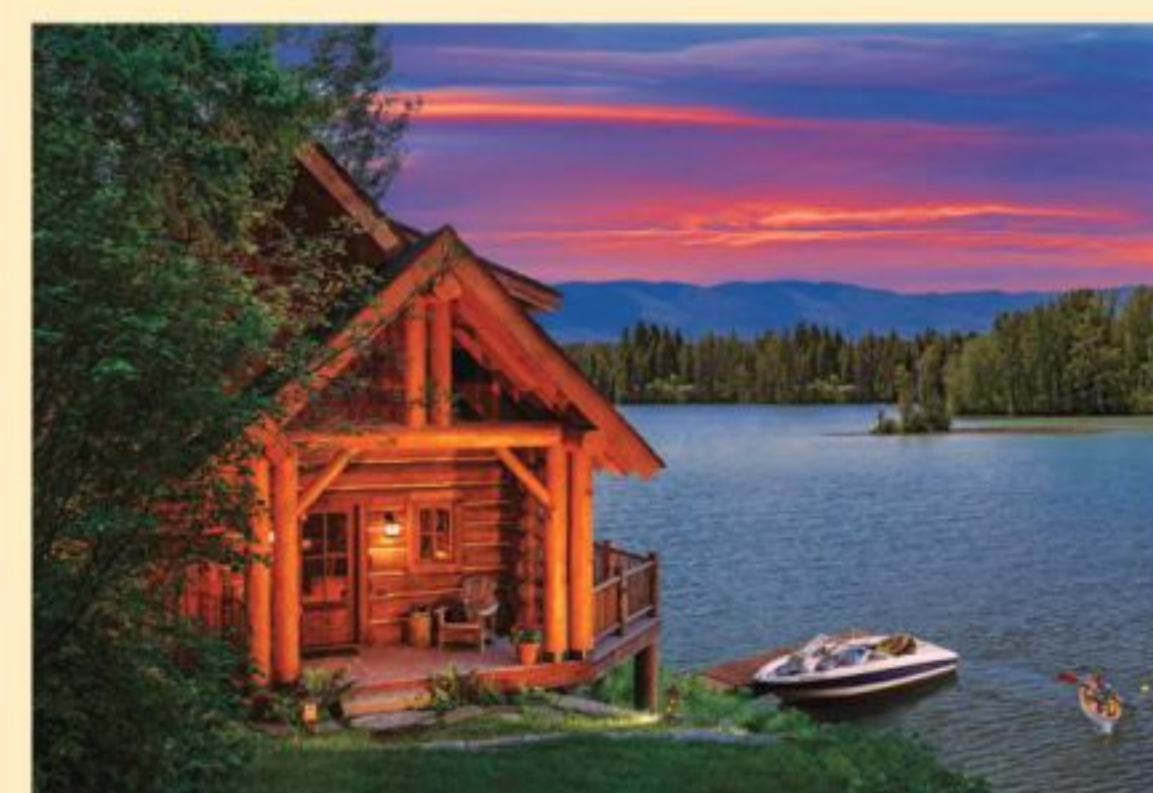
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**WINDOWS
& DOORS**



about the cover

This log home celebrates rustic style, one of this issue's themes. See pages 9, 10 and 74.

Photo by Heidi A. Long

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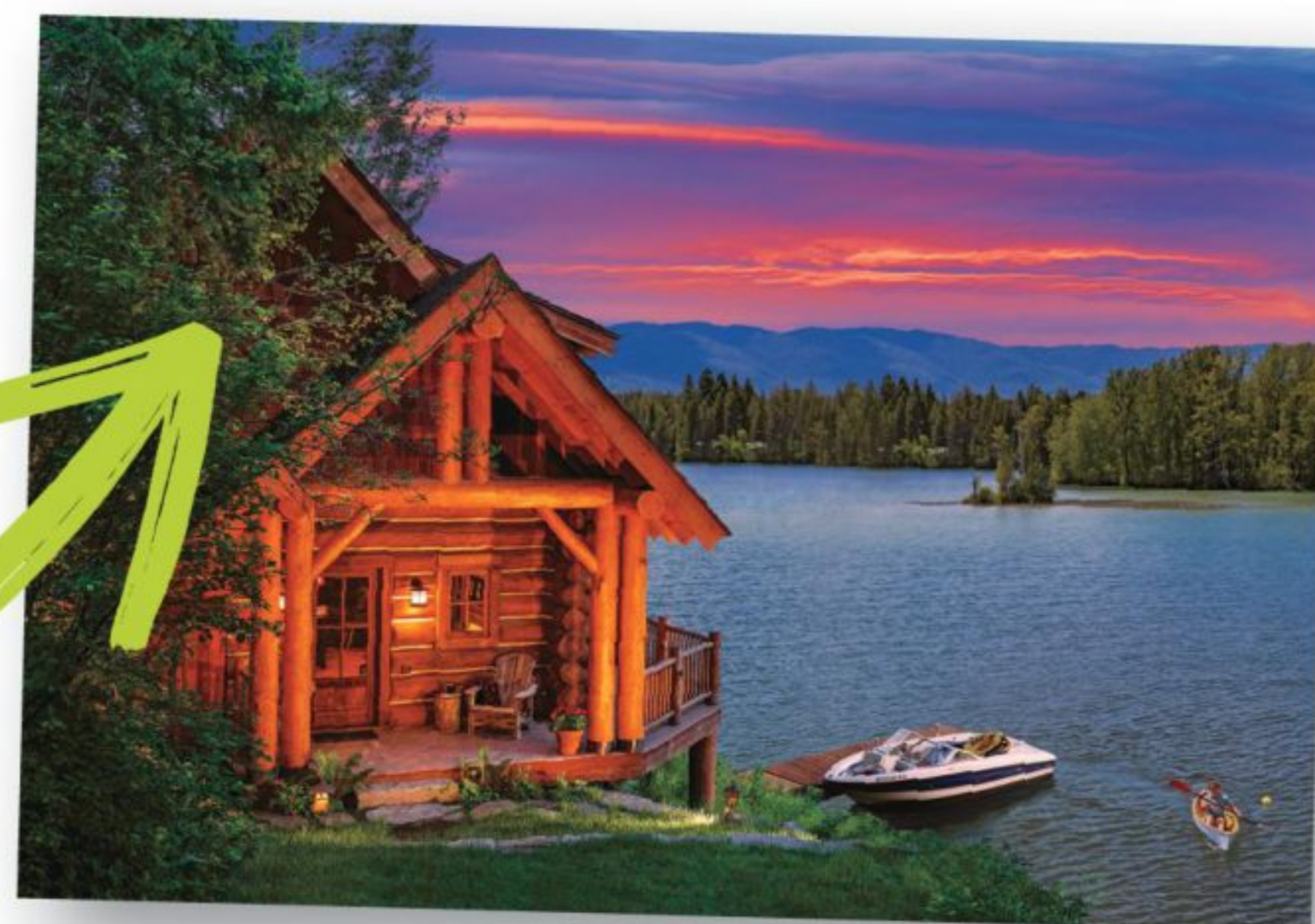
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welcome

Your Magazine for All Things CABIN



Dear Readers,
CONGRATULATIONS! You are holding in your hands the debut issue of *Cabin Living* magazine. We created *Cabin Living* by blending two magazines: *Cabin Life* and *Country's Best Cabins*. As you can see, *Cabin Living* is bigger, and I hope you agree with me that it's also a better magazine.

After 14 great years of editing *Cabin Life* magazine, I was thrilled this spring to travel with *Cabin Life* to the Home Group where I now work with seasoned veterans who for years have produced great magazines like *Log Home Living* and *Timber Home Living*. At the Home Group, we have the resources to make *Cabin Living* the premier magazine for all things cabin.

Our new team relied on comprehensive

reader surveys that showed that readers of both *Cabin Life* and *Country's Best Cabins* magazines want similar, far-ranging coverage of the cabin-retreat lifestyle — everything from beautifully photographed cabin features to ideas for weekend fun with family and friends.

In the pages of *Cabin Living*, you will find guidance on **all phases of living the cabin dream**: from planning to building to maintenance to security to decorating to remodeling. You will receive expert advice for DIY projects as well as for viewing wildlife, boating, fishing and exploring trails. You will get ideas for family activities (some of which may become traditions!), plus weekend hosting tips and recipes.

At the heart of it all, *Cabin Living* will help you relax, recharge and connect — with family, friends and nature — because your editors know that is what it's all about.

Here's to more great times
at the cabin,

MARK R. JOHNSON
Editor



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DESIGN & DÉCOR

Rustic Style

*What is rustic style? Rustic expert and interior designer Ann Stillman O'Leary defines it as "design that celebrates the honesty of all-natural, local materials and brings them to new heights."**

A rustic handcrafted log cabin with a welcoming porch looks right at home on the shore of this lake ringed with mountains.

* SOURCE: "Rustic Revisited," Watson-Guptill Publications

**there's
MORE!**

Turn the page to
get ideas for adding
rustic style to
your cabin.

FUN FESTIVALS IN CABIN COUNTRY

LAKE TAHOE AUTUMN FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

Truckee, Calif., Sept. 11–13

This extremely popular festival marks its 30th anniversary of bringing friends and family together to indulge in the region's best food, wine, spirit and brews. The festival, at Northstar Ski Resort, features celebrity chefs, hands-on cooking demonstrations, a Farm-to-Tahoe dinner, winemaker luncheons and dinners, food, craft beer and wine seminars, and mixology. Culminating the weekend is Sunday's Culinary Competition and Grand Tasting. **truckee.com**

BAYFIELD APPLE FESTIVAL

Bayfield, Wis., Oct. 2–4

For the 54th year in a row, this charming, picturesque harbor town and kayaking mecca on the south shore of Lake Superior will be flooded by the masses in order to celebrate the autumn apple harvest. There are countless booths of all things apple: pies, tarts, ciders and other fall treats. This festival has been named one of the "10 Best Specialty Food Festivals in the Nation" by *USA Today* for good reason. **bayfield.org**

NATIONAL SOUTHERN GOSPEL & HARVEST CELEBRATION

Pigeon Forge, Tenn., Oct. 2–31

This month-long celebration features free gospel concerts (included with Dollywood admission), and the organizers claim that it is "the biggest Southern gospel festival in the Smokies." Also, artisans throughout the park will display their handmade arts and crafts. **dollywood.com**



from the deck

DESIGN & DÉCOR

10 Ways to Rustic

IDEAS YOU CAN USE TO GET THE LOOK

To add rustic flair to your cabin, consider:

1 The collected look – When your furniture and décor pieces look like they've been acquired over the years, it lends a sense of historic authenticity. Bonus: You are relieved of the pressure to make things match.

2 Reclaimed objects – Vintage family pieces and junk store finds evoke a sense of history. Display your great-grandmother's spinning wheel in a corner of the great room. Place antique kitchen utensils in a vintage pot on the kitchen counter.

3 Textures – Vary textures in furniture, décor items, blankets and throws. For instance, you can complement the rugged masculinity of a leather sofa with light, airy linen window coverings.

4 Going beyond brown – Take a note from Adirondack style. With wood tones being so dominant in many cabins – especially log and timber-frame homes – add colors like cranberry red, blue tones, forest green and creamy yellow.



5 Wildlife motifs – Use art, tiles, vases, baskets, sculpture, carvings and more to depict local wildlife.

6 Murals – Do you have an artist in the family? Idyllic nature scenes can be painted on furniture or framed as wall art.

7 Outdoor gear – Decorate with recreational gear that reflects your outdoor lifestyle, e.g., a wooden canoe, vintage fishing gear, boat oars, snowshoes, antique alpine skis, etc.

8 Tree branches – A bark-on birch tree branch can serve as a beautiful valance. Or use small twigs (and a glue gun) to embellish a picture frame.

9 Industrial objects – Add some fun, functional industrial hanging lights or other accessories, e.g., a vintage butcher's scale.

10 Rugs – Make a rough space cozy, warm and comfy by adding boldly patterned rugs. Use the rugs' colors to inspire the palette in the rest of the room.



Decorative animal track tiles, 6x6 inches, \$25 each (terrapintile.com)

Area rug, "San Miguel SWT-1D" (southwestlooms.com)

Wooden canoe shelf, \$1,499 (highcamphome.com)



there's MORE!

Get ideas for adding rustic style to your bathroom on p. 74.



A GREAT TIME TO PLANT

With warm days and cooling nights, autumn is the perfect time to plant wildflowers and other native plants. Fall plantings mimic the natural lifecycle when flowers begin to fade, produce seed and drop that seed onto the ground. Plus, autumn planting can allow for earlier blooms the following spring, which is particularly appealing to people whose cabins are in a region with short summers and long winters.

Always keep in mind that the better you prepare the area, the better results your planting will yield. Before sowing seeds, clear the area as well as possible to remove existing growth. Seeds will sprout and take hold best when sown into bare soil. Sow the seeds, and then cover the seed with a layer of mulch to encourage germination. For transplants, remove vegetation before digging the planting hole. And don't forget to water seeds and transplants well and keep them moist.



Courtesy prairiemoon.com



SOURCE: homegardenandhomestead.com



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from the deck

When building or adding on to a cabin, consider your house-wrap options. HyrdoGap has spacers to create a drainage gap, helping to eliminate moisture from the wall system in order to provide protection against mold and moisture damage. It comes in a 5x100-foot roll, covering 500 square feet. For more info, go to the manufacturer website: Benjamin Obdyke Roof & Wall Products, benjaminobdyke.com.

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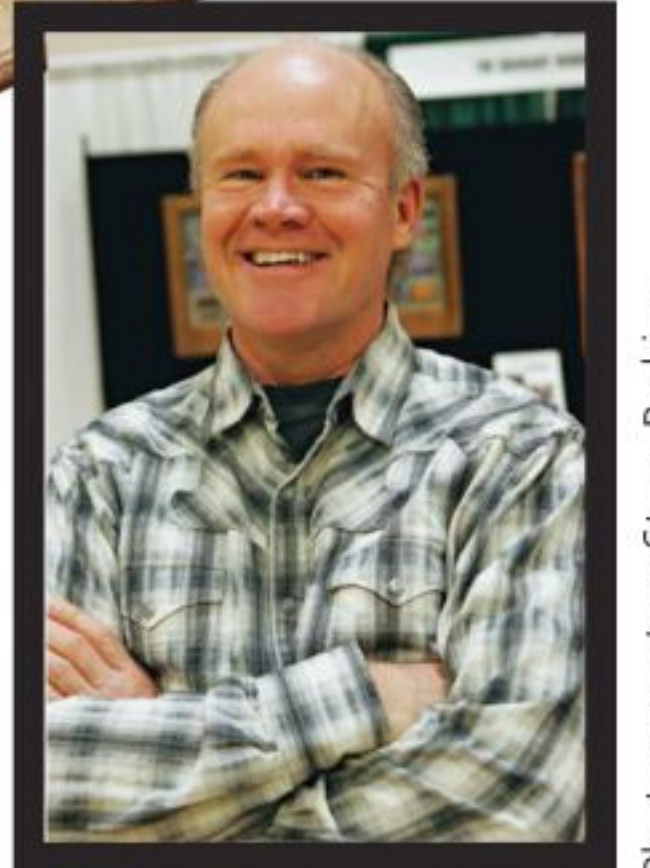
ARTIST TIM BLANSKI crafts beautiful rustic furniture, but he also makes lovely reclaimed jewelry boxes that have been a big hit at shows like the Lake Home & Cabin Show.

In 2001, Tim quit his pressure-cooker corporate job in sales and marketing to set up a woodshop and take up furniture making. While this self-taught artisan laughs about some of his early efforts, he is now highly accomplished at his craft. His first love is Adirondack Great Camp-style furniture with bark facing and twig inlays, and he has aspired to the work of master craftsmen like Barney Bellinger, Chris Wager and Randy Holden. "I learned that making finely crafted furniture requires time, patience and design," Tim says.

Tim's specialty is making furniture from weathered outdoor lumber. He salvages wood from aging barns and outbuildings across the rural Midwest. He buys and dis-



mantles the structures and then carts the wood back to Spring Grove, Minn. There, he makes the reclaimed wood into tables, benches, bookcases, cabinets and more. His handcrafted furniture often showcases two or more different species of wood. To see more of Tim's work, visit granarywoodshops.com.



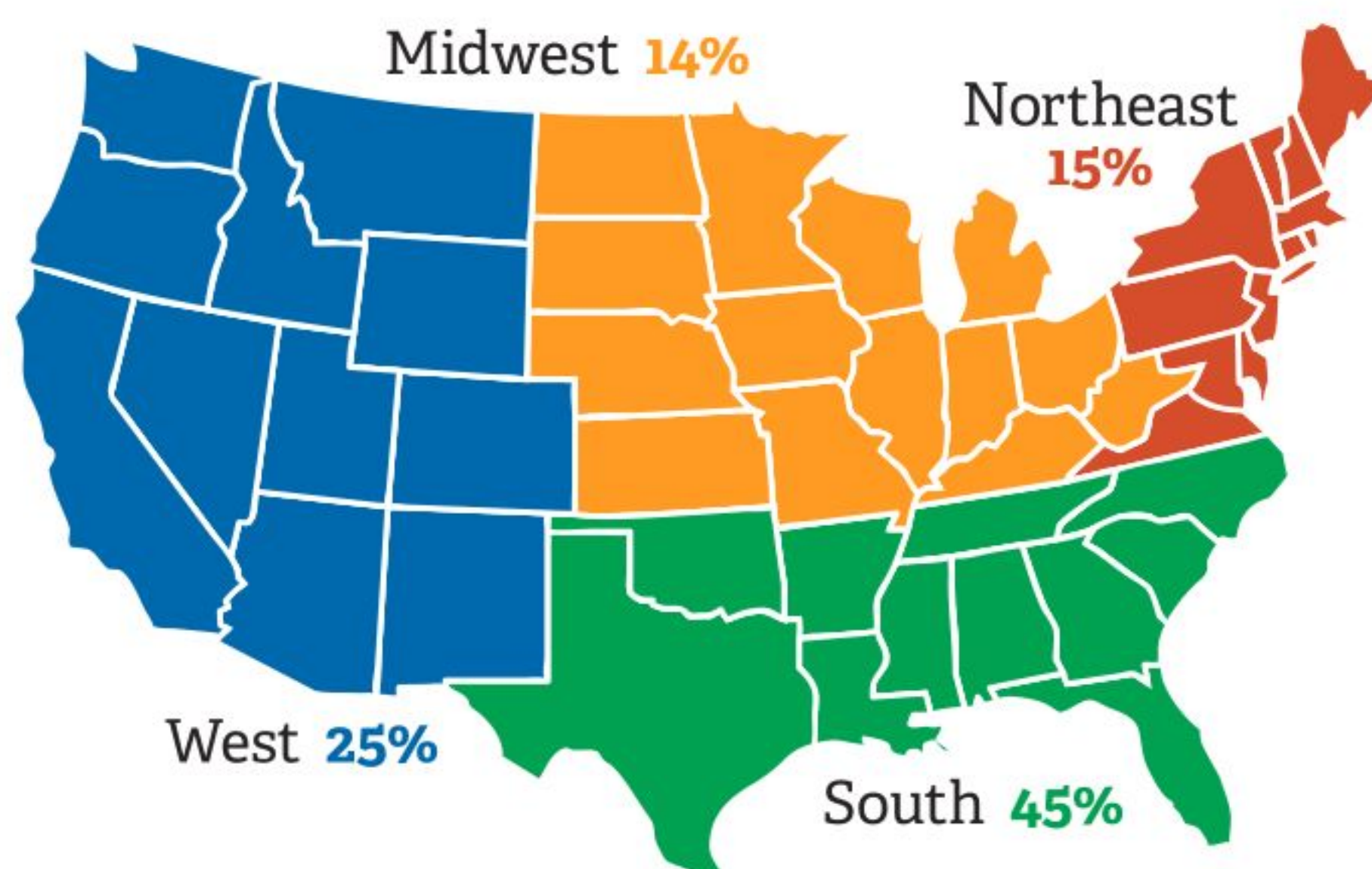
Photos courtesy Steve Perkins

NEWS REPORT

cabin sales soar

Last year, vacation home sales (including cabins) hit a 12-year high-water mark, according to a recent report from the National Association of Realtors (NAR). **Vacation home sales in 2014 increased by 57.4% over 2013.** And more than 80% of vacation-home buyers reported that now is a good time to purchase real estate. Other information from the report includes:

Where in the US?



54%



DETACHED
SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

18%



TOWNHOUSES
OR ROW HOUSES

33% purchased the property for vacations or as a personal retreat

19% bought for future retirement

Other reasons for buying included the potential for price appreciation, and to generate income through rental.

How much?

\$150,000

MEDIAN SALES PRICE IN 2014

What type of location?



Beach **40%**



Country **19%**



Mountain **17%**



Lake Front **15%**



Ranch **4%**



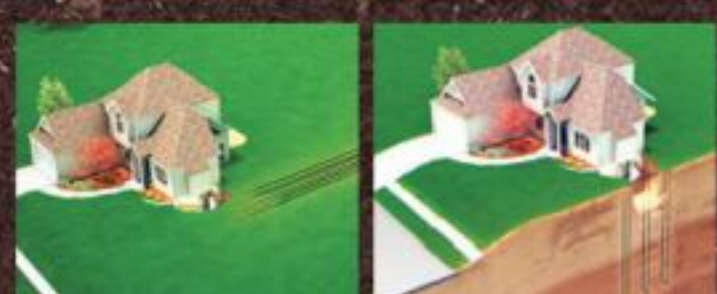
Other **5%**

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from the deck **we asked
you answered**

Real-life Renovation Lessons Learned

We asked: If you have remodeled, renovated or added-on at your cabin, please share an important lesson learned.

You answered: "Always build a bigger kitchen than you think you need because that's where everyone congregates."
— Eric Ewing

"Set aside extra money for the things you will discover as you start pulling back and knocking down but were not expecting to find! We said we weren't going to touch anything in the lower bathroom. Then, a few weeks later the toilet and sink were in the middle of the family room, and I asked my husband, 'Remind me, how did we get to this again?' It's like the 'if you give a moose a cookie story' ... a chain reaction."
— Gena Cowden-Hoeft

"If you're renovating your cabin yourself, it takes a lot longer than you think if you can only work on weekends. Friends work for beer and pizza." — Sean Bradley

"When we built a small cabin, our lesson learned was to tape off the placement of cabinets, refrigerator, island and potential furniture when the cabin was empty and before we did our final order. It was a great way to visualize and discuss sizing. It's amazing what a few inches one way or the other, or tweaking this or that, can make when building." — Liz Nelson

"Make sure your plan provides for a nice place to sit and look at the view, whether it be lake or trees." — Ann Caple-Tobin

And long-time Minnesota cabin owner Mike Wilkus was kind enough to provide a lengthy list:

"Establish a schedule for your project.

Never say to your contractor: 'We're not in a hurry.'

Establish a budget before inviting the contractor to bid the work so that you can make an easy decision.

Set a time for the remodel work (for us: ide-

ally when you are not there because in Minnesota, summer cabin time is very valuable).

DIRTT: Do it right this time. It's actually a line of office furniture but the concept applies. Do not install cheap components. It is always better to wait until you can afford to do it right, otherwise you will be paying to do it again in a very short time.

DIY projects can take up the entire season, so plan for that time and chip away at it. Otherwise, the weight of the uncompleted project is so heavy that you do not enjoy your time at the cabin.

Set aside two hours each day per weekend to work on projects. If you have 20 projects over the season — you will have 40 hours of work done by the fall!

Engage an architect." *(That last suggestion was delivered tongue in cheek, kind of. Mike is an architect.)*

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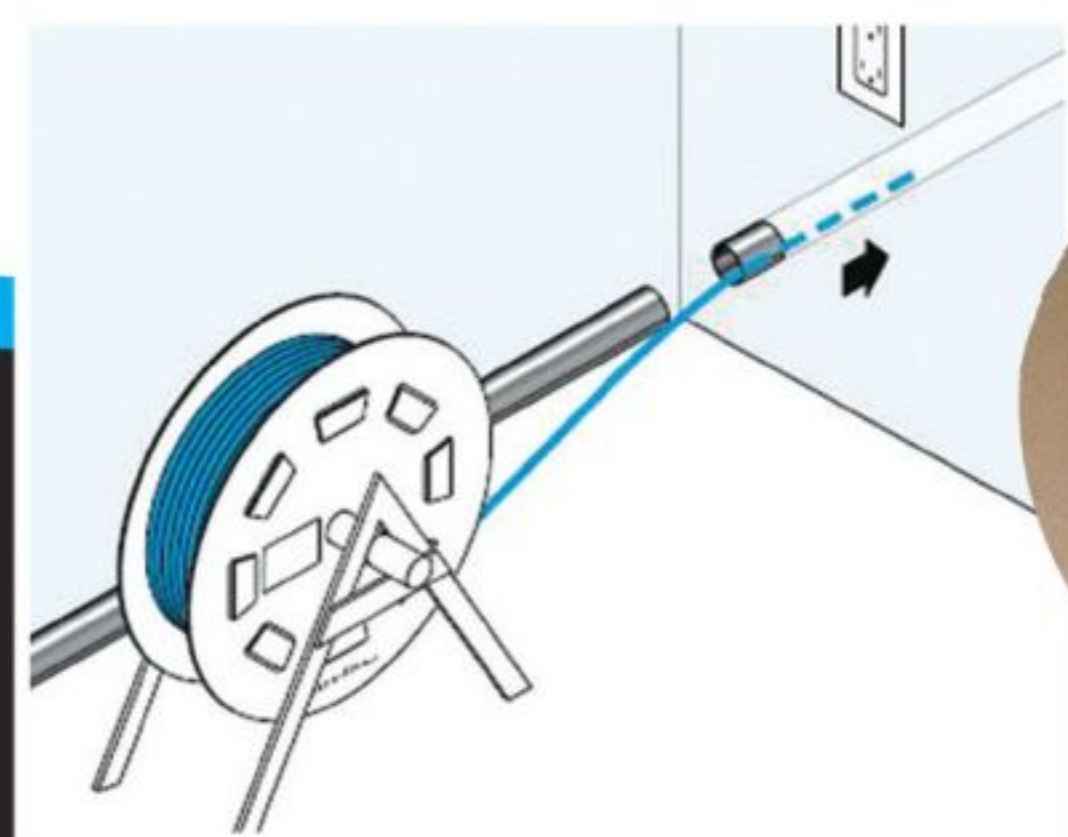
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fishing tips
From Larry

After a long hot summer, many outdoor enthusiasts' attention turns to things other than fishing. Hunting seasons are underway, the cooler weather is great for hiking and camping, plus canoeing and kayaking can be enjoyed in less crowded waters.

Many anglers don't fish their favorite lake in the fall because they think that good fishing for any species is affected by a unique

unlike during the heat of the summer when the fish school up deep in cooler water. Now, they can be anywhere and feed at any time.

Fishing can be tough right after the turnover, but you can still catch fish. You will need to fish fast and hit a lot of different types of structures; don't expect to catch a lot of fish in one place since they are less likely to be schooled up.

After the water settles, fish of all species

Fall is for fishing

phenomenon called "fall turnover." This happens in early autumn when air temps drop and cool down lakes. The top layers of water cool first and since warm water is lighter than cool water, the cooler water sinks. The layers of water mix together and the lake becomes a more consistent temperature than summer.

You can tell when this happens on your favorite lake because the water becomes murky, and there hasn't been any rain to cause it. You may also notice a stale or rotten odor as un-oxygenated deeper water comes to the top.

When oxygen mixes throughout the lake's layers, fish roam freely and are hard to pattern;

they seem to go on a feeding spree. All of a sudden, you will find them in shallow water feeding heavily – stocking up to get ready for the lean months of winter. When this happens, the fishing is fantastic and you can stock up your freezer with fish to enjoy when it's cold outside and snow covers the ground.

Enjoy hunting, camping, hiking, canoeing, kayaking and all the other great outdoor activities you can during the beautiful fall season, but also take time to go fishing.

Larry Whiteley hosts the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World Radio Show, basspro.com.

Photo courtesy MirroCraft & Montego Bay Pontoons, mirrocraft.com

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from the deck **LAKE ASSOCIATION SPOTLIGHT**

NAME: Salem Lakes Association

AREA SERVED: Salem Lake and Little Salem, part of the Clyde River systems that flow into Canada.

MEMBERSHIP: The Salem Lakes Association is an all-volunteer organization that serves close to 200 lakeshore properties. The group, led by president Andrew Major, works with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. It belongs to the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, and the Memphremagog Watershed Association, which encompasses bodies of water in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

PROJECTS:

- Monitoring the water quality of the lake.
- Eurasian water milfoil prevention is a priority. The lakes have been milfoil-free ever since the association noticed that this aquatic nuisance became an issue several years ago in neighboring lakes. The association attributes its success to a combination of policies and practices:
 - Boat Access Inspectors are stationed at public-access ramps during the boating season. With so many great fishing and

recreational lakes around the northeast corner of Vermont, Salem is vulnerable to milfoil infestation from any incoming prop, trailer or paddle that may come into the lake from another water body that has the weed in it.

- Volunteer inspectors or lake monitors paddle around the lake during the warm season looking for any signs of milfoil.
- A major aspect of the program is education. The association takes steps to make sure every property owner (or renter) has information on milfoil in plain sight. Fliers, newsletters and meetings help spread the word.

SUCCESS STORY: "We have been able to remain milfoil-free because we've never relaxed our efforts to keep an eye on what goes into the lake," Major says. "We have been very active in monitoring our public boat access area with inspectors. We've also educated our property owners (and renters) so they can do their part to keep milfoil out along their banks and docks. We're certainly happy about the results so far."

AFFILIATIONS: Federation of Vermont Lakes



Photo courtesy Tim Votapka

and Ponds, vermontlakes.org; Memphremagog Watershed Association, memphremagogwatershedassociation.com.

WEBSITE: salemlakesvt.org

share your story

Does your lake have an association that's improving water quality? Do you belong to a land association that is always looking out for its members? To tell us more about the good work your association is doing, email cabinliving@aimmedia.com. Please include two or three high-resolution photos of your lake or cabin area.

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AVOID CAR-DEER CRASHES

In many cabin regions across the U.S., from Tennessee to Wisconsin to Texas, autumn brings an increase in car-deer collisions. Here are some tips you can use to avoid and/or survive such a calamity:

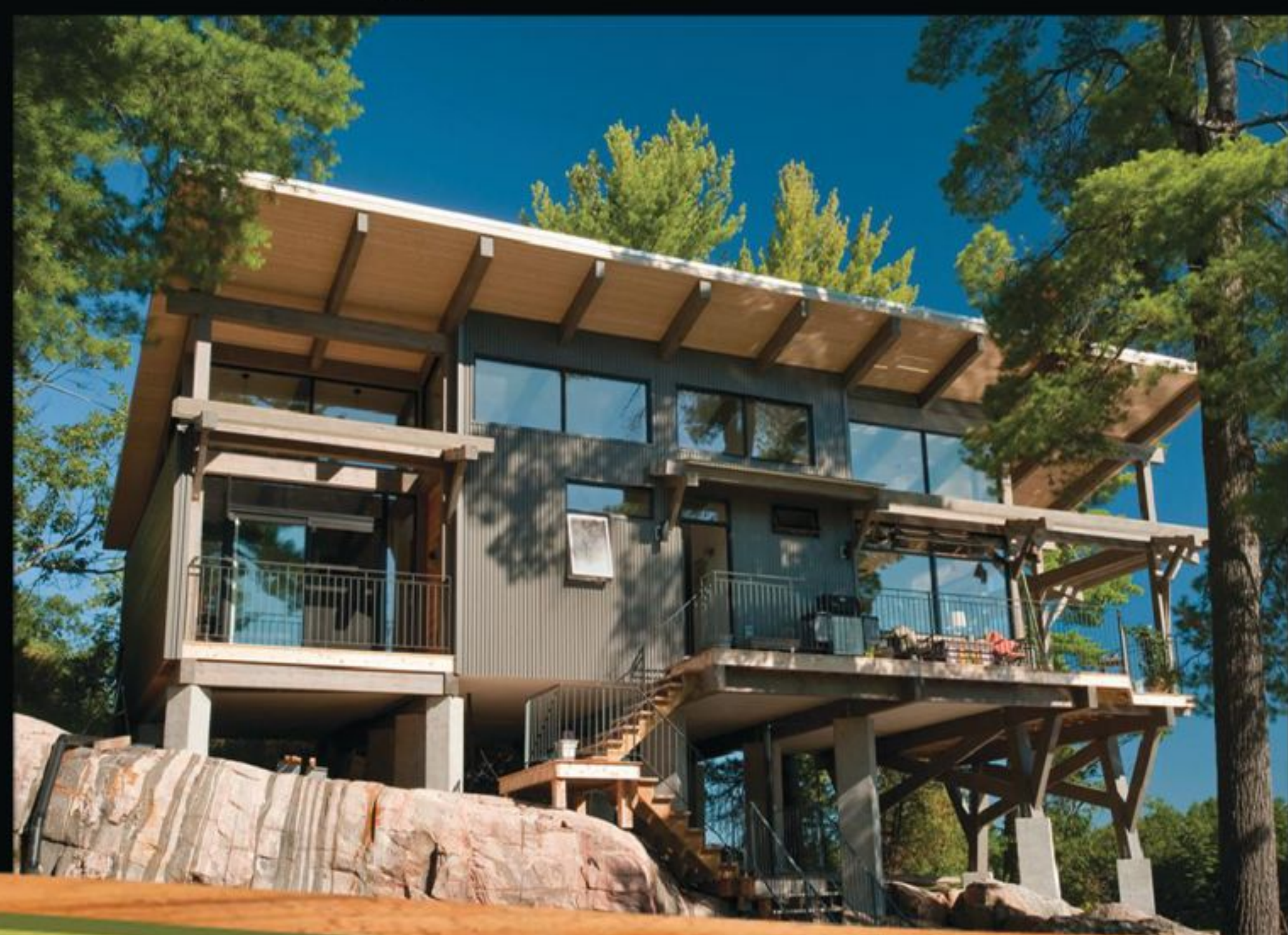
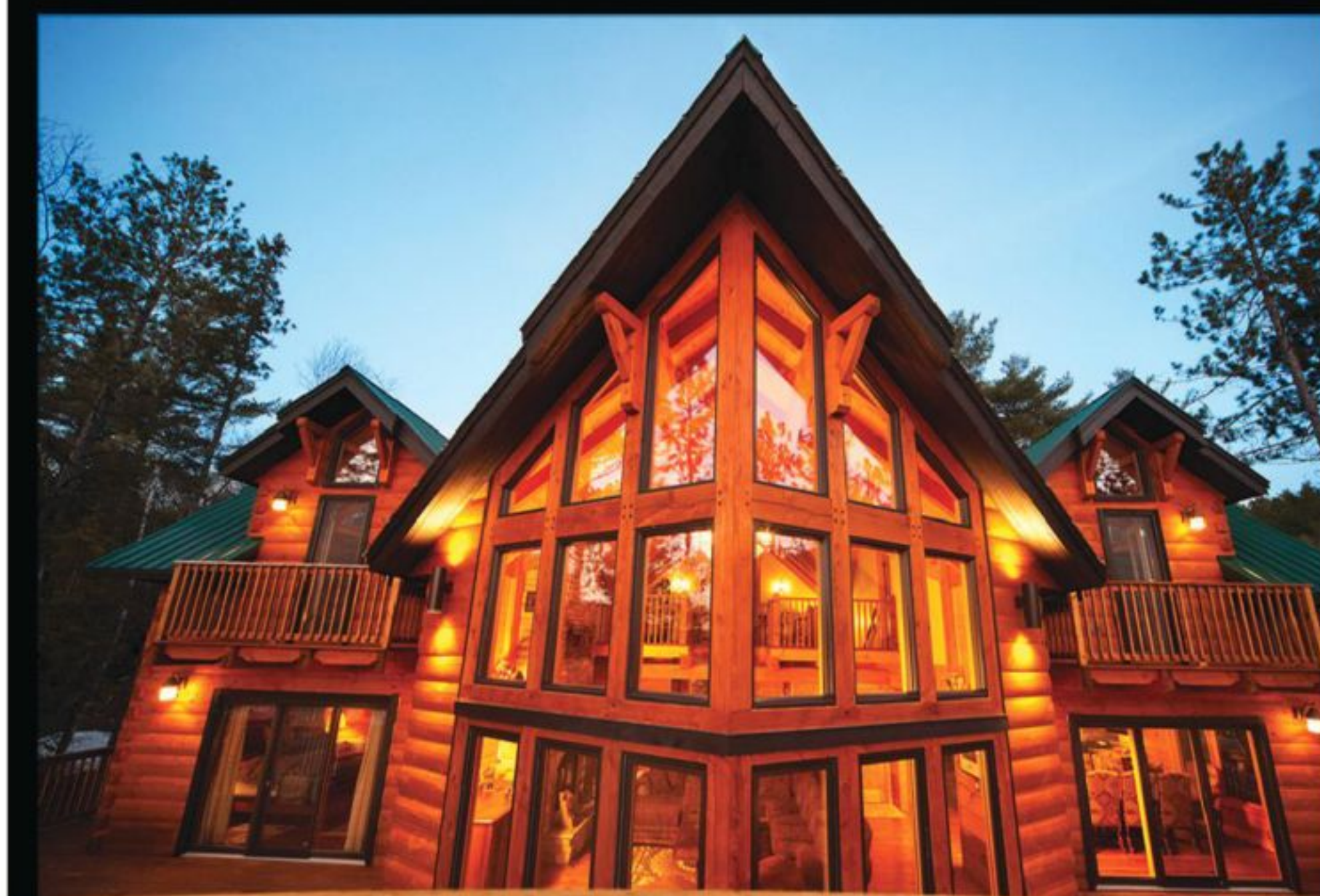
- Dusk and dawn are the most active time for deer, which is very unfortunate since that's when your vision is most compromised. Be extra alert and aware during those times.
- Wear your seat belt (as always) for protection in the event of a collision.
- Pay attention to the road signs warning you of high-traffic areas for deer.
- Deer seldom run alone; if you see one, look for more.
- If you see a deer by the side of the road, slow down and blow your horn with one long blast to frighten it away.
 - Brake firmly when you notice deer in or near your path. Stay your path and do not swerve. Swerving can make you lose control of your vehicle, and deer are unpredictable – you could swerve directly into their changed path.
 - If your vehicle strikes a deer, stay in your vehicle and do not touch the animal if it is still alive. Move your car off the road when it's safe to do so and call law enforcement.

SOURCES: Geico (Geico.com), Hall Automotive (hallcars.com); Photo: fotolia.com/loffstock



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Photos courtesy manufacturer listed

The American Game Table is a six-sided wooden table with a full-sized board game on each side. Each game is a timeless classic. The table is simply turned over until the desired game is on top ready to play. All game pieces are stored in individual heavy-duty draw-string pouches kept inside the table and accessed through the round "magic door."

All game pieces are premium quality, most of them made from wood or glass. When not in use, the game table is simply a beautiful piece of furniture. It's meant to be a family heirloom that will be enjoyed at the cabin for many years. The price is \$595, and the game table comes with a 100-year guarantee (yes, seriously). For more info, visit americangametable.com.

Weeding Out Invasives

NATIVE SPECIES can have extensive root systems that absorb storm-water runoff and stabilize eroding shorelines. Encourage them on your property.

Weed out invasive species and dispose of them properly – stuff them in a trash bag and send them to the dump, bury them in a pit that is at least 3 feet deep, or burn them (only if it is safe and legal).

*The Minnesota Sea Grant Staff,
seagrant.umn.edu*



Photos courtesy Chris J. Benson

Learning to identify native and invasive plants can help you be a better steward of your land. Start with an online search at plants.usda.gov.

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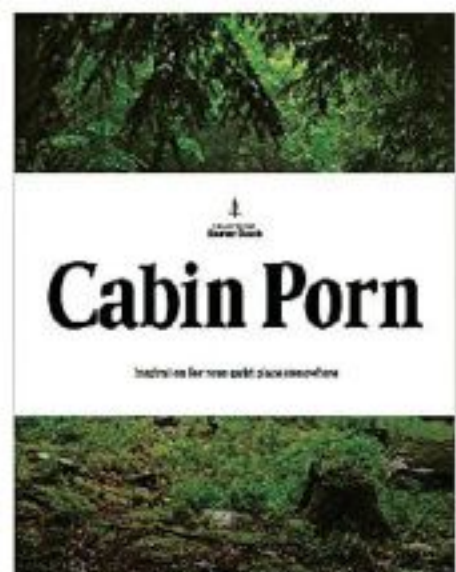


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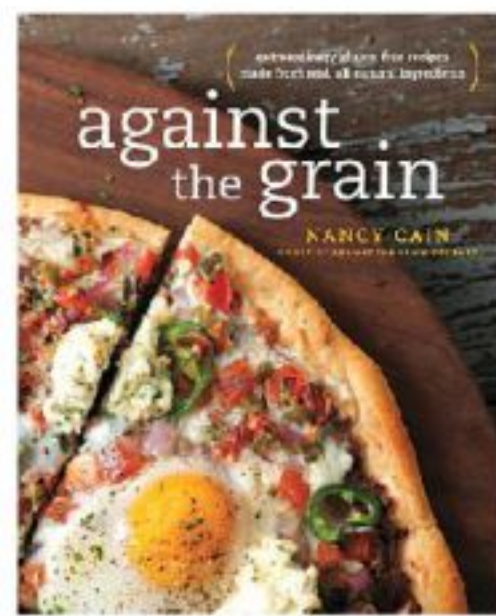


by Zach Klein,
Steven Leckart and
Noah Kalina

Many of you have discovered the *Cabin Porn* phenomenon on the Internet, specifically on the cabinporn.com website and Tumblr. And, as your *Cabin Living* editors well know, this type of porn is SFW (Safe for Work). Begun as an online scrapbook by a group of friends looking to gather inspiration for their building projects, cabinporn.com has an audience of over 10 million visitors. The book goes beyond evocative photos to also include 10 in-depth features on topics like "How to Make a Homestead in the Wilderness" and "How to Craft an Off-Grid Bunkhouse."

