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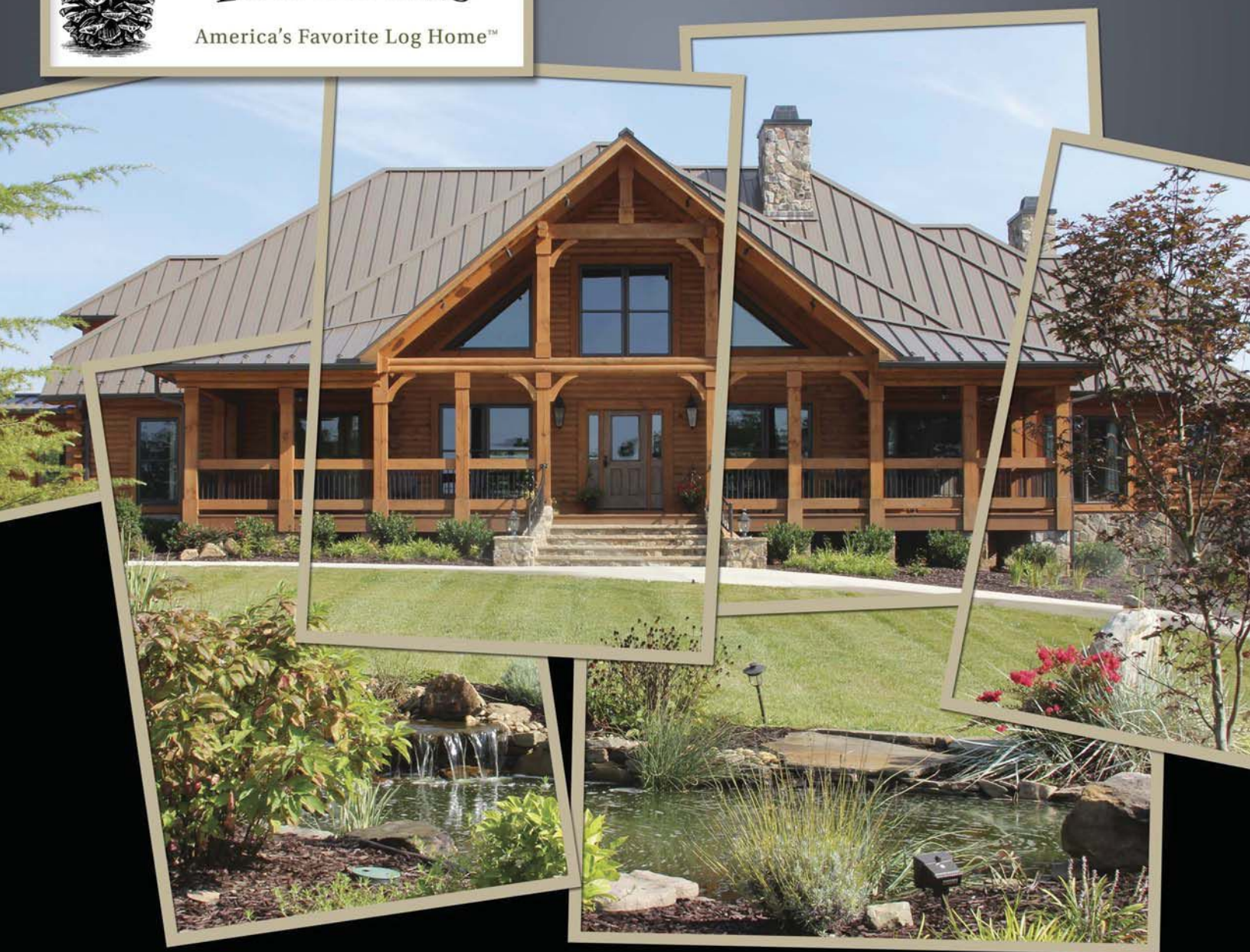
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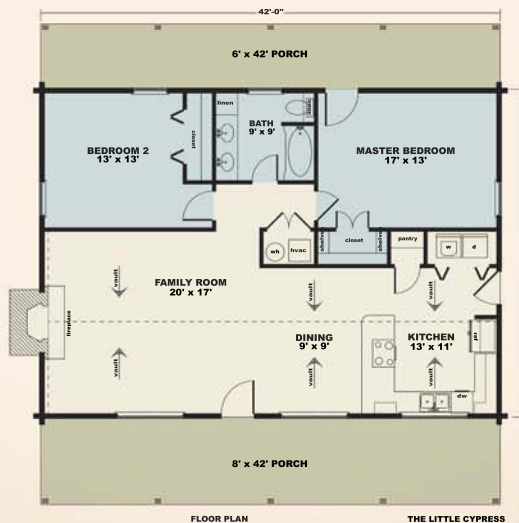


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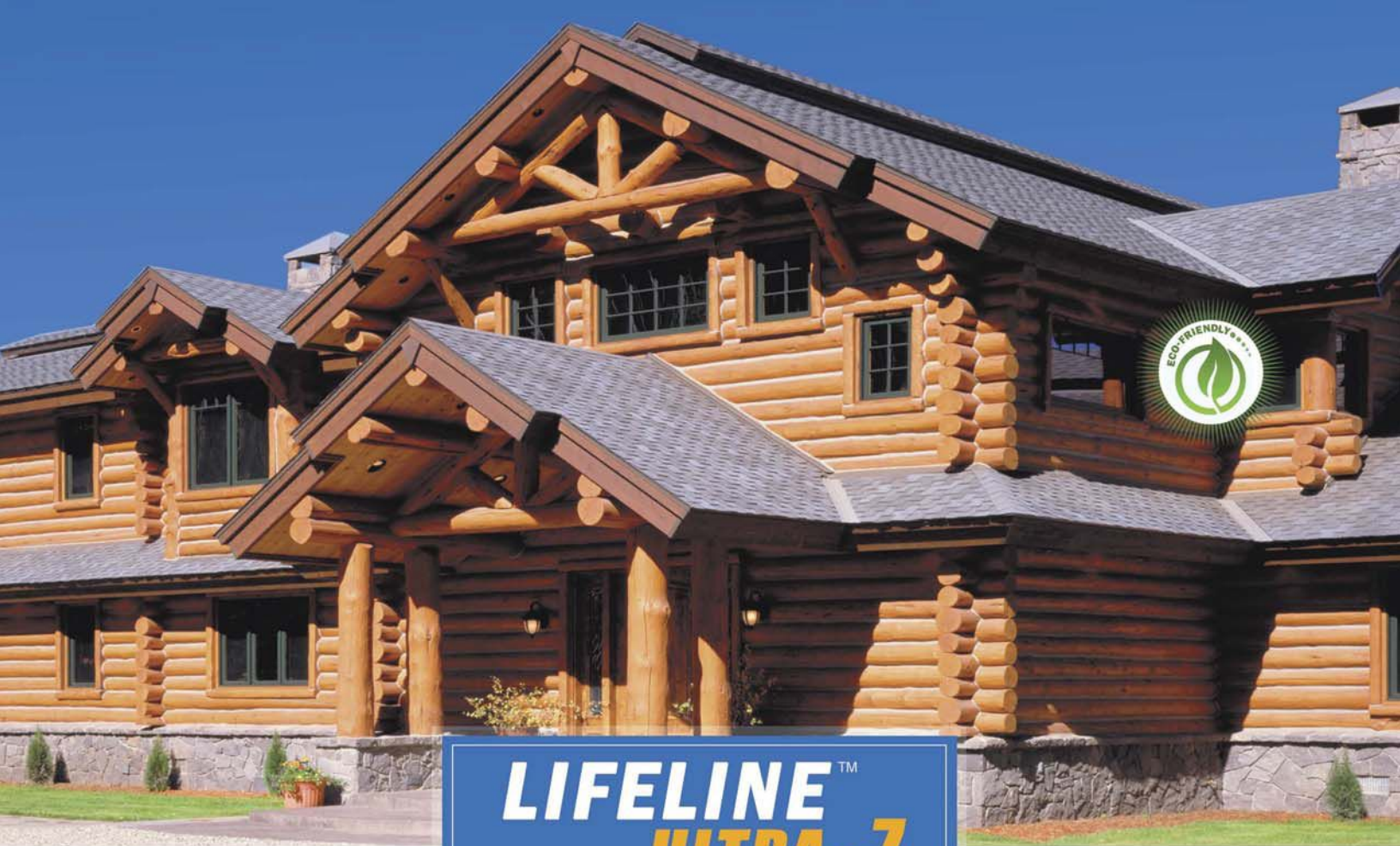
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The word “cabin” conjures up a different image for everyone. For many, it immediately brings to mind a tiny retreat nestled in a forest. For others, it’s a sizeable lodge perched high on the slopes of a ski resort or along the shores of a great lake.

Growing up, my family had “Camp Goldie,” a three-room riverside cottage just outside the tiny hamlet of Emlenton, Pennsylvania — a place I haven’t laid eyes on in nearly three decades but can picture vividly in my mind’s eye. It was our spot for large family reunions and spontaneous getaways with friends. We fished, hiked, told stories around the fire pit and encouraged my Uncle Bill to bang out tunes and church hymns on an upright piano that was painted bright hunter orange (seriously). A cabin is as much about the memories you make there as it is the structure itself.

But in our world, say the word “cabin” and you immediately think of logs. Big or small, round or square — nothing can compare to a log cabin, and this issue of **Log Home Living** definitely has a raging case of cabin fever.

In our cover story, photographer and contributor Heidi Long lets us ride shotgun

on her trip to Lone Mountain Ranch — a historic cabin compound in Montana’s Big Sky Country. From playing horseshoes to listening to Johnny Cash belt a soulful song from her cabin’s LP record player, she truly transports us back to simpler times.

But that’s just the beginning. Not only are there two more privately owned (and very diverse) log cabins for you to tour, our story “**Get the Perfect Getaway**” (p. 62) gives you sound tips for designing a cabin to suit your terrain, the number of occupants and the frequency and length of your stays.

And last but certainly not least, I sat down with Drew and Jonathan Scott — the beloved **Property Brothers** — to get their take on tiny homes versus small cabins. The duo shares their views in their trademark fun-loving style in “**Small Talk with HGTV’s Property Brothers**” (p. 18).

No matter what the cabin concept means to you, this issue has something for everyone. So sit back, relax and take it all in. You’re on cabin time.

Donna

DONNA PEAK
Editor-in-Chief

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Log Home Living® [USPS #005-515] [ISSN #1041-830X] is published monthly, except January, June and November, by the Home Group of Active Interest Media Inc. The known office of publication is located at 5720 Flatiron Parkway, Boulder, CO 80301. The editorial office is located at 5720 Flatiron Parkway, Boulder, CO 80301; 800-826-3893. Periodicals Postage paid at Boulder, CO and additional offices. Vol. 34, No. 3, published February 1, 2017.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: For subscription questions or address changes, call 800-234-8496 [U.S. only]. Subscription rate \$19.95, plus \$3 shipping and handling per year. Canada add \$10 per year.

PRIVACY STATEMENT: The Home Group is committed to protecting your privacy. For a full copy of our privacy statement, go to www.loghome.com.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Log Home Living®, P.O. Box 420235, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0235.

Printed in the U.S.A.

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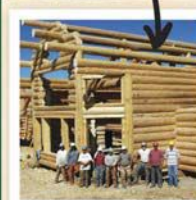
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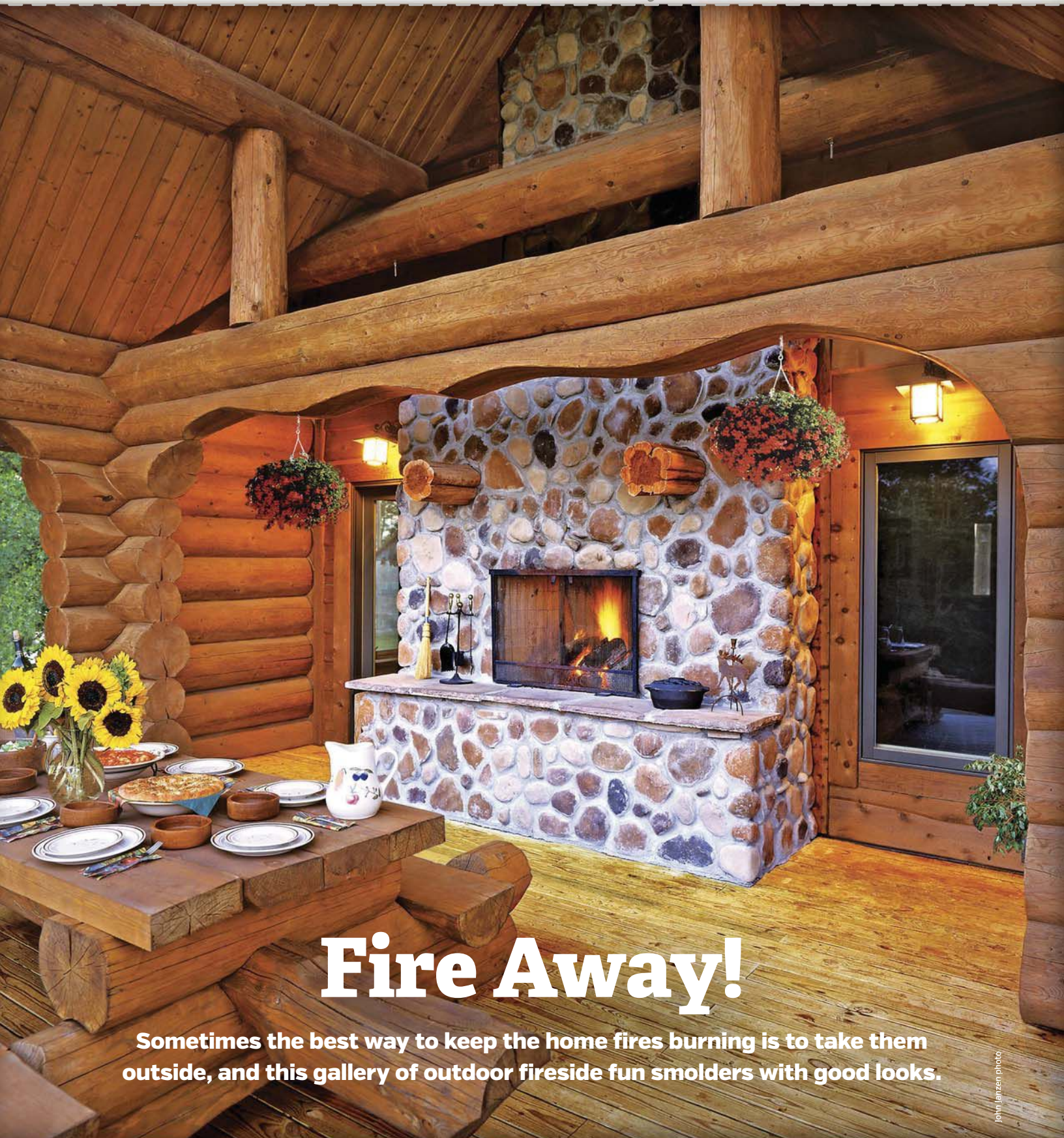