Little, Brown and Company, \$30.00, hardcover, 336 pages, littlebrown.com

AGAINST THE GRAIN



Author Nancy Cain is a true renaissance woman. She was an academic, she was one of the pioneering writers for *Cabin Life* magazine, she

worked on Wall Street, she started a successful gluten-free products business (Against the Grain Gourmet) with her husband, Tom, and now she has written "Against the Grain." This book is far more than a cookbook. Geared to the grain-free or gluten-free audience, "Against the Grain" offers extensive information on preparing food without the typical wheat grain. It also includes great recipes of every kind and great food photos. Your *Cabin Living* editors highly recommend this cookbook for your favorite friend/family member needing or choosing to go grain free.

Clarkson Potter/Publishers, \$27.50, softcover, 400 pages, clarksonpotter.com

TRY THIS RECIPE!

Flourless Blueberry Banana Crepes

Fried in a thin film of coconut oil, this is a very moist crepe that can be served either hot as a breakfast crepe or as a cold snack rolled around a thin layer of cream cheese. Makes about 8 thin crepes.

- 1 large ripe banana
- 1 large egg
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ cup fresh blueberries
- 1 tablespoon coconut oil

• In a medium bowl, mash the banana with a fork. Whisk in the egg and sour cream. Add the vanilla and cinnamon. Place the blueberries in a small bowl and set aside.

• Heat a griddle or cast-iron skillet over low heat.

Melt the coconut oil on the hot surface and spoon about 2 tablespoons of batter onto the griddle. Sprinkle with some blueberries. Try to keep the crepes under 4 to 5 inches in diameter, otherwise they will be unwieldy when flipping them.

• Check the bottom of the crepe after about a minute.

If it is close to being flipped, it should not stick. Flip the crepe over when it feels solid enough to handle. Cook the crepe until both sides are browned and some of the moisture has dissipated. The underside has a tendency to brown very quickly, and it takes patience waiting to turn the crepes. Serve the crepes warm. **CL**

NOTE: Try this crepe folded with whipped cream and caramel sauce. Make a single-serving caramel sauce by melting 1 tablespoon salted butter, 1 tablespoon brown sugar & 1 teaspoon vanilla extract in the microwave. Stir until smooth. Will thicken some as it cools.

SOURCE: Recipe courtesy "Against the Grain" cookbook, Clarkson Potter/Publishers, clarksonpotter.com



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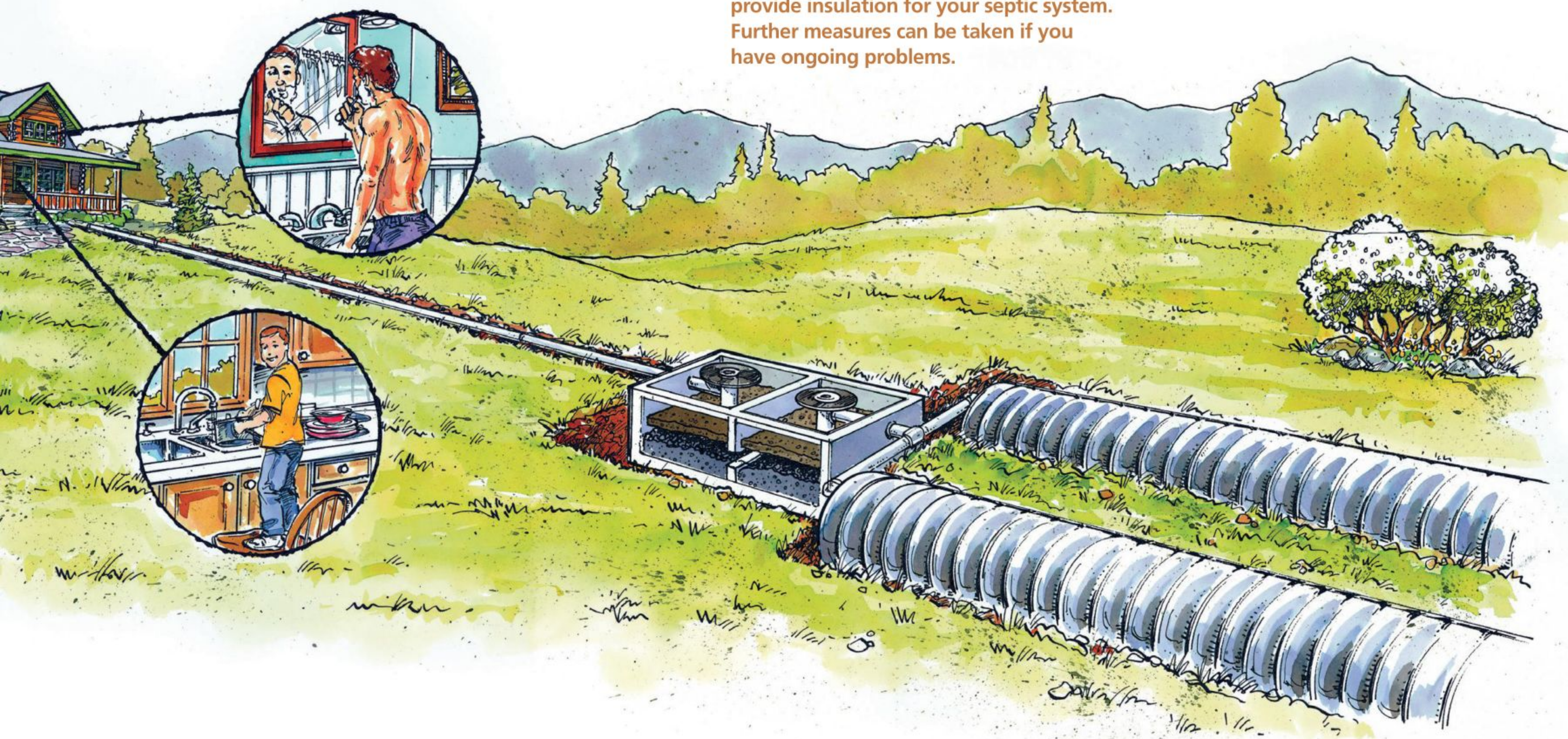
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To prevent freezing in your septic system this winter, the easiest course is to let the grass or other vegetation grow taller or rake leaves over the area where the pipes run from the house and over the top of the septic tank. Heavy snowfall will also provide insulation for your septic system. Further measures can be taken if you have ongoing problems.



Avoid the Deep Freeze

Take steps now to keep your septic system working this winter **BY JIM KNEISZEL**

Q Last winter, we had a problem with a frozen line in our septic system. We had to have a septic contractor come out and use a hot water jet to get the system flowing again. This proved an expensive inconvenience during one of our infrequent winter trips to the cabin. What can we do this year to make sure it doesn't happen again?

— Jonny Olin, Michigan

A Your frustration is understandable. It's a helpless feeling when a septic system pipe or component freezes, and there's nowhere for the wastewater to go except back into the house.

Insulation is the key to preventing

frost from creeping to a depth that will cause a problem for your septic system. In far northern climates, Mother Nature often takes care of the task by providing a heavy blanket of snow that creates the necessary insulation barrier. But sometimes you may need to take steps of your own to avoid the deep freeze.

My guess is that last winter you didn't have an early snowfall that remained on the ground through the coldest winter months in January and February. A lack of snow cover, combined with a cold snap of a few weeks or more, can lead to a very infrequent — but no less bothersome — frozen system.

Conditions like these were widespread

over the past few winters, and septic service providers in places like Minnesota and the Dakotas, for example, reported staying uncharacteristically busy thawing out frozen lines. In these cases, the septic technician accesses the lines in your system through vents or the tank, working toward the frozen obstruction using a high-pressure waterjetter, pushing hot water through a variety of nozzles to open up the line.

Taking climate and site conditions into account, septic system designers place all pipes at a depth below the typical frost line. Sometimes they will incorporate additional insulation into the plan if they envision a potential for freezing. For

example, they could add a layer of rigid foam insulation to the top of a concrete septic tank before covering it with soil to keep the contents warmer.

Most likely, at least a portion of your septic system is not buried deep enough to avoid freezing in a worst-case winter scenario. And your septic service technician pinpointed the problem location when he jetted the line. There are several easy steps you can take to insulate your system to avoid freezing in the future.

First, leave a heavier vegetation cover in the fall. If the system is located under a mowed lawn, set your mower height higher when you cut for the last time. Even a few more inches of grass can add insulating value. Accomplish the same goal by mounding the leaves you rake from the yard over the septic field, or at least the area that froze last winter. For a long-term vegetation fix, plant a thicker, no-mow grass or other ground cover over the septic system. Be sure to choose

a ground cover with shallow roots over your drainfield, the grid of pipes where effluent from your septic tank leaches into the ground. Deep-rooted plants that can disrupt your pipes are the enemy of your drainfield.

Next, avoid soil compaction. Limit activity over your entire system, particularly the drainfield. Never drive a car over any part of your septic system. Avoid using a garden tractor and discourage heavy foot traffic over the area. Compaction closes the pores in your soil, hindering the wastewater treatment process and reducing the ground's ability to insulate against frost.

If you take these simple, inexpensive steps and still have a freezing issue, there are other solutions. Place a thick layer of straw (8 to 12 inches) over the problem area. Ask your septic service technician to inspect the system and look for low spots where water may pool and be more susceptible to freezing. In a traditional

gravity-fed septic system, water should always flow downhill and out of the pipes, and freezing could indicate an area in need of repair. If you pinpoint the freezing problem to one section of pipe, dig down to the pipe and add rigid insulation above it, or build up the soil on top of the pipe to put it under the frost line. Also, look for plumbing leaks in the house that can lead to freezing pipes.

Your infrequent winter use of the system may also contribute to the problem. Flushing toilets and washing clothes regularly maintains the flow of warmer water, reducing the chances of freezing. So if there is a year-round neighbor close to your cabin, invite them to take a hot shower or do an occasional load of laundry at your cabin during cold winters. **CL**

Jim Kneiszel writes about septic system maintenance and design for national wastewater industry trade publications and consumer magazines.

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in praise of cabinology

If one cabin is good, maybe two is better?

STORY & PHOTOS BY ALEX MOORE

A few years ago, I became a fan of architect and Cabinologist Dale Mulfinger after acquiring a couple of his well-known books, "The Cabin" and "Cabinology." At the time, I was building my own retirement dream cabin in the foothills of northeast Alabama's Appalachian mountains.

With fall approaching, I had moved into my still-unfinished A-frame early, before drywall or flooring were installed or doors hung. As winter evenings approached, I would huddle on my cheap futon under an electric blanket with Gordon Lightfoot songs playing on my portable CD player while I perused Mulfinger's books, seeking inspiration on the design, construction and finishing of my first cabin in the woods. His books also inspired me to come up with an original name for the cabin, which is now aptly named "Fox Rock Hill." (Dedicated readers of *Cabin Life* magazine may recall the April 2012 issue in which the magazine saw fit to publish an essay I wrote, in which I explained the inspiration for the name "Fox Rock Hill.") The inspiration was a friendly little fox that, for a full summer, sat atop a rock and watched inquisitively as I built my dream cabin just feet away.

Well, Fox Rock Hill has now been completed ... kind of. (Are they ever completely finished?) And I remain a dedicated fan of Mulfinger. I even took a first-ever road trip to Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan's U.P. two summers ago to explore the land of Mulfinger's inspirations, and seek a renewed connection to the concept of cabin living. Along the way, I discovered Frank Lloyd Wright's family estate "Taliesin" in Spring Green, Wis., where I was reminded of the ongoing battle between design and function in architecture. And, surprisingly, I learned the tragic story of mass murder there. I then stumbled upon the Little Bohemia Lodge, in Manitowish Waters, Wis., site of John Dillinger gang's famous shootout with police in 1934. As retired law enforcement, these stories interested me.

In the process of building, living and exploring a cabin life, I have found myself, like Mulfinger, an avowed cabinologist, dedicated to the concept of all things cabin-related. With a tip of my hat to my mentor, I searched in vain for his definition of cabinology, so I eventually came up with my own definition. Here it is:

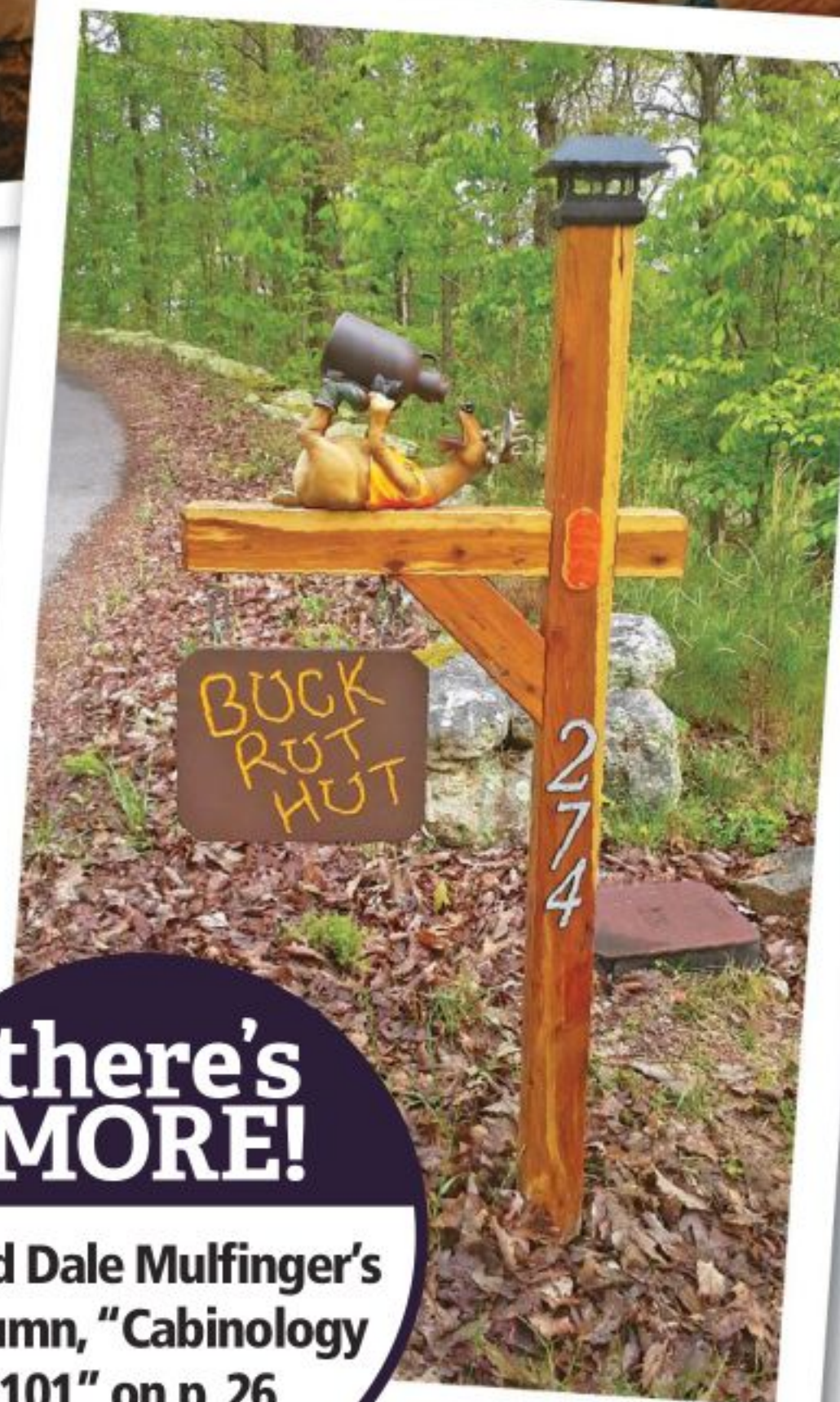
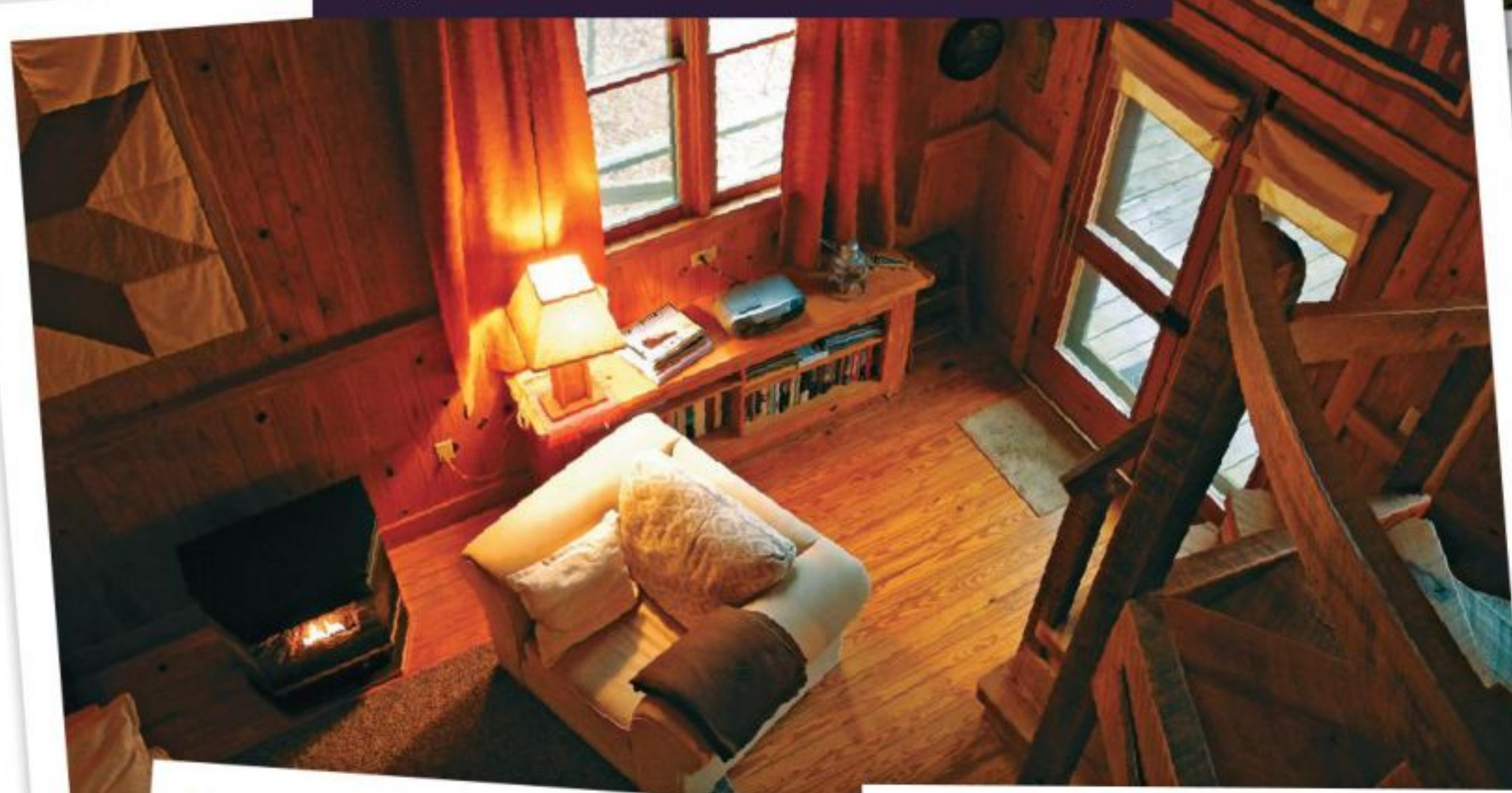
Alex Moore's first cabin, "Fox Rock Hill" in Langston

Alex Moore's second cabin, "Buck Rut Hut" in Mentone

ALABAMA



PHOTOS FROM BUCK RUT HUT



there's MORE!

Read Dale Mulfinger's column, "Cabinology 101" on p. 26.



"The study and implementation of personal dreams related to planning, designing, constructing and/or living a simple life, in a simple structure, close to nature, the purpose of which is to bring peace, tranquility and satisfaction to one's soul."

So, it should come as no surprise to learn that in April of 2013, I acquired a second, smaller cabin in the artsy northeast Alabama mountain community of Mentone, located about an hour away from my first cabin. I named it "Buck Rut Hut" after a persistent white-tail buck that still insists on establishing his territory right outside the kitchen window.

This tiny 700-square-foot cabin – with its full kitchen, full bath, sitting area and loft bedroom – was built in 1983 by a now-deceased old-timer from, of all places, Wisconsin, who used timbers from a local 100-year-old cotton mill to build four handcrafted cabins in the Mentone area. Modest in appearance from the outside, once I stepped inside the handcrafted beauty, I had to have it.

Granted, nobody really needs two cabins, but I couldn't help myself. I call it my remote guesthouse, and have made it available to friends and family who want to get away from TV, cell phones and video games. A well-stocked library, board games, latte coffee machine and elevated deck view assure visitors peace and tranquility. Located near DeSoto Falls State Park and Little River Canyon National Preserve, Buck Rut Hut has become my perfect getaway from my perfect getaway. Why not a beach house, my friends ask? No thanks, I tell them, unless you are a cabinologist, you wouldn't understand.

RESPONSE FROM DALE MULFINGER:
Who needs Webster's Dictionary or Wikipedia when Alex Moore is available for a definition of "Cabinology?" The study of cabins is an affliction borne by many, but Alex's fever, fueled by building his Fox Rock Hill cabin and later purchase of Buck Rut Hut, grants him unique stature in the community of Cabinology patients.

— Dale Mulfinger

our little beach cabin

It's an 850-square-foot gem

STORY & PHOTOS BY PATRICK RICHARDSON

this is our small cabin on Iverson Beach on the north end of Camano Island in Washington state. Iverson Beach is a little isolated and seems a lot farther away than it really is, which is about 15 minutes away from downtown Stanwood.

We had the cabin remodeled in 2010, due to the age and condition of the original 600-square-foot cabin and a February 2008 storm that caused severe damage.

Some of these pictures show the rebuild near completion and shortly afterward. Our place is now an 850-square-foot gem and is now completely finished, furnished and landscaped. When we remodeled, we were able to expand the two bedrooms a bit so we can fit a queen bed in one and a king in the other. Our builder is our good friend Kris Voelckers of Stirling construction. He did a perfect job for us.

Our cabin is only 25 minutes from our primary home. It's an absolute dream to spend time at our island cabin. In fact, we were fortunate to be there the entire month of August. Our son Michael would spend the entire summer there if he could.

A typical summer day starts with waking to great sunrises and coffee on the deck, and then later in the day enjoying barbeques, campfires and card games.

In the winter, we do get snow, and it's great to bundle up and explore outdoors, and then retreat to the cabin where we warm up in front of our wood stove. **CL**





Life is Better at the Cabin

Telltale signs you're raising "cabin kids"

BY CHRISTY HEITGER-EWING

Let's face it. The end of cabin season is heartbreaking. It's tough to say goodbye to the boat rides and bonfires, clam bakes and cookouts, fishing trips and Frisbee tournaments. And I think it's doubly hard on the children to admit the party's over. In fact, some kids straight-up boycott reality. At least mine do.

If your offspring has ever exhibited any of the following behaviors, it's safe to say they, too, are bona fide cabin kids:



Left: Photo courtesy Dan Fergus; top 3 photos by author

1. First thing in the morning, they slip into swimsuits rather than clothing.
2. After a hard rain, they ask which switch on the dashboard bilges the car.
3. Though they once perceived bugs, ants and daddy longlegs to be huge threats, they now welcome these same critters into their home as pets.

4. When you're zooming down the highway, they ask, "How many RPMs are we going?"
5. They claim s'mores are an integral part of the food pyramid.
6. While their peers pack stuffed animals and Hot Wheels cars for show-n-tell, your kids bring in snorkel gear and tackle boxes.

7. They feel every meal should be grilled and served on the deck, surrounded by tiki torches, moonbeams and chirping crickets. (Scratch that; this is how you feel.)
8. When you pull into the filling station, they stick their noses out the windows, sniff like playful puppies and proclaim, "Oh, yum! I smell boat gas!"

9. They have abandoned their interest in kitten adoption and are now begging you for a pet loon, swan or gull.

10. They balance on stacks of sofa cushions, then jump off of the cushions into a pretend lake made of bean bag chairs and pillows.

11. During snowstorms, they "paddle-board" around the yard by standing on a sled and pushing off with a yard stick.

12. They stack wooden blocks and plastic cups on the ledge of the bathtub to create hoists for their toy boats.

13. They press their life jackets to their ears like a conch shell, claiming that if they listen closely, they can hear the sound of the lake.

14. They insist on wearing swim goggles to bed.

15. The tuck-in routine includes a rotation of campfire songs.

16. Prayers involve the blessing of the decks, ducks, docks and all things cabin.

17. When you ask them to feed the dogs, they automatically grab a loaf of stale bread out of habit. "Dogs," you tell them. "Not ducks."

18. They ask you to download an app with the soothing sound of crunching gravel to simulate that giddy feeling of cabin arrival.

19. When you suggest playing Rummy or Go Fish, they whine, "But cards aren't as fun when you're not at the cabin." (You agree.)

20. When you offer them chocolate chip cookies, they say, "But desserts don't taste as good when you're not at the cabin." (You agree.)



Christy Heitger-Ewing thinks that if everyone could experience life at a cabin, the world would be a happier place.

21. When you announce that the family is going for a bike ride, they respond, "But biking's more fun at the cabin." (You agree.)

22. When you invite them to go swimming at the local pool, they complain, "But diving into a pool isn't as exciting as jumping into the lake." (You agree.)

23. When you ask if they would rather play mini-golf or go out to eat, they respond, "I'd rather go boating." (You agree.)

24. While their friends create colorful paper chains as a countdown to Christmas, your children make "Countdown to Cabin" chains. (You fashion one of your own because, let's face it, deep down you're a cabin kid, too.) **CL**

Fotolia.com/Maris Kiselov photo

The advertisement features a large, two-story log cabin with a green roof and two green garage doors. In the foreground, there are two Polaroid-style photos: one showing a cozy interior with a stone fireplace and another showing a balcony view. The company logo, "TOMAHAWK LOG & COUNTRY HOMES INC.", is prominently displayed in a green and gold emblem. Below the logo, the text "CUSTOMIZE YOUR DREAM HOME" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. At the bottom, the contact information "1-800-544-0636 ~ TOMAHAWKLOG.COM" is provided. The words "innovative" and "inspiring" are written in a script font at the bottom left of the Polaroid photos.

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LEFT: This plan, for a square-shaped cabin, employs a hip roof. Turned diagonal to the lake setback, the plan captures views for all major spaces from two sides of the structure. A modest loft fits above the kitchen and baths.

RIGHT: Developing floor plans is not your first step. As you dream about building your cabin, start by scratching out a diagram like this one. Diagrams should account for the major external forces shaping a plan – like exposure to the sun, optimal views, protection from the wind, position of the driveway, etc. – and the internal relationships of functional proximity, which affects things like flow to and from the kitchen, and access to the decks.

The Right Plans

How to design a cabin that fits your needs & lifestyle **BY DALE MULFINGER**

My favorite architectural task is standing on un-built property and imagining my clients' floor plan for their dream cabin. The morning sun is streaming into the kitchen here, the view from the living room area to the gurgling stream is over there, the entry from the future driveway is back by the birch tree, and if we prop a ladder up against the poplar tree we'll see the sunset view from their bedroom. If you have a vivid imagination, you, too, can create floor plans.

Just don't waste your precious time until you have a specific property in mind.

Diagram your cabin lifestyle

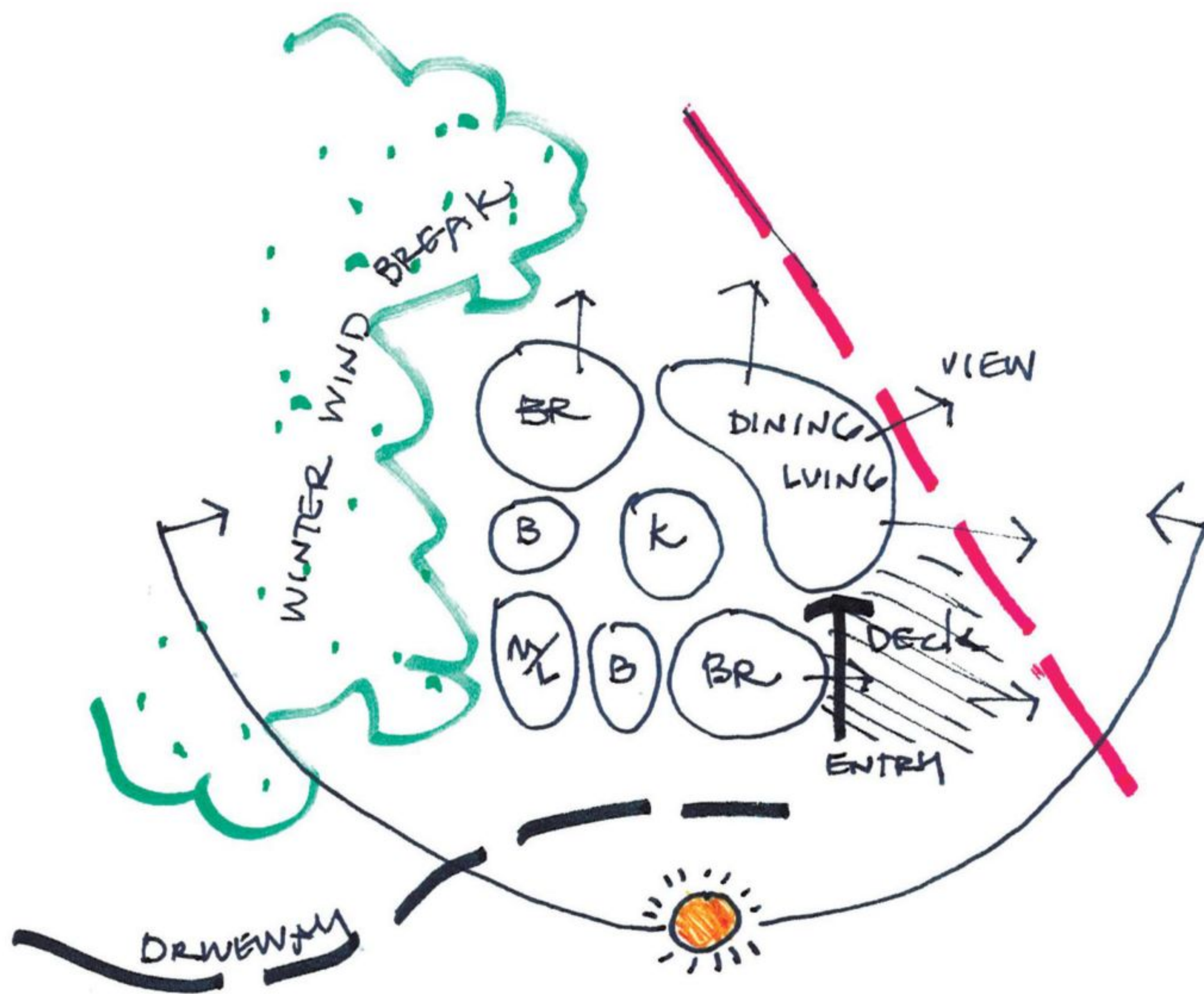
A good cabin plan is best started with a diagram where relationships of functional elements of cabin living can be arranged in accord with site opportunities of access and view. Separate diagrams for each level are necessary with the stair being the connector between levels.

One easy way to approach this task is to create "bubble diagrams" with a circle

for each of the main activities of your home, such as sleeping, eating and seating. The bubbles can be arranged and re-arranged easily as you evaluate which areas should be adjacent to each other.

Explore roof forms

Once your diagrams feel comfortable, your next step is to contemplate roof forms. This may surprise you, but good plans can be found under a good roof but the reverse is not necessarily true. Gable roofs usually yield rectangular plans, hip



THE WRIGHT ROOF

ROOF FORMS CAN BE a greater challenge than floor plans, and even great architects struggled to form great solutions.

Architect Frank Lloyd Wright began his career designing steep-roof multistory houses, as shown in his studio and home in Oak Park, Ill., built in 1890. His designs gradually became horizontal and employed hip roofs, or an occasional shed roof, such as in the Wiley House in Minneapolis in 1934. He ultimately needed greater plan freedom and moved to flat roofs in the Jacobs House in 1937 in Madison, the first of many Usonian houses.

Fortunately, cabins are usually smaller and less complex than houses, so if you keep the exterior shape of the floor plan simple, you'll spare yourself Frank Lloyd Wright's struggles.

roofs are for square plans and flat roofs give the greatest freedom for plan shapes. To explore roof forms, try folding paper into the different shapes. This will help you understand the opportunities and limitations each roof form offers. (See "The Wright Roof" at right.)

Plot it on paper

A floor plan then can be created in a marriage of diagram and shape. Graph paper will give scale to this enterprise but be prepared for multiple iterations. A good plan takes time to develop, and it's best to sleep on it a few nights and consult with other likely users. The graph paper will make it easy to eventually add cutouts of furniture you desire in your plan. Cutouts are preferable to drawing the furniture, as you can move them around until you achieve a comfort with them and then tape them down.

Plan smart

Well-designed cabin plans that make good use of space might include some of the following features:

Corridor-free: A plan without corridors is best for utilizing the social spaces of living/dining/kitchen for circulation. Even in the bedroom wing or second floor, a loft or central library space is better than a corridor.

Stair at the entry: The stair serves best if located near the center of the plan and convenient to the entry for luggage access to bedrooms up or down. A switchback or right-turn stair might help with planning the stair flow with each level.

Kitchen at the heart: Food prep and cleanup are a big part of the social life of a cabin, and thus kitchens need to be central to eating areas inside and outside the cabin.

L-shaped kitchens with an island: Optimal for the cook, this configuration can be located to keep general circulation away from boiling pots.

Bedrooms at the corners: Closed-off sleeping spaces are best kept to the periphery of the plan for solitude and privacy. Additional sleeping can be offered in a variety of locations, such as lofts, window seats, garrets, porches and even under the stairs.

Clustered plumbing: Bathrooms, kitchen, laundry and water heater are best clustered in close proximity to reduce plumbing costs and make it easy to drain down the system. In cold climates, it's best to keep plumbing off perimeter walls.

View people first: Views to lakes, rivers, mountains and meadows are important, but never as precious as human bonding – the soul of what a cabin is all about. You'll spend more time looking at your friends and family than staring at the mountain peak.

With your graph paper plans and folded roof model in hand, you're ready to approach your architect or builder. Either will be able to evaluate the workability of your concept and its viability within your budget. **CL**



Cabinologist Dale Mulfinger regularly designs cabins with Minnesota-based SALA Architects, teaches cabin classes and gives talks on cabin design across North America. He has authored five cabin-centric books.

Pond Pavilion

As part of a 22-acre property in northeast Ohio, the Pond Pavilion sits on the edge of secluded woods overlooking a private, manmade pond. Built from Douglas fir timbers with exposed galvanized bolt connectors, the open-air pavilion includes a wood dock, stone pavers and fireplace; an upper-level screened-in nature viewing room with storage; and a covered balcony. The dark timber members and low-slope board-and-batten cedar roof all work to blend this structure into its wooded setting. **CL**

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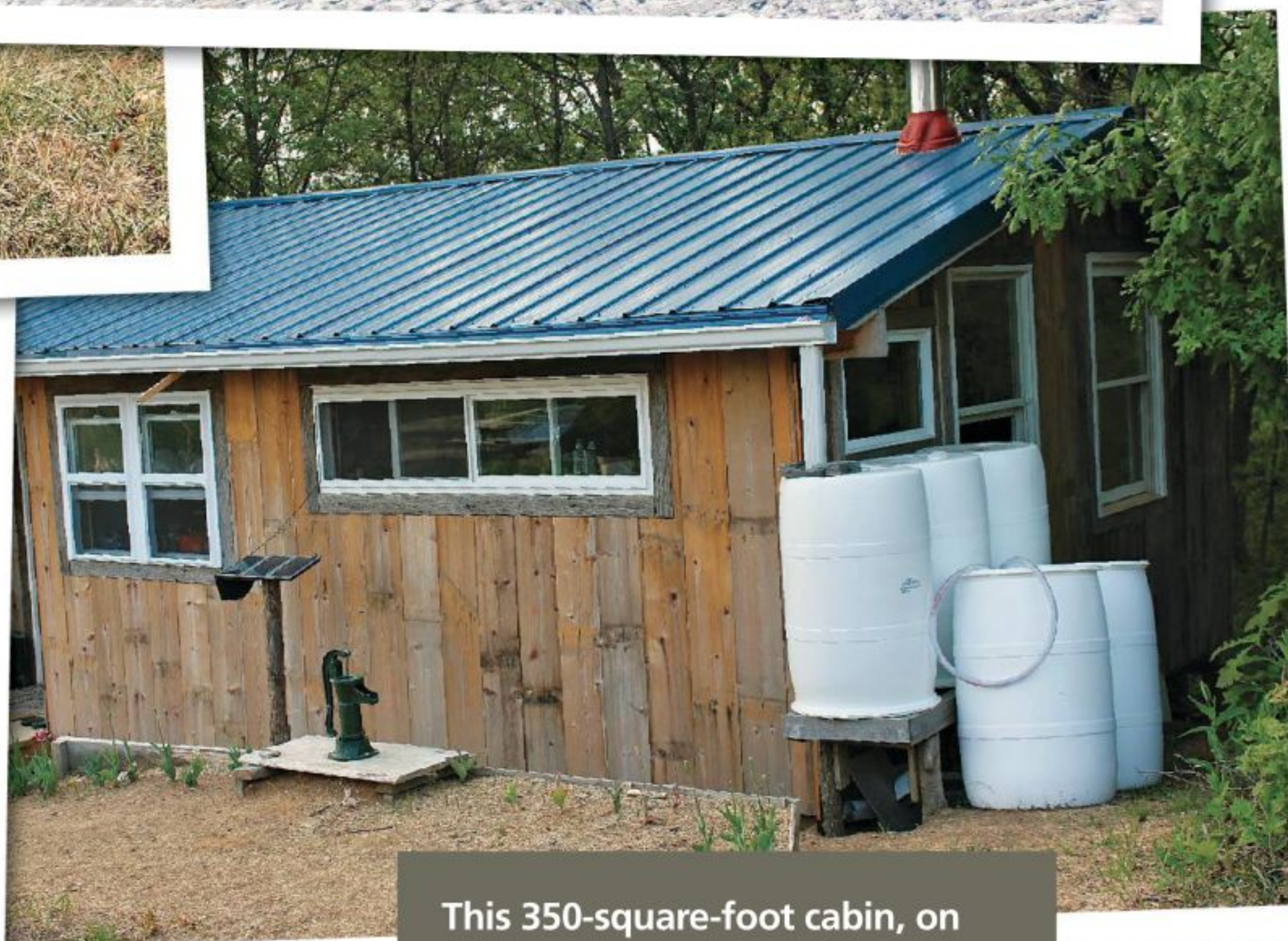
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Photos courtesy Teri Page



This 350-square-foot cabin, on 10 acres in northeast Missouri, has allowed Teri Page and her husband, Brian Thomas, to fulfill their dream of building their own place and living off the grid. The self-sufficient couple has embraced a simpler lifestyle. Page says, "Our simplicity has afforded us a new understanding of gratitude for the many comforts we take for granted."

Home Making

Missouri family relishes challenge of homesteading. **BY JANICE BREWSTER**

They don't have running water at her family's homestead in northeast Missouri, explains cabiner Teri Page. They have "walking water."

For Page, her husband Brian Thomas and their two small children, living off the grid means hauling water from a pond, providing their own electricity, growing their own food, caring for animals, but

it also provides a healthy lifestyle with no mortgage attached.

Putting down roots

For 14 years, Page and Thomas lived in Oregon, renting a creekside cabin on acreage. For Thomas, an experienced carpenter and self-taught blacksmith, it was a lifelong dream to build his own home. "We couldn't afford acreage in Oregon,"

Page explains. After a visit with friends in northeast Missouri where land could be purchased for around \$1,700 per acre, they realized it was the perfect spot to establish their homestead.

The 10-acre site they purchased offers a pond, a mix of forest and pasture and an open expansive view — and they bought into an existing homesteading community to co-own an additional 30 acres. Page

and Thomas set to work putting in gardens, planting fruit trees and setting up a large platform tent, outdoor kitchen and a composting toilet.

Outdoor living wasn't foreign to them. "My husband and I were both outdoor educators," Page says. "We definitely already had an outdoor and camping life skill set." During their time in Oregon, they mastered essential homesteading skills. They began to grow food, and learned how to preserve what they couldn't eat. Adding goats and chickens to their homestead taught them about raising animals, while supplying their family with milk and eggs.

The couple chose homesteading for environmental and economic reasons, Page says, "and for practicality." Living off-grid, being self-sufficient and debt-free means they can spend more time with their children. Page is also leery of industrial agriculture. "When I grow food myself, I have a more personal connection," she says.

Building tiny

As they planned a more permanent shelter, the couple realized the cost to bring electricity to the site would be substantial. For about a year and a half, they made do with candlelight, solar lamps, a portable generator for power tools, a solar-charged smart phone and the use of a freezer chest and computer at a neighbor's home. In November 2014, they upgraded to a solar panel system that powers a generator, a freezer and the computer Page uses for work and maintaining her blog.

The couple's original plan was to build a three-season shelter and a home on the site at the same time. But building the shelter themselves, while also running a homestead and caring for two children, proved time-consuming. They shifted gears, and decided to convert the shelter into a 350-square-foot home.

To keep costs down, they used a mix of material — new and reclaimed from

a Habitat for Humanity ReStore. The floor is insulated with foam, and blown cellulose insulates the walls and ceiling. A wood stove warms the house and provides for some cooking and baking needs. Friends, family and neighbors contributed hours of labor on the family's home. "We built it for under \$10,000," Page says. She details their home construction expenses on her blog.

Now finished, the home offers an open living and kitchen space and a bedroom area. "We need a tiny bit more space," Page concedes. They plan to add on when time and money are available. "We are trying to do everything with the cash we have," she says.

Meanwhile, they enjoy spending most of their time outdoors, tending their gardens, bee hives, chickens and the family's newest member: May Apple, their milk cow's calf. "Building small saves money and time," Page says. "And it forces you take a close look at what is essential."

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WATER WORK

"AS HOMESTEADERS, we have chores," Teri Page says, "Getting water is a big piece of it." Her family fills its needs for drinking, cooking, cleaning and bathing water through a combination of rainwater harvesting and a clean pond. The pond also supplies water for irrigation and their animals.

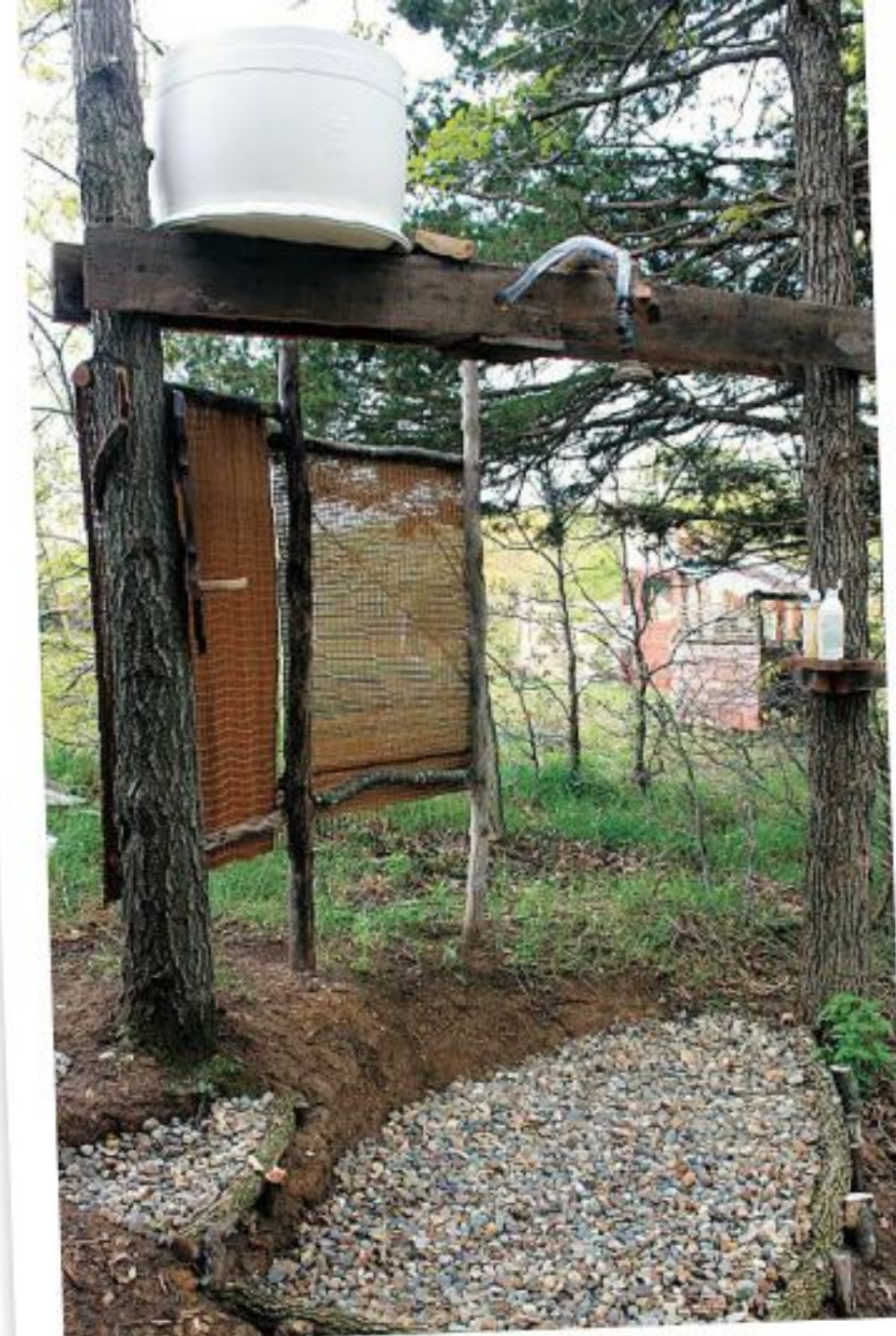
To create a rainwater catchment system, Page and her husband, Brian Thomas, purchased 50-gallon, food-grade plastic barrels from a nearby Pepsi distributor and attached them to their home's roof downspouts. Spigots at the base of the barrels allow them to fill buckets with collected water. "In this area, the nature of rainfall makes water catchment work," Page says — except in the winter.

To winterize the system, Page and Thomas buried three barrels connected to the roof gutters and set up a hand pump. It worked well until freezing temperatures really set in and made it clear the system was not

weatherproof. "We would need an underground cistern and put everything below the freeze line," Page says. Completing that system would make it easy to live on the homestead, she says.

Their pond is ideal, Page says, because it's surrounded by land they own or co-own, so they are confident that it's free from toxic runoff. They fill a large Berkey water filter with buckets of rain water to purify it for drinking, cooking and dishwashing.

They've added an outdoor shower and outdoor hand-washing station near the composting toilet. Still, Page writes on her blog, "Our simplicity has afforded us a new understanding of gratitude for the many comforts we take for granted ... I have never been so enamored with automatic hand-washing stations in public restrooms or so grateful to take a hot shower at a friend's house."



A range of options is available for cabin owners who do not plan to tap into public water. Lakes, rivers, springs, rainwater and groundwater can typically provide for water needs. Some homeowners drill a well. Information on well construction codes in every state is available at watersystemscouncil.org. People purchasing land with an existing well

should have the water analyzed before using it for drinking or preparing food.

Water Filtration systems — like the Berkey filters (berkeyfilters.com) that this family uses — reduce bacteria, viruses and volatile organic compounds to purify drinking water.

Teri Page offers one caution: Before planning to homestead, check with your local jurisdiction about building codes pertaining to off-grid living. In some areas, having a dwelling with no running water would not meet code. It's a situation she's thankful is not the case in her family's home county. **CL**

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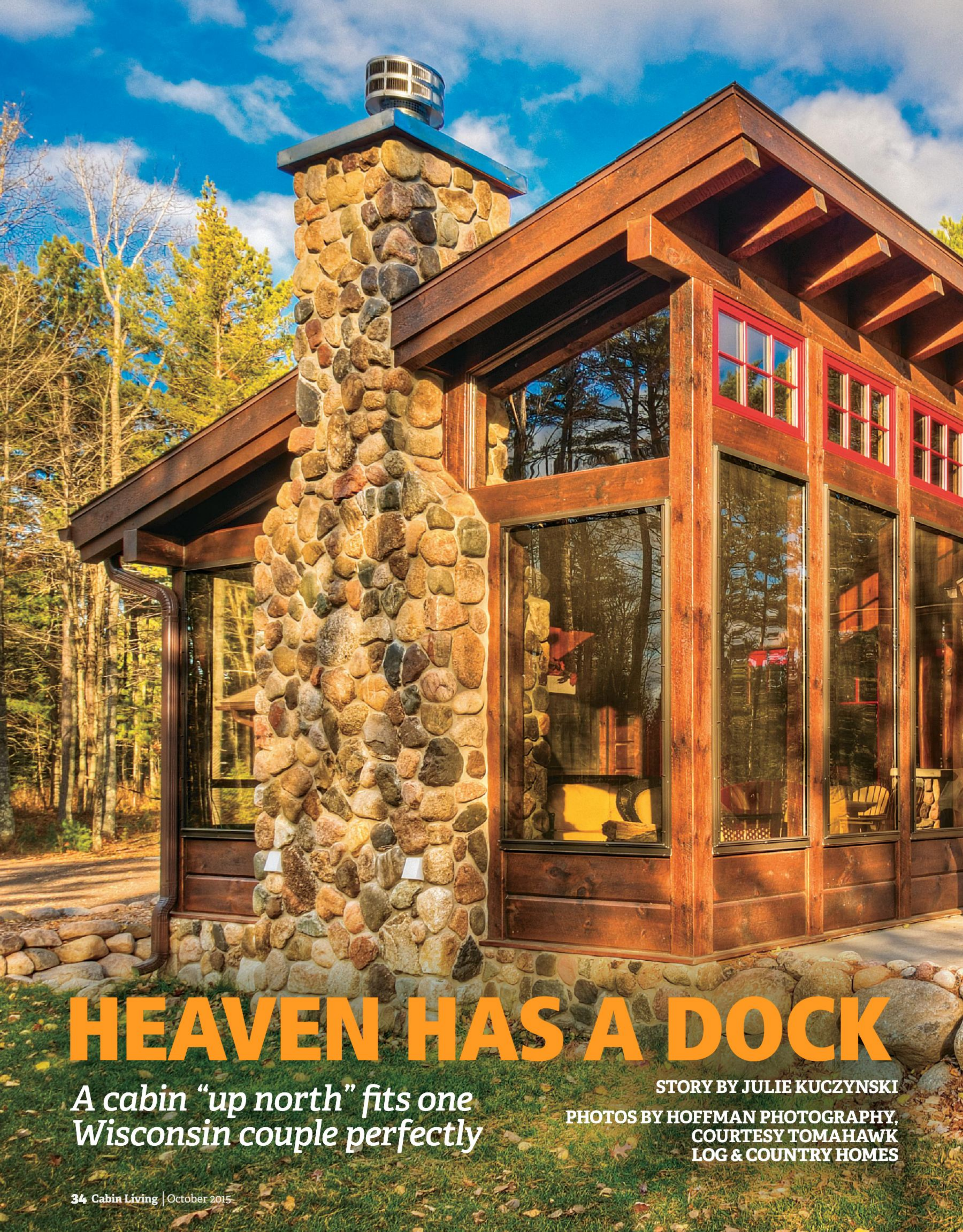
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HEAVEN HAS A DOCK

A cabin “up north” fits one Wisconsin couple perfectly

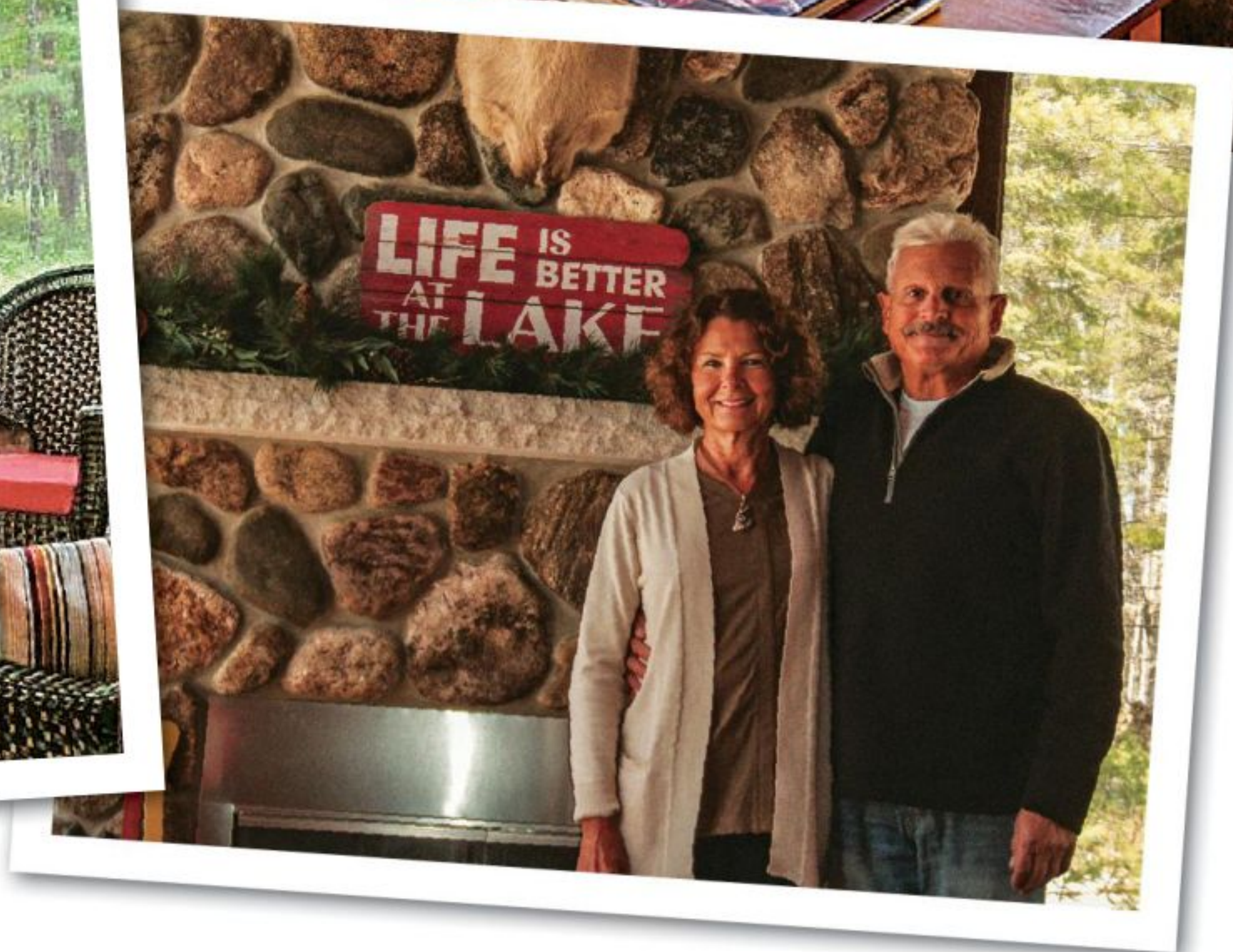
STORY BY JULIE KUCZYNSKI

PHOTOS BY HOFFMAN PHOTOGRAPHY,
COURTESY TOMAHAWK
LOG & COUNTRY HOMES



Personal photos courtesy the Lang family

From summer's dock-perfect weather to autumn's golden light, every season at their cabin brings special enjoyment for the Langs. The couple chose a mix of finishes for the cabin's exterior, including wood shakes and a rustic wide siding.





ABOVE: The great room's view of the water is framed by a wall of windows accented with dark wood trim. The space is perfect for gathering family to enjoy a fire on a crisp fall day.

LEFT: A fireplace on the screen porch allows Randy, Janelle and their guests to use that space even in cooler weather.

Randy and Janelle Lang consider themselves “northwoods people.” Ever since Randy was a small boy, he’s vacationed in northern Wisconsin, taking in the beauty of dark pine forests reflecting on clear lake waters, and learning the sounds and footprints of the wildlife around him. His experiences gained him a connection with nature that never left him.

Janelle, who grew up in Milwaukee, was no stranger to cabin living “up north.” So, it’s no surprise that the two met and settled in together in Wausau, Wis., located in the north-central part of the state.

Three children and five grandchildren later, both Randy and Janelle were ready to retire from an engineering firm they owned together. They decided it was time to sell their home and a small cabin they had in the North Woods, and build their own year-round retirement cabin a little farther north. They wanted to downsize from their home in Wausau, and couldn’t be happier with their decision.

The Langs picked the Manitowish Chain of Lakes area to build, which was a natural choice for them. Randy had visited the area frequently with his parents. “We had a cabin for many years on a small lake by Mercer, which is just down the road. So we had roots in this area for many years,” he explains.

The Langs’ property is on one of the 10 lakes within the chain, and the land is mostly wooded. And, they are right on the water, which they love.

Designing a dream

When looking for a builder, the Langs wanted to find a company that “got them more excited,” as Randy puts it, and that would give them value for their dollar. They chose Tomahawk Log & Country Homes after a number of lackluster interviews with other builders. With Tomahawk, the Langs just clicked, and the company responded very rapidly and professionally to all the couple’s questions and needs.

The Langs created their own plan for the cabin home, and Tomahawk’s internal design team worked with what the couple

sketched out. In the end, about 90 percent of the design came from the Langs, with a few elements added by Tomahawk.

Troy Gullo, sales manager and design consultant at Tomahawk, worked with Randy and Janelle on their design. He says Randy had a fair share of ideas and his background in engineering was definitely beneficial. “Someone who is as organized as Randy is, and thorough as he is, it makes a project run a lot smoother – because you know what he is looking for,” Gullo says.

Planning ahead

Knowing that it was going to be their retirement home, the Langs wanted to minimize square footage and build on one level. They knew they would not want to be climbing a lot of stairs in the future. They built the main level, and after that was completed, they decided to finish off their basement for additional living space. Separating the project into two phases allowed them to plan better and to save money (see “Finishing Off a Basement,” page 40).

Because their lot is very level, the Langs opted not to add a walkout basement. But, they did create a large berm area with rocks by clearing away some ground near the cabin so windows could be added in the basement. In a sense, the Langs created their own version of an exposed basement to let light in.

A guest bedroom was planned for the lower level, and being able to add windows allowed the space to be safe, inviting and seem less like a basement. “The berm areas are maybe 15 feet square, rather than just window wells,” Randy mentions.

The cabin has two bedrooms and two full baths on the main level and one bedroom and one full bath on the lower level. There is also a large family room with a fireplace on the lower level.

The ceiling in the guest bedroom is made of tin. The Langs chose this for beauty, but also for function, since it allows them to access the underside of the main level floors. “I wanted it fully accessible,” Randy says. “I didn’t want to have it ‘drywalled in.’ We have minimal drywall in the house. It is basically an accessible



lay-in ceiling. And we liked the tin look.”

Making a list

There were a few “must haves” for the Langs when building their permanent cabin. Janelle mentions the fireplaces. They wanted to have wood-burning stone fireplaces in the great room and on their screened porch. The lower level fireplace is gas, for convenience, so they don’t have to carry wood down the stairs.

The screened porch was essential, too. It gets used year round. “When you live in the North Woods, and you have mosquitoes in the summer, you need to have a screen porch,” Janelle explains. And in the cooler seasons: the fireplace makes the living area on the porch a favorite spot to sit and relax.

Another must when designing the layout was a lake view from all the primary rooms. The great room, dining room

and kitchen are all open and look out to the lake. Plus, the master bedroom contains a number of windows on the lake side of the cabin. “It was real important to us that we had a lot of windows in the home,” Janelle says. The large window grouping in the great room was Randy’s idea and design.

Hands-on help

Randy has worked in construction for most



of his life, so he put his skills to good use, wiring and doing the electrical work in the cabin himself. It was beneficial for everyone that he was on the job site on a regular basis, because he was able to answer any questions or concerns the builders had during the process.

Randy installed wireless lighting controls that utilize radio-frequency signals to activate dimming modules. The controls are completely programmable so any

switch can control any light in the house.

Some of the elements Tomahawk used on the Langs' home gave the company ideas to use in future homes, Gullo says. "There are some characteristics to that home that really have become a starting point for us," he says. "Even the siding that was done on the home, we now have a name for. We've done certain things similar to it, but not exactly as it was done on Randy's place. We now have what we

OPPOSITE: A stone backsplash behind the cooktop and hood adds earthy texture to the kitchen, with its expansive island that's perfect for entertaining.

TOP: The Langs designed their one-floor home to remain comfortable for them as they age. The master bedroom offers an easy connection to the outdoors.

ABOVE: Creating a berm on their property allowed the Langs to put large windows into their basement level rooms. Here, the basement guest room includes a wide window and warm wood paneling.



Personal touches make the Langs' cabin truly one of a kind. In the shower (far left) the couple incorporated stones they had collected over the years. Special bifold doors over their fireplace (left) cover the TV and can be covered with carved or painted panels for each season.

finishing off a basement

FOR HOMEOWNERS planning to complete their cabin's lower level, Troy Gullo, sales manager and design consultant at Tomahawk Log & Country Homes, offers some pointers to consider:

- 1** A basement is usually inexpensive to finish, unless you are seeking a larger, more elaborate project. If your property allows the lower level to be exposed so that windows or a door can be added for a walkout space, you will be able to take full advantage of space that may already exist at your retreat.
- 2** If you are building a cabin from scratch, remember that you don't always need to go quite as big on upper levels if there's room for living space on the lower level. Basement projects are great to consider for expansion, especially for sleeping space at the cabin.
- 3** Build adequately upstairs, and later, when funds are available, you can tackle the lower level. If you try to finish off a basement right away after a new build, sometimes costs will start exceeding your planned budget. It may not be best to jump right in, as it can be difficult when you are absorbing the costs from the build upstairs.
- 4** Try to plan for the work involved in these projects to be done in the winter months, as most of the construction can be done inside.
- 5** When adding materials strictly for aesthetic appeal, like the tin ceiling in the Langs' lower level guest room, compare costs with standard options if you are trying to stay within a budget.
- 6** If your lot is level, think about creating a berm as the Langs did on their property. A berm will give you the opportunity to add windows in the basement level for light. If you go this route, make sure to check building codes in your area and make sure the soil on your property is the appropriate consistency.

call 'rustic plank,' named after what he used on his particular project. It's a look that more and more people are interested in today." The Langs' siding is rough-sawn pine with a 10-inch stack height. Tomahawk now offers this siding in stack height ranging from 6 to 12 inches.

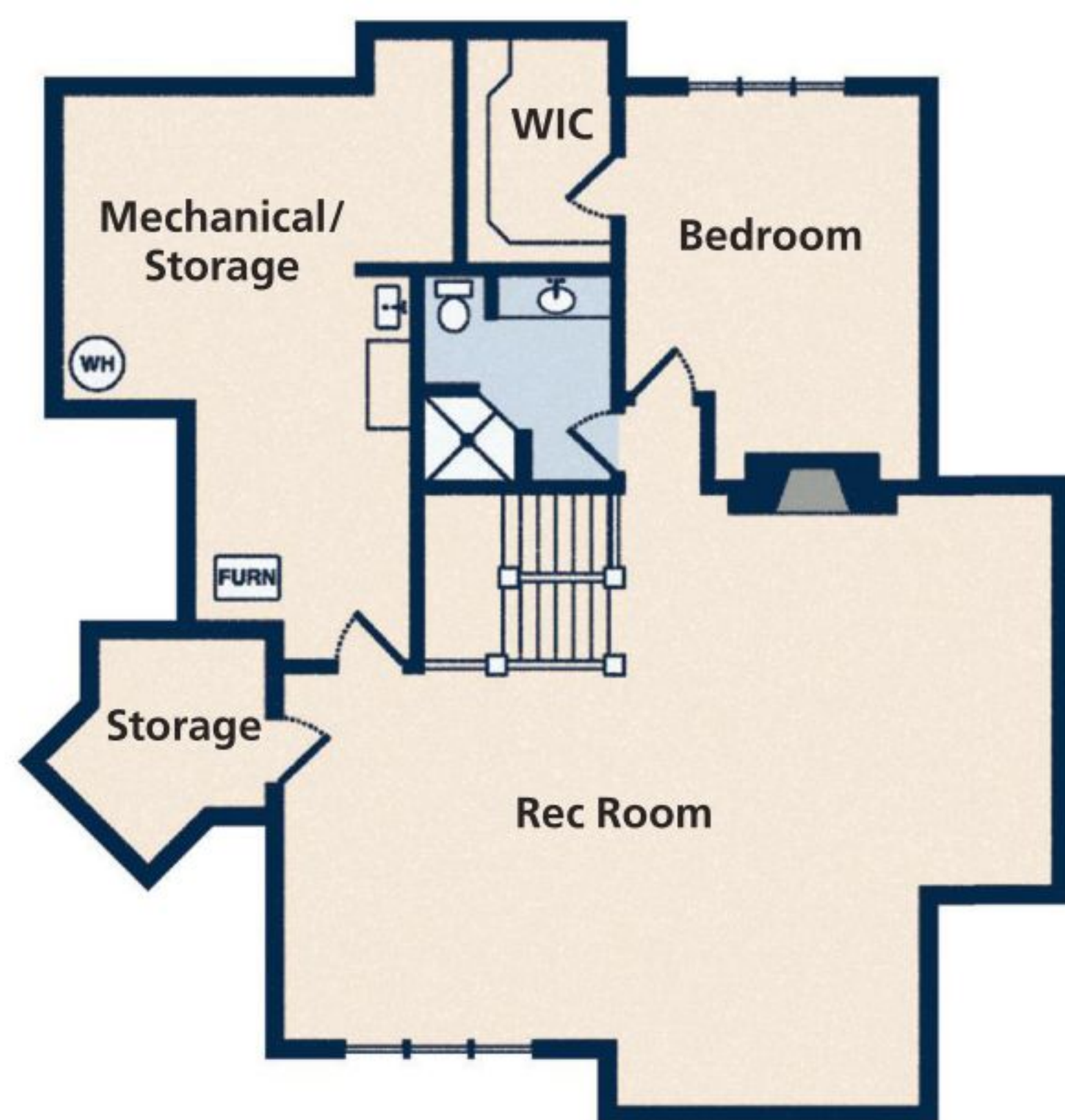
Years ago, Randy and Janelle thought they wanted to build a log home, but they changed their minds and went with a hybrid form that incorporates plenty of wood, stone and log accents inside as well as out.

"They took the conventional frame and added logs to it," Gullo says. "It took the timber-frame look in some areas, and the log look in certain areas. Many different elements were mixed within to give it its striking appearance, but cozy feel."

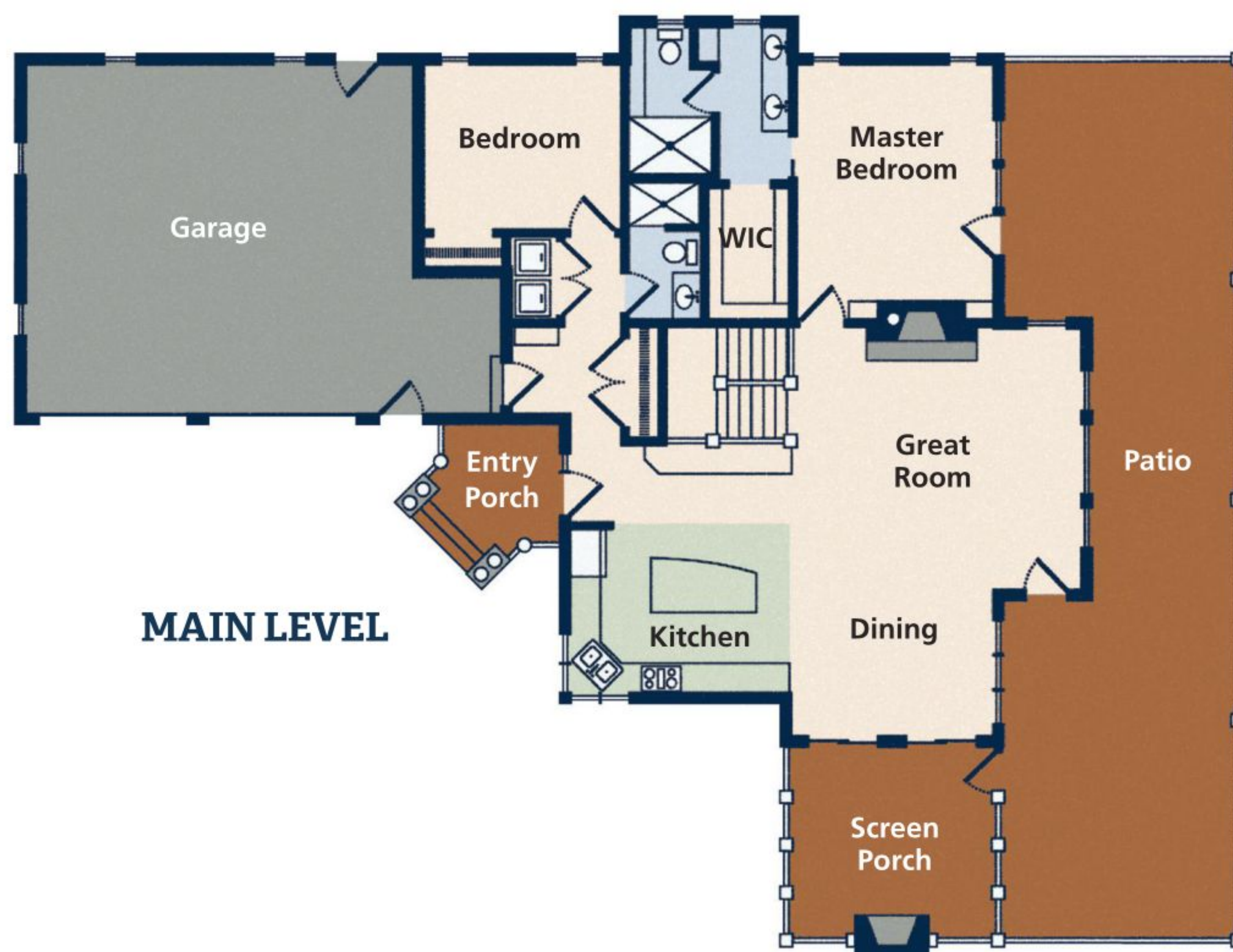
"We studied many magazines and pictures and cut out the pictures of features we liked," Janelle says. They gathered photos until they had a firm idea of how they wanted the home to look. Today, they are very happy with the way it turned out.

Going with the flow

Part of the fun of building a new home is making decisions on the interior design and décor. The Langs created a rustic look at their place after a lot of research. "We did a lot of looking, and we probably bought just about every log home cabin



LOWER LEVEL



MAIN LEVEL

magazine there was for about five years,” Randy says. They also attended many log home shows for ideas.

The couple picked out all the wood and materials themselves. “Probably one of the most difficult things was getting the colors right with the stain on the wood,” Janelle says. “That’s a little tricky, cause when you look at a small sample of something, and then you look at it on a big surface, it doesn’t always look the same.” It is important to note that different lighting can also affect the look.

Certain finishes and accents were used in order to keep a certain consistency. “When you splash too many things up within a home, and you have different stack heights ... it begins to start looking piecemeal,” Gullo explains. “There’s a really nice flow that this home has. It’s a very classy home, with a lot of thought put into the consistency.”

Pine was used throughout most of the home. The interior walls are knotty pine. The flooring, with in-floor heating, is white oak with a burnished cherry finish manufactured by Tennessee Wood Flooring.

Reclaimed materials weren’t used in the build, but the look was achieved. “What was really neat about the flooring that Randy chose, was that it was made to look very rustic,” Gullo says. The flooring was stained and distressed to make it look reclaimed. “It was fitting with the cabin,” Gullo says.

Another rustic touch is the twig chandelier Randy constructed for the great room using alder branches harvested from a local swamp. Also in the great room above the fireplace are bifold doors covering a TV. “We made the bifold doors so that painted panels can be placed on the doors creating a picture. The panels are removable, so we can have a painting for each season,” Randy says.

Gullo says that the TV cabinet was an interesting touch and perfect for the location near the fireplace. “It was a good way to keep heat off of the TV.” It also allowed the Langs to keep the TV lower for viewing.

Over time, and throughout their travels living the northwoods lifestyle, the Langs collected stones from the shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. As a personal touch, they added these stones to the showers in their cabin home.

Life on the lake

The Langs don’t miss out on the opportunities at their doorstep. Their family loves hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, hiking, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. Randy is the hunter in the house. Janelle mentions with a laugh, “I have dolls, he has deer.”

They have a pontoon boat, and Randy jokes that they have a lot of boats. They love taking the pontoon out on the chain of lakes because they can go for a long

time from one lake to the next.

It can be hard to get the entire family together, especially with their daughter now living in California with three of their grandchildren, but everyone tries to visit for the Fourth of July week – a prime time to visit, given the normally beautiful weather. “Summer is the time to be up here to enjoy the lake,” Janelle says.

The couple also likes to spend a few of the winter months in the Florida Keys every year (when the weather is unacceptable in Wisconsin, of course). They do mention that Christmas can be fun at their cabin home though. “Up here, it is a winter wonderland,” Janelle says. “Being in the North Woods is fun at any time of the year.”

Living where and how they do, Janelle comments, “I can’t think of a nicer way to enjoy the beauty of nature than sitting out on a dock overlooking the lake or watching the animals and the woods, or walking in the woods. It’s just a very relaxed, comfortable lifestyle. I tell you, everyday I’m thankful that I get to live in this beautiful place.”

Janelle calls what they have “their little piece of heaven.” Randy remarks: “Well, I guess I have to echo that. They do say, ‘Heaven has a dock.’”

Wisconsin native Julie Kuczynski agrees that with the state’s weather, there is no better time to be “up north” than in July.

building efficiently

TOMAHAWK LOG & COUNTRY HOMES builds a broad spectrum of homes at many different sizes – and budgets. But Troy Gullo of Tomahawk says, the company doesn't want to see people cut corners just so they can afford their house. A solution? Plan an efficient build. "We'll often play with cost, but we don't want to see people do it in the wrong area," he says.

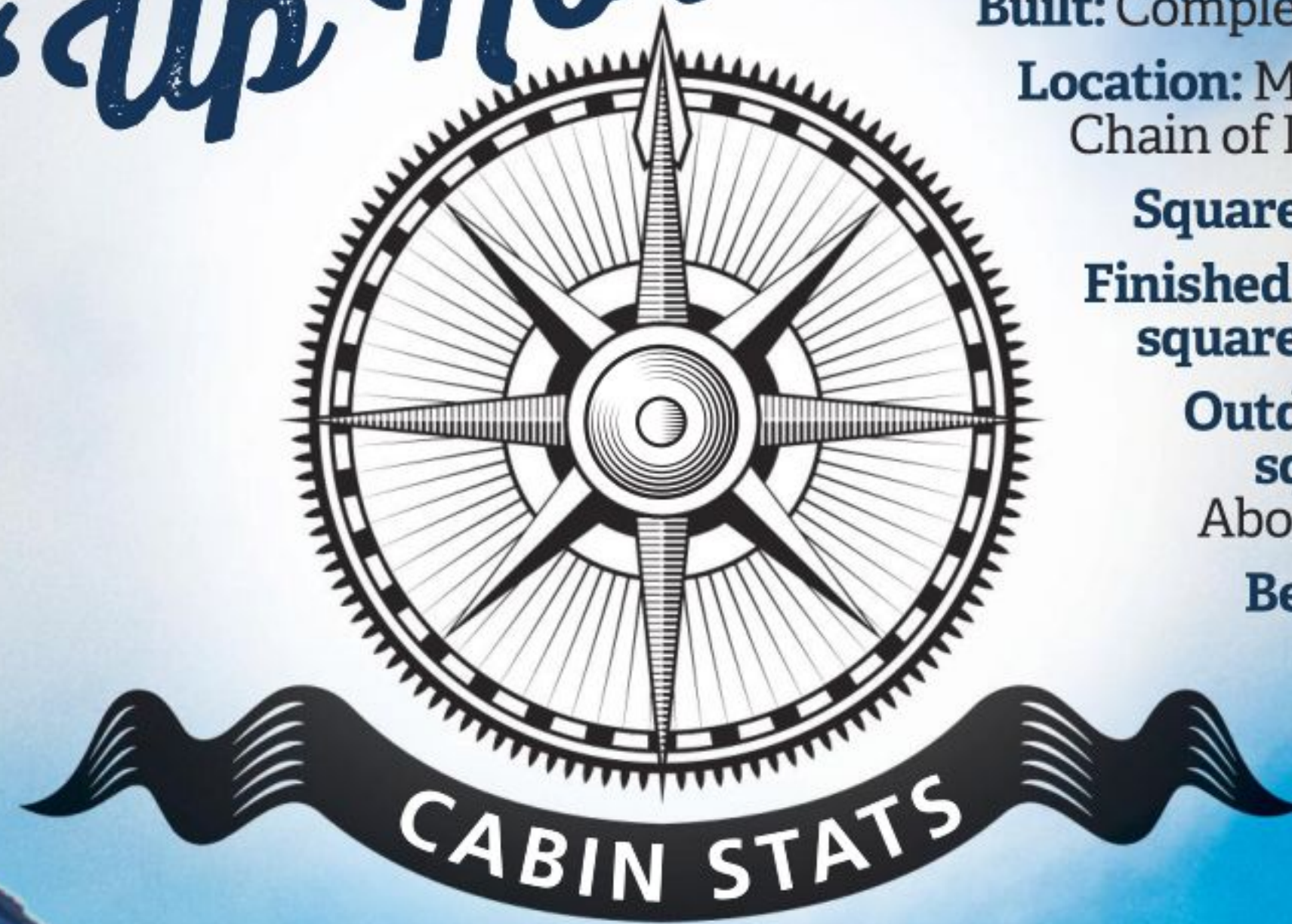
"Two, three, four years back it seems that people started paying attention to, 'why do I need all this house?' I think people are a little bit more wise to not overbuilding," Gullo says.

But, no matter what size a home is, Gullo says it is always about efficiency. "It's about laying things out so that there's not wasted space and there's not a lot of hallways. No matter what someone's budget is, you can blow it away by not being efficient." If you have a smaller place or a smaller budget you have to focus on efficiency.

"The difficulty with a smaller home is that the fixed costs really hit you hard. Whether you do 1,500 square feet or 3,500 square feet, you still have a well, a septic, a driveway, a kitchen, a fireplace, a furnace, you name it, all these fixed costs really start to hit hard. Now, you don't have as much square footage to divide that into," Gullo explains. "The per square foot cost of your house then seems really elevated or really high, but the thing is, there are certain things that are there no matter what size you build." He advises to keep these fixed costs in mind when weighing the size of your cabin plan to help you find the most efficient potential for your space. **CL**



“Up North”



Built: Completed in 2013

Location: Manitowish
Chain of Lakes, Wis.

Square feet: 1,699

**Finished basement
square feet:** 1,097

**Outdoor living
square feet:**
About 800-850

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 3



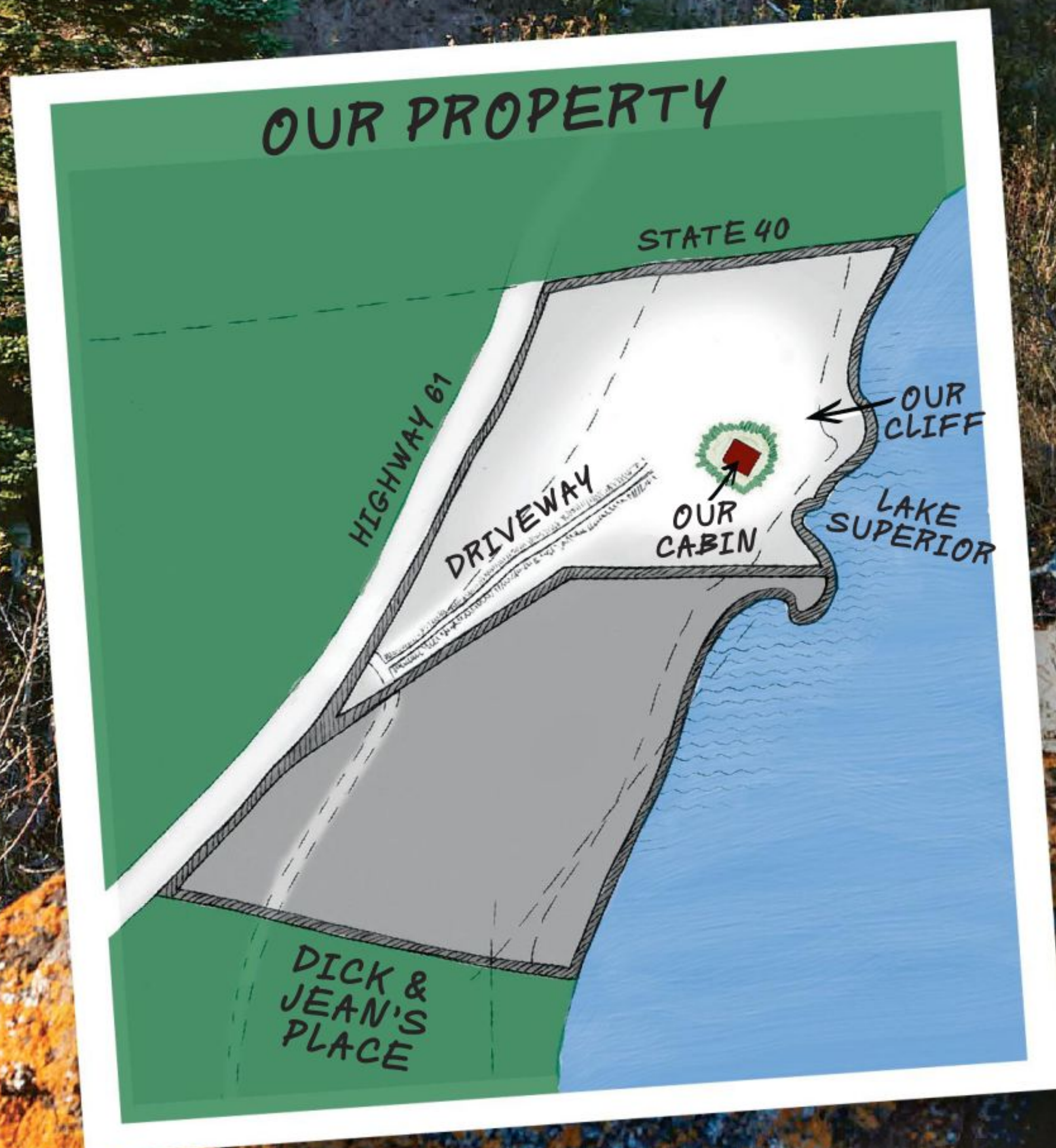
EDITOR'S NOTE

Spike Carlsen and his wife, Kat, built their own cabin on the rugged north shore of Lake Superior. They named their place "Oma Tupa, Oma Lupa." Translated from its Finnish roots, it means "One's cabin, one's freedom."

Why build a cabin? Spike explains: "When some couples reach midlife, he buys a red Miata sports coupe and she gets a facelift and a walnut-size cocktail ring. Not us. We decided to buy a nearly inaccessible cliff of eroding clay on Lake Superior

and build a cabin together – along with five kids, a handful of friends, and a half-blind, gimpy Pekingese. We decided from the start that the process of building would be just as important as the final cabin. And in the end we wound up with a cabin perched above 3 quadrillion gallons of water and a bucket of memories."

In the following excerpt, Spike details the process of laying the cabin's foundation. He begins with this advice: "When you dig a hole, be smarter than the shovel."





OPPOSITE: Perched on a cliff overlooking Lake Superior, the Carlsens' cabin makes the most of a challenging site.

LEFT: A window seat becomes a favorite spot for reading and napping.

ABOVE: Glass railings in the loft don't obscure the lake view.

A SOLID FOUNDATION

An excerpt from the book *"Cabin Lessons: A Nail-by-Nail Tale"* **BY SPIKE CARLSEN**

Don't let the nonambulatory state of a cabin mislead you; it's a living thing. The 100-amp electrical service panel is the brain; the wires are the nerve fibers; the outlets, switches and lights are

the nerve endings. The hot and cold water pipes are the veins that nourish. The drain, waste and vent pipes create the intestines that usher the waste away; the cabin is actually superior to us since it expels gas up and through a roof vent, versus

humanity's lower trajectory. The shingles are the hair, the siding and insulation are the skin, the paint is the makeup, the heating system is the lungs, and the rough framework is the skeleton. But you need to start from the ground up. With a cabin, as

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A wood stove keeps the cabin warm on chilly mornings and evenings. Windows set high above patio doors bring both natural light and stunning lake views into the cabin.

with any entity, you need to begin with solid feet and legs – the foundation.