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Fire Away!

Sometimes the best way to keep the home fires burning is to take them outside, and this gallery of outdoor fireside fun smolders with good looks.

Stone in Love: A raised hearth brings this fieldstone-encased firebox to eye level when seated at the picnic table.



Square log walls provide the perfect medium for this Prairie Style design. The home exhibits many of the characteristics of Frank Lloyd Wright's signature style, including the use of horizontal lines, flat roofs and deep overhangs. Just one of the many options for creating your ideal Mountain Style Home.

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Gary & Robin's Story (Their home shown above)

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For the rest of *Gary & Robin's Story*

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Get Grilled (above):

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Multiple seating areas create a variety of al fresco dining options.



Open Fire (left):

With both lake and mountain views, this fire pit is simply begging for marshmallow toasting and ghost stories around its warm embrace.

LEFT: JK Lawrence photo; TOP: Jenn-Air photo

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Illustration courtesy Arbor Day Foundation

Who among us doesn't love trees? When J. Sterling Morton founded Arbor Day back in 1872, his idea was simple — set aside a special day for tree planting.

This year, that date is April 28: National Arbor Day.

If you're a log home devotee, you love trees so much you've chosen to surround yourself with them. But if you think that the log home industry is depleting one of our nation's greatest natural treasures, think again. Log home manufacturers are committed to the health of our forests and contribute to their wellbeing in

a variety of ways, such as planting seven saplings for every mature tree they fell (like Pioneer Log Homes of British Columbia); harvesting standing-dead timbers (like Satterwhite Log Homes), which, if left in place, fuel forest fires; and even forming foundations to raise funds for conservation (like Jim Barna Log & Timber

Homes). Other companies, such as Katahdin Cedar Log Homes, ensure they use every bit of each tree they harvest, turning leftover wood into fencing and scraps into mulch or biofuels.

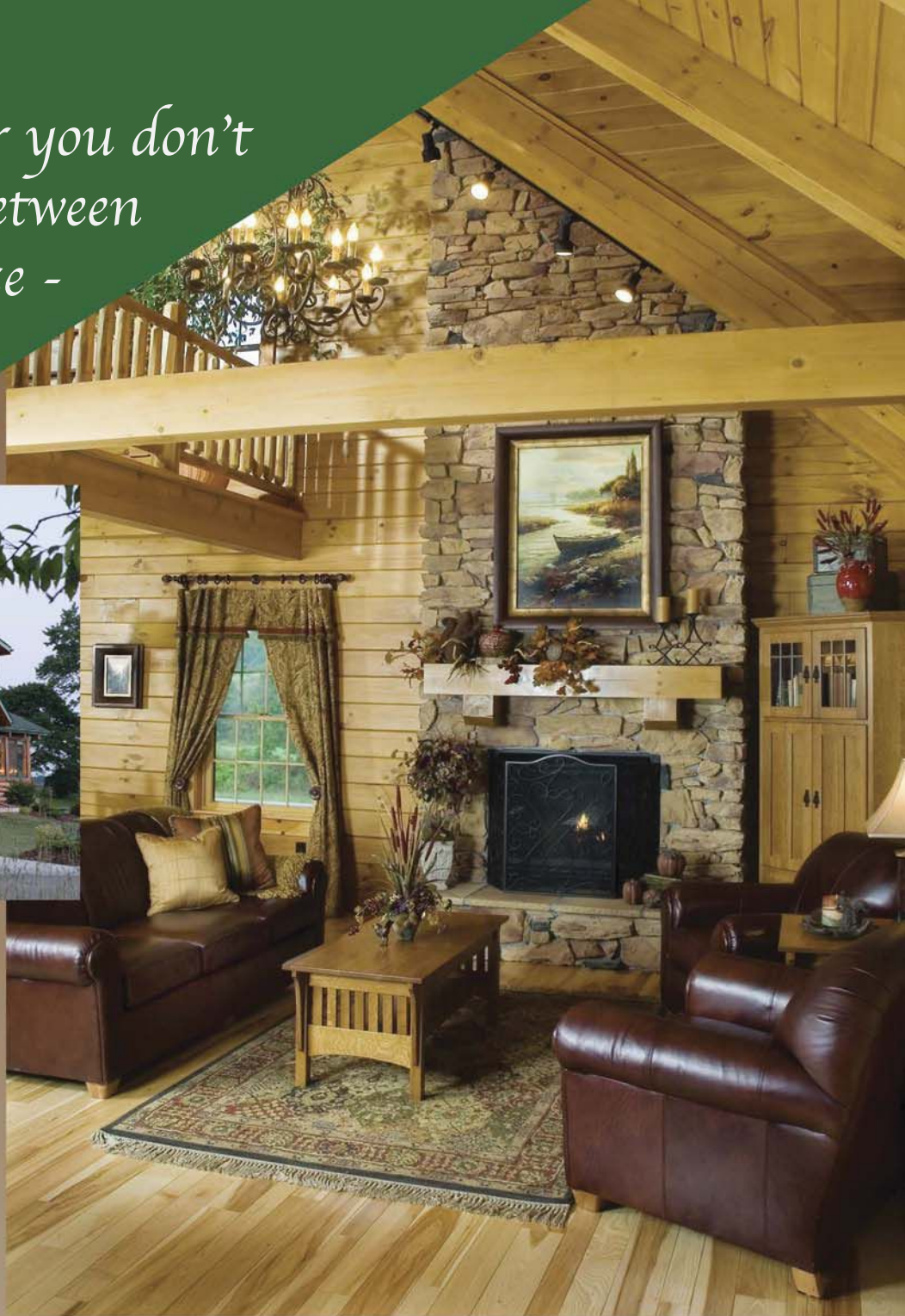
As impactful as the industry's efforts are, it's important for all of us to do our part, too. You can start by earmarking and protecting mature or endangered trees on your building site, planting new trees on your property and, on a more global scale, work with organizations like the Arbor Day Foundation to protect our national forests. For more information on how to do that, visit arborday.org/takeaction. 