There are two approaches we can take to building on a steep slope. The first is setting the cabin on a full basement; one where the backside would be buried 6 or 7 feet and the front or downhill side exposed. This approach would involve dozing a mammoth wedge of soil out of the earth to create a flat subterranean surface. The upside is we could create both a foundation and usable square footage beneath the cabin. The downside is it would rearrange both our budget and the landscape in a serious way.

The second option is the “stork” approach. The cabin would perch on a rectangular grid of legs or wood posts; taller ones on the downhill side, shorter ones on the uphill. It would be an inexpensive, low-impact way of building. We wouldn’t need a 20-ton bulldozer rearranging the earth, only a 12-pound posthole digger. Posts would allow us to leave the slope

of the ground basically unaltered and to tread more gently on the land. And posts would allow us to build quickly and inexpensively.

We go with the stork option, eyes wide open about the drawbacks. With post footings on a steep slope, we realize we will give up the basement to store tools and obnoxious relatives. We’re committing ourselves to hard, tedious handwork – a solid chunk of blood, sweat and tears. To support our 16-by-20-foot cabin we need nine posts – three rows of three – plus two more posts to support the small bump-out on the back. We also need posts to support the front deck, bringing the grand total to 14. We run strings between stakes to indicate the perimeter of the cabin, then pound in stakes to mark where each post will go. Time to dig in.

The hierarchy of soil dig-ability goes as thus:

■ **Easiest:** Sand and dirt. They’re homogeneous, predictable and light.

■ **Hard:** Soil with lots of tree roots, especially those so beefy you can’t chop through them with a shovel. Especially if the roots are so gnarly and ill-tempered you need to be a contortionist with a reciprocating saw to get rid of them.

■ **Harder:** Soils with lots of clay; heavy, dense, sticky clay that clings to your shovel or posthole digger like a camp-fire marshmallow. You spend as much time scraping gumbo off your shovel as actually digging.

■ **Hardest:** Soils with rocks of all sizes. Small rocks throw your posthole digger off course, medium-size rocks dull it, and large rocks break it.

■ **Hardly worth attempting:** Clayey soil, with roots and rocks; the soil we encounter.

After spending three hours digging the first hole by hand – 16 inches in diameter, 54 inches deep – I calculate I will spend 42 hours on this task alone. This is



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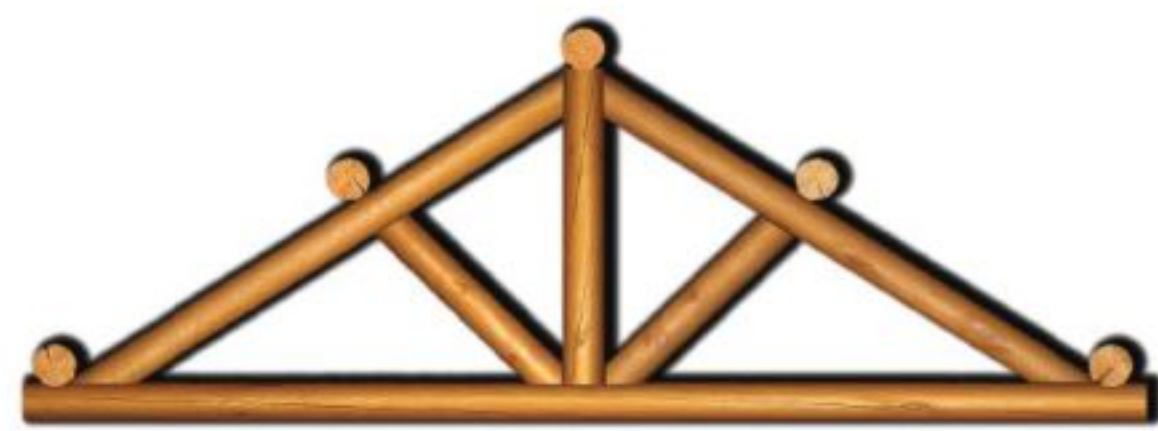
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ABOVE: When building his cabin, author Spike Carlsen chose to use posts to support it instead of an excavated foundation.

LEFT: Because the site is steeply sloped, the rear of the cabin sits nearly at ground level.

Cool Hand Luke work. It's not the way I want to spend an entire week. I need to be smarter than the shovel. A gas-powered auger ain't gonna cut it. We need a machine. Bradley is booked, so I find the only other excavator in the area who has a Bobcat skid loader with a hole auger attachment. He agrees to meet me at the site at 5 o'clock, after his day job. I recheck and re-stake the location of each hole as I wait. It's fall, and the temperature drops to 40 as the sun sets. Seven p.m. and still no auger. There's no cell phone reception, and I figure he's been waylaid. I'm chilled to the bone and start packing up when I see headlights and a trailer bouncing down the driveway.

"Decided to do 'er tomorrow, eh?" I say, using a tone sarcastic enough to show my displeasure, yet friendly enough to not alienate the only guy within 100 miles who can get this godforsaken job done. "Hell, no. I got headlights!" he says as he fires up the machine. And soon it becomes

clear this is not a one-man operation. He sits bobbling on his Bobcat while I, under the glare of headlights, use a shovel and pickaxe to pry and chop the sticky clay off the auger after each plunge. I use a clam digger-type posthole digger to try to lift loose rocks out of the bottoms of the holes when they fall in. Most of the time I'm on my knees. My pants and shirt are soaked, half from sweat and half from the sodden soil flying through the air. We're working on a slope, so I hand-guide the auger to vertical before each plunge; I'm hoping he's packed plenty of tourniquets for when this thing rips both my arms off. I spend three hours, frozen, wet and bone weary genuflecting to the auger god.

I'm paying him; isn't something wrong here? No, if I were on the Bobcat it would be a submarine on the bottom of Superior. Both hands and both feet are required to drive, steer, lift and dump the Bobcat and auger in a coordinated effort. A good Bobcat operator is part excavator, part ballet

dancer; Baryshnikov in a hard hat. By the time we're done, it's pitch black. I'm soaked, caked in clay, nearly deaf from the noise and sleep deprived – but hey, look at those 14 holes. Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder – especially if the beholder just dodged five days of brutal work.

I ask what I owe him, and he responds, "Well, what's it worth to you?" And while the correct answer is, "My firstborn son and 10,000 dollars," we settle on a more reasonable 200 bucks.

The support posts need to sit on concrete pads. Mixing concrete requires water, and there's plenty of that around – it's just 200 feet down a 60-degree cliff. We buy three old five-gallon plastic jerry cans at a garage sale, and Kat and I start hauling. To fill the jugs we kneel on jagged rock and force them underwater, using the muscle mechanics you'd use drowning a hippo. We tie ropes from tree to tree, and as we ascend, one-handed, with the 40-pound jugs, we slip, slide, grunt

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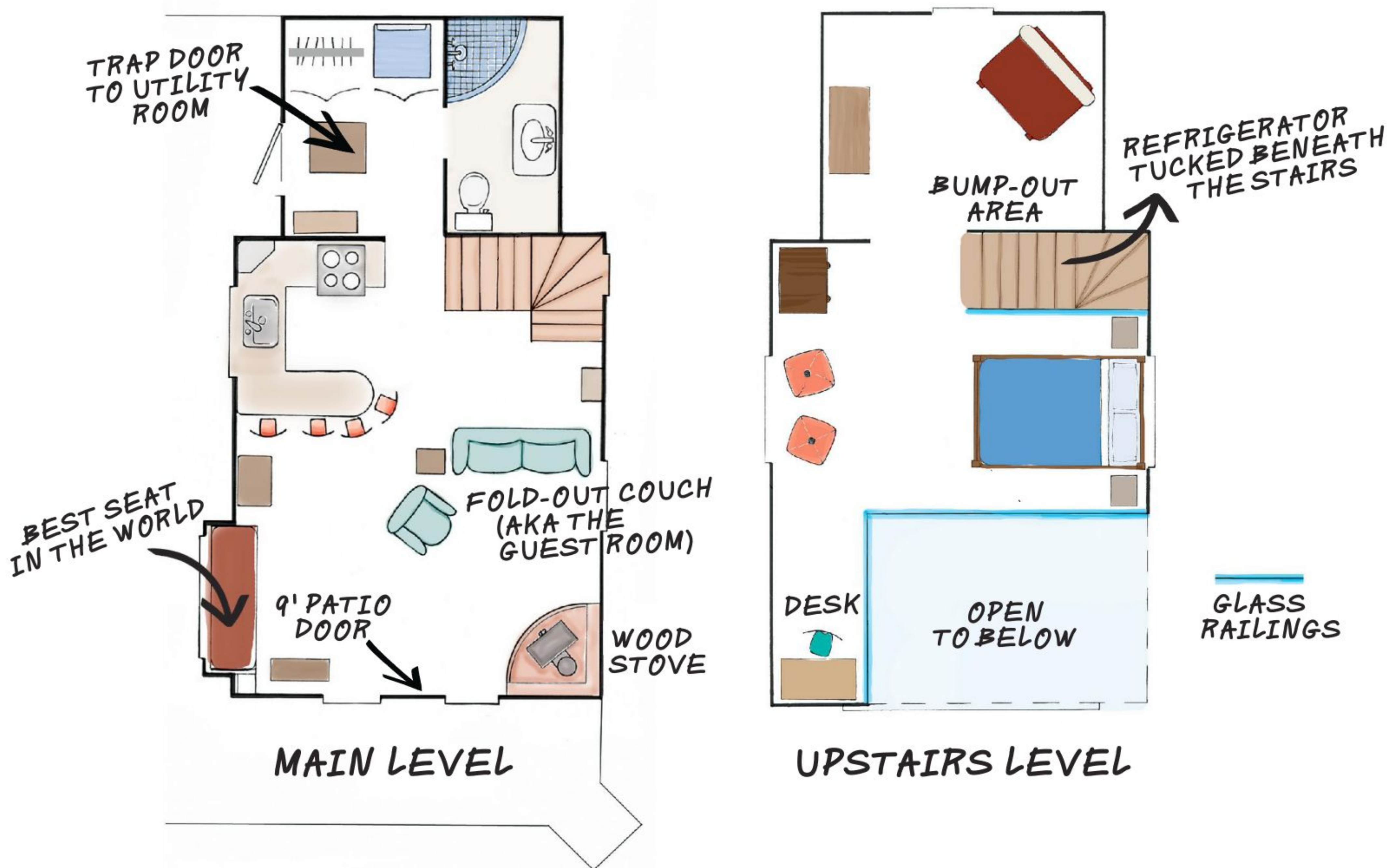
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SATTERWHITE



and struggle to keep our footing. This is how people wind up in the “News of the Weird” column. It’s not how two reasonably intelligent people get water from point A to point B. It would be more reasonable to buy 12-ounce bottles of Perrier from the gift shop up the road.

On our third trip up the hill we encounter Dick standing at the top. We’ve known Dick long enough to be able to judge his mood, even before he says something, based on the direction and velocity of his jowls. You do not want to see rapid horizontal movement. But they’re moving vertically, and he’s got a big grin.

We’re wheezing, with high-water pants and burrs stuck to our socks. “Now ain’t that somethin’,” he hoots – the phrase he utters when he doesn’t know what else to say or is reloading for his next quip. “You know we got a garden hose, and you got a truck. I bet we could figure out a better way to do that.” Yah, ain’t that somethin’.

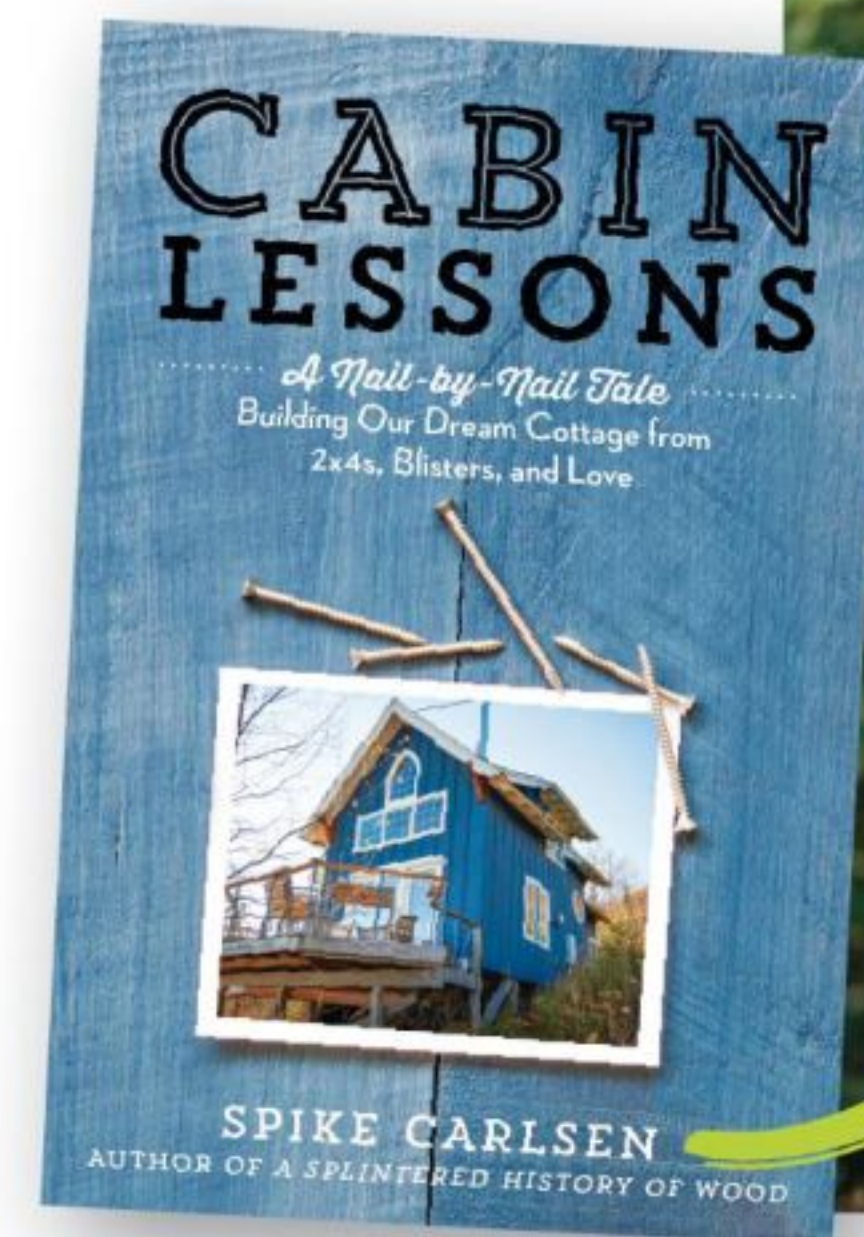
Visitors are surprised to see the cabin perched on nine modest-size posts. Each is made from three “foundation grade” treated 2-by-6s nailed together, making each post 4 ½ by 5 ½ inches in cross section. Not that massive. But wood is incredibly strong in the vertical position, much stronger than it is lying flat or lying on edge. A single vertical 2-by-6, prevented from bending, can support 15 tons before reaching its limits. That means each post can theoretically support 45 tons, and as a group can support more than 400 tons’ worth of cabin.

When we dig the holes, the cabin still looks small on paper. One or two bags of concrete in each hole will support the posts that will support the beams that will support the joists that will support the walls that will support the roof. There can be no weak link in this chain of command.

We get the concrete pads poured and the posts positioned and backfilled. I step back and squint, trying to picture the cabin with all its parts, occupants, furnishings and snowloads. But instead of hearing a deep, booming voice say, “And it was good,” I hear a scrawny little inner voice asking, “Don’t you think nine posts and 15 bags of concrete are a wee bit on the light side?”

Yet, getting the foundation in – whether it consists of nine posts or 50 tons of concrete for a poured basement – is a milestone in cold climates. It means you’re up and out of the frozen soil and can keep building through the rest of the winter. If you’re crazy enough. **CL**

“Cabin Lessons” by Spike Carlsen is published by Storey Publishing, storey.com.



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Details like the heavy-timber scissor truss in the gable give this small cabin big presence. The scribed logs meet at exterior corner joints, giving the home a charming, organic look.

OPPOSITE: The centerpiece of the home is the spiral staircase winding around a three-story tree trunk. Wood stairs with steel plates are banded to the trunk and fan out over the living space. Metal artist Marc Tetro hand-forged and cut steel to create the banister.

on holiday

Log cabin makes every day feel like a vacation

STORY BY STACEY FREED
PHOTOS BY PERRY MASTROVITO



Near Magog City, at the base of Mont Orford in Quebec, sits a small cabin in the woods. “It’s paradise,” says its owner, Andre Boisvert, who built the home in 2003 as a weekend retreat and moved in full-time five years later.

Andre, who owns a swimming pool and chimney installation business in Sherbrooke, Canada, was approached by a sales representative from a log home company who wanted to sell him a sauna. Andre was so taken by the beauty of the company’s homes he decided to work with the company to build them.

At home in nature

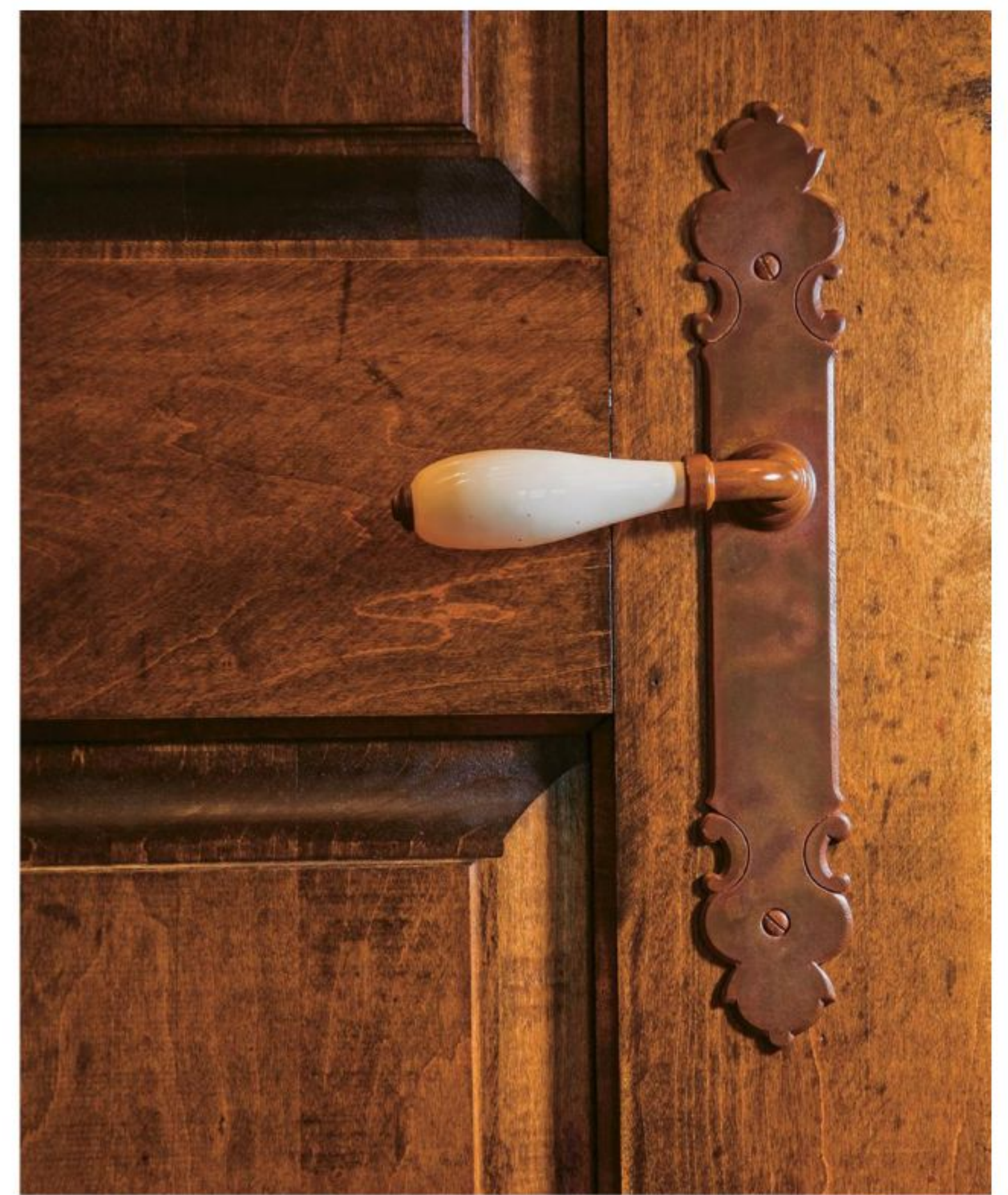
Looking for inspiration for a model home, Andre picked up a copy of log home designer Robbin Obomsawin’s book on small log homes and chose “Camp Dancing Bear” as the floor plan. (See “Book Smart” on page 56.) Obomsawin is construction manager and general contractor at Beaver Creek Log Homes in Oneida, N.Y. After building the model and four other houses, Andre left the business but not before purchasing that first model for himself. “It has a lot of nice character, gable ends and logs up to the roof, a lot of wood,” Andre says. “You can build three

regular houses with the wood we have in that house.”

In fact, Camp Dancing Bear is one of Beaver Creek’s most popular models. “Sometimes when I design a house everything just happens; everything falls into place and it’s magic,” Obomsawin says. “With other houses you have to work to make it flow and function. Camp Dancing Bear was one I really enjoyed doing.”

With its high roof and natural materials, the 2,000-square-foot home (including the basement) makes Andre feel like he’s “on holiday all the time; it’s rejuvenating.” He loves to ski in the national park





OPPOSITE: Large logs and a slate tile floor help delineate the kitchen space. Wedgewood blue custom-built pine cabinets are weathered for authenticity. Skylights bring in natural light, while pendants offer task lighting for the countertops and island.

ABOVE: The small details, like this replica handmade brass doorknob plate with painted wood lever handle, add charm.

LEFT: Slate tile floors contrast with the honey tones of the hand-scraped log walls in the bathroom. A repurposed dresser serves as a vanity when topped with a vessel sink.

just across the road and does a lot of road biking. It was important to him to have a home that reflected his love of the outdoors. “You can’t build a log home and put in cheap things; you need to be sure the interior will match the exterior,” he says.

Glorious wood

With great attention to detail, the exterior’s scribed white spruce logs are topped by scissor trusses just under the roof. On one side, a gabled window sits atop three log ends. “We use a scribe to fit every log perfectly,” says the home’s builder, Simon Auger, principal of Chic Shack Maisons de Bois Massif in Eastern Townships, Quebec. “It’s more like sculpture.”

Inside the three-bedroom home, it’s all about the warmth and comfort of the wood – on the walls, floors and ceilings. Great structural timbers lift the dining room ceiling, and curved logs define all the

spaces. The centerpiece of the living room is the spiral staircase designed and built by Jean-Marc Tétro of Créations Tétro.

A tree trunk rises through the center of the staircase, starting from the basement through to the loft level. Iron rings wrap around the trunk, each one connected to a hand-forged steel step topped with wood. Tétro says this design was “quite a challenge. The floor is not square and it’s not easy fitting everything in.” The wood takes about four years to dry, and as it does it shrinks. About once each year for the first several years, Andre had to tighten the bolts on the stairs to account for the shrinkage and settling.

But the staircase, handrail and decorative forged and hand-cut ironwork in place of balustrades, “is light and organic and keeps the same natural spirit as the wood,” says Tétro who faux-finished the steel using a mix of black, brown, gray and

yellow paint to create a patina that mimics rusted metal. He wanted it to echo a “bridge outside so when that rusted after 10 years they would be the same color.”

Recreation & relaxation

Andre loves to have friends and family over to enjoy his piece of the woods and surrounding nature – and to watch hockey, of course, on the 100-inch screen in the media room above the barn-like garage.

But when the guests are gone, it’s his bedroom that’s his favorite spot. He loves the ceiling’s huge logs and the freestanding bathtub. “It’s my place to relax and have a peaceful moment.”

Stacey Freed lives and works in Pittsford, N.Y. She and her husband enjoy spending time at a family cottage on Keuka Lake in New York’s beautiful Finger Lakes region.



book smart

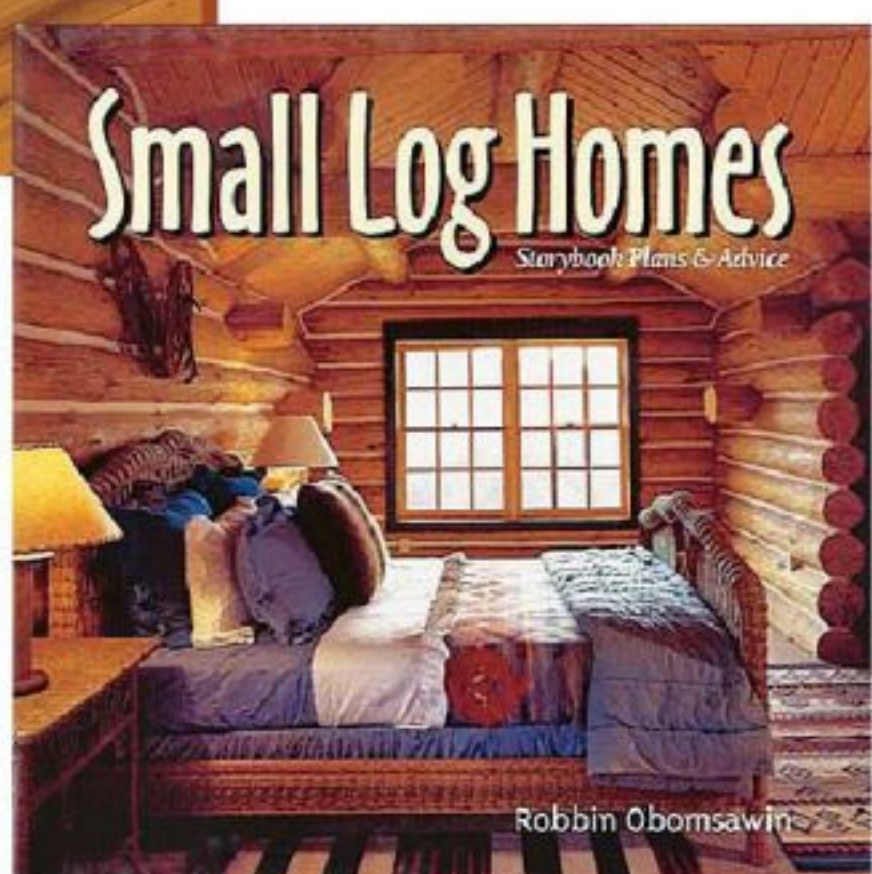
WHEN HE NEEDED ideas for his handcrafted log home's design, Andre Boisvert looked to the book "Small Log Homes" by Robbin Obomsawin for helpful advice. Obomsawin has written several books of interest to would-be cabin owners. The books highlight compact plans that offer the luxury and warmth of logs while maintaining a small footprint.

"Small Log Homes" pairs plenty of eye-candy in the way of photos with tried-and-true expert advice from Obomsawin, who serves as construction manager and general contractor for Beaver Creek Log Homes. She shares her in-depth knowledge of handcrafting log homes with readers and includes a construction checklist in the book. Fifteen plans for charming storybook homes are included.

In Obomsawin's second book, "Best Log Home Plans," she includes 30 floor plans, along with expert tips and techniques, information about customizing a stock plan and an explanation of the design process. Readers benefit from Obomsawin's years in log home construction. "Seeing a variety of home layouts has

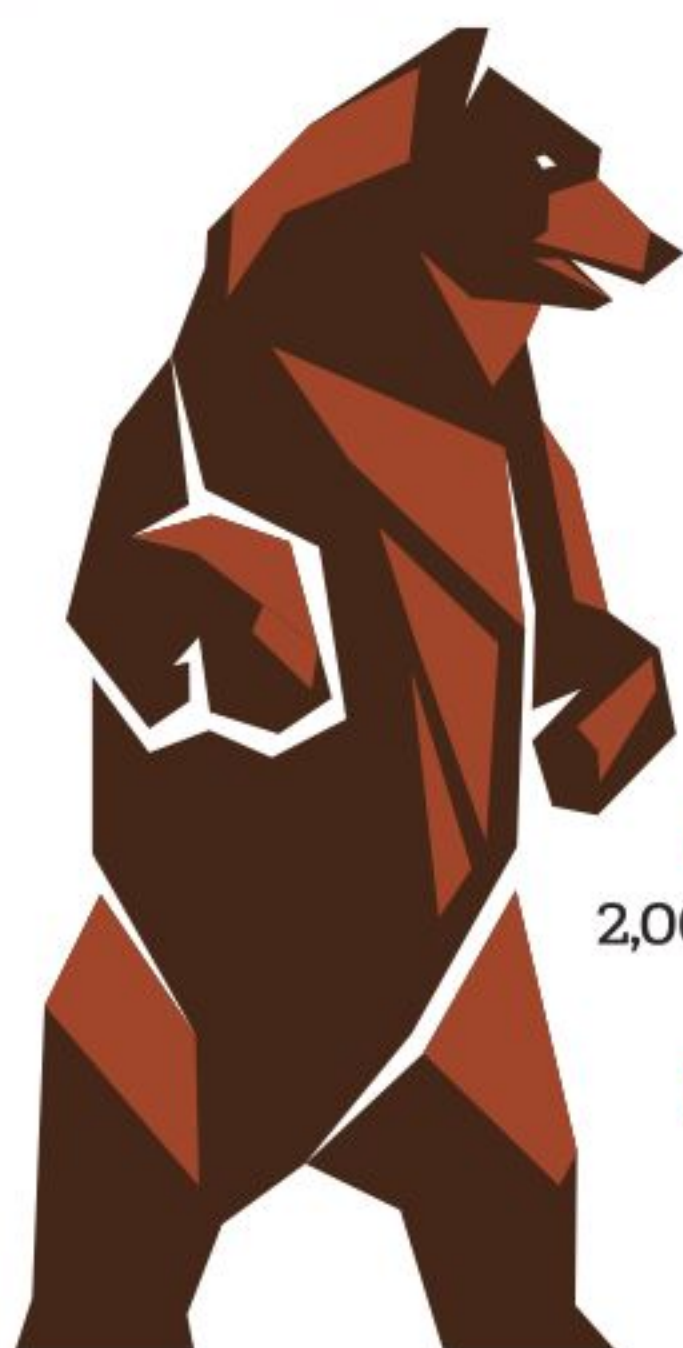
given me the chance to study what works well and what does not," she writes in the book's introduction.

Obomsawin's other books include "Log Cabin Classics," "The Not So Log Cabin," "The Arts & Crafts Cabin" and "The Adirondack Cabin." To order, visit beavercreekloghomes.com. **CL**



ABOVE, LEFT: Artist Jean-Marc Tétro painted the stairs' metal elements to mimic a rusty patina.

ABOVE: Tall windows ring the hexagonal dining room bump out, bringing the outdoors in. A confluence of woods – cherry flooring, white spruce logs and narrow bands of painted pine on the vaulted ceiling – adds visual interest to the room.



CABIN STATS

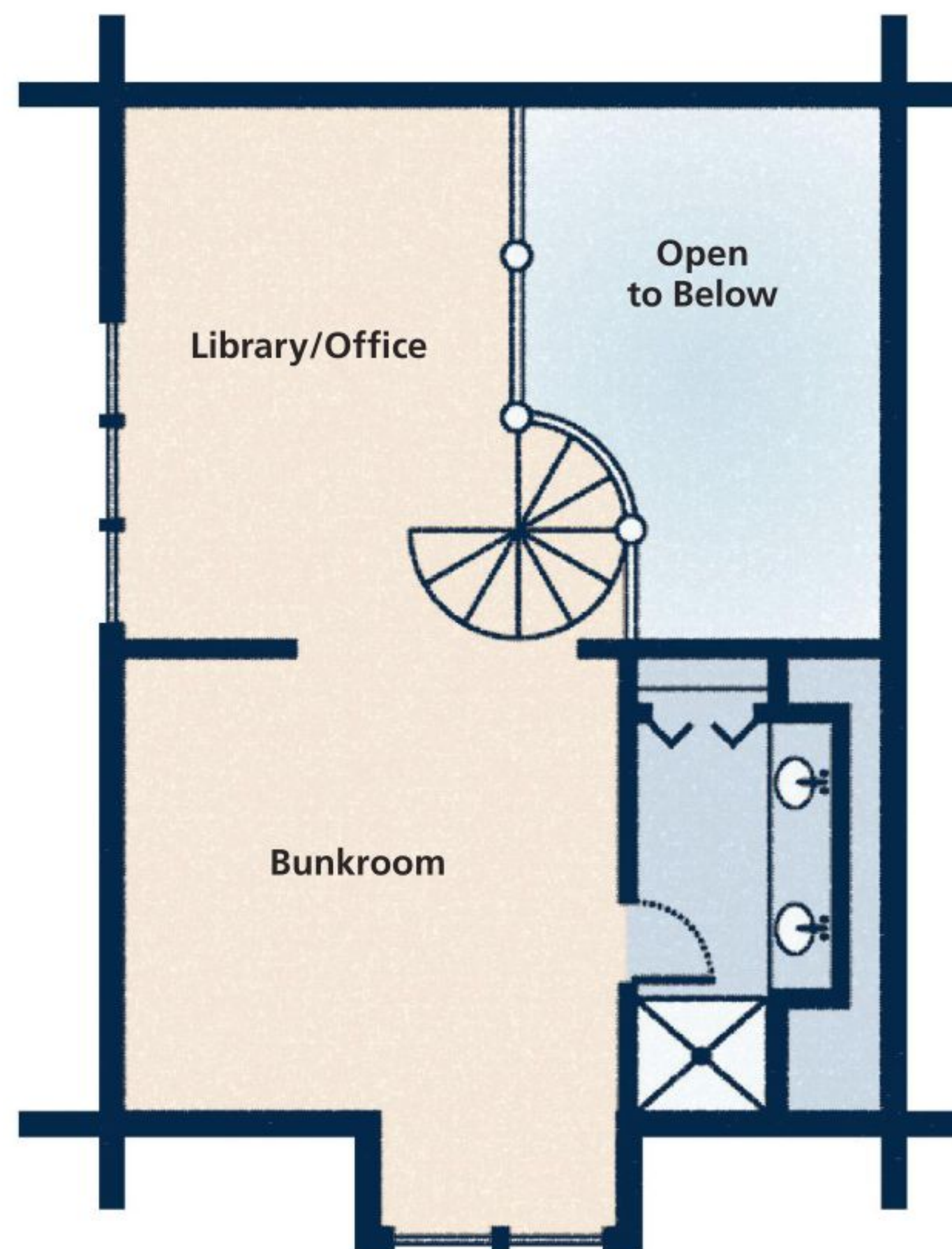
Built: 2003

Location:
Magog City,
Quebec

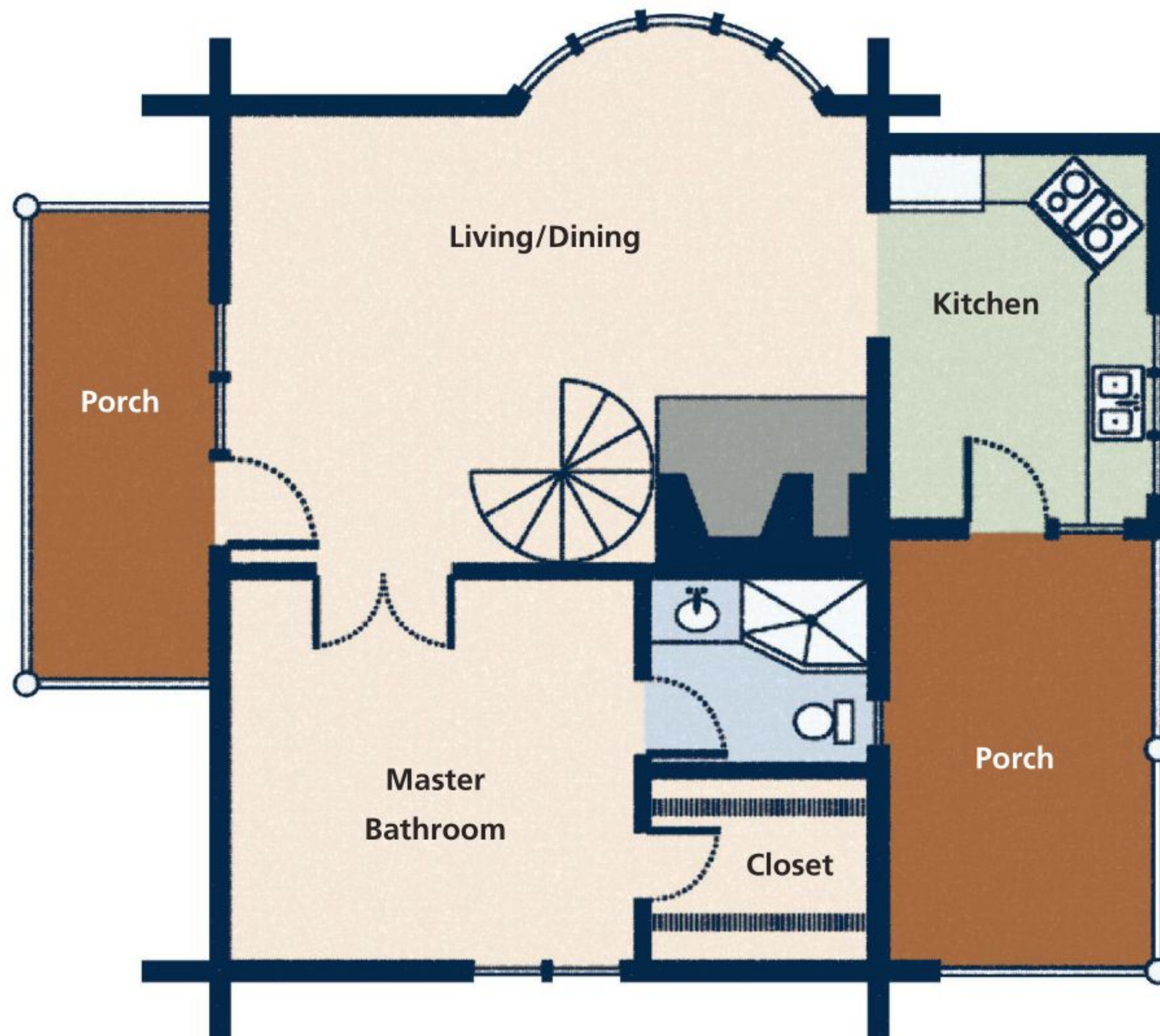
Square feet:
2,000 (including
basement)

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2



UPPER LEVEL



MAIN LEVEL



Left, right & below: courtesy of James Ray Spahn; Far right: courtesy of Marvin Windows & Doors



ABOVE (2): Windows framed by arched timbers and patio doors open this home to the trees just outside.

MIDDLE: Fixed-pane windows stretch from floor to ceiling in this seating area. Triangular windows in the gables bring in even more natural light.

FAR : Single- or double-hung windows have one or two sashes that open up or down. Mullions or grilles can frame smaller panes of glass within the window, or be applied as a decorative accent to a large pane of glass.

RIGHT: Casement windows that open out with the turn of a crank are accented with wood mullions and distinctive wood trim that matches the room's posts and beams.





ROOMS *with a view*

How to choose the best windows for your cabin



Today's windows are far superior to those used decades ago. Windows still frame beautiful views, of course, but new innovations mean they can make cabins more comfortable and easier than ever to maintain. Here are tips on choosing the best styles and sizes for your project.

Sense of style

Windows perform the basic functions of allowing for ventilation and light and protecting a home from the elements. They also serve as a central design feature. Making a meaningful style statement with your windows depends on selecting the right one for each space. Knowing your options and the window's purpose will help you weigh the benefits and drawbacks of each style.

Whether you plan to use it to usher in light, ventilation or views – or all of the above – you will likely choose from one of the following categories, which are based on how the window opens and closes:

Single- and double-hung windows feature one or two sashes, respectively, that move up or down for easy cleaning. They are more affordable than casement windows, but they allow more air leakage. They should be placed in an easily accessible area for maintenance and operation (e.g. don't place a double-hung window above a kitchen sink, because

it would be difficult to open across the countertop).

Casement windows include a hand crank that opens the glass from a side hinge. The window can be angled for optimal ventilation and easy cleaning. A closed casement window is more airtight than the single- or double-hung variety. Avoid placing casement or awning windows above a porch or deck where they can obstruct a walkway when opened.

Awning windows are hinged at the top, and open outward and up. They provide excellent ventilation, with partial or full opening capabilities, to customize airflow. Because of their construction, they keep out moisture and have an airtight seal. Size options are limited.

Gliding windows slide vertically from side to side. They are easy to clean and provide good ventilation, but they are less resistant to the elements than hinged windows.

Picture windows are fixed in place and cannot be opened for ventilation. They come in a countless array of shapes and sizes that can be combined to fit any space.

Clerestory windows are a row of windows placed near the ceiling. This style is ideal for a room where both extra light and privacy are needed. Rectangular

transom windows serve the same purpose as clerestory windows but are typically placed above a door.

Bay and bow windows are a combination of three or more windows that extend beyond the main wall. Because of their placement, they are most often used for framing panoramic views. Their size can equate to large amounts of heat loss, however, so they should be used judiciously.

Size matters

To help ensure proper window sizing, consider the overall design of the interiors and exterior, as well as the size of your cabin and the room where the window will be placed. The relative scale of a window should be comparable to the size of the home (e.g., larger cabins with larger rooms will require larger windows). The same principle goes for the actual material you are using; for example, in a cabin with large-diameter logs, larger windows will look more balanced.

Window sizes are almost limitless, ranging from small circular designs to expansive floor-to-ceiling panes. The latter are more often used in a great room to showcase views. But although these windows have big visual impact, they can also create a significant increase in your monthly expenses.



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most cabins aren't cookie-cutter homes. Part of their charm could be their setting or their size. Style plays a part, too, and custom-built doors bring plenty of style to a cabin.