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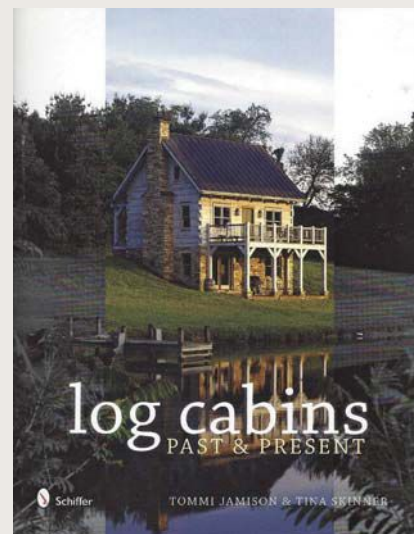
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Classic Read

Log Cabins Past & Present

By Tommi Jamison and Tina Skinner

Shelter is a necessity of life, and in their comprehensive book, authors Tommi Jamison (a former log home industry pro) and Tina Skinner take us on a picturesque journey of the myriad ways log homes have left their legacy on housing in the United States. From the earliest rudimentary settlers' cabins to the gorgeous technologically advanced log homes of today, each page showcases log home living in the traditional square-log-with-chinking style. You're sure to find inspiration through the hundreds of glorious color photos and detailed, room-by-room descriptions that Tommi and Tina provide.

Available at amazon.com

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Gone to the Dogs

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That's me and LHL's National Accounts Manager Mari Campbell with Drew (left) and Jonathan Scott at IBS.

Log Home Living photos

Small Talk with HGTV's Property Brothers

At the 2017 International Builders' Show (IBS), I had a chance to sit down with two of HGTV's most popular and trusted real estate/renovation pros, Jonathan and Drew Scott (aka, the Property Brothers), and I had one burning question on my mind: What do they think of the "tiny house" movement?

"Being human giants, almost every house feels tiny to us," jokes Jonathan (he and his brother tower at 6'5"). "To see how tiny living feels, Drew and I filmed a digital piece called 'Tiny House Arrest' where we spent 24 hours in a tiny house with my two dogs, and we

learned it's really not realistic. It's a fun craze that's a novelty right now, but tiny houses are illegal in most jurisdictions because they don't meet the minimum code."

"If there were more tiny houses that did meet code, especially with cities getting to be more and more expensive, that would be great," adds Drew. "But there *are* smaller homes that are becoming more functional. For example, a space where you have living, kitchen and dining all off one space, that makes sense — but it's the lack of code compliance in tiny houses that bug me."

However, the brothers point out that there are lessons to be learned from these bite-sized

abodes. "Taking the positives from what you see in tiny homes, like multipurpose spaces and multifunctional furniture pieces — that's the stuff I *do* like," says Jonathan.

"I've lived in condos that are less than 500 square feet that have worked," Drew admits, "but laying out the space to maximize its use is the key. We took a project that was a 690-square-foot, poorly designed house and reconfigured it so that the rooms were flexible and it felt very spacious." Drew's advice: The smaller you go, the more important it is to work with a design professional to squeeze out every bit of functionality from your square footage.

In one of the brothers' spin-off series,

“Property Brothers: Home on the Ranch,” the duo took a 500-square-foot, rundown log cabin with choppy rooms and a poor floor plan and transformed it into a practical, even elegant, one-bedroom, one-bath home. “The project was for a ranch hand working the property, and now — 2 years later — all the ranch hands argue over who gets to stay in it, they all like it so much,” Drew says with a laugh.

“That cabin had history, too,” interjects Jonathan. “It was built on indigenous lands but had fallen apart because it wasn’t being used or maintained. It was going to be destroyed, but some family friends purchased it from the First Nations folks and brought it to their property where it sat for about 30 more years. It was falling apart again, so this renovation was us rebuilding it yet again.”

“We grew up on a ranch and were around log cabins all the time, so we have a great appreciation and respect for this type of architecture.



It was great to take that house, revitalize it and make it functional.” Drew adds.

If there’s one piece of wisdom the Scott brothers would share it’s that small does not equal dull. “The thing I love about log homes is that you don’t have to eliminate all of the character, whether it’s in the structure itself or certain features, when you go small. It’s the

way you utilize and combine the space with new design elements so the house is more functional,” shares Drew. “Anyone who feels that a log cabin is ‘a place that’s great for a couple of days but I wouldn’t want to live in it’ hasn’t been in a log house that’s incorporated modern functionality. With smart design, a small log cabin can be a fantastic full-time home.” **L**



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Join us as we continue to follow the Murphys, a young family who dreamed of owning a log home and are making that dream come true. Each issue we'll check out their progress, learn from their missteps and cheer on their successes. In the end, we'll see how they went from raw land to their own slice of log home paradise. See how far they've come at loghome.com/step-by-step-murphys

LEFT: To stay in budget, Sean and Amanda tackled projects they could do themselves.

RIGHT: The 53-inch-tall antler chandelier is their home's crown jewel.

Sweat Equity

Sean and Amanda catch a glimpse of the finish line and decide it's time to invest some of their own labor and talents to the construction of their New Jersey log home.

It's finally here. That light at the end of that proverbial tunnel that we thought might never come. It's the light that signals the project is on the downslope, and we can start uttering the words "we're almost there." While it always proves to be a bit farther away than it appears, that light on the horizon brings hope and comfort to weary travelers. Our journey has been no different.

As Amanda and I transition from the "starting" into the "finishing" stage, we took some time to take stock of where we are with our finances and began to make some of the tougher decisions between "must haves" and "we don't really need that." It's amazing how

the financial well that seemed so deep at the beginning can begin to feel pretty shallow as you get closer to the end of the project. We decided that in order to keep some funds in reserves for the unforeseen, we'd roll up our sleeves and put in a little sweat equity of our own.

As the drywall install came to a finish and the electrician came back in to start hooking up lights and switches, we took on the painting. Why the painting? Go get a quote for painting three floors of a 4,700-square-foot home. I totally respect (even more now) what painters do, but if you have the time and patience, it's a nice opportunity to put some money back into your budget.

Before you take the plunge, however, make sure you are on the same page with your general contractor (G.C.) in regards to your schedule. While it helped that mine was the one who suggested painting as a way to save money, Amanda and I understood that we were now cogs in the wheel, and we didn't want to hold up progress. In a nutshell, make sure you actually have or can make the time for the task, or you risk becoming an impediment to your own project.

For Amanda and me, this meant spending every weekend for nearly three solid months at the house painting — with three kids in tow! The fun of actually being in the house and feeling the satisfaction of doing some work ourselves is what kept us going. It made it feel more like it was "ours." We also had some fun with the kids, letting them do the priming in the less conspicuous areas, like their bedroom closets. We wanted to make sure they also felt like it was their home and get them excited about moving into their own rooms. The family that paints together, stays together! (Trust me, there's a lot of truth to that statement.)