Although entryways come to mind first when considering a custom door, they can also be used for your home's interior. Hand-crafted doors are often more substantial and visually interesting than off-the-shelf models. Keep these factors in mind when researching your options.

Planning. If you are building a new cabin and thinking about custom doors, don't wait to begin the commissioning process. "We like to talk with people as soon as possible," says Barry Catron of Xterior Plus, a door crafter in Wytheville, Va. "We love seeing their designs and to sometimes make suggestions on the doors." Giving a door handcrafter plenty of time to work will help ensure that your construction project won't be delayed by doors that aren't finished.

Typical lead time can range from two to three months for a custom door.

To get a better idea of what styles are available, visit log and timber home shows and websites that specialize in such doors. And note what style of doors you like as you flip through this magazine.

Species. The choice of a wood species for your doors will be based on personal preference. Lighter color options for doors are available in yellow-hued knotty pine or grayish cedar, with species such as alder, cherry or oak reflecting deeper, often redder, tones. Of course, a painted door can be any color.

Continuity. For a cohesive look, start by identifying the overall architectural style you want for your cabin, then choose which elements you want to bring in with doors.

Size. Whether you plan to retire to your cabin or don't have a long-term plan, it's a good idea to consider making the doorways in the home extra wide. The added width can accommodate a wheelchair or walker if it's ever necessary – and may help you move furniture with ease in the meantime. Adding a few additional inches to a custom wood door does not greatly affect its cost, Catron says, and is much less expensive than retrofitting your cabin with wider door openings at a later date.

The Extras. In addition to the beauty of the wood itself, custom doors can feature carvings, windows and beautiful hardware.

Pricing. With basic doors at big-box stores priced for less than \$100 each, seeing handcrafted doors for hundreds if not thousands more may cause sticker shock. The added expense is an investment in a door that's most likely thicker, heavier and more durable.

grand entrances

open season

With folding glass walls, nothing stands in your way **BY JANICE BREWSTER**

Mike Brown wanted a way to connect the living room of his south central Pennsylvania home to the outdoors. The room's pair of standard sliding glass doors left him aggravated, because only half of the doors' width opened. "I was frustrated. I couldn't really open everything up," Brown says.

He was considering installing a pair of French doors, but knew the doors' frames would still block his view and the doors themselves would eat into his floor space when open. Then he came across a folding glass wall system on display at a local builders' show. He purchased a six-panel wall from Solar Innovations that creates an almost 11-foot-wide

opening out onto his screened porch, allowing him to truly enjoy good weather and his view of the woods beyond his backyard.

"I open it up at the crack of dawn and leave it open until I go to bed," Brown says.

Beyond the slider

Folding glass walls work on the same principle as traditional bi-fold closet doors, which accordion open and don't require a central door jamb. In some systems, overhead tracks eliminate the need for multiple tracks at floor level, which, in traditional patio doors, can catch debris and present a tripping hazard or wheelchair impediment. The glass wall panels slide or roll along the track and stack at one end —

either inside or on the home's exterior.

Similar to the folding systems, some of the newest glass walls have panels that stack and slide into wall pockets. For timber-framed homes that are enclosed with solid structural insulated panels (SIPs), the pocket application probably would not be optimal, says Matt Thomas of NanaWall, located in California.

Whether it folds or slides, unlike standard sliding or swinging patio doors, a folding glass wall leaves nothing to block the view or interfere with foot traffic when open. Because the glass panels aren't required to swing open, they gobble up less floor space. For example, California-based Lanai Doors crafts a 36-inch-wide door that can be folded down to

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occupy a space that measures just 12 inches by 6 inches.

When closed, the folding glass wall panels lock in place, providing security and resistance to wind and weather.

Homeowners like Mike Brown choose the folding glass walls because of their unlimited width and their ability to connect indoor space with outdoor areas. This connection is a distinct advantage for homeowners who have created fully equipped outdoor living spaces with complete kitchens, dining areas and seating spaces. When fully open, the system can effectively eliminate a room's exterior wall.

After seeing the open air rooms created by folding glass walls in Hawaiian homes, Boston-area architect William Ruhl of Ruhl Walker Architects, thought the walls could work well in his region, too. "Our clients wanted to have large screened porches so they could live outdoors spring, summer and fall without the ubiquitous New England mosquitoes and flies, and wondered how they might join those porches to the rest of the house." **CL**

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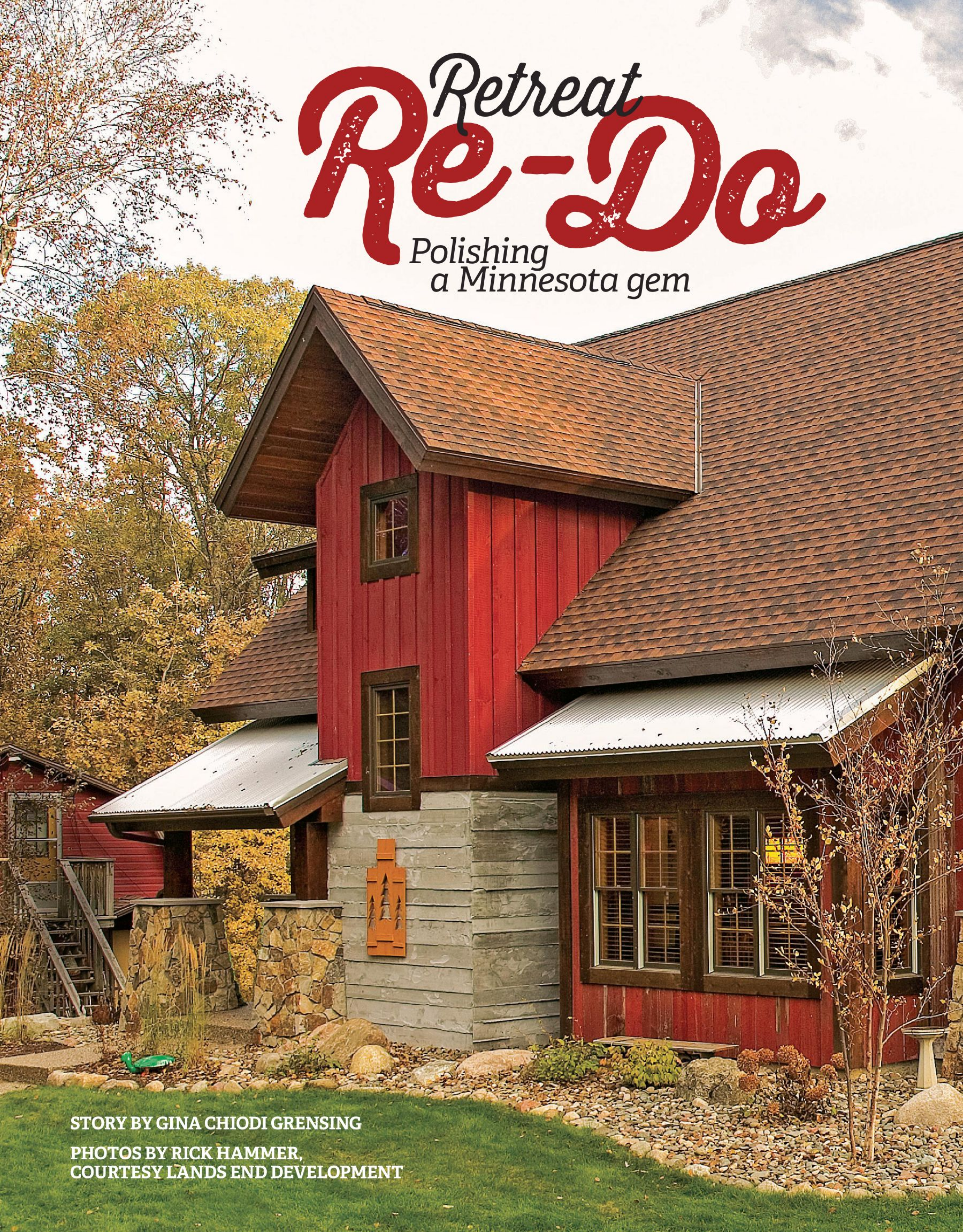
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Photo courtesy Bray family

At the Brays' cabin, ice-fishing is enjoyed by family members of all ages.

Combining the feel of a lakeside cabin with a mountain retreat, the exterior blends metal, stone, wood, cement and strategic use of color. A favorite place to gather in all seasons, the side patio beckons with its large wood-burning fireplace.

THIS PAGE: Windows flank the steel fireplace in the Brays' great room, and are easily opened and closed – with the help of rolling ladders. Two sets of patio doors open the room to the outdoors.

OPPOSITE: A mudroom entry corrals all the gear that comes with lake-side life. Acid-stained concrete floors have embedded radiant heating to keep the cabin toasty during Minnesota winters.





If you're like most cabin owners, you feel pretty passionate about your cabin. And you know that somehow through the design, construction and décor, both inside and out, your cabin conveys your particular identity. Cindy and Tim Bray, of St. Paul, have always been passionate about their cabin near Crosslake, Minn. But it was the rebuild that put them over the moon with their retreat.

Cindy's father bought the original cabin in 1978. Cindy made an abundance of memories there, both as a child and as an adult with her husband, Tim, and their three children. However, at only 800 square feet, the cabin didn't offer enough space for extended visits with family or friends.

So in 2008, the Brays took on the building of a new cabin, using the services of Lands End Development, a custom home builder located in Crosslake. From June's teardown to final construction detail on December 1 of that year, Cindy stayed in the cabin's bunkhouse to help facilitate the building process. Having Cindy on site allowed the contractors to get immediate answers to questions only a homeowner could answer.

"While we often do the design and build of homes with limited involvement from the homeowners, it is frequently the projects that have heavy homeowner involvement that are the most fun for us as a company," says Matt Balmer, co-owner of Lands End Development. "These homes always represent the homeowner and how

they live, which is so important for lake retreats. As an added bonus, it usually provides great pride and satisfaction as well."

While Cindy was glad to be involved in the construction process, it was a little rough for her with only an outdoor shower for six months. It got really cold in the fall, especially when the contractors came very early in the morning and didn't leave until well after dark; sometimes even working by truck headlights. "It was, at times, a dark and cold experience," Cindy recalls.

New and improved

The design of the new cabin mixes mountain and lake home styles. "Our daughter, Erin, lives in Colorado," Cindy says. "A lot of what we like in design attributes comes



The hand-hewn pine dining bar and the refurbished redwood on the cabinets and refrigerator speak to the northwoods flavor of this cabin. The redwood was salvaged from the Brays' previous home.



from visiting her.”

Lands End worked hard at getting the exact look and feel the Brays wanted. “Tim and Cindy came to us with lots of ideas,” Balmer recalls. “It was our job to take these ideas and combine them with a floor plan that worked on the property, and for the Brays’ lifestyle.”

“They were good collaborators,” Tim says. “We stretched them with a few things, but they kept working on it.”

The result is a three-bedroom, well-crafted retreat with unique features that blend metal, wood, stone and glass. “It works well for two people but has options to hold guests,” Cindy explains.

A fireplace fabricated from steel is one of the main focal points that boasts a design twist: A flat screen TV hides behind doors above the mantel. “We got the idea for the fireplace from the REI store,” Tim says. The metal, especially the angle iron, is taking on a weathered rusty look that Cindy loves. “I’d like more of that to happen,” she says.

Large windows that flood the open space with light grace each side of the fireplace. But it’s the sliding ladders that access the high roof-peak windows that add charm. “We love the breezes that come when those windows are open,” Cindy says. “We are window fanatics. We kept asking Lands End to put more in.”

While the fireplace gives off ample heat, the acid-stained concrete floors are also heated to provide warmth throughout.

Sweating the details

It wouldn’t be a northwoods cabin without the use of wood, and there is plenty of it in the Brays’ home. Most of the wood features are pine; ceilings and large overhead beams, trim work and the hand-hewn fireplace mantel and eating bar. It’s the woodwork that makes Cindy and Tim proud, having put their own sweat equity into a majority of it by trimming and staining it themselves. “The worst was the floor trim,” Tim recalls. “We were up and down, up and down. Then we got smart, and one person would do the cutting while the other would stay on the floor and scoot around.”

To curb costs, the Brays also honed

their homebuilding skills through hands-on efforts. “The general contractor gave us homework every weekend,” Cindy says, “for almost six months! But Lands End was so wonderful. They gave us access to their shop in town, and the people there would show us how to use the machinery and equipment.”

With all of the time spent at the cabin during construction, Tim and Cindy became intimately attached to even the smallest details of the design and had a lightbulb moment regarding some old redwood deck boards they had from their house. “We had them salvaged and saved for six or seven years,” Cindy says. “We brought up the idea to Lands End to incorporate them into the build. They suggested using them on the upper cabinets and refrigerator face.” The reclaimed wood became a signature design piece.

Other unique design elements conceived by the Brays include the exterior concrete patterning, (See “Rugged & Refined” on page 72), having a window in a bunk nook, leaving exposed hardware on the sliding barn-style interior doors, and a closet converted into a crib/toddler bed in the lower-level bedroom. “We had the closet wall pushed back, a built-in set of drawers for the base under the mattress constructed, and wood rails made to slide into wall slots,” Cindy says. This feature gave the grandkids, Macie and Colin, a special place to sleep and freed up the floor space a crib would have required.

Having been an integral part of design and construction of the cabin gave Cindy a unique love for the place. “We had never built anything before, and we feel terribly lucky to have had a part in building this,” she says. “The experience of creating this place was a once-in-a-lifetime thing for us. For me, this is our home, and our place in St. Paul is where we live when we can’t be at the lake.”

At home on the lake

While the cabin interior is inviting, the family spends a great deal of time outdoors. When son Sean, son and daughter-in-law Kevin and Laura and their two children visit, touring the chain of 14 interconnected lakes via pontoon boat, even



HOW TO GET THIS LOOK

What's old can be new again

SINCE THE 1990S, upcycling, or reusing something to give it more value, has gained popularity. Cindy and Tim Bray might be considered upcycling masters combining their creative reuse of items along with a fun and quirky design sense.

One eye-catching example of re-use is the large Candyland sign hanging on the Brays' wall. "I saw it in a store in Minneapolis," Cindy says of its origins. "I didn't buy it immediately but later called to see if it was still available. It sums up the feeling of this place." To restore the sign, she painted it a bright candy red.

Jeanna Landon was a Lands End Development interior designer assigned to the Brays' project. She says the Brays' place is "one of a kind, and it is that way because of the casual way the Brays went about it. They were not concerned with trends and what others would think or like. They just had fun creating their own space with the fun things they liked. Nothing was out of the question."

Landon advises others that the best designs and spaces are unpredictable. "Don't be afraid to stand out and be bold."

One of the Brays' bold touches hangs above the Candyland moniker: a whimsical giant metal fish that was once a sign from a metal sculptor's business. The fish wasn't for sale, but Cindy's charm and tenacity paid off. "I kept passing this place on my way to and from the cabin and saw the fish. The sculptor told me it wasn't one of the pieces he was

selling, but I negotiated and bought it."

Taking the old shutters from their previous cabin and painting them a variety of colors, the Brays gained more unique wall art to hang inside and outside their cabin.

"Definitely reuse old things," Landon says. "Just because you have a new space doesn't mean you need to fill it with new things." The Brays repurposed and reused the majority of items found in their cabin.

In a corner of the main room sits the bow half of the Brays' old rowboat. Upcycled with some shelving and paint, it's now the media storage cabinet. It also lovingly displays the firefighting helmet of Tim's father from his days as a St. Paul firefighter.

The helmet illustrates Landon's advice: "Don't just buy items to fill spaces," she says. "Create space to hold pieces you love."

The rowboat's other half was not just tossed out. Repurposed, too, it can be found in the lower level of the cabin holding blankets.

While the Brays' cabin shows their unique style, it does follow one tradition: After all, a Northwoods cabin isn't complete without a mounted deer head. However, it's Tim's hunting technique that gets the smiles when he points out the deer over the fireplace. "I bagged that one at a garage sale about a mile down the road."

Overall, when decorating a space, Landon advises, "Have fun, don't over-think it. There are no rules in design or for what you can use to create your space."





ABOVE: Wallpaper with a forest feel and textured baskets below the vanity top create a woodsy feel in the bathroom.

LEFT: The sturdy ladder to the right leads to another sleeping space that's perfect for children with sleeping bags. While bunk nooks are something that Lands End Development has designed and constructed before, they hadn't done one with a window until the Brays requested one for their cabin.

in the rain, is a top pick for things to do. They also enjoy riding Sea-Doos, swimming, taking walks, biking and paddle boarding. The winter finds them cross-country skiing, ice skating or snowshoeing. They use the outdoor fireplace on the patio all year round.

"I'd have to say that's my favorite feature," Tim says of the patio fireplace. "We use it all the time, sitting out in the winter and watching the grandkids play in the snow or just enjoying the fire on rainy days."

Ventures into the town of Crosslake take them to the ice cream shop, the Corps of Engineers park or the pizza place. The St. Patrick's Day parade is "a must do," as the classic small town event is unbelievable, according to Tim. "We were dumbfounded at the amount of people who come." And when all the kids are at the cabin on Memorial Day, a cooking contest tops the list of activities, as they each try to best daughter Erin, who is a professional chef. So far, they have attempted variations of burgers, tacos and ribs.

The Brays spend as much time as possible at their retreat, coming at least once a month in the winter and most every weekend the rest of the year. It's a piece of their identity, and they are passionate about it. "We hope that anyone who walks in the door feels the warmth and comfort that we feel every time we come back," Cindy says.

Gina Chiodi Gensing was honored to tour this cabin firsthand to admire its wonderful design. She recommends the ice cream shop.

rugged & refined

THROUGH DILIGENTLY culling inspirational photos, the Brays became confident in what they wanted for their cabin's design attributes.

One compelling photo they found featured a unique cement exterior chimney. However, other than that photo, there was nothing to tap for insight on the design and construction.

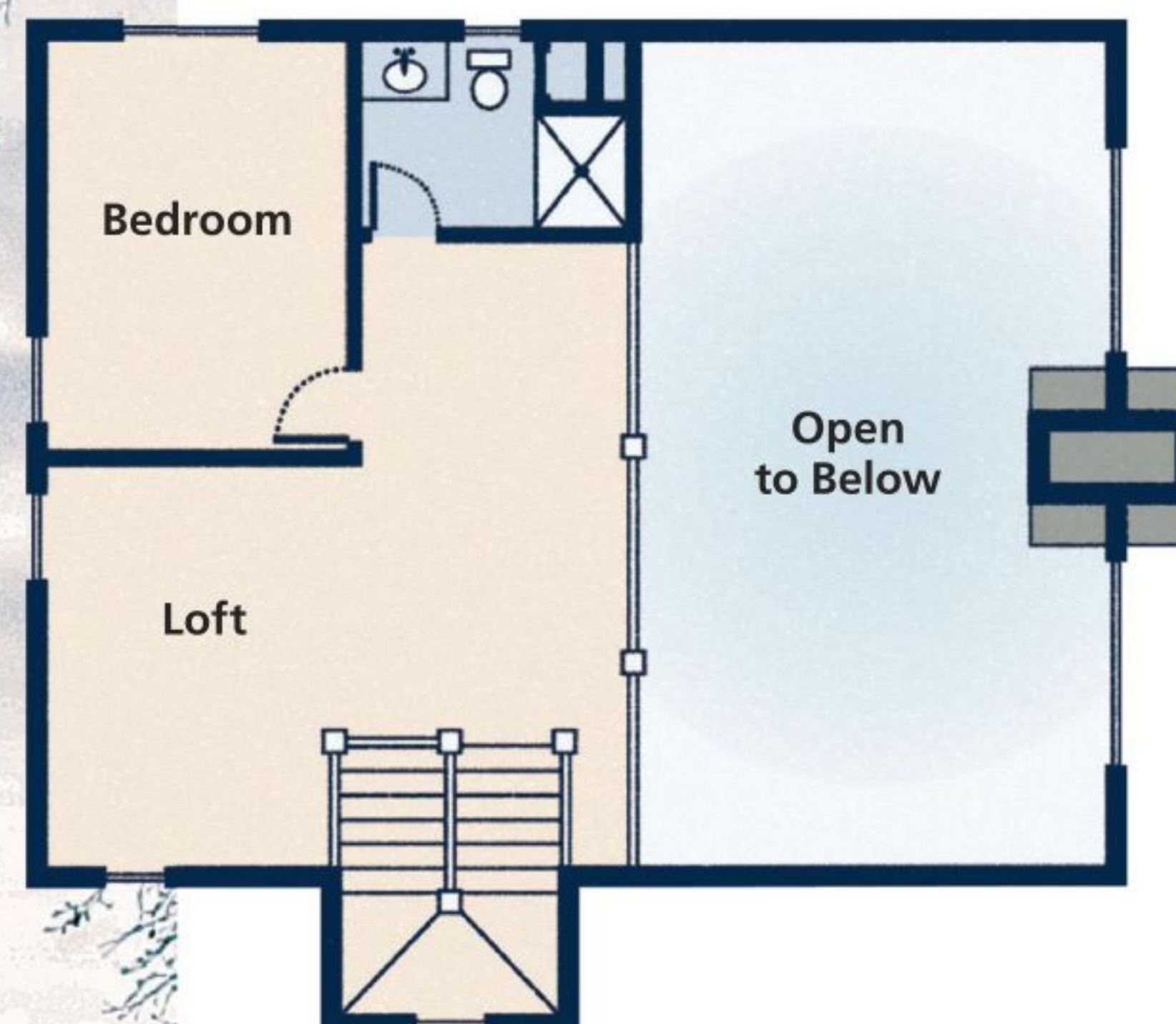
"We tried to research it and really couldn't find any type of architectural information on it," says Jeff Balmer, architectural designer and co-owner of Lands End Development. So Lands End developed the process, naming the treatment "cement batter board siding."

"The trick for us, and the mason, was doing it in a way that looked rough and unfinished and rugged ... but not too much so," Balmer says. "In the end it was trial and error, and we finally arrived at a look that we all liked. We hadn't done it before, nor have we done it since, but it's one of the features that makes this cabin so unique." **CL**

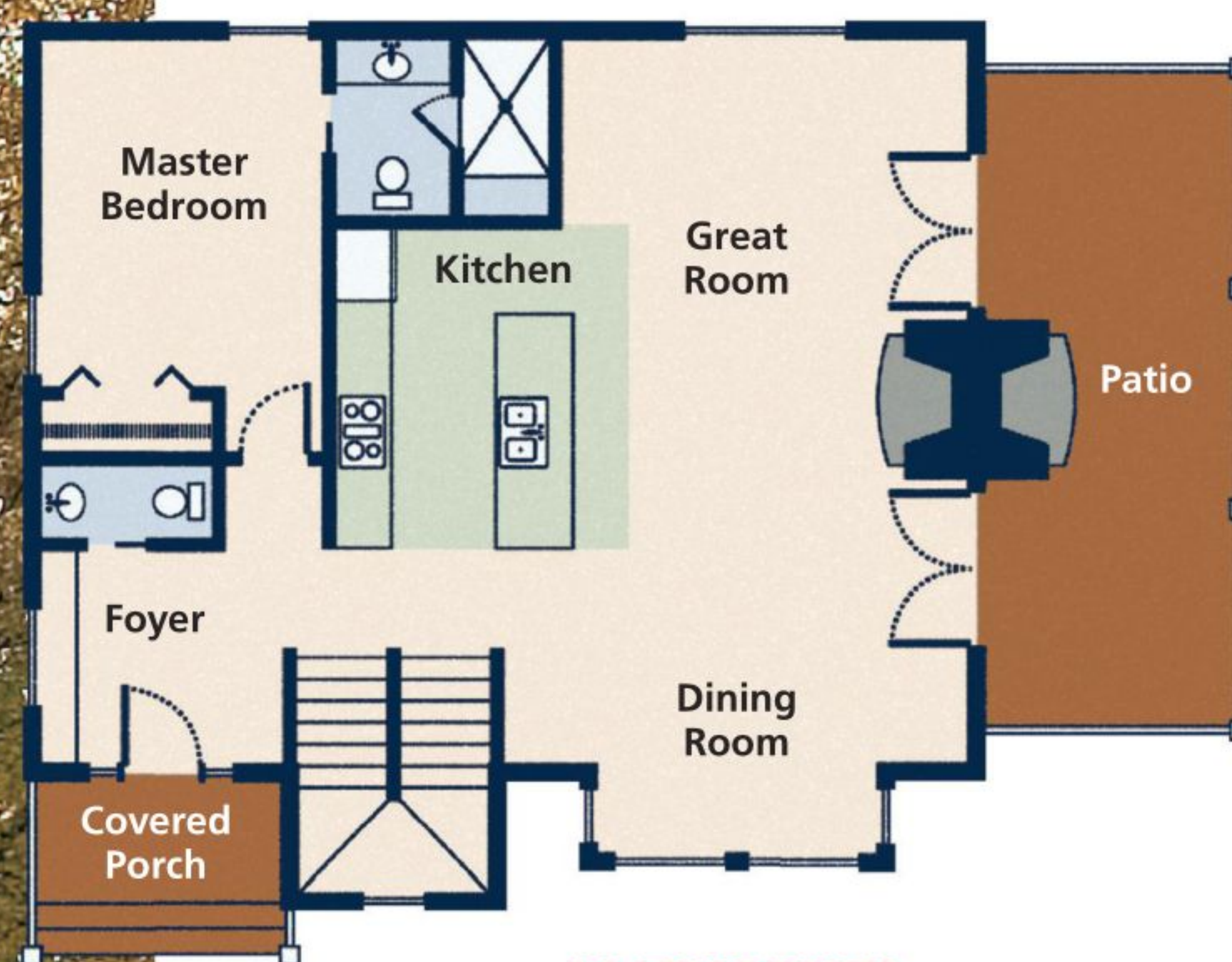




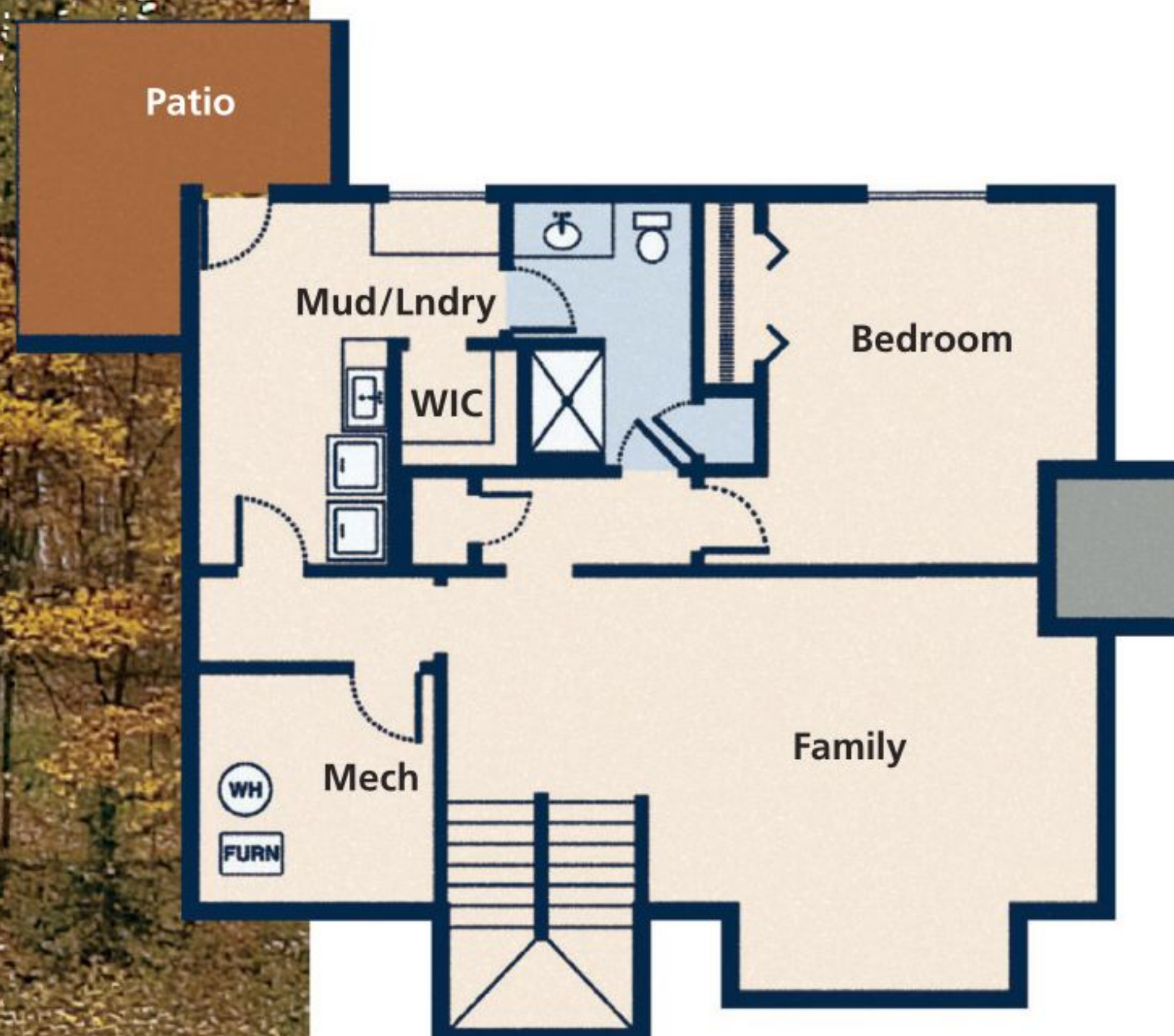
Built: 2008
Location:
Crosslake, Minn.
Square feet: 2,800
Bedrooms:
3 (plus loft)
Baths: 2.5



UPPER LEVEL



MAIN LEVEL



LOWER LEVEL



design ideas

POWDER KEG. Even the smallest of bathrooms can pack a big punch when homeowners allow a bit of whimsy into their décor. Everyone loves the copper bowl and tall oil-rubbed bronze faucet perched on the reclaimed wine barrel vanity in this powder room. The mirror's studded metal frame echoes the salvaged industrial look.

Design/builder: Roughing It In Style, roughingitinstyle.com

Bathrooms with Rustic Style

Add rugged beauty with barn wood, stone, metal & more.

BY CAROL M. JOHNSON

Feast your eyes on this collection of cabin bathrooms with rustic style. When considering a new or remodeled cabin bathroom, you'll discover many options are

available today to give your space a fabulous look. You could opt for a design based on a favorite pastime, like sailing or canoeing, or a specific area of the country, like the mountains or the woods. You

could focus on using reclaimed materials or on bringing the great outdoors inside. Get your creative juices flowing and let your new rustic bathroom complement the overall design of your cabin.



TIMBERS GALORE. The fabulous hand-scribed rustic timber framing detail around the shower and dry-stacked stone walls of this bathroom have a one-of-a-kind, updated rustic look. The warmth from the cozy fireplace is a welcomed addition on winter mornings or after a day on the ski slopes. Antique slate floor tiles in a variety of shapes blend well with the stone and timber. An antiqued copper vessel sink, wall-mounted faucets and a chiseled-edge countertop finish the rustic appearance.

Design/builder: High Camp Home, highcamphome.com

FOR THE LOVE OF A TUB. The luxurious tub in this bathroom takes center stage with a face tiled in dry-stacked stone in the warm colors of nature. Dark gray soapstone countertops balance the lighter reclaimed heart pine used in the vanity cabinet, floor and window trim. Lighting and plumbing fixtures in oiled-rubbed bronze add a soft sheen.

Architect: Tony Martin Inc., tonymartininc.com

Millwork: Woodco Millwork Ltd, woodco-online.com



Design/builder: High Camp Home, highcamphome.com



RUSTIC BATH AND SHOWER. A pair of picturesque windows placed over a large tub showcases the beauty of nature just outside. A skirt made of reclaimed wood surrounds the tub. The multicolored slate flagstone floor has the rustic appearance of a well-loved outdoor patio. The chiseled-edge travertine countertop speaks to the rustic theme, as do the hammered-copper sinks and iron-style faucets. The shower wall tile becomes a neutral component with 4-by-8-inch travertine tiles and natural color accent tile.

WOOD AND TIN.

A petrified-wood vessel sink is the star of the bathroom in this hand-scribed log cabin. Above the vanity, barn wood siding adds a bit of texture and contrasts with the smooth log walls. Random copper-and-rust-colored slate flooring grounds the design and matches the slate tile in the shower. The iron detail on the mirror and light fixture bring a dark design element to the room's rustic character. Corrugated tin sheets cover the ceiling and the branch-style robe hooks enliven the rustic theme.



Design/builder:
Lake Country Builders,
lakecountrybuilders.com



A STEP UP. Dark stained barn wood brings a dramatic flair to this bathroom. The one-piece sink and counter-top in a smooth copper color blends well with the reclaimed wood. Three outdoor barn lights in oil-rubbed bronze finish off the rustic vibe. A special surprise for the youngest ones in the family is a pullout step up for easy access to the faucet and sink.

Design/builder:
Roughing
It In Style, roughingitinstyle.com



MODERN MASTER.

Rustic meets industrial modern with a herringbone-tiled floor and a reclaimed-board wainscot wall detail. The painted gray vanity and contemporary lights in an antique bronze finish continue the clean-lined theme. Exposed beams with a dark stain punctuate the wood planks lining the ceiling. The faucets give a nod to steam punk style with the vintage look of turn handles. Mirrors mounted with leather straps are an eye-catching and unexpected detail.



Design/builder:
Artistic Designs for
Living, adlsf.com

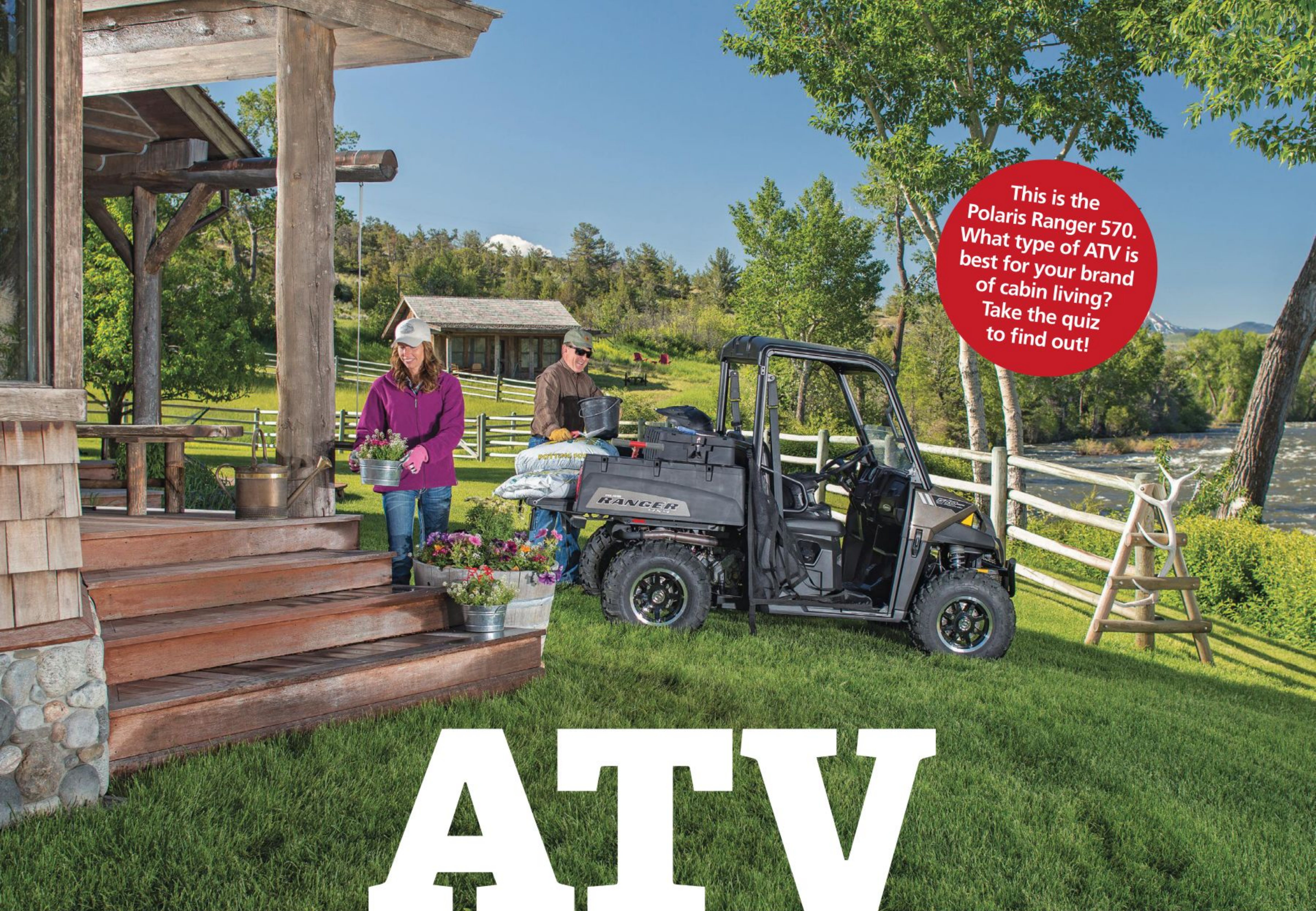


TEXTURED FUN.

A rough bark-framed mirror made from drifter teakwood and a hand-crafted reclaimed barn-wood vanity make a rugged, yet refined, statement in this rustic bathroom. The designer used a similar barn wood for shelving that takes full advantage of the short knee wall under the sloped ceiling. The muted shades of the twisted olefin rug add cozy warmth to the room. **CL**

Design/builder:
Roughing It In
Style, roughing
itinstyle.com

Carol Johnson, bathroom and kitchen designer at AB&K in southeastern Wisconsin, loves designing cabin, lake home and cottage kitchens and bathrooms. Although, even better than that is enjoying a relaxing paddle, SUP tour or a refreshing swim in her favorite cabin-country lake.



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ATV MATCHMAKER QUIZ

Match your personality with the right ride **BY MARK BONCHER**

Is your neighbor always playing Jimmy Buffet way too loud? Or maybe you're the type who thinks he should turn it up and get a live band!

How you enjoy your time at the cabin is up to you. Some people like to put the pedal to the metal all day, while some would rather relax and plant a new garden bed. So, we've come up with a little quiz – a few questions to match you up with the best type of ATV or UTV for your cabin personality.



What is your idea of a relaxing afternoon?

- A) Being towed off a waterski-jump. (1)
- B) Grooming your yard. (2)
- C) Roaming the woods looking for wild mushrooms. (3)
- D) Scouting out a secluded pond for a possible new fishing hole. (4)
- E) Meeting the neighbors because I'm a new cabin owner. (5)

What's in your tool shed?

- A) Old pieces of performance accessories for motorsports. (1)
- B) Landscaping tools and lumber for building cool stuff. (2)
- C) Gear and photos of sentimental places and things I've experienced. (3)
- D) Mounted fish that my spouse won't let me hang in the cabin, and all of my family's deer-camp necessities. (4)
- E) Just the essential tools and an old fridge for beer. (5)

Your family and friends mostly ...

- A) Will race anything from paddle boats to shopping carts. (1)
- B) Can build a three-bedroom tree house out of a little firewood. (2)
- C) Rival Louis and Clark in our exploring escapades. (3)
- D) Have caught pike bigger than you are. (4)
- E) Just bought the cabins they always dreamed of. (5)



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(01) Natural Base

(02) Light Gold

(03) Medium Gold

(04) Medium Reddish Brown

(05) Dark Brown

(06) Barn Gray



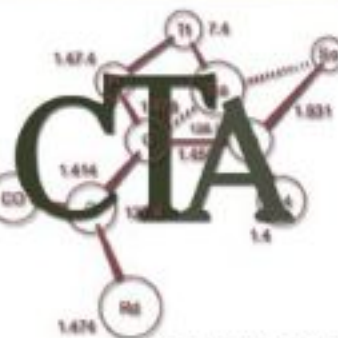
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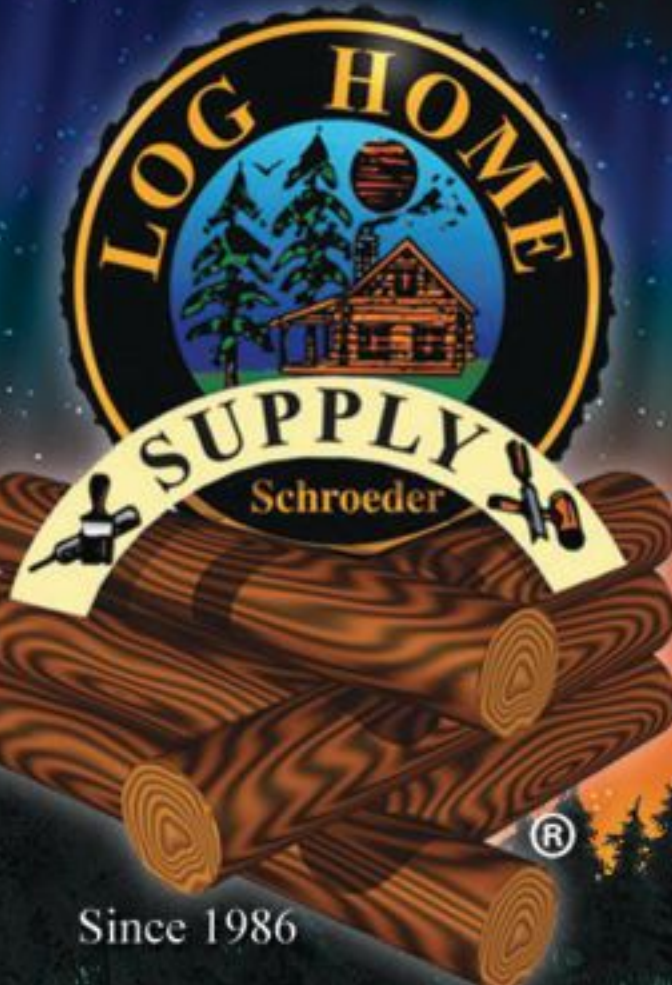
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The most important thing you do every weekend at the cabin is ...

- A) Throttle therapy! (1)
- B) Get my list of projects done. (2)
- C) Find or make a new trail. (3)
- D) Take down "the big one" that keeps eluding me. (4)
- E) Get my clothes put away and figure out where everyone is going to sleep. (5)

What, if any, powersports do you participate in?