Since we were working in concert with our G.C. who was also working on the install of the tongue-and-groove ceiling, we were able to take advantage of the ladders and scaffolding he had in place. That made reaching the 25-foot-

Sean Murphy photos



high areas in the foyer and great room much more manageable. The regularity of being on site also kept us both close to the pulse of the project and made on-the-spot decision making for other punch list items easier.

As the painting came to a close, so did daylight savings time, so our electrician was busy wrapping up "core" lighting areas like the great room and kitchen. Again, taking advantage of the scaffolding, they were able to make the connections for the crown jewel of our log home, a 53-inch-tall antler chandelier from CDN Antler Company. It was our reward for the long days, sore necks and aching shoulders from all that painting. The chandelier is truly a work of art that's perfectly at home in its foyer perch, visible from the great room, entryway and second-floor bridge. It's large but appropriately sized for the scale of our home, and it's the centerpiece Amanda and I always envisioned it would be. We couldn't be happier.

So perhaps, for us, that light ... the one at the end of the tunnel we thought would never come ... is, and always was, that magnificent antler chandelier. One flip of that switch and we're reminded that the dream is real and the finish line is there. Perhaps it's still a little distant, but it's no mirage; and thanks to a little sweat equity, we'll reach it soon enough. **L**

Sean's Smart Tip

When selecting an antler chandelier, size matters. It's nearly impossible to go too big, but if it's too small you'll definitely notice. The volume of open space inherent in most log home designs can swallow up fixtures that would appear massive in any typical setting. We chose the largest available version of the antler design that we liked, but I bet we could've easily gone larger and it would have looked just fine in the space. Also, for a purist, nothing beats authenticity, but don't scoff at going faux. Simulated antler chandeliers are lighter, look great and cost a fraction of the real thing.

ONLINE RESOURCE



For a fail-safe chandelier-sizing formula visit: loghome.com/antler-chandeliers



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9"	\$7.48	\$6.54 L.F.
10"	\$9.58	\$8.28 L.F.
12"	\$13.98	\$12.15 L.F.
14"	\$17.88	\$15.58 L.F.
16"	N/A	\$21.98 L.F.

(Swedish Cope half log siding available for 40% less than above shown prices.)



Photo depicts a 10" cabin appearance kit.

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Laying the Groundwork for Success

Every strong and beautiful log home starts with a solid foundation.

Houses come in all shapes, sizes and styles. But the one thing every home has in common is its owner's desire to feel safe and sound. The key to a secure home is to be sure you have a proper foundation. Here's how.

First things first, identify your soils and your terrain. These factors will impact the type of foundation you need. There are many foundation options in the marketplace, from pour-in-place solid concrete to masonry concrete blocks to pre-cast concrete to insulating concrete forms (ICFs). Each are available in a variety of widths to support the lateral load of your home. Your builder should guide you as to what type is appropriate for your project.

Then identify the log style and weight load that will be sitting on that foundation. This will determine the size of the footers (in-ground

supports beneath your foundation) you need, and impact the size and thickness of the foundation's walls.

Next, you install the subfloor, which is usually made of two layers of moisture-resistant plywood. The subfloor sits atop of the foundation and then the logs sit on the subfloor, which is why laying a foundation with the proper width and strength to support both the subfloor and the log package is such an important starting point. Needless to say, the accuracy of the foundation and its relationship to the log structure needs to be extremely accurate.

For example you wouldn't want your foundation to be smaller than your log profile, even by a couple of inches. If there is a miscalculation and your foundation is too small, your subfloor may hang over the foundation wall. Then, when you stack the logs on top of the subfloor and the weight of the wood is being transferred directly

through that subfloor, you'll have an uneven proportion of the weight resting on an area that's unsupported, which could lead to your logs shifting or, worse, your subfloor breaking.

It's ok to have a minimal (1/2 to 3/4 inch) overhang of your log profile, especially if you plan to encase your foundation in decorative stone which will come up beneath the overhang and provide additional support. (You need to have a layer of flashing between the stone and the log to provide a moisture barrier between the rock and the wood.)

Just like you don't want logs to hang over the foundation, you don't want them to be recessed from the edge of the foundation, either. A flat ledge of a few inches or more will allow rain and snow to collect and rest against the bottom course of your log wall.

Now, if you are using round or D-shaped logs, depending on the profile depth you could allow a half-inch reveal on a D-shaped profile to a 1-1/2-inch reveal with a round log. In this case, it's ok for that portion of the log wall to hang over the foundation because the flat cut on the base of the log will be what sits on top of the subfloor and bears the log load.

Some manufacturers, depending on their fastening system, require that the subfloor be bolted into the foundation. This is a good idea, especially if you are in an area prone to extreme high winds or seismic activity. You want your foundation to be physically attached to the subfloor structure and, from there, attach the logs through the subfloor and into the foundation itself. In addition, foundations typically employ the use of anchor bolts spaced according to the



Cowboy Log Homes photos

local code requirements. These anchor bolts hold down what's known as the "green plate," which allows the builder to make adjustments to ensure the foundation is level.

In any home, it's important to ensure that your foundation and subfloor are as level as possible, but in a log home, it's absolutely essential. If it's not level, not only could it harm the long term structural integrity of your log walls, it could also cause the home to look like it's leaning, due to the horizontal lines that are created by the logs themselves. And unlike a brick or sided home, there's nowhere to for a builder to hide variations in level.

Your builder or general contractor should be checking for level throughout the foundation installation process, no matter what type of system you use. But in the case of a poured-concrete or ICF foundation, your contractor should ensure that the forms are level before the concrete is actually poured into place. It's

much easier to make adjustments to the form than to try to shim it once the concrete is cured.

Keep in mind that getting a long span of material to be absolutely level is a challenging task. A variance of about a half inch from end to end is acceptable, but you don't want to get more than 1 inch from one wall to another, as it will create problems when it comes time to trim out the inside or seeing that sloping line on the outside. A good builder will keep those variances within that half-inch range and then come back and re-level your subfloor with shims. It's easier to make corrections at this point than after the logs have been stacked on top of it. With everything secure and level, then you can erect the log walls.

So how do the logs, themselves, attach to the subfloor? There are several fastening methods and manufacturers available. Often, metal straps are used. These straps are poured into the foundation and then they reach up and

wrap around your joist or your floor trusses. From there you bolt (e.g., a thru-bolt) and/or lag-in the truss members to the foundation. For instance, on your foundation wall, your green plate would be bolted down with anchor bolts, then the straps would come up and reach over the top to grab hold of the floor trusses. The floor truss is then anchored, and, from there, the logs stack on top of that and are bolted into the truss member — not the plywood — that's secured to the foundation. Is it a little tougher to do that? Yes. Does it take some time to identify those key joinery points? Of course. But combined with the right size and type of foundation and proper footers, these are the keys to constructing a solid, secure log home. **L**

Dan Mitchell owns Eagle CDI in Tennessee and has built close to 100 log homes in his 30-year career. He was the Knoxville Home Builders Association 2015 Builder of the Year.

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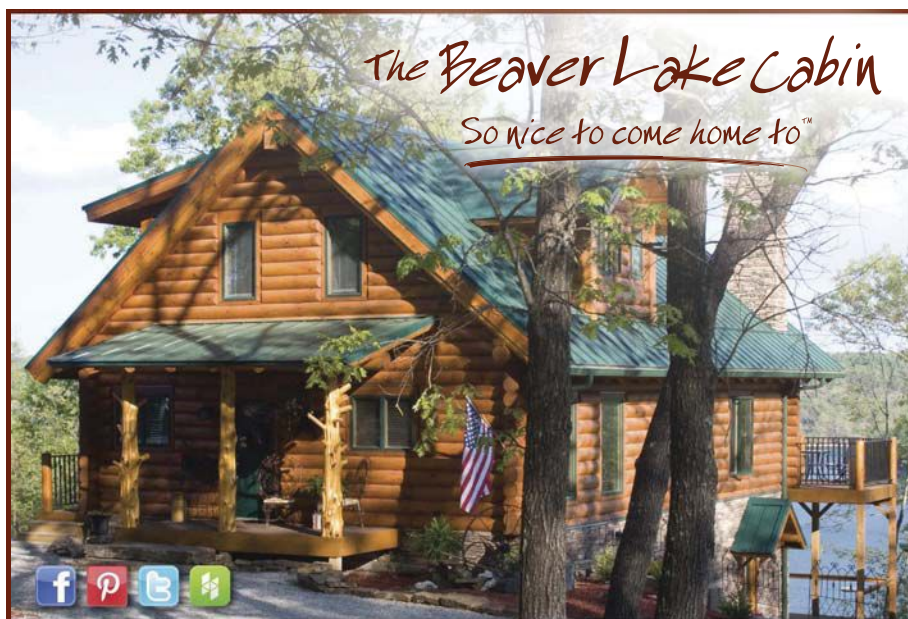
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Welcome to
LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

A Day in the Life at Lone Mountain Ranch

The log entry at Lone Mountain Ranch
welcomes foot and equine traffic but
keeps vehicles at bay.



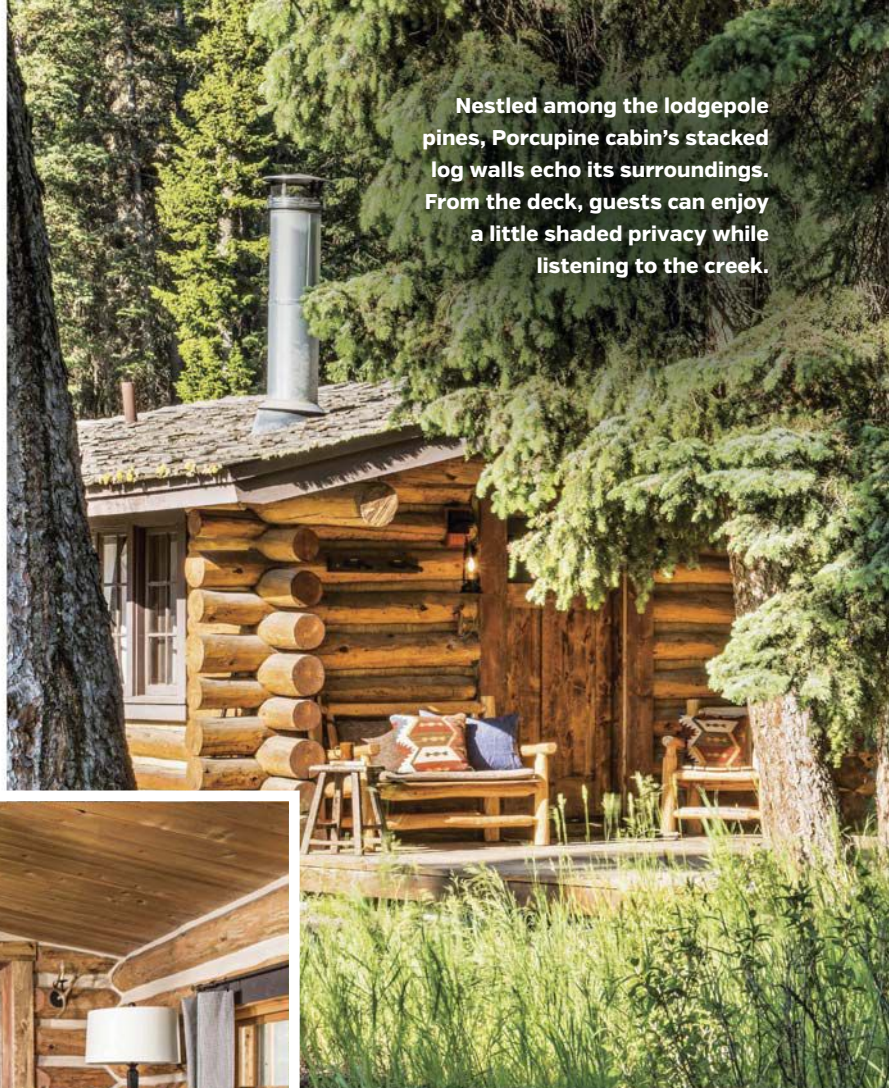
Chipmunk and neighboring Porcupine sit at the edge of the woods along North Fork Creek

INSET: Guests can hone their skills at horseshoes, a game that requires very little technology but demands a steady hand and a bruise-able ego.



A pro photographer/avid adventurer heads to Big Sky Country to carve out her own piece of history at this 100-year-old log ranch-turned-resort.

story and photography by **Heidi Long**



Nestled among the lodgepole pines, Porcupine cabin's stacked log walls echo its surroundings. From the deck, guests can enjoy a little shaded privacy while listening to the creek.



TOP LEFT: New tile and lighting offset the original log walls of Porcupine cabin.

LEFT: Once an ice house, Porcupine is now warm and inviting. The rugged-looking furnishings are as comfortable as they are durable.

Leaving the “no vehicles beyond this point” sign behind, my friend and assistant, Tia, and I amble past a horse corral, across a meadow and over North Fork Creek to arrive at Lone Mountain Ranch — our destination and my latest photographic assignment. Our log cabins are at the edge of the woods, wedged into a 90-degree bend in the creek and adjoined by a deck at the same angle. Lodgepole pines frame our views. The environment feels like a warm embrace.

“Chipmunk,” as my cabin is called, was one of the original structures built on this 100-year-old ranch. I’m the first guest to stay in this cabin since its recent restoration, but as I settle in, I wonder how many others before me have fallen to sleep inside these chinked log walls, listening to the rushing creek outside.

It all started in 1915 when Clarence Lytle homesteaded this property in Big Sky, Montana, as a working cattle and horse ranch. His brother and a friend built many of the original structures, corrals and fences. Twelve



BOTTOM RIGHT: Chipmunk, once the cook's cabin, now serves up comfort and charm, combining old logs and new accents.