- A) Motocross and hard-core mountain biking. (1)
- B) Not sure if using a jackhammer and skill saw are powersports ... are they? (2)
- C) We have a pontoon boat and love it. (3)
- D) I use powersports to get to my fishing hole and to my hunting blind, and that's it. (4)
- E) Used to when I was a kid, but haven't had the space to ... until now. (5)

How big is your cabin property, or surrounding accessible property?

- A) Lots of room for building any trails I want. (1)
- B) Good size, but it's not unmanageable. (2)
- C) We have lots of acreage and access to state land that is open for recreation. (3)
- D) I have my own hunting and outdoors land and have permission to use others'. (4)
- E) Not exactly sure, I have to cut down all the brambles and thickets first. (5)

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What are your close neighbors and friends like?

- A) Evel Knievel's family lives next door. (1)
- B) If you can think of building it, my family, friends and I can do it. (2)
- C) Chill, we are all just very chill. (3)
- D) I don't know, all my friends are constantly in camouflage so I hardly ever see them. (4)
- E) Just starting out, young families, lots of crying babies, but it's never dull. (5)

Describe yourself in just one word or phrase?

- A) Top gear (1)
- B) Remodeler (2)
- C) Explorer (3)
- D) Thrill of the chase (4)
- E) Climbing the ladder (5)

At your cabin, who "wears the pants?"

- A) Whoever is the craziest. (1)
- B) The person doing the work. (2)
- C) Nobody, we prefer shorts or swimsuits and we make use of whatever the day brings. (3)
- D) Mostly the fish, and they are finicky. (4)
- E) Our accountant. (5)

Where do you go for solitude?

- A) Our little dirt track. (1)
- B) My tool shed or garage. (2)
- C) The middle of nowhere in the woods. (3)
- D) My fish house. (4)
- E) Hopefully the bathroom, if it is working. (5)

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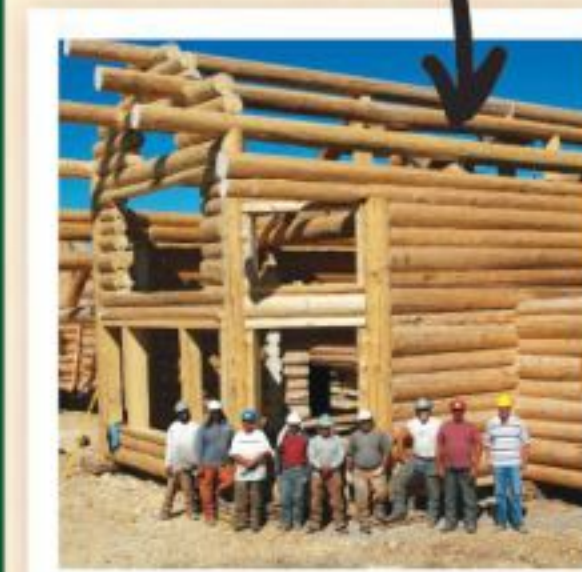


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5's

SCORING

Count how many number 1's you have, how many number 2's you have, how many number 3's, and so on. If the majority of your answers are 1's, you are probably a High Octane person. See the rest of the corresponding numbers and personalities below.

1's High octanes.

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2's Make it nicer.

Project time – landscaping, snow removal and home improvement – is the name of the your cabin game. A utility ATV or UTV should fit you.

3's Sightseers.

Exploring the outdoors with your significant other or family is a favorite activity, so a touring ATV or UTV would be best for your big property or trail riding.

4's The buck/bassmasters.

The fish and whitetails should be scared, my friend. Choose a hunting/fishing ATV or UTV.

5's Just took the plunge.

After buying your first cabin, you don't need to go overboard with the Ferrari of ATVs yet: Look for an entry-level, low-power ATV or UTV. **CL**

Mark Boncher, the editor of American Snowmobiler magazine (amsnow.com), likes to go-go-go!



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The colors of autumn are a magical thing at the cabin, as are the fun fall activities. The best days include diving into golden leaves, roasting marshmallows over hot-orange coals and watching a blazing-red sunset over the lake.

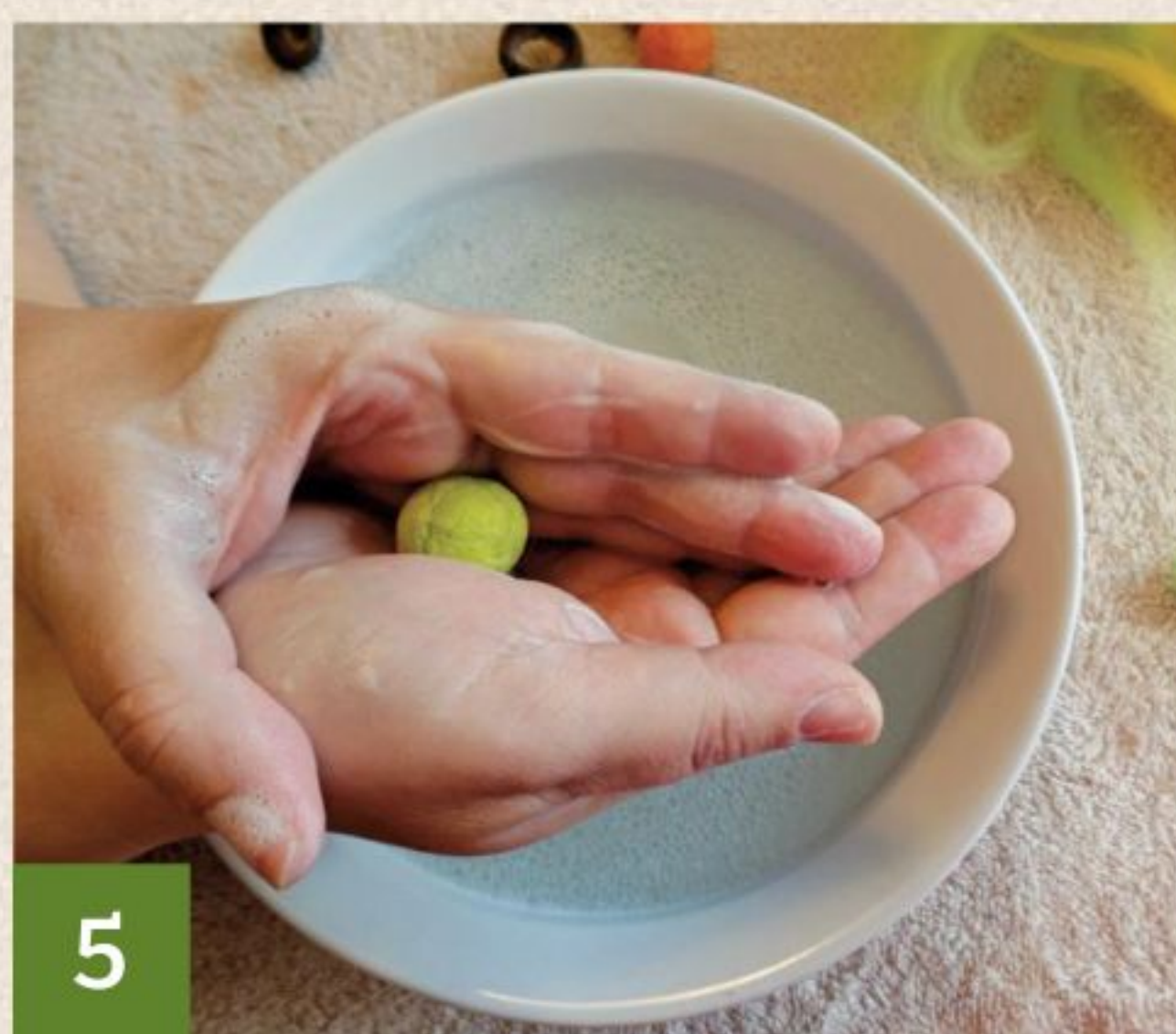
These little felted acorns are our family's homage to the season and a way to keep the color palette of fall memories around forever.



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STORY BY TANYA BÄCK / PHOTOS BY LILY BÄCK



MATERIALS:

- Wool roving: This is a bunch of long wool fibers that have been cleaned, combed and twisted into a fluffy bundle. (Roving is used to spin yarn.) You can purchase small quantities of roving at a fiber/yarn store or through many online resources. Wool roving comes in a variety of colors, from beautiful pastels to rich, vibrant jewel tones, as well as natural palettes.
- 1 large bowl of hot, soapy water (4 cups hot water, 1 tsp. liquid soap)
- 1 large bowl of cold water (or a running tap of cold water)
- Towel
- Acorn caps (Prepare by washing the caps and letting them air dry. If you plan on attaching strings or wire to the acorns, drill a small 1/8-inch hole in the top of each acorn cap.)
- White glue or a hot glue gun and glue
- String, thin wire, ribbon or twine (optional)

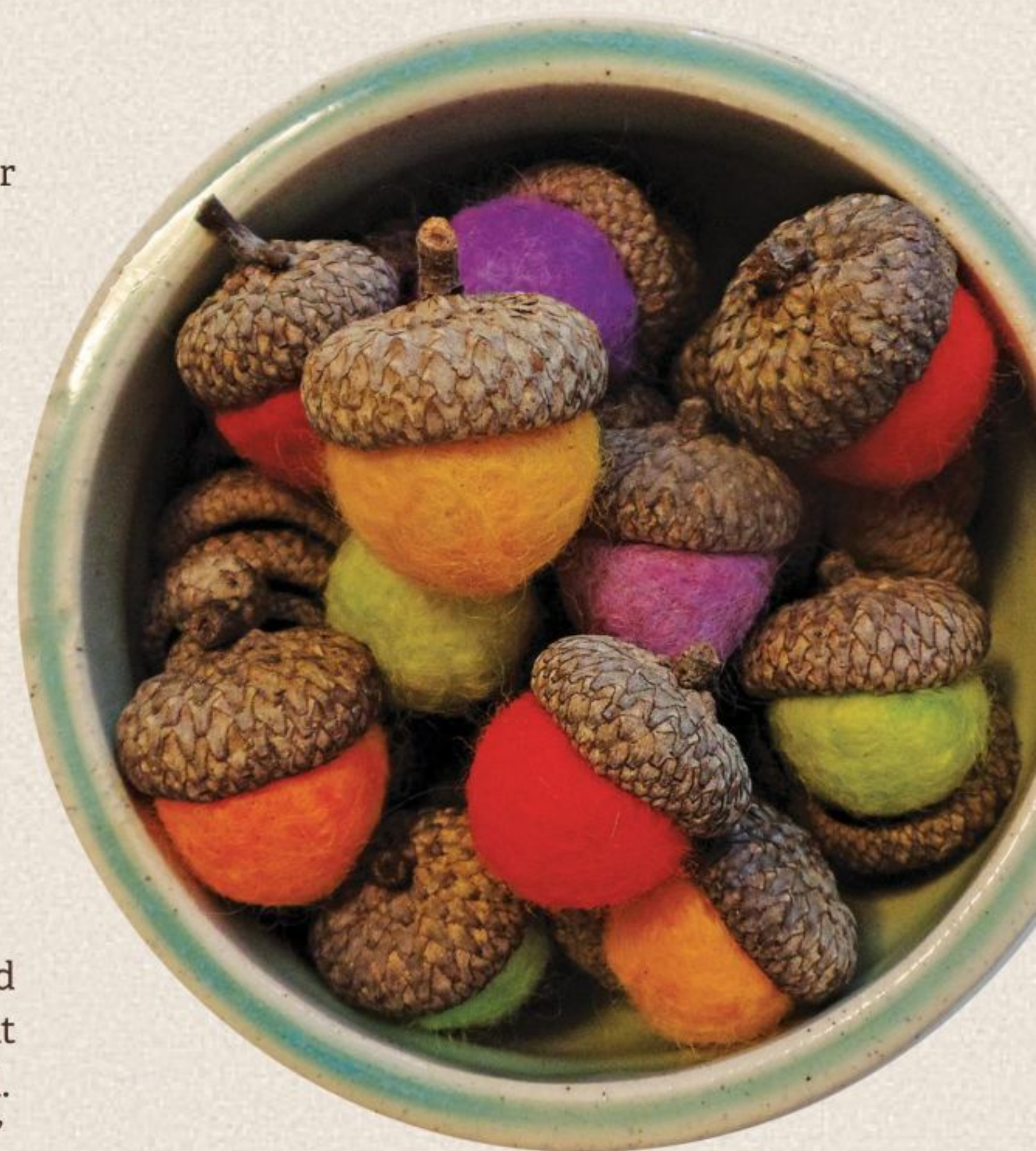
DIRECTIONS:

1. Pull a section of roving from the twisted bunch. Don't cut the roving with scissors or you'll end up with a lot of stray, small fibers. Pulling allows for continuous long strands. Gather them all together in a fluffy row.
2. Roll and push the section of roving into a loose ball; the ball should be about

twice the size of your desired final acorn, in order to fit your acorn tops.

3. Dip the ball into the hot, soapy water. Gently begin to roll the ball between your palms. Your hands will get very soapy, and that's good: The soap helps activate the wool so it will bind together and the strands will adhere to each other. If your hands get too slippery, wipe one off on the towel and continue.
4. As you continue to roll, you'll feel the ball of wool begin to take shape and become denser. You'll want to look at it, but don't take your hands apart! Keep rolling.
5. As the ball forms, roll it with a little more pressure and faster. When it feels firm, compact and dense – like it won't fall apart – you can take a look and run a small amount of cold water over the ball to remove the soap. You can continue to roll until you're satisfied with the density and firmness. Rolling it longer creates a smaller and denser ball. It should be hard, but with a little "give." It should take about three to five minutes to roll it to the desired hardness.
6. At this point, if you see a small crack in the felt, take a very fine amount of roving and roll it around the ball to cover the crack. Roll again between your palms (using more hot soapy water if necessary) until it feels like the roving is firmly stuck to the rest of the form.

The cracks should be invisible now. Rinse with cold water if needed to remove any soap.



7. Let dry overnight or set in the sun for one to three hours. When dry, match the acorn caps to the balls. Squeeze glue into the inside of the cap and gently push the felted form into the cap. If you're using a string or wire for hanging, add these prior to gluing the balls into the caps. **CL**

close encounters of the cabin kind



How to coexist with wildlife on & around your property BY FRAN SIGURDSSON

How are the natives in your neck of the woods? Stand-offish, you say? Perfect! Resist the urge to make friends. Any pesky ones who drop by uninvited? Take it from poet Robert Frost: “Good fences make good neighbors.”

Frost was right. And in case you hadn’t guessed, we’re talking about furred and feathered neighbors here. Now, don’t get us wrong: One of the great joys of cabin living is observing critters on the hoof or wing. Who hasn’t thrilled at the sight of a hawk soaring overhead? And watching deer graze in the meadow as you sip your

morning coffee makes you feel one with nature.

But when the varmints munch on your prize hostas? Or a raptor suddenly swoops down and flies off with the family pet? Not so much.

Over the years, we’ve heard many a wildlife war story. Whether the conflict involves bison crashing gates, bats invading attics or bears tearing into bird feeders depends on geographic location. Getting along with the natives in cabin country can be a challenge, but there are ways to co-exist. Here are some tips for how to live and let live.

Who the wild things are

The first step toward détente is knowing who you’re dealing with. Can you identify the animals that share your property? Even the elusive or nocturnal ones you’re not likely to see? Ditto for the tracks and scat they leave? Understanding a species’ habits – when it’s active, what it eats, when it breeds, what it sees as shelter – can help you ward off unwanted cabin guests. A guide to wildlife belongs in every cabin. One good one is *Wild Neighbors: the Humane Approach to Living with Wildlife*, published by the Humane Society of the United States.



WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

If you have questions or concerns about wildlife neighbors, you can contact:

- Your local cooperative extension service or animal shelter. These agencies should be able to help or direct you to someone who can.
- Organizations like the National Wildlife Foundation nwf.org and Defenders of Wildlife defenders.org.
- If you need to rid your cabin of squatters, contract a licensed wildlife control operator. They use nonlethal methods like excluder devices.
- Lastly, if you come across an injured animal on your property, contact a wildlife rehabilitator.

Keeping a safe distance

No matter how cuddly a critter appears, never attempt to touch it. Wildlife is unpredictable. Most species are afraid of humans, and will avoid you if possible. But if an animal is startled or feels threatened, it may fight tooth and claw to defend itself.

Shouldn't you rescue that baby bird, though, that fell out of the nest? Actually, according to the Audubon Society, many young birds spend up to five days on the ground before they can fly. Most likely, mamma and papa are close by and feeding it. The same goes for the

"orphaned" fawn you nearly stumbled over in the woods. You can observe young animals from a distance, but it's best to leave them alone.

Feeding animals

Many cabin owners have learned the hard ways that birdseed is not just for the birds. Bird feeders in cabin country are like buffets for wildlife. Besides squirrels, they attract mice that eat fallen seed, along with predators like owls and fox who eat mice.

And then there are moochers like raccoons, deer and even bears. We don't

need to remind you not to leave bowls of pet food outside, right? And of course, you wouldn't leave garbage where skunks can get into it. Metal bins with lids that securely fasten foil marauders. If your cabin is an area with trash service, put the bins out just before garbage is collected, not the night before. Disinfect bins regularly and deodorize garbage with baking soda. When you head back home from a vacation cabin, take food-stuffs with you to discourage break-ins. (See sidebar, "Be Smarter Than the Average Bear" on page 88).

Text continues on page 91.

BE SMARTER THAN THE AVERAGE BEAR

According to the organization Defenders of Wildlife, there are an estimated 300,000 black bears in the U.S., in at least 40 states (defenders.org/black-bear/basic-facts). The Great Smoky Mountains along the Tennessee-North Carolina border are home to one of the densest populations of black bear in the east. Justin McVey, a wildlife biologist with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, spends a lot of time educating mountain home owners about their neighbors. Last year, McVey fielded 600 complaint calls about bears getting into trash cans and bird feeders. "Coexisting with bears is pretty simple," he states. "Never feed bears, whether directly or indirectly. If you have trash cans, make sure they're bear-proof or put away. It's a community-wide effort." And don't ask McVey to relocate a nuisance bear. With that volume of calls, he doesn't have the time. Even if he did move one, another would replace it.

"If you buy a home in bear country, it doesn't have to be dangerous as long as you respect them as wild animals," McVey adds. "The cool thing about wildlife is they keep to themselves."

The number of grizzly bears is much lower than black bears, with fewer than 2,000 living in the lower 48 – mostly in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. (That figure is twice what the population was in 1975 when the grizzly was declared a threatened species.) Habitat destruction, cars and illegal hunting are the grizzly's biggest threats.

Need to bear-proof the cabin? Here are eight tips from the Department of Fish and Game in Alaska, where a sizeable black bear and grizzly population (an estimated 100,000 black bear and 30,000 grizzly) can create headaches for cabin owners.

Bears have an incredible sense of smell and will eat almost anything. In addition to garbage, bears love

hummingbird nectar, birdseed and suet. If you still want to feed birds at your place, take feeders in at night or hang from a pulley at least 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet from the pole. Consider feeding birds only in winter when bears hibernate.

Caution: Bears are light sleepers, so be mindful if you're out snowshoeing or skiing.

Protect fruit trees, gardens and compost piles with electric fencing. It will shock, but not injure bears.

Clean the grease off the grill right after use so Yogi won't spoil the pic-a-nic.

If possible, have doors open out, not in. Keep windows and doors closed in spring and fall when bears roam in search of food. Before you head home from a seasonal cabin, shutter windows with $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood panels that fit flush to exteriors. Bears can pop off nails, so use threaded hanger bolt screws.



These devices discourage bears, as well as deer and small bandits:

- An infrared motion-detector sprinkler powered by your garden hose
- Motion-sensor lighting, which will startle four- as well as two- legged intruders
- Motion-activated alarms that mimic a barking dog scare off marauders. The radar-activated kind can "see" through fences and solid objects. Of course, if you have close neighbors, this might not endear you to them.

MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

As wildlife habitat becomes more scarce, some cabin owners are getting involved in conservation efforts like establishing wildlife corridors or buying into conservation developments.

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Like owners of cabin-retreats, many wild animals are part-time residents in certain areas. Some may camp out on the property on a seasonal basis. Others just pass through. Wildlife roams in search of food, warm weather or a mate. Large animals like moose, elk and bears, along with predators like wolves and lynx, can range for hundreds of miles, even thousands in the case of cougars. As development fragments habitat, conservation groups like the Wildlands Network strive to create wildlife corridors (also known as conservation easements, greenways and wildways) connecting protected places like parks and nature preserves.

In a forever-wild easement, a property owner gives up the rights to build, create roads, subdivide, farm, cut timber, etc.

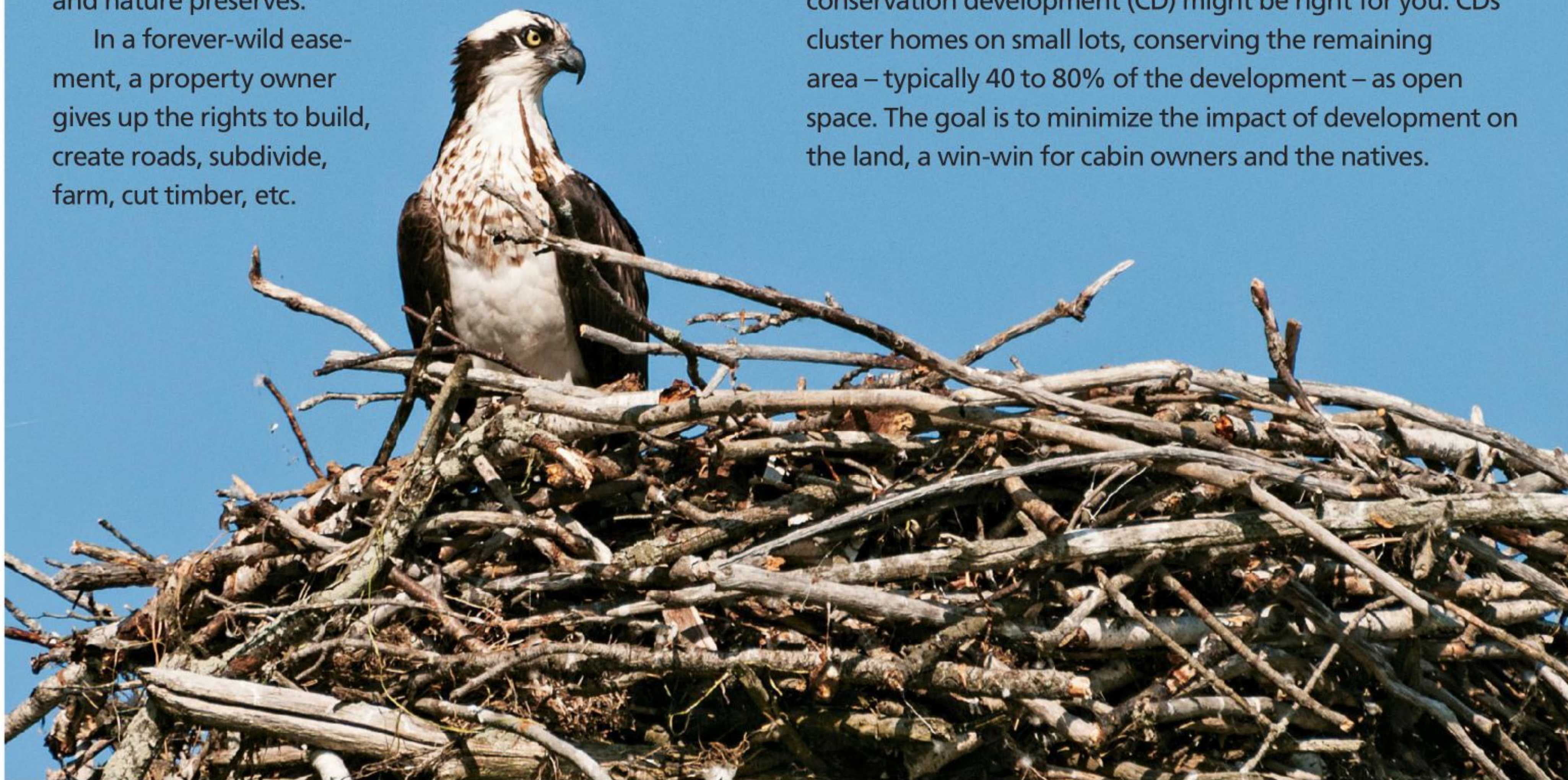
But the landowner usually retains the right to use the property for non-motorized recreation.

John Davis, co-founder of Wildlands, walks the walk. He placed a forever-wild conservation easement held by the Northeast Wilderness Trust on a big chunk of his 125-acre property. It now forms part of the Split Rock Wildway linking Split Rock Wild Forest along Lake Champlain to blocks of public land in the high peaks of New York's Adirondack Park. "I encourage landowners to do the same," says Davis, who co-exists peacefully with black bear, moose, fisher, river otter, osprey, bobcats and coyotes. (The only critters that give him grief are flying squirrels, who try to nest under his cabin's eaves.)

CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENTS

Looking to buy or build in a wildlife-friendly community? A conservation development (CD) might be right for you. CDs cluster homes on small lots, conserving the remaining area – typically 40 to 80% of the development – as open space. The goal is to minimize the impact of development on the land, a win-win for cabin owners and the natives.

All photos from Fotolia.com. Opposite: Juhaksa; this page: Gordo25



Practice pet etiquette

Cats and dogs kill scores of birds and small critters each year. If you do let your cat out during the day, a large bell on his collar can minimize "gifts" left on your welcome mat. Your pets are at risk themselves when outside and unsupervised. Keep pets' rabies shots up to date. If you don't want coyotes or raptors to spirit Fluffy away, keep her in at night. And walk Rover on a leash lest he get chummy with a porcupine.

Batten down the hatches

Prevent wildlife from using your cabin as a crash pad by securing it. Fill in cracks and crevices with a non-toxic spray foam. Bats only need a tiny opening – less than 1 inch! – to take up residence in your attic. Dispose of brush and block crawl spaces under decks that are potential dens; especially if you leave your cabin vacant over the winter. Raccoons will nest in a chimney above the damper, so cap the flue with stainless steel. **CL**

Fran (and Hal) Sigurdsson coexist with wildlife at their Adirondacks lake house.

RESOURCES

For more info on wildlife corridors, visit **wildlandsnetwork.org**

To learn more about safeguarding your property from roads and development, visit **newildernesstrust.org** or contact conservation agencies in your local area.

falling for Fall

*Harvest the great taste
of apples & autumn
vegetables*

BY LISA READIE MAYER

Sure, summer's great and all, but many of us have been secretly longing for fall. We've been craving cabin weekends with a little crispness in the air, an extra blanket at night and the comfort of a cozy wool sweater. It's not that we don't appreciate all those pretty summer flowers, but the rich color palette of autumn leaves is so inspiring it actually makes tackling end-of-the-season cabin maintenance – even taking out the dock – tolerable.

By this time we're also ready to say so long to salads and hello to heartier meals.

Text continues on page 95

*Turn the
page to see our
recipe for Mulled,
Spiced & Spiked
Apple Cider.*

AUTUMN VEGETABLE STEW

Makes 6 to 8 servings

Saffron is the dried, thread-like stigmas found inside crocus flowers. It adds yellow color and very subtle flavor to dishes. If your cabin pantry doesn't stock this pricey spice, leave it out or substitute a pinch or two of turmeric to achieve the same golden color.



1 large onion, peeled and chopped
2 large carrots, peeled and chopped
2 celery stalks, cut into ½-inch slices
3 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
1½ tablespoons sweet paprika
2 teaspoons ground cumin
1 tablespoon ground coriander
2 one-inch pieces of cinnamon stick
8 cups vegetable stock or low-sodium vegetable broth
1 medium butternut squash (about 1 pound),
peeled, halved, seeded and cut into ¾-inch pieces
1 turnip, peeled and cut into ½-inch pieces
1 russet potato, peeled and cut into ½-inch pieces
1 can (15 ounces) crushed tomatoes
1 can (15 ounces) chickpeas, drained and rinsed
2 large pinches saffron, soaked for 15 minutes
in ¼-cup warm water
2 tablespoons finely chopped mint
Salt and pepper to taste
½ cup finely chopped cilantro

- Sauté onions, carrots and celery in a large pot for 10 minutes over medium-low heat, adding water, one to two tablespoons at a time, to keep vegetables from sticking to the bottom of the pot.
- Add garlic, ginger, paprika, cumin, coriander and cinnamon sticks and cook for 3 minutes.
- Add vegetable stock, squash, turnip, potato, tomatoes and chickpeas and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat to medium-low and cook uncovered for 25 minutes.
- Add the mint and saffron with its soaking water and season the stew with salt and pepper to taste.
- Cook 10 minutes more or until the vegetables are tender. Garnish with cilantro and serve.

Recipe is reprinted from "Forks Over Knives – The Cookbook," by Del Sroufe, with desserts by Isa Chandra Moskowitz, copyright © Forks Over Knives, LLC, 2012. Reprinted with the permission of The Experiment, LLC. Copies of the book are available for purchase wherever books are sold; many retailers will gladly special-order it for you, should they not have copies on hand when you inquire.

APPLE CIDER GLAZED PORK CHOPS

Makes 4 servings

4 bone-in pork chops, about 1-1/2 pounds total



RUB:

2 tablespoons brown sugar
2 teaspoons chili powder
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper
1 tablespoon olive oil

APPLE CIDER GLAZE:

1½ cups apple cider
¼ cup maple syrup
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
½ teaspoon salt

Prepare your gas or charcoal grill for direct cooking over medium-high heat.

- In a small saucepan, prepare the glaze by combining the apple cider, maple syrup, Dijon mustard, crushed red pepper flakes and salt. Bring to a simmer over low heat.
- While waiting for the glaze to simmer, prepare the pork rub. In a small bowl, combine the brown sugar, chili powder, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Mix thoroughly with a fork. Add the oil to the spice mixture. It will be the consistency of a crumbly paste. Pat the pork chops dry with paper towels, and then cover the chops on all sides with the spice rub.
- Place chops on the preheated grill's clean, oiled cooking grid and thoroughly brush with the apple cider glaze. Grill about 6 minutes, then flip chops and thoroughly brush glaze on the other side. Grill for about 2 more minutes, flip and brush again for another two minutes or until the chops reach an internal temperature of 145 degrees. (It's okay if the pork is a little pink in the center.)

Recipe and photo courtesy delightfulmade.com

fotolia.com/Alena Ozerova



MULLED, SPICED & SPIKED APPLE CIDER

Makes about 15 (8-ounce) servings.

This warm and comforting drink smells as yummy as it tastes. For a family-friendly version, substitute cranberry juice or more cider for the bourbon.

1 gallon apple cider
1½ cups bourbon
1½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
1½ teaspoons ground allspice
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1 teaspoon ground cloves

- Combine all ingredients in the slow cooker and stir well. Cover slow cooker and cook on high for 1½ hours or low for 3 hours. Stir again before serving.

Recipe courtesy of Hamilton Beach, hamiltonbeach.com

The classic flavors of the season – tart-sweet apples, juicy pork, root vegetables and fresh-pressed cider – are spotlighted in these autumn-inspired dishes. They're substantial and nourishing, as much for the spirit as the stomach, and just perfect for fall meals at the cabin.

Autumn Vegetable Stew, loaded with chunks of butternut squash, turnips, car-

rots and potatoes, features the aromatic spices of North African cooking and is so satisfying you won't miss the meat. The Apple Cider Glazed Pork Chops are first rubbed with a spice mixture, then brushed with a sweet-and-tangy glaze during grilling for multiple levels of flavor. The grilled apple accompaniment is an unexpected twist on the classic pork-

and-apple pairing. And, finally, a big batch of Mulled, Spiced & Spiked Apple Cider simmering in the crock pot makes the cabin smell divine.

Besides being warm and comforting, these dishes are super easy to make. That'll leave you plenty of time for those chores, a game of touch football or even a nap. **CL**

CHECKLIST THAT ALL CABIN OWNERS CAN USE TO PREP FOR WINTER

Whether you use your cabin primarily in the summer or as a year-round retreat, it's wise to create a checklist of things to prepare for the bluster of winter. For starters, your list can include things like:

- ☐ Clean the furnace filter.
- ☐ Rake leaves away from the cabin's perimeter to help with fire prevention.
- ☐ Clean out gutters.
- ☐ Store outdoor furniture, hammocks, grills and decorations.
- ☐ Wrap water pipes with heat tape to prevent them from freezing and bursting.
- ☐ Consider leaving your faucet open slightly so that it drips, and prop open the under-sink cabinet door – especially for plumbing on exterior walls.
- ☐ Button up your place to keep out pests by checking for cracks and openings around the dryer vent, windows, doors, chimney, etc. and caulk as needed.
- ☐ Pull window coverings to save energy.

And there's more you can do. In cold climates, to minimize risk of roof leaks in the winter, purchase snow-melting cables, which lay across the roof and emit a low-level current to create melt lines like the ones on rear windshields (see heatline.com/roof.shtml or heatersplus.com/snowmelt.html). Another option is Roofmelt tablets (roofmelt.com) made of calcium chloride.

"We have customers who ask their neighbors to check on their cottages during the winter," says Bob Hams, vice president of sales for Roofmelt. "Those neighbors keep Roofmelt in their garages and toss them up on roofs when ice dams are present."

If you're a cabin owner who plans to pop in for winter weekend retreats, consider:

- ☐ If your place is in snow country, leave an old snow shovel within easy reach so you can shovel your way to the door, if necessary.

- ☐ Keep a cheap flashlight in a waterproof bag near the front door.



- ☐ Store an ice-melt product just inside the front door so you don't have to search for it.
- ☐ Pack a few canned goods in case you get snowed in.

"It's such cozy fun going to the cabin in winter," says Alison Tatlow, who owns a place in Ephraim, Wis. "But if you're unprepared, it can be a total disaster."

— Christy Heitger-Ewing

fotolia.com/krazyuk

ADVANCEMENTS IN TEMPERATURE MONITORING & ALERT TECHNOLOGIES

FOR CABIN OWNERS who spend the majority of the winter months away from their retreats, temperature-monitoring systems and alert technologies offer peace of mind.

Home-sitting systems, freeze alarms and water monitors have been sold for 30 years. Units such as the FreezeAlarm Dialer (controlproductsonline.com) will call owners if the temperature drops below 45°F (7°C). It operates during power failures, calls to alert

if the backup batteries are low and can be used with existing telephone line, DSL or VOIP phone connections. In addition, Control Products, Inc. recently began manufacturing the MarCELL monitoring system, a cellular-based unit that doesn't require a phone line or Internet connection. Retailing for \$249, homeowners can choose from two monitoring plans: seasonal (\$12/month) or annual (\$99/year).

The device, which can be checked from any computer, smartphone or tablet, monitors temperature, humidity and power on your property and can alert you of issues via text, email or phone call.

In addition, Wireless Temperature and Water SPucks sensors (available fall 2015)

are compatible with the MarCELL system and can be placed behind toilets, under sinks or near sump pumps or hot water heaters to alert cabin owners of a leak or flood.

Chuck Guerin, director of global sales at Control Products, Inc., say he's found that more and more cabin owners are putting WiFi in their cabins and installing WiFi thermostats like the Nest or Sensi.

"There are some great monitoring systems available, but if the power goes out, usually the Internet goes down, which means no access to what's going on at your property," Guerin says.

The cellular-based product with battery backup solves that problem. It comes pre-authorized and operates via the Verizon



CHECKLIST FOR CLOSING UP A THREE-SEASON RETREAT

If you own an unheated three-season retreat, the checklist for winter preparation involves complex tasks like:

- ❑ Drain the water heater and turn off the pilot light.
- ❑ Drain and disconnect all water lines.

The details: Blow compressed air through each and every appliance/piping run to remove all water. Open a low-point drainage valve and work from the top down. Then, open valves and faucets and leave them open until spring.

- ❑ Unplug and winterize appliances.
- ❑ Turn off the gas.

THE PINK STUFF. Most cabin owners know they need to add food-grade antifreeze (propylene glycol, or "the pink stuff") to the various drain traps on sinks, showers and toilets (the trap is inside the toilet). But occasionally, that splash of glycol isn't quite enough to push all the water out of the system. Sometimes, aging cabins will have sags in the drainage pipes, and if that low point also has a union, ice could crack open the drainage area. To play it safe, add a gallon to each trap after the water lines have been blown clear, and make sure the toilet fill tank is empty of water and receives a glycol flushing. A few gallons of propylene glycol won't hurt your septic system, and it's cheap insurance against a potentially expensive failure.

— Kurt Anderson

As you write your list, also consider these steps:

- ❑ Remove any liquids that can freeze.
 - ❑ Completely clean out the refrigerator and freezer. Open doors to prevent mold and mildew growth; put an open box of baking soda inside to neutralize odors.
 - ❑ Store boxed foods in pots and pans with lids (plastic doesn't stop mice).
 - ❑ Unplug TV, computer and other electronics.
 - ❑ Remove window screens to save them from weather damage.
 - ❑ Hide any valuables, electronics or guns.
 - ❑ Store clean linens and towels in reusable zip sacks.
 - ❑ Up-end mattresses and sofa cushions.
 - ❑ Remove batteries from clocks, smoke detectors and flashlights to keep them from corroding.
 - ❑ Be sure vents are open on the crawl space under the cabin, but that the crawl space is secure from animal entry.
- Lastly, as you're closing up the cabin, make a list of things that need repairing next spring.

— Christy Heitger Ewing

Reader Tips

cedar scent

ADAM NELSON, who owns Nelson's Hardware Store in Door County, Wis., suggests that owners set out cedar blocks to alleviate the musty, stale air that settles into closed-up cabins.

rodent bait

ALISON TATLOW, a Wisconsin cabin owner, says that when it comes to winter cabin issues, she's encountered it all: burst pipes, leaky roofs, animal invasions, you name it.



After opening up the cabin one spring and finding tears and snags in the couch upholstery and cracked acorns and seedpods between the cushions, Tatlow knew that some unwanted visitors had created a cozy winter nest for themselves. Tatlow purchased a mouse-baiting system called Resolv Rodent Bait (liphatech.com/resolv) that involves lining each side of the exterior foundation with the bait. Each kit costs \$36, and the \$100 bucket of bait lasts two to three years.

"What's nice about this system is that you don't lure and trap animals inside your cabin to decompose," Tatlow says. "After ingesting it, the mice get thirsty so they scurry back into the woods instead of setting up camp inside. That means no mousey odor."

kindness toward hunters

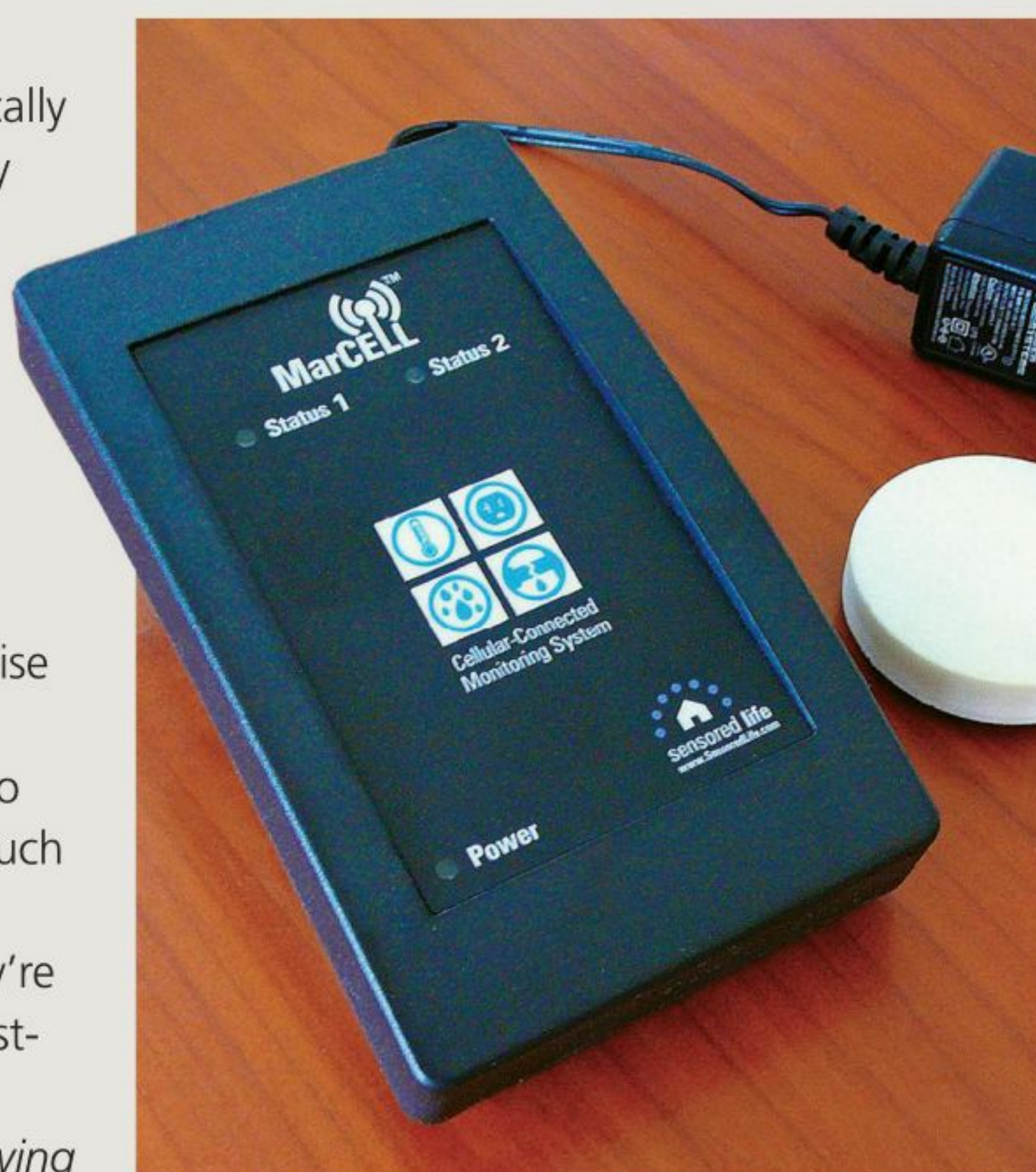
"We leave at least one fresh roll of toilet paper in the outhouse to keep the hunters happy," says **JON JORDAN**, who owns a cottage in the Les Cheneaux Islands along the northern shore of Lake Huron.

wireless network, a carrier that typically offers outstanding coverage in many rural areas.

"The MarCELL is great for the cabin market where people can't access WiFi but still have a cellular signal," says Guerin, who assures that even a weak cellular signal will work with the product.

And speaking of assurance, it's wise for cabin owners – particularly those who own property close to water – to be sure their insurance is written in such a way that if their sump pump stops running due to a power outage, they're covered. Another smart move is investing in a backup generator.

— Christy Heitger-Ewing





WINTERIZING YOUR SUMMER TOYS & TOOLS

It's that time again. Winter's coming, and the summer toys and tools should be put away properly, or they may give you trouble when it's time to start them up again come spring. Here's how to do it right, for all the summer vehicles and gadgets you have:

BOATS/ENGINES & PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

There are lots of variations here, and the procedures differ depending on



Putting toys and tools to bed for the winter takes a bit of time but will help ensure smooth starts in the spring. **TOP:** Care for motors by treating with a fuel stabilizer. **MIDDLE:** Remove boat motor propellers before storing. **ABOVE:** Don't forget to winterize power tools like chainsaws.

what type of boat you have, and what type of power. Outboards, stern drives and inboards all need to be prepped for their long winters' nap, but it's not the same for each type. Consult your dealer or have a local pro do it if you're not handy that way or don't know how to do it properly. A badly winterized engine may be severely damaged or even ruined by water left in the engine and/or drive (it will freeze in the cold weather and crack the block or drive housing), and if the fuel's not treated for layup, it may mean clogged carburetors or fuel injectors – and costly repairs – come springtime.

Here are a few common steps:

- ❑ Treat the fuel in the tank with a good fuel stabilizer. No matter what the instructions say, increase the dosage by double – it won't hurt, costs very little, and will help ensure that the fuel supply is completely treated. Then, run the engine for at least a half hour; it takes longer than you think for that treated fuel to get from the tank into the engine.
- ❑ For two-stroke engines, spray "engine tuner" (Power Tune, etc.) into the intake with the engine running; this helps to break down any hard carbon deposits on the pistons, piston rings and cylinder heads.
- ❑ "Fog" the engine, if possible, with a quality engine fogging oil.
- ❑ Drain the old gear lubricant out of the gear case/drive unit and replace with new lube. If the old lube is burned, black and smelly or milky, tan and has water in it, get these issues resolved before putting the rig up for storage.
- ❑ For inboards, stern drives and four-stroke outboards and personal watercraft: Change the engine oil and filter.
- ❑ Grease all grease fittings – steering, tilt, etc.

- ❑ Remove the propeller(s) and if damaged, send out for repairs over the winter.
- ❑ Store drive/outboard with engine in running position, so any water in gear case can drain out. Tape exhaust outlets (propeller hub, etc.) shut to keep rodents from making nests.
- ❑ Store battery in dry location with trickle charger installed.
- ❑ Wash, clean and add a coat of protective finish wax.
- ❑ Provide adequate coverage to protect the finish and interior but be sure the cover is ventilated.

CANOES, KAYAKS, SAILBOATS & ROWBOATS

- ❑ Be sure all water is drained out before storage.
- ❑ Clean and coat with wax or other protectant.
- ❑ Store gear, sails, safety equipment and accessories inside after ensuring they are dry.
- ❑ Store upside-down in clean dry place; if outside, cover with tarp tightly.

LAWN AND GARDEN TOOLS (POWERED)

- ❑ Treat fuel supply with fuel conditioner (as with boats/engines above).
- ❑ Perform maintenance – replace belts, blades, change oil and filter, grease all fittings, etc.
- ❑ Clean and coat with wax or other protectant.
- ❑ Store inside or covered tightly.

**CONTINUES
HERE!**

WARNING: WATER PIPE DANGERS IN THE NORTH-CENTRAL U.S.

Heat-Line, a major manufacturer of heating cable systems for a variety of freeze-protection applications, recently uncovered serious and potentially dangerous installation practices in the north-central region of the U.S. The discovery came while conducting research into how external heat tape and cable products are being installed.

Heating tapes or cables are used to protect water pipes in cold climates where they are subject to freezing and frequently where excavation below the frost line is impractical or impossible.

Heat-Line released this statement: "Contractors, agents and distributors are informing Heat-Line that heating tape or cable systems are being installed in applications beyond their certification. There is a growing practice of installing heating tapes or cables designed for external applications inside pressurized potable (drinking water) pipes in rural homes. Unfortunately, to the unknowing homeowner, these heating tape or cable systems are not certified for this application, and even worse, present long-term health risks to those consuming the water. Even more concerning is that the systems are not only being employed in potable water lines, but also dangerously installed in sewage and waste water systems as well. This is in direct contradiction to national electrical and building codes.

"While not all trades and contractors are practicing the hazardous and liable application of external heat tape or cable inside potable water pipes, there remains a select group endangering the entire market. The process of converting and adapting external heat tapes or cables through a series of non-certified fittings to be inserted

inside potable water pipes is a deceitful practice, and places an enormous amount of liability on the tradesperson or contractor completing the procedure."

WHERE DOES THE DANGER LIE?

1. Heating tapes or cables that are not certified or approved for internally heat tracing water supply pipes are treated with flame retardants, which can be toxic and cause serious health issues for people who use the water for bathing, cooking and drinking.
2. Commonly, the fittings used for non-certified heating tapes or cables are not designed or certified for this use, which can result in flooding damage to the cabin if the fitting corrodes or fails.
3. When the heating tapes or cables are installed in pressurized drinking water systems and the electrical components are not designed to seal against the pressure demands of the system, an extreme fire hazard can ensue.
4. Many non-certified or misused products are not ground-fault protected which increases the probability of a catastrophic failure or fire damage exponentially.
5. The employment of any uncertified/unapproved systems may void your homeowners insurance coverage.
6. If these heating tapes or cables are installed in sewers they can chemically breakdown leading to serious electrical failure or fire.
7. Sewers or waste water systems can contain explosive gases and as such require a heating cable system approved specifically for hazardous locations.
8. The use of heating tapes or cables in

applications beyond their certification and approval will not pass a home inspection for re-sale.

BEFORE YOU BUY

There are *certified and approved* heating cable manufacturers (of which Heat-Line is one) that offer specialized systems for use inside potable water supply and sewage systems. Always be sure to ask your installer and or supplier prior to purchase if the product is approved for the intended application.

IF YOU ALREADY HAVE A SYSTEM

All certified heating cable systems are marked with their appropriate approval. If you're unsure whether your system is certified for the intended use, contact the manufacturer of the product directly as they, along with the installing tradesperson or contractor, share accountability for the correct installation of the system.

If you think you may have an unapproved heat tape installed in your water pipe you should immediately:

Look at the electrical cording or power connection on the system where it enters the pipe for a respected certification label such as UL, cULus, cCSAus, ETL etc.

Contact the heating tape or cable manufacturer for further product certification information and application guidance.

Contact their local power inspection authority.

Turn the power off to the system and seek the guidance of an approved and licensed tradesperson to remove the system. **CL**

RESOURCE: Heat-Line, heatline.com

LAWN & GARDEN TOOLS (NON-POWERED)

- ❑ Sharpen blades, lubricate pivot points and store inside where it's clean and dry.

TRAILERS

- ❑ Perform maintenance (repack wheel bearings, check/repair lights, wiring, rotten bunk boards/covering, check/replace winch strap, etc.).
- ❑ Lubricate pivot points (coupler, tongue jack, etc.).

- ❑ If possible, jack up axle and block so tires are off the ground to reduce the chance of flat spotting and rot. Even better, remove wheels and tires and store them inside.

– John Tiger

FREE INFORMATION



Visit **cabinlivingmag.com** or scan the QR code with your smartphone to get FREE information on products and services (provided by the companies in **BOLD** below) that will help you build your perfect cabin.

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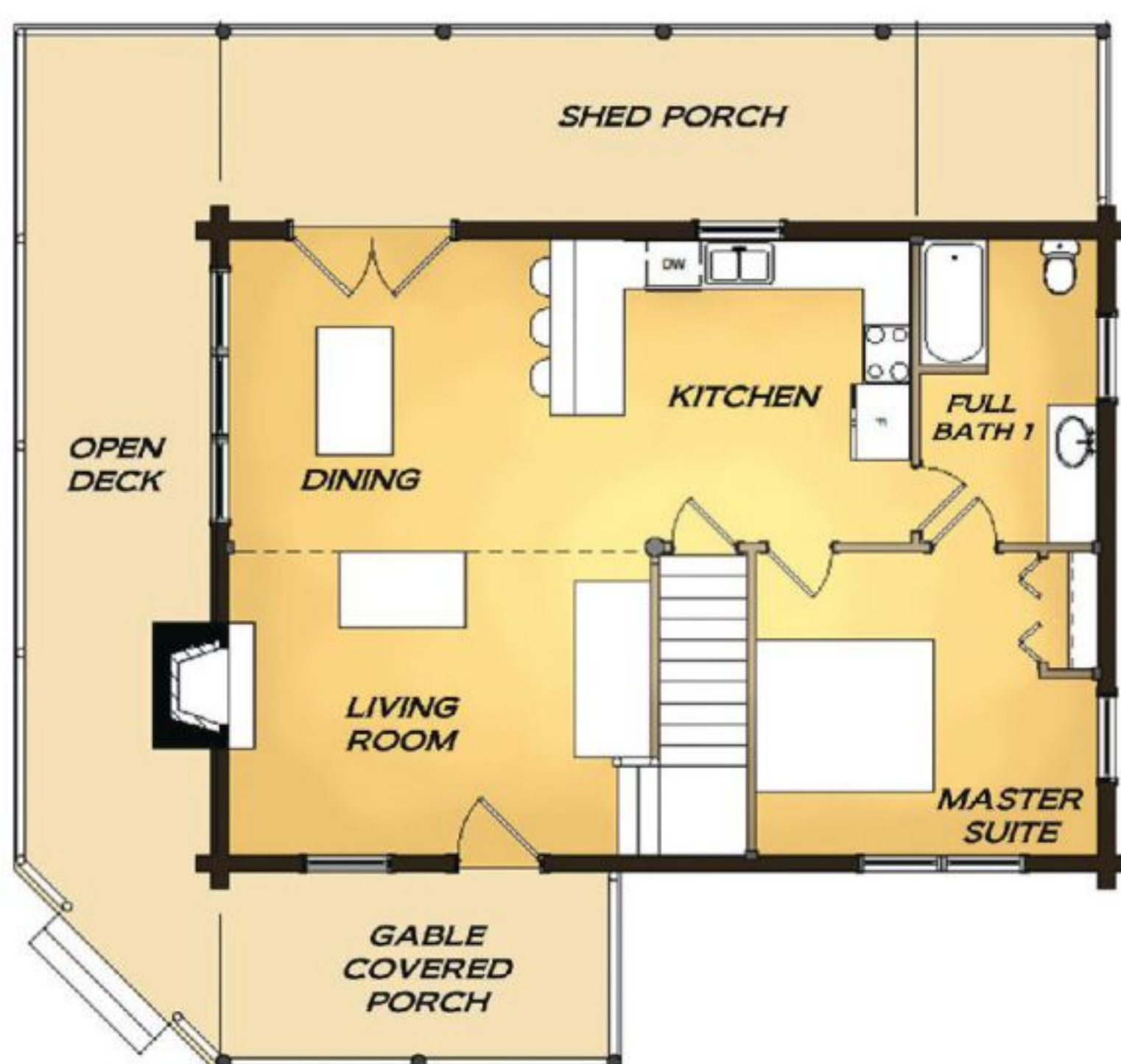
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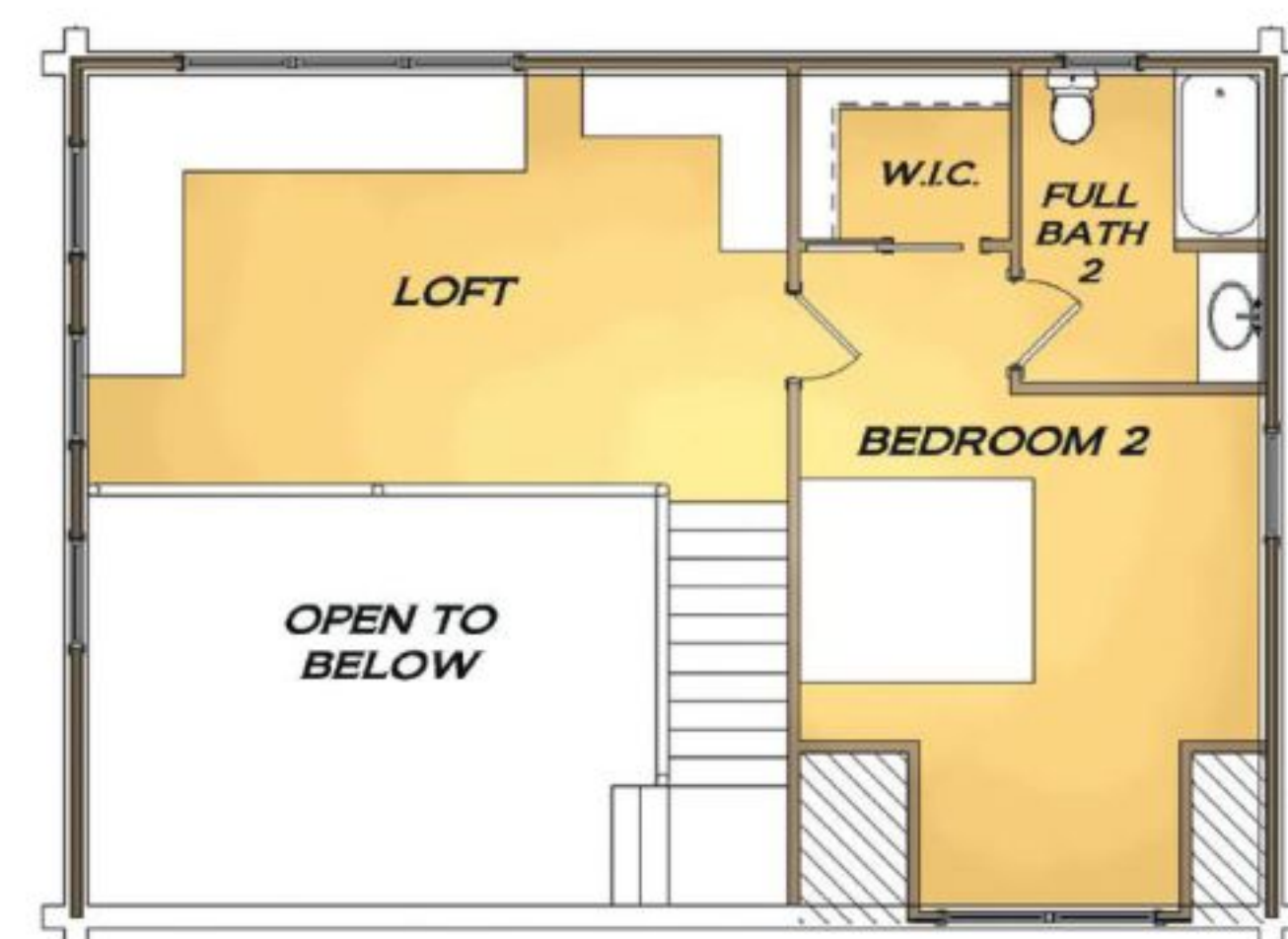
JUSTIN

1,487 square feet | 2 bedrooms | 2 baths

If you looking for a retirement home, vacation retreat, or a starter home; the Justin model is just right! Experience the cathedral ceiling and the warmth of a great room – this is the lifestyle you were called to enjoy.



Main Level

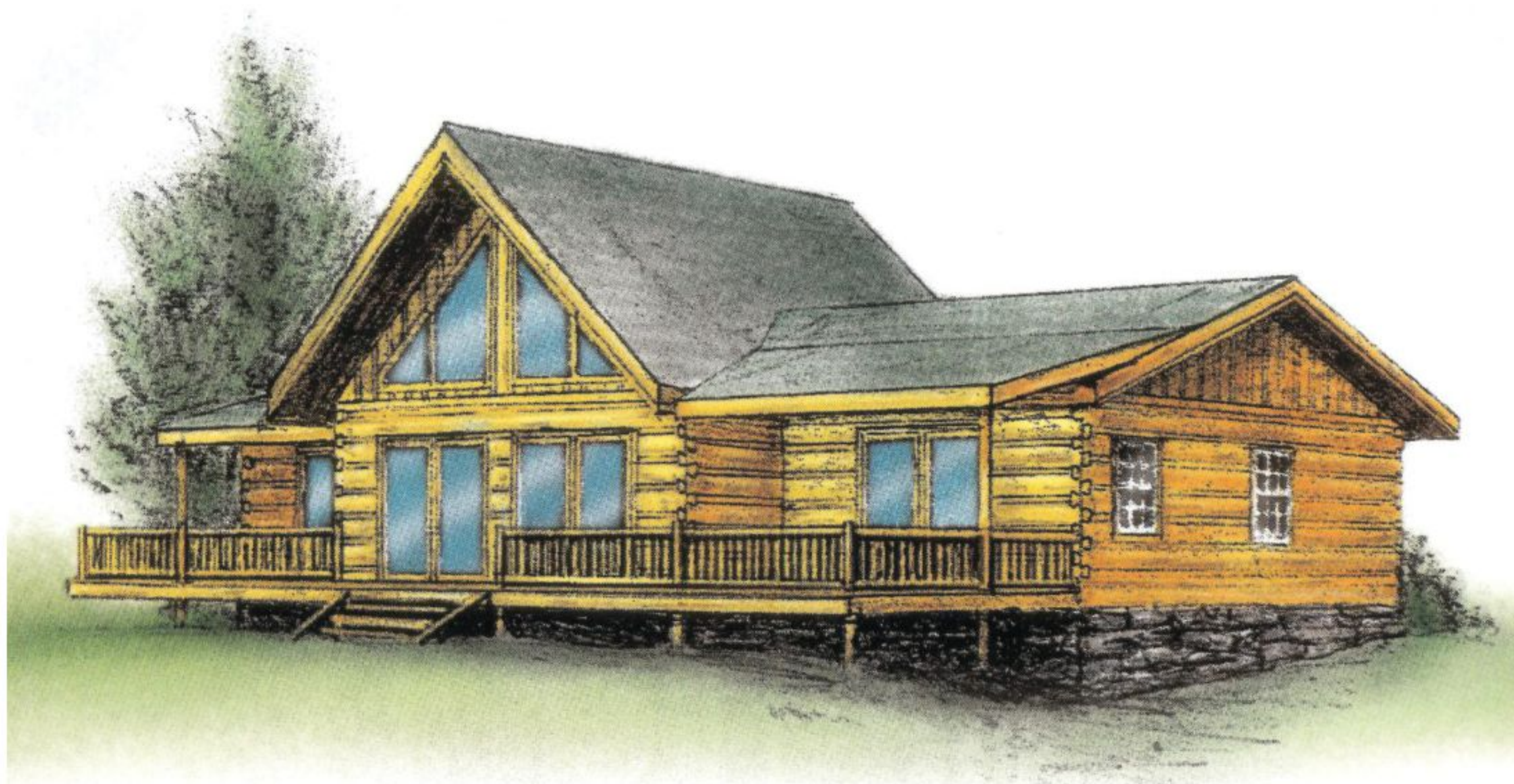


Upper Level



Log Home Outfitters primarily focuses on the log and timber frame lifestyle. We offer solid and log-sided homes as well as timber frames at a reasonable price.

877-944-LOGS (5647) *web* LogHomeOutfitters.com *email* Sales@LogHomeOutfitters.com



LEWIS

1,120 square feet | 2 bedrooms | 2 baths

The Lewis 2 plan has a split-bedroom design with all major amenities located on one level. The central great room provides a wonderful space for entertaining with ample windows for enjoying the views. This plan can be built with a exposed heavy timber frame roof system or conventional truss roof system making it an affordable second home or retirement option.



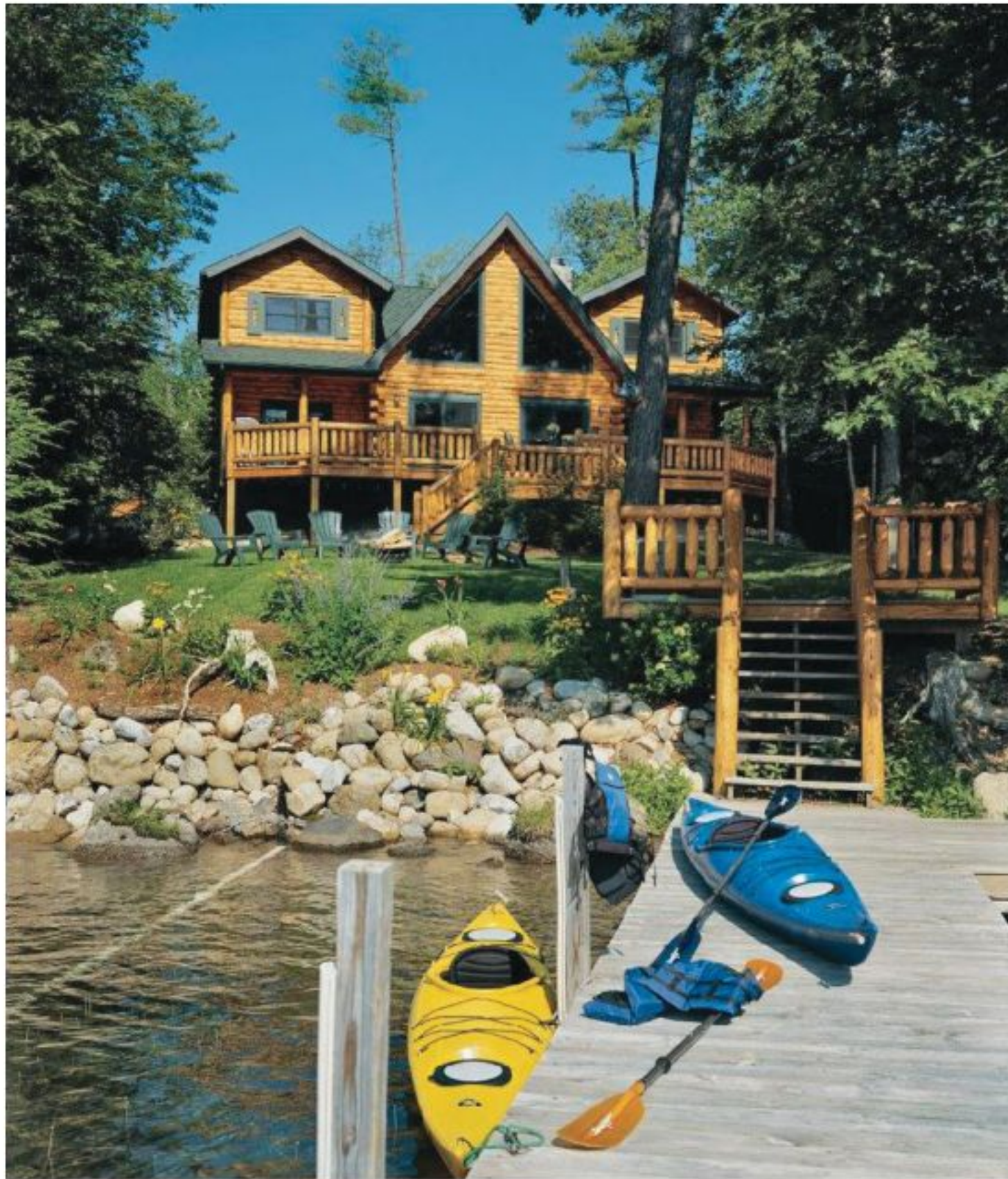
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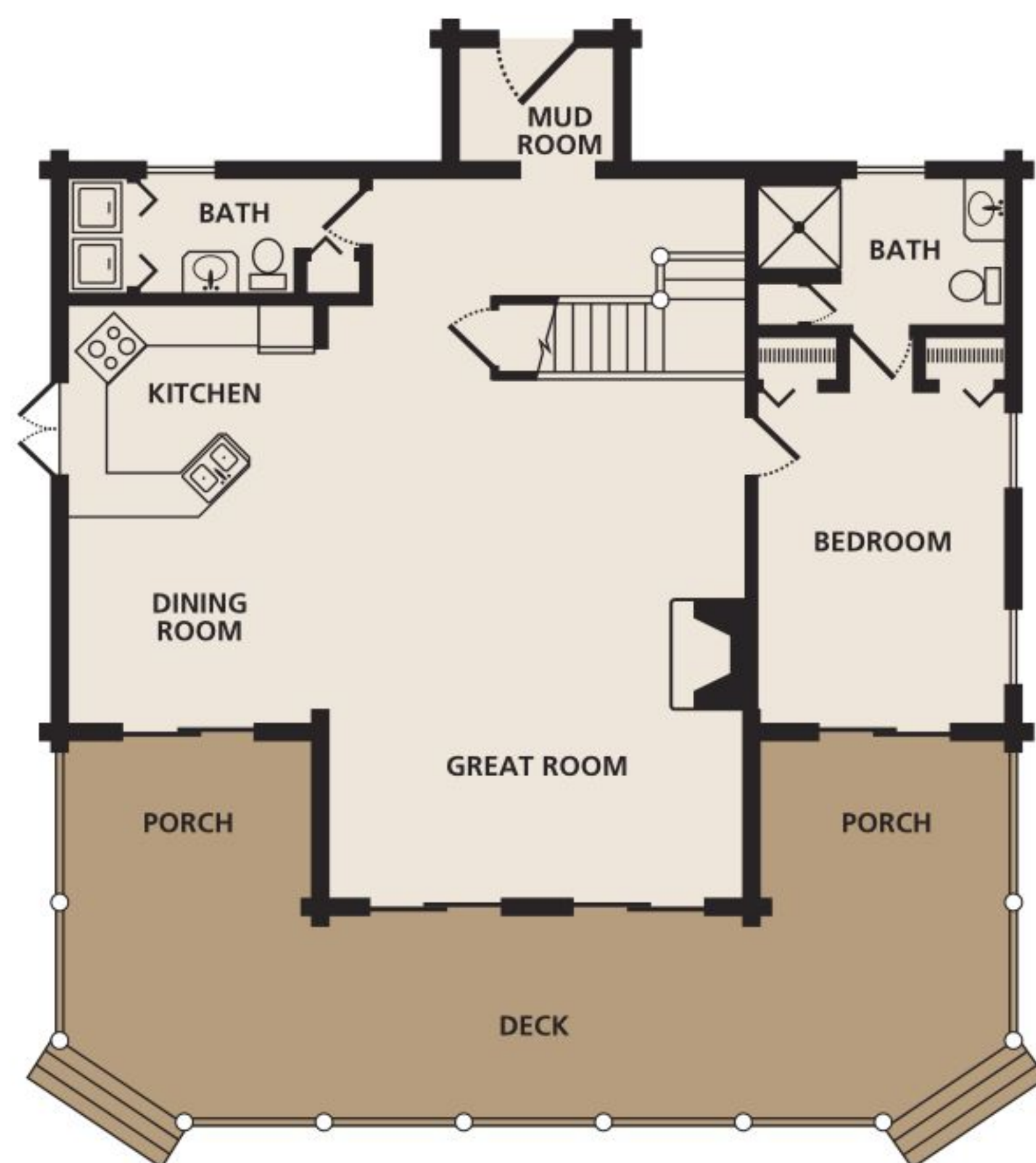
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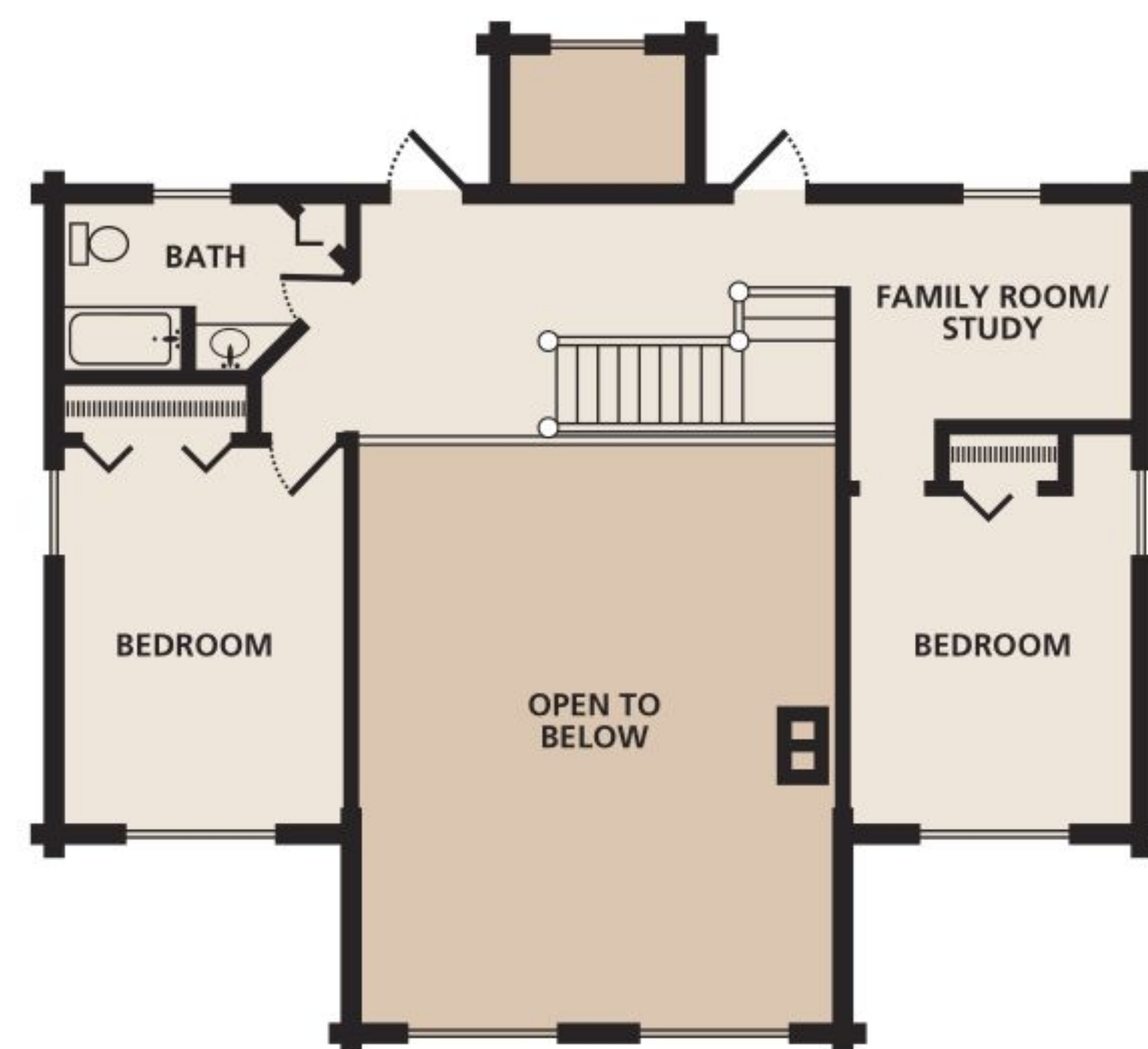
THE LAKE HOUSE

2,096 square feet | 3 bedrooms | 2 ½ baths

The Lake House is designed to make a breathtaking view available from almost every space in the house. This model features an expansive great room, mud room/front entry, three bedrooms, two full and one half bathrooms all efficiently designed into 2,096 square feet. Two covered porches and an open deck make outdoor entertaining a breeze. The original Lake House was built on Lake George in New York State and easily conveys the Adirondack style of the region.



Main Level



Upper Level



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Clearwater

Complete Package Price
based on Oct. 1, 2014 price list:

\$78,050
RETAIL 6x8 Log



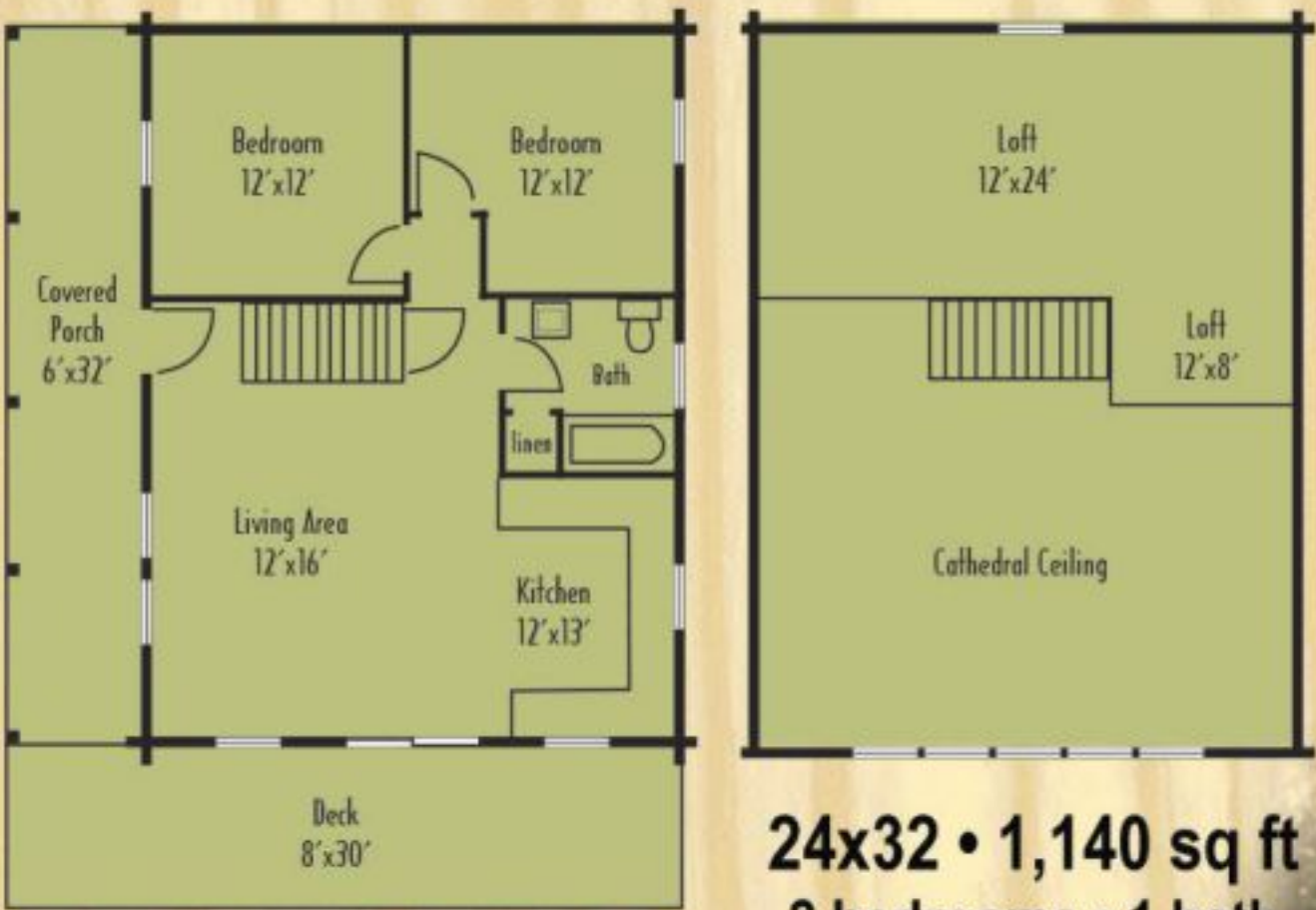
26x36 • 1,586 sq ft
3 bedrooms • 2.5 baths



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Swiftwater

Complete Package Price
based on Oct. 1, 2014 price list:

\$54,850
RETAIL 6x8 Log



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24x32 • 1,140 sq ft
2 bedrooms • 1 bath

Woodland



Complete Package Price
based on Oct. 1, 2014 price list:

\$45,800
RETAIL 6x8 Log



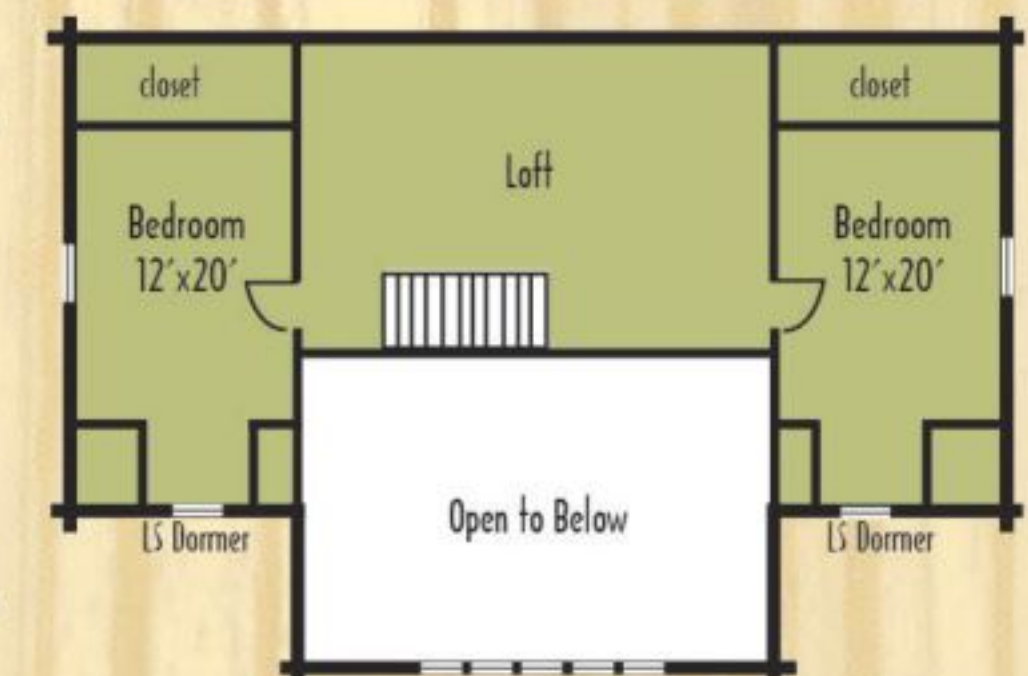
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Complete Package Price
based on Oct. 1, 2014 price list:

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RETAIL 6x8 Log



photos may vary from actual design

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3-5 bedrooms • 2 baths

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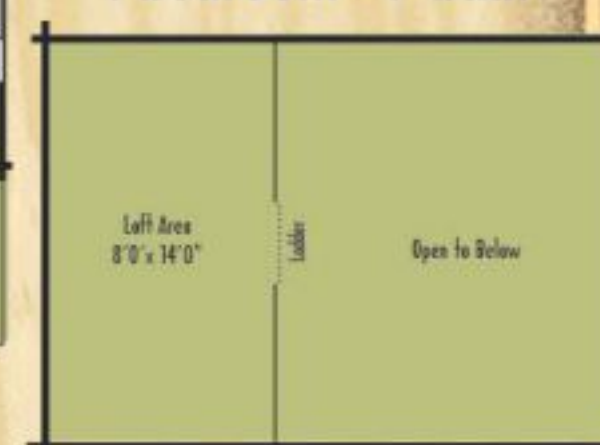
Timber Trail

Complete Package Price
based on Oct. 1, 2014 price list:

\$21,600
RETAIL 4x8 Log



14x20 • 392 sq ft
1 bedroom • 1 bath



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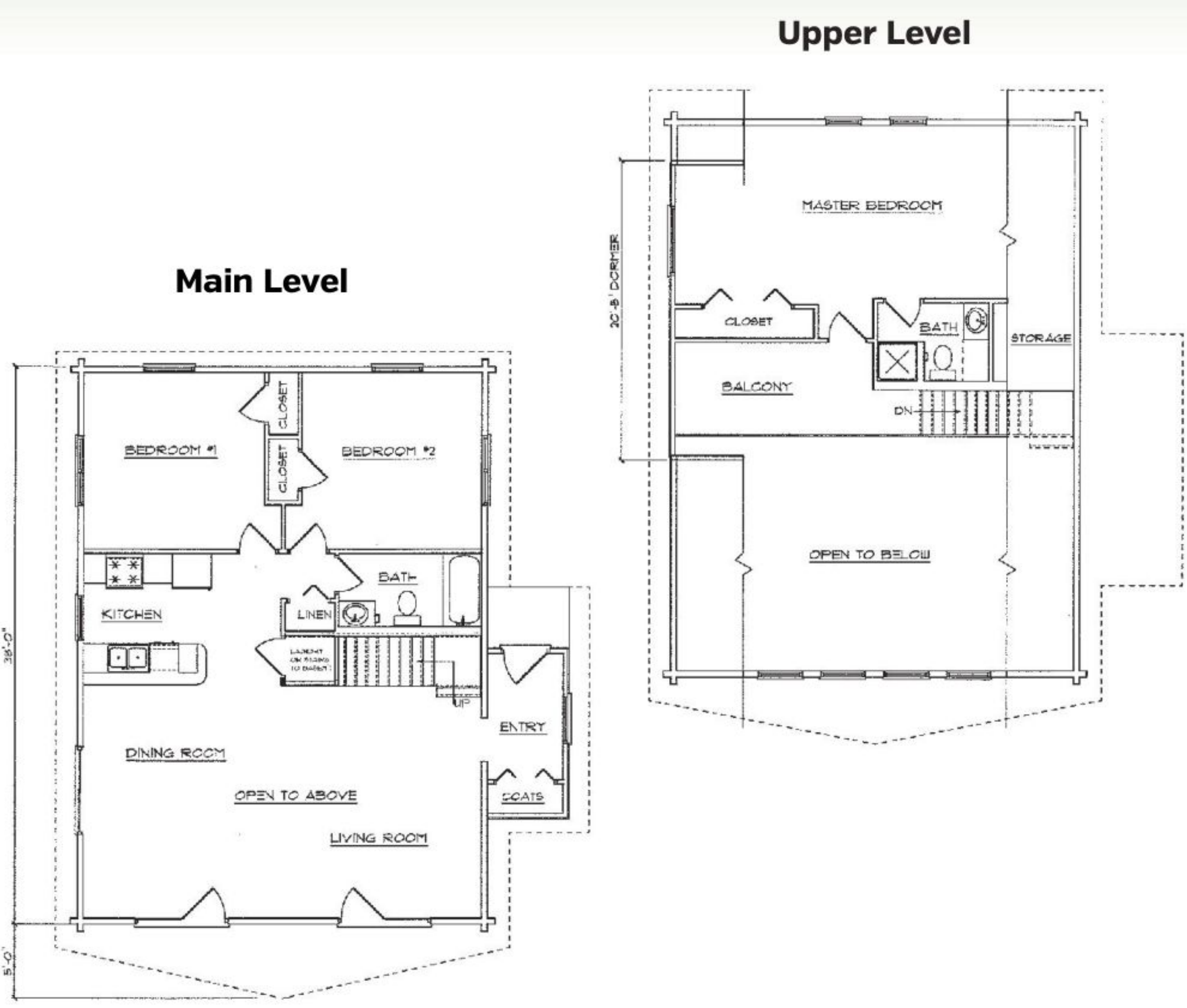