RIGHT: Inside Chipmunk cabin, a wood stove knocks off the evening chill, and the daybed looks out over the creek.

years later, a paper mill tycoon from Chicago bought the place for \$50 an acre and sank an additional \$110,000 into improvements and new cabins. Native lodgepole harvested from the upper part of the property were wrapped in burlap, dragged down the mountain by teams of draft horses and then triple washed, notched and stacked on site. Each guest cabin featured linens that matched the wildflowers blossoming on their respective sod roofs.

After operating as a guest and dude ranch from the late 1920s to the mid 40s, Lone Mountain Ranch experienced its next metamorphosis when Earl and Louise Risser, along with Henrietta Joyce, purchased the ranch to use as a boys' camp, hoping to instill values in young men with the help of an enterprising minister. They offered horseback riding, swimming, fishing, gold panning, target practice and backpacking trips to nearby Yellowstone Park. In other words, it was utopia for youth.





Tia relaxes at the bar where bartender Jesse serves up a smile, a toddy and a basket of addictive house-made potato chips.



LEFT: Follow the sign to the saloon, which is a short walk from the Ranch's entry. Both guests and the general public are welcome.

However, the boys were a bit exuberant, which didn't translate well for cabin maintenance. As a result, the Risseres reverted back to dude ranching and eventually looked to sell.

In the 1950s, a Minnesota man bought the ranch as a base for his logging operation, harvesting more of the coveted lodgepole pines and shipping them via railroad back to his home state. At this point, the log buildings embarked on yet another transformation, as two of the cabins, "B-K" and "Hilltop," were converted to schoolhouses. More than 70 children attended classes while their families lived on and worked the property.

In 1955 Lone Mountain Ranch expanded to 11,000 acres and again reverted to a working dude ranch, billed as "a vacation for all the family."

The ranch changed hands a few more times until the Schaap family from West Yellowstone bought it in 1977 for use as a cross-country ski and year-round resort. The Schaaps proved to be the property's longest-running landlords, operating Lone Mountain Ranch for more than 30 years until Makar Properties purchased it in 2013.

With so much history etched into every log cabin, fence post and outbuilding, the new owner sought to preserve the ranch and "express the qualities of the region in every way." He, along with his general manager, Paul Robertson, assembled a team of ranch staff, a local contractor and the interior design firm, River and Lime, to implement a three-phase plan of structural and aesthetic restoration. All in, the refurbishment would affect 24 cabins of various ages, sizes and floor plans, two rental log homes, the restaurant, saloon, outdoor gear shop, bar and the once converted log schoolhouse. "The undertaking emphasizes Makar Properties' commitment to be a steward of this property and their desire to make it available to the public for perpetuity," says Paul.

With summer fly-fishing trips on the world-renowned Madison and Gallatin Rivers, trail rides and rafting excursions, as well as sleigh rides, ice fishing and cross country skiing, guests arrive to enjoy the same activities



TOP LEFT: Perched above the creek behind it, Ouzel cabin offers spots to relax both inside and out

LEFT: The reclaimed wood barn-style door, stacked logs and “bark-on” four-poster bed offset smooth white walls and crisp, clean sheets.

ABOVE: The contemporary concrete sink on a live-edge slab countertop complement the traditional claw foot tub in the bathroom of Ouzel cabin.



This ironclad wagon wheel promised a bumpy ride across the valley nearly a century ago.

that drew travelers a century ago, only now they're a bit more comfortable when doing so.

My cabin, Chipmunk, was the original “cook’s cabin” with the icehouse as the adjoining cabin, now called Porcupine. A custom end table/disguised mini-frig serves as my personal icehouse today. The cabins offer rustic elegance with luxuriant bedding and linens, contemporary bathrooms and just the right amount of modern conveniences alongside the heritage logs.

There’s only one way to get logs to look like this and that’s to let them sit there for nearly a

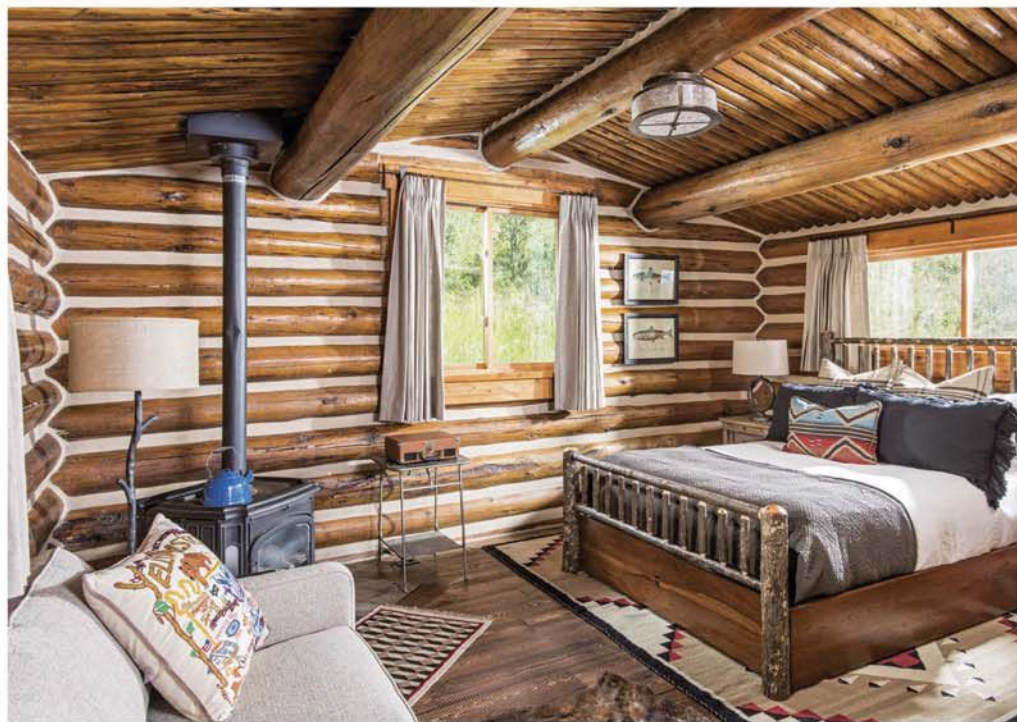
century aging like fine Bordeaux. Just as each log is unique in its size, shape and character, each cabin differs in furnishings and decor style. Stone hearths provide warmth and focal design in some cabins while woodstoves accent others. The “Ouzel” cabin features a four-poster, bark-clad log bed and a reclaimed-wood sliding barn door to the bathroom where there’s a claw-foot tub. A contemporary concrete sink contrasts the live-edge wood slab counter. These are the nuances of the renovation: Preserving character while adding new charm.



It's tough to leave the porch at Meadowlark cabin, but the river, trail and mountains call. The original Gatekeeper's cabin, Meadowlark now keeps guests relaxed and happy.

"Meadowlark," the original gatekeeper's cabin, offers a glass-and-tile shower with a slate floor in the bathroom. Burlap-like curtains in the main room hang over the very logs that were wrapped in the material seven decades earlier. In the Bitterroot cabin, a white sheet-rocked wall with built-in cabinets and shelving offsets the log walls and defines a sitting area. Antique and vintage curiosities vary in each cottage: a milking stool, throwing darts, native baskets, woolen rugs, wooden bowls. A nostalgic array of vintage records provides background music to the narrative of Lone Mountain Ranch.