Sagamore

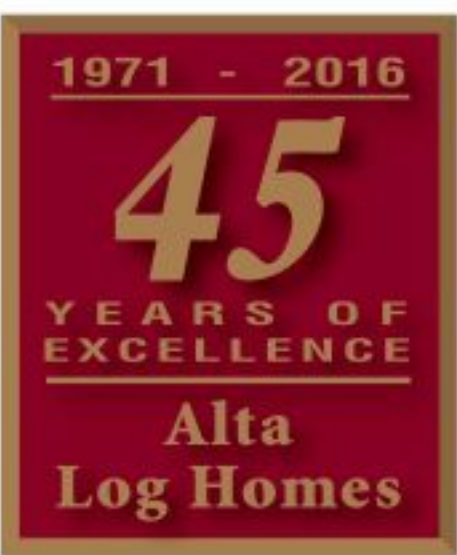
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Package Price: Call for prices



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SECOND FLOOR



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Bedrooms: 1
Baths: 1 1/2
Square Footage: 1,456
Package Price: Call for Pricing

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1st Floor

2nd Floor



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Bedrooms: 2
Baths: 2
Square Footage: 1,590
Package Price: Call for Pricing

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1st Floor

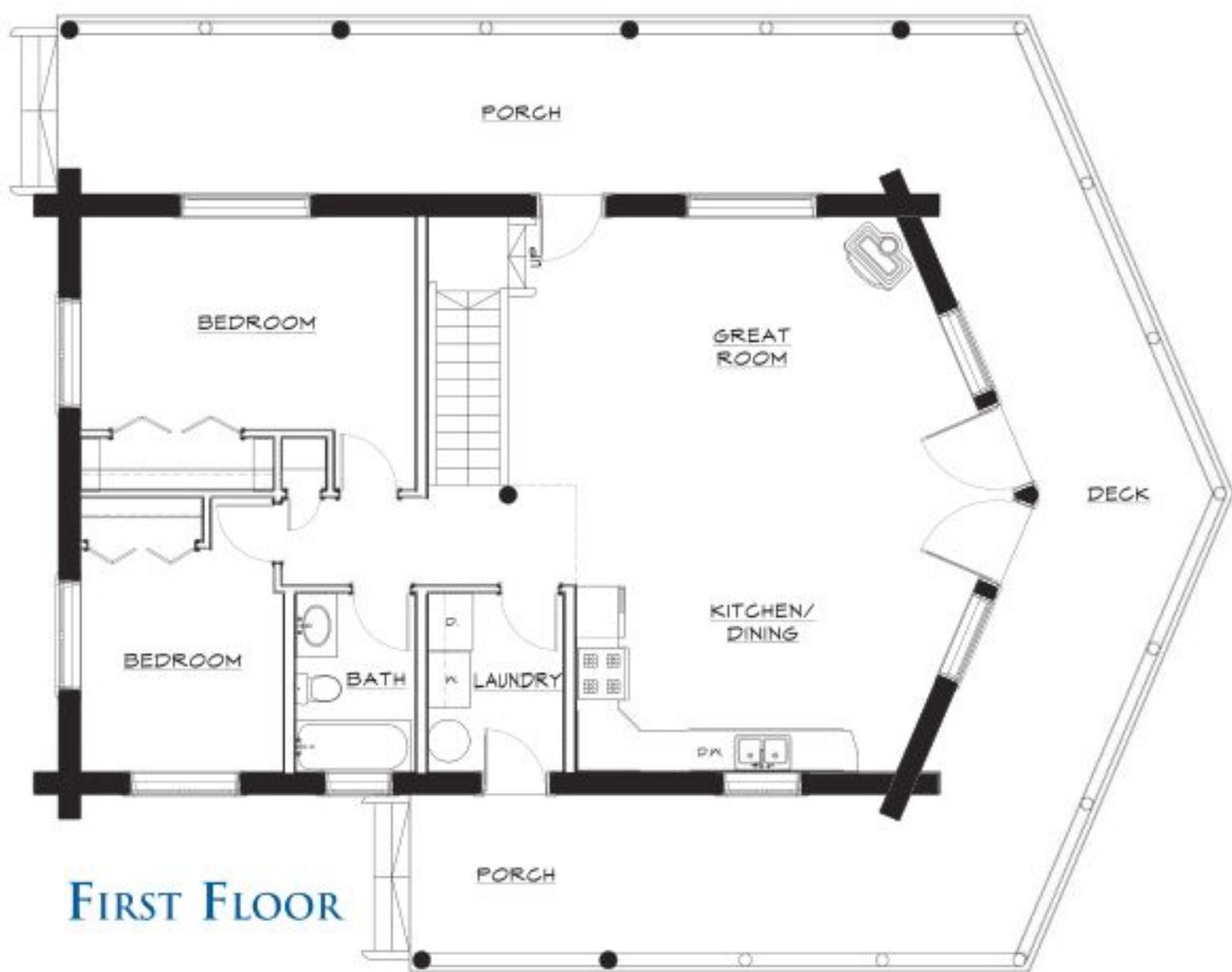
2nd Floor



MLH-019-A

Total Area: 1,729 SQFT
Package Price: Call For Prices

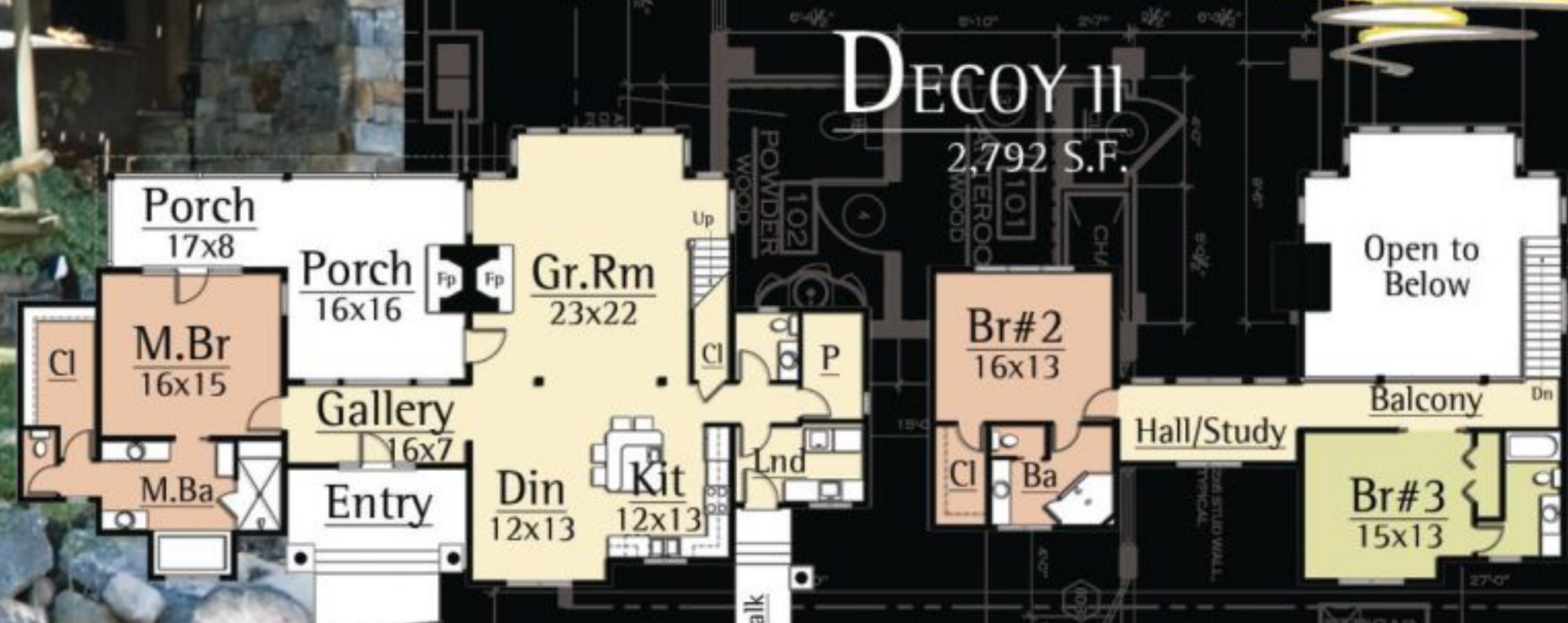
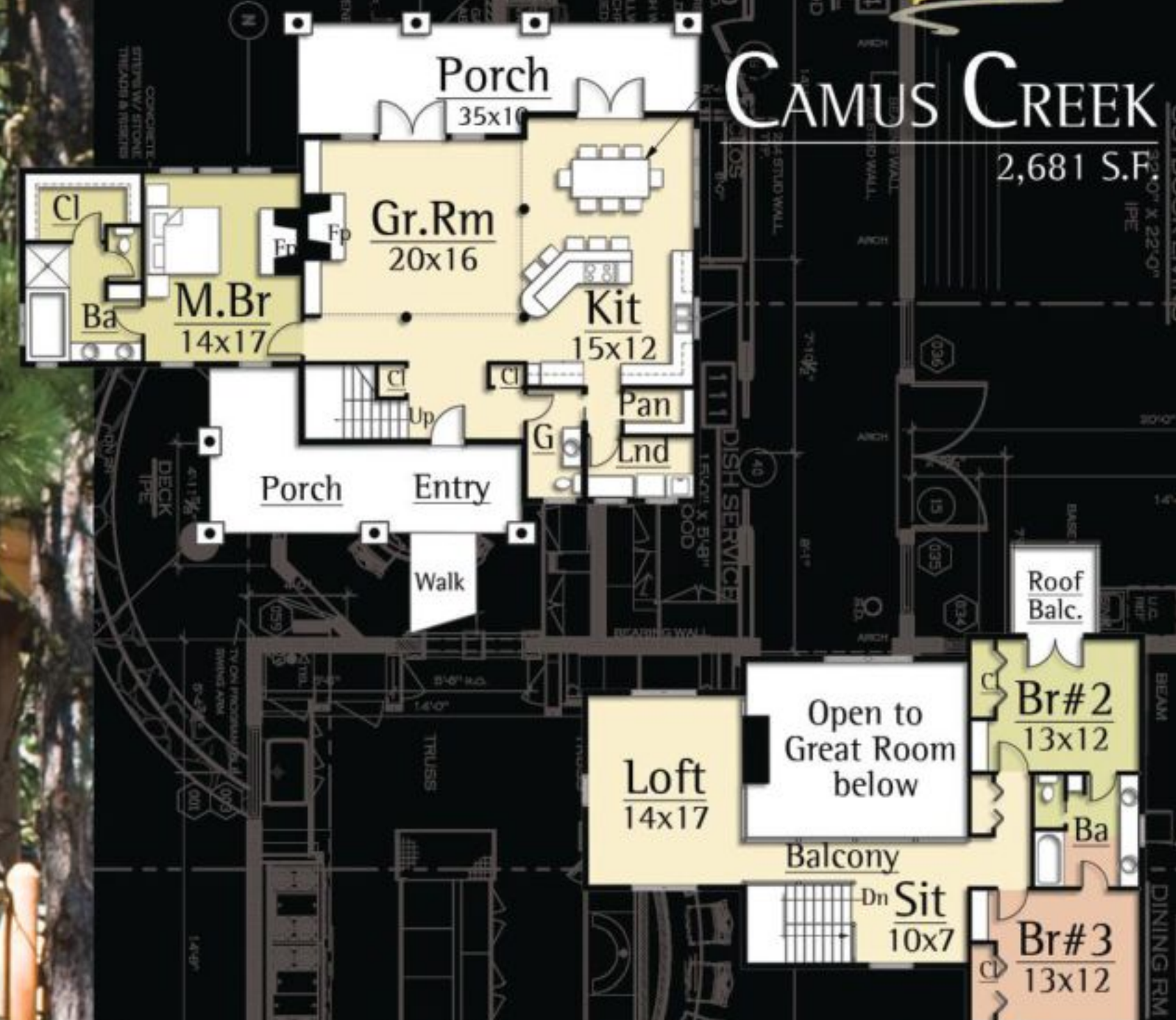
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First Floor



Second Floor

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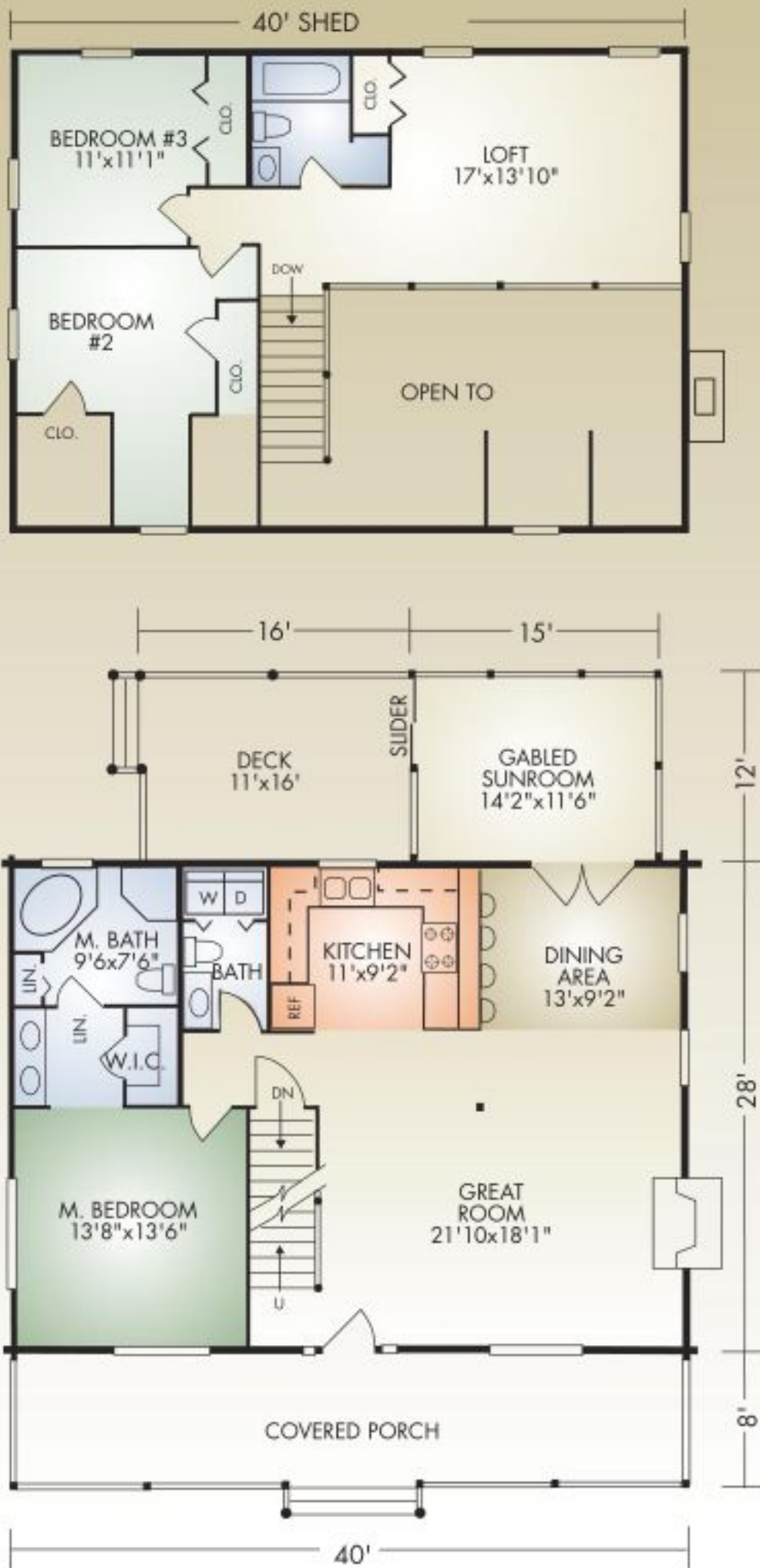
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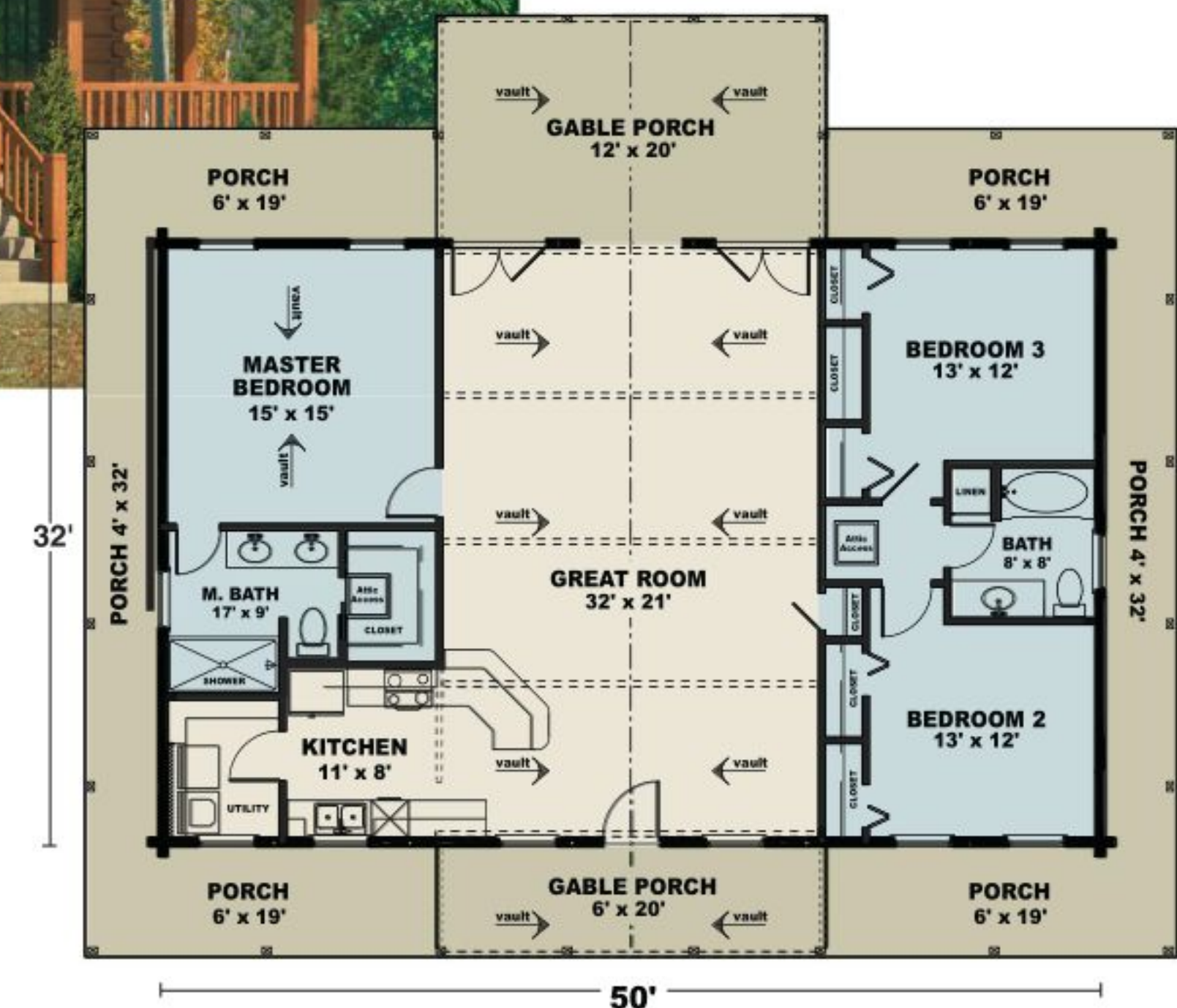


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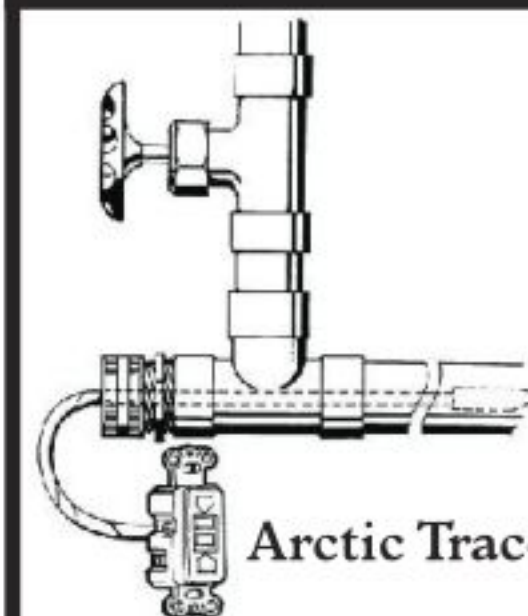
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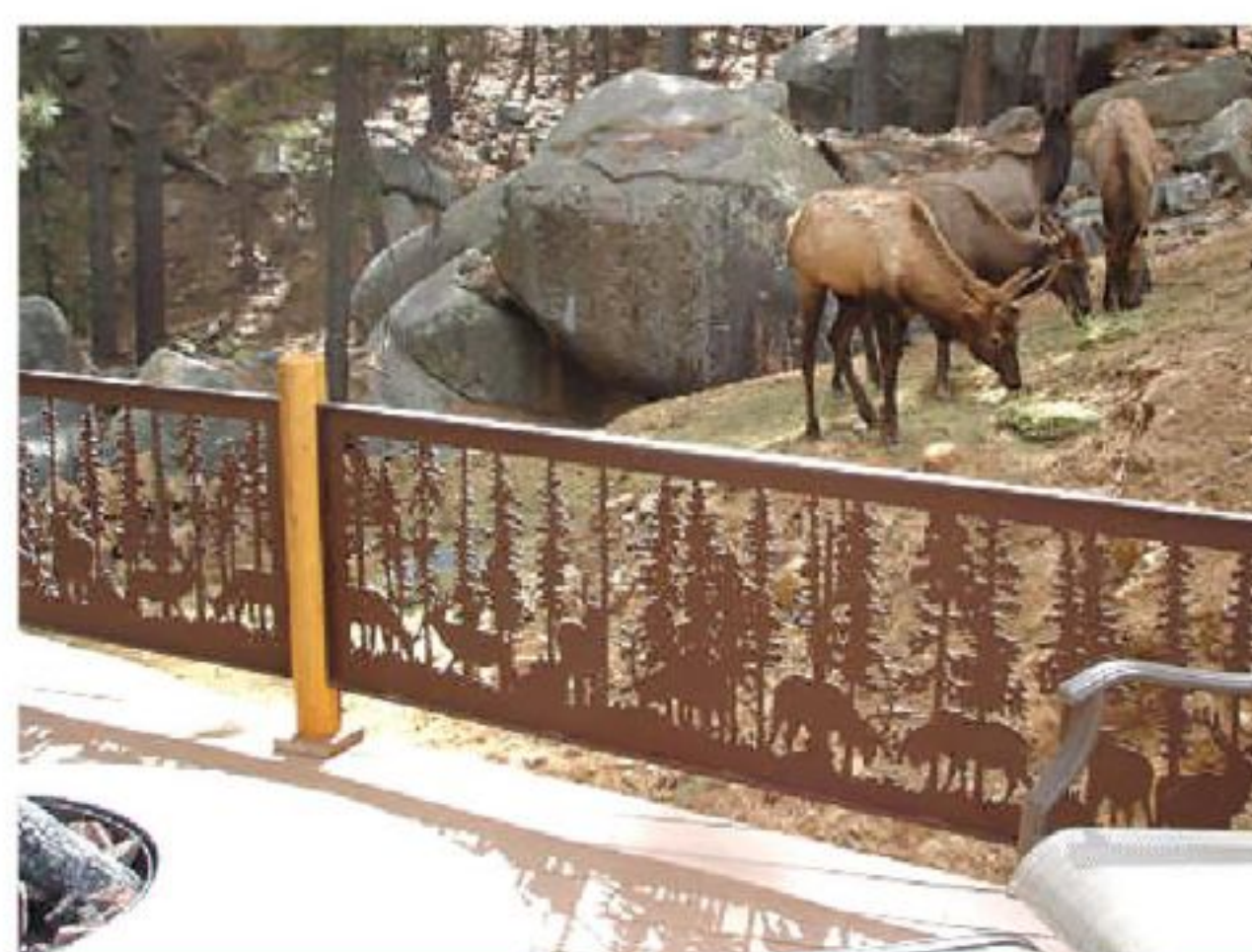
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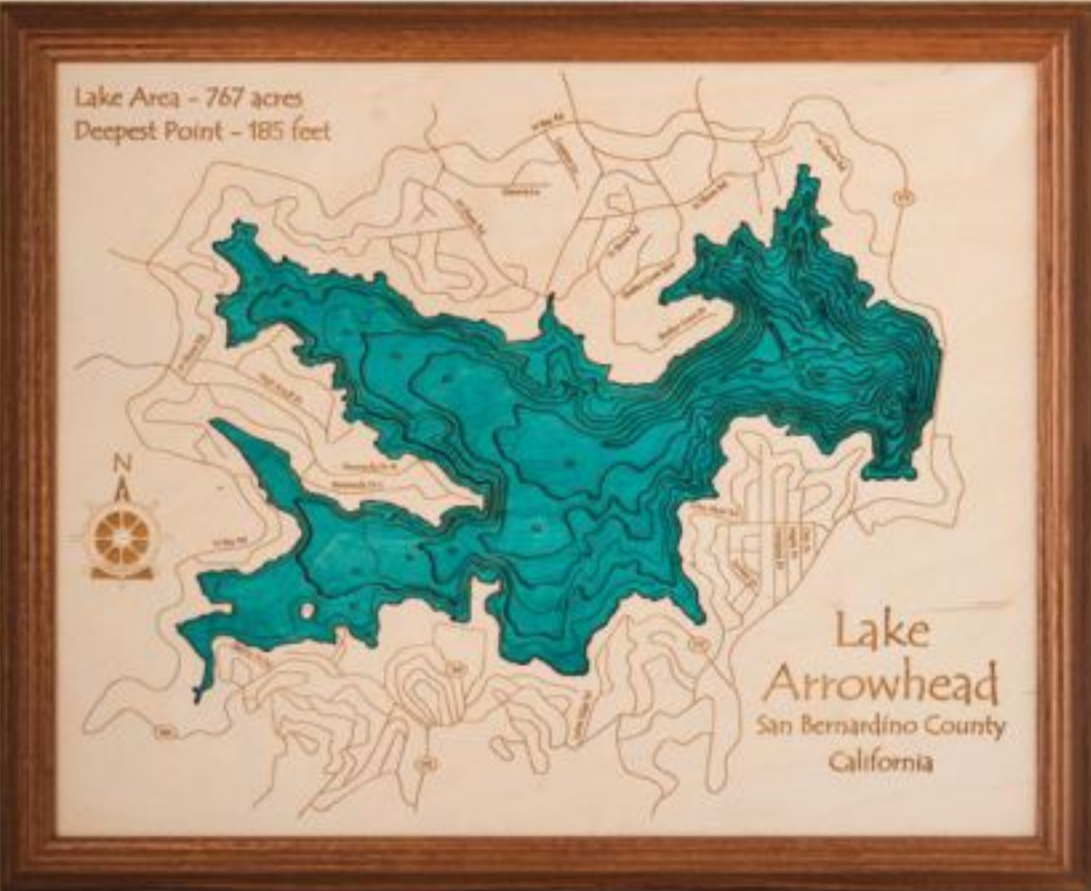
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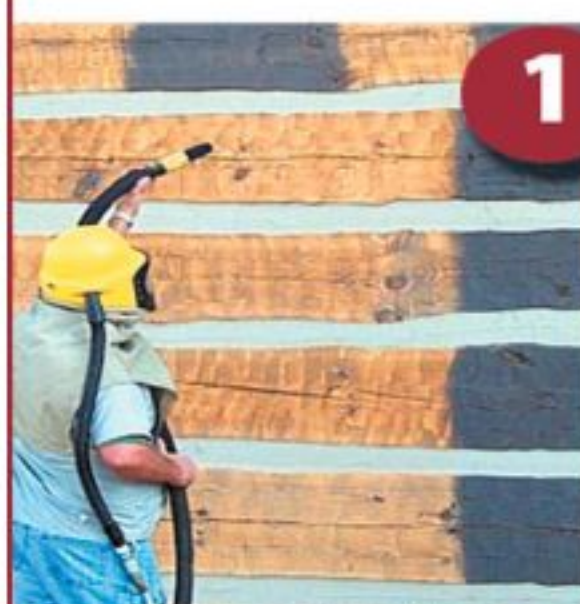


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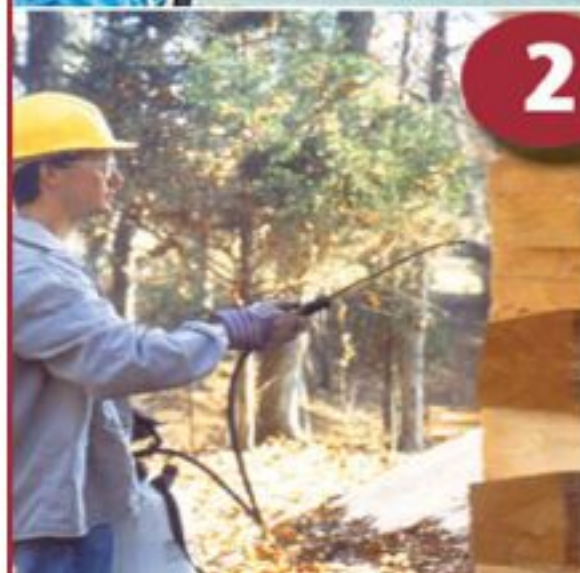
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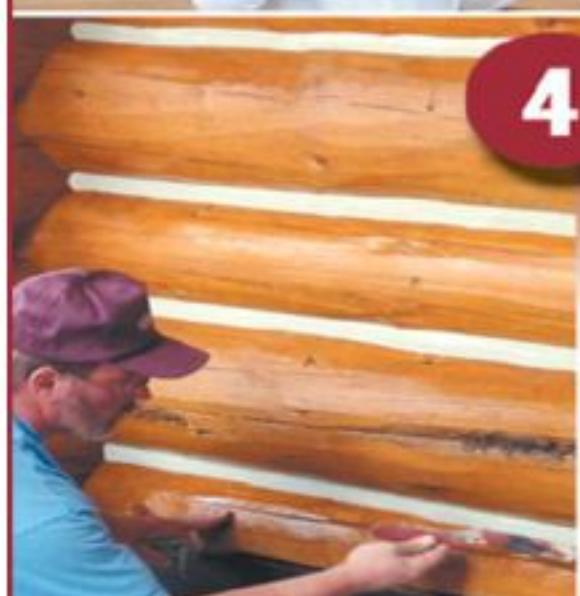
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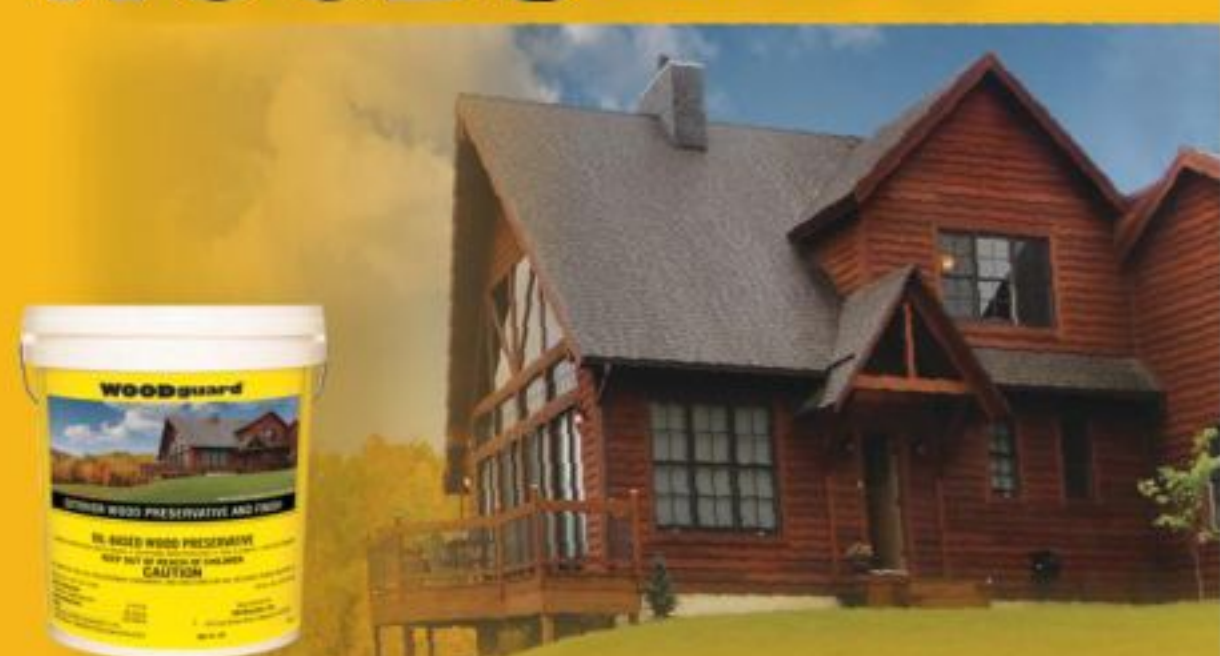
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ISSUE**

WHEREVER YOU ARE on your cabin journey, the December issue of *Cabin Living* has something special for you.

If you're a cabin dreamer:

- Explore the special expanded floor plan section
- Check out "Cabinology 101" where Dale Mulfinger shares insights about energy-efficient cabin designs
- Learn about timber-frame and post-and-beam construction
- Discover what's new in fireplaces and hearth products

If you're a cabin owner:

- Find ideas for rustic interior decorating inspired by nature
- Get renovation insights by touring a log getaway that's been masterfully expanded
- Be inspired by ideas for making winter a great season for fun at the cabin
- Receive expert legal advice about passing down the family retreat

And, of course, this is the holiday issue, so you'll get hosting tips and delicious recipes, too!

The December issue goes **on sale October 27**. So you don't miss this issue, please go online and subscribe now: cabinlivingmag.com/subscribe.



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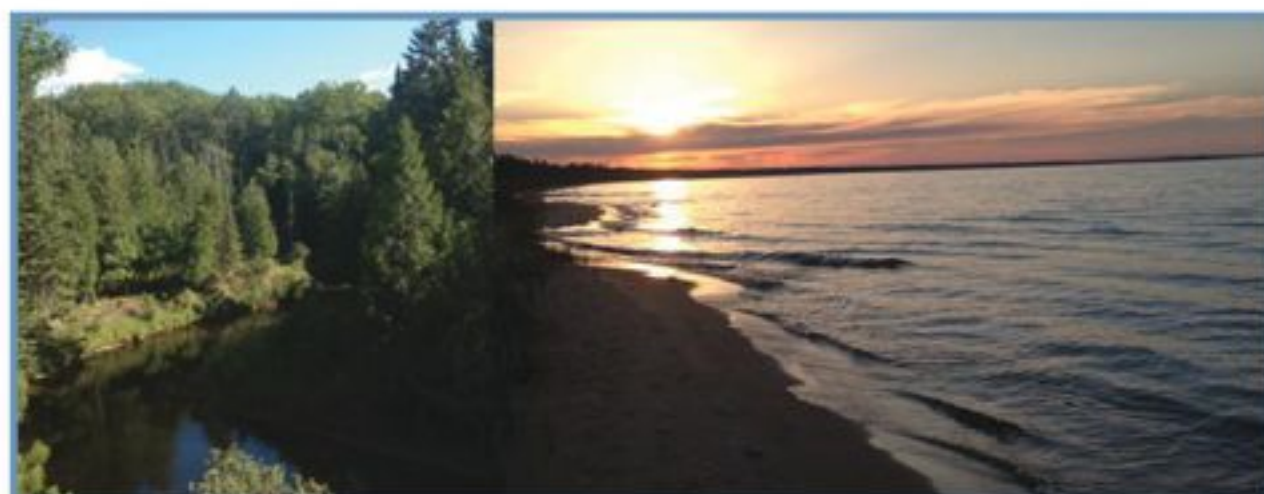
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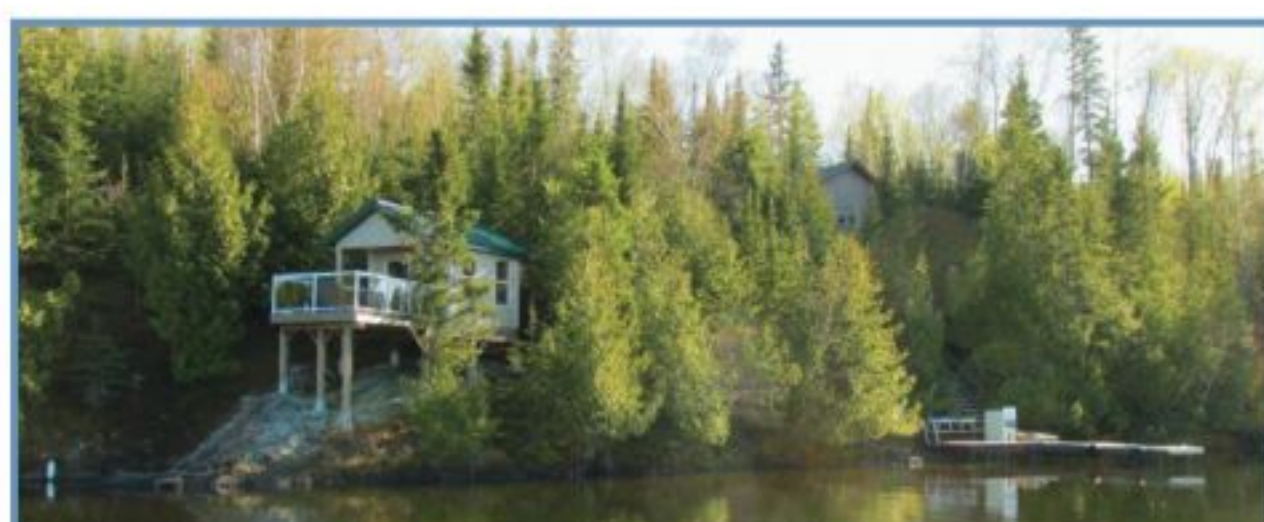
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It was the summer of 1977. I was 12 years old.

My younger brother and I were shooting at targets with our BB guns when we ran out of bull's-eyes. I ran off to our shed to fetch the army surplus targets. While searching through piles of old boxes, I stumbled onto a grand treasure: an old *Playboy* magazine. I quickly forgot the targets and burst out into the back yard, dashing for the shooting range to share my discovery with my brother.

Whoa! My father was standing right there with my brother refilling his Red Rider BB gun with the aid of a paper funnel. I stopped short and made a beeline for the nearest shelter – the outhouse.

So there I was, 12 years old, standing in the outhouse with a *Playboy* magazine. The unprecedented magnitude of the situation was not lost on me. I locked the door. My heart raced as I opened the forbidden “Entertainment for Men” tome.

It's funny the things you remember from childhood. Our family had what must have been the most pleasant outhouse in the world. It had no smell whatsoever – save for the oddly comforting aroma of old *Field & Stream* magazines. My mother said it was magic, and my father said it was his outhouse design. Whatever it was, I was about to change it forever.

The *Playboy* was from 1970. I clearly recall that. I also remember the exact page I opened up to. Not so much for the page itself; more for the little subscription postcard that slid out ... in slow motion.

I watched it take flight, bouncing off my elbow as it silently drifted into the blackness of the open void.

There, sitting face up, on a dark sea of the things you find in the bottom of an outhouse, was the postcard. The word *Playboy* seemed to be mocking me from the depths. Somehow, a small beam of sunlight was splashing playfully across the card. I was doomed.

Without a second's hesitation I scrambled back to the shed. I returned the magazine to its box and reached for the rake. I was not going to have my reputation sullied by a magazine that I didn't even get a good look at.

Yikes! The rake was gone! In fact, there wasn't anything in the shed that could reach the offending postcard. I would have to make a break for the cabin to search for something there.

As I peeked out of the shed, I saw the missing rake ... in my father's hands ... between the cabin and me. I had to think fast.

This next part of my life was like an out-of-body experience. I could see myself picking up the rock, but I couldn't stop what I was about to do.

It took two hands to pick it up. I held this boulder above my head, screaming like some crazed Charlton Heston as I used every ounce of strength to hurl the stone onto the pathetic scrap of paper.

At the time, my idea seemed solid: Drive the evil card into the depths of the outhouse hole, sinking any evidence of wrongdoing with a rock and drowning it forever. Some of those things did happen.

But there's more. Remember the first time you saw slow-motion films of a droplet of liquid falling into a still pool? This was like that, but change the liquid to a thick mud-colored soup, and trade the droplet for a bowling ball. Oh yeah – picture this happening inside a phone booth.

When it was over, I opened the door to the outside world and breathed in the glorious air. My parents were standing there staring at me.

“What happened?” Dad asked, a concerned and confused look on his face as though he was viewing an escaped circus freak. Mom stood looking past me, over my shoulder, her hand over her mouth.

The outhouse looked like some kind of movie prop rejected by the director of “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.”

“I don't know,” I replied, shrugging. Dripping. It seemed like this answer would be enough.

It was not, of course. I don't remember when I stopped trying to clean the outhouse. We threw my clothes away. I learned they make special products to deodorize outhouses; none of them worked.

A few years later, my parents sold that cabin. They claimed it was because the drive was just too long.

I knew better. **CL**

EDITOR'S NOTE:

For the very first “Cabin Capers” in this premier issue of *Cabin Living*, the editors have chosen this very popular and classic humorous essay that first appeared in the April/May 2004 issue of *Cabin Life* magazine. Oh, to be young again – at the cabin.

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