At full capacity, the facility accommodates 100 horses, 80 guests, 70 employees and one requisite ranch dog. After a long day in the saddle, fly fishing or exploring Yellowstone Park, guests return to their cabins to find the porch lights on and their beds turned down. Chef Eric Gruber oversees the all-day process of smoking ribs, curing corned beef and baking fresh pies and breads. The savory aromas serve as a dinner bell, calling folks to the log



LEFT: Log shelves, a glass and tile shower and white walls keep things bright inside the bath.

ABOVE: One of the first structures built on the Ranch, Meadowlark's logs are lodgepole pine harvested 100 years ago.



restaurant and saloon where they must decide between dishes like Crispy Skin Local Montana Trout with Warm Heirloom Potato and Root Vegetable Salad or Slow Braised Bison Shortrib Bourguignon. A bison mount hangs over the massive stone hearth at one end of the dining room, where a live-edge wood slab table seats up to ten. Log trusses support the vaulted tongue-and-groove ceiling. In the adjacent saloon, leather cushioned log post stools line up along the copper-topped bar. The stone fireplace, log beams and amiable bartender are a tip-of-the-hat to tradition, while contemporary touches also are evident in the floor-to-ceiling glass gable end wall and high back leather bar chairs.



TOP: Meals are all-inclusive at the Ranch. Keep in mind you will need a week to properly sample the menu.

ABOVE: The saloon offers respite after a long day in the saddle or on the river. Jesse keeps guests watered and happy.



Each evening children are drawn to the central campfire like fireflies. They practice roping, roast marshmallows and assemble double-decker s'mores. A staff member is on hand to dispense the goods and watch for flying embers. The Outdoor Youth Adventures staff meets each morning to discuss how best to engage and inspire each of their charges and alter the day's activities accordingly. The approach is intentional; if the children are involved and having fun so, too, will the parents, whether they're on separate or family outings.

The logs used in these cabins stack up like pages in a history book, each with its own tale and footnotes. Back in my cabin for the evening, I select a Johnny Cash LP and play

it on the phonograph while I take in my surroundings. If there were a TV in the room, I would have no desire to watch it. I've spent the day touring historic cabins, listening to guests recount their adventures and watching staff take genuine pleasure in the joy of their guests. It's the people who have made Lone Mountain Ranch the rare place that it is. Those who built and worked it over the years, those who continue to envision and sustain its future and those who return each year to enjoy it. **L**



Give me S'More: A happy camper samples her gooey concoction.



RIGHT: In a world of iTunes and Spotify, an old-fashioned vinyl record player spinning Johnny Cash tunes really hits the spot!



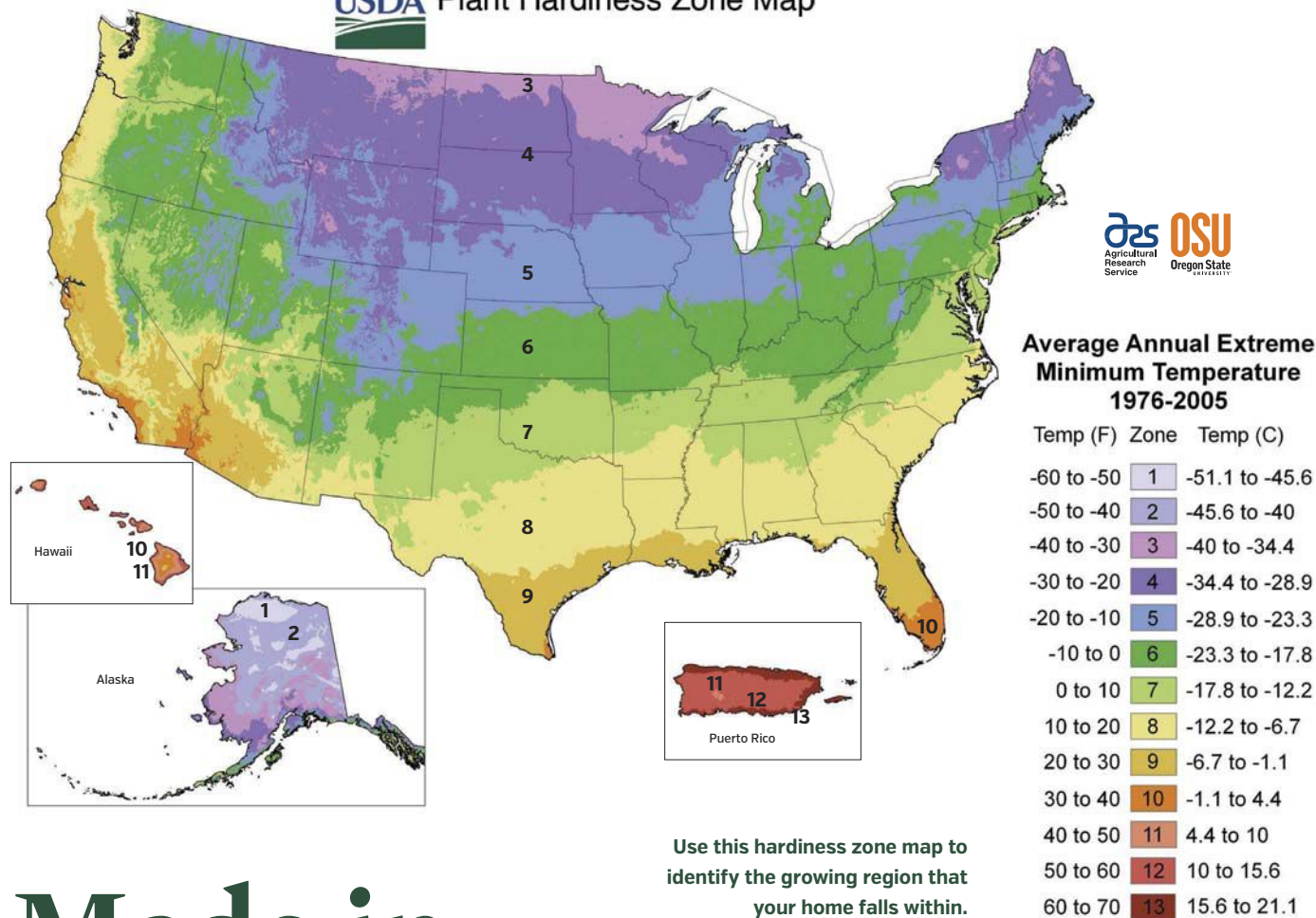


ABOVE & BELOW: Besides cabins, Lone Mountain Ranch also offers two log homes for rent. "Ridgetop" sits above the ranch overlooking the valley.



WWW
 Want to visit Lone Mountain Ranch for yourself?
 Learn more at lonemountainranch.com

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map



USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, 2012. Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Accessed from <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>.

Made in the Shade

Strategically selected trees provide beauty and long-term protection for your log home.

If you love log homes, chances are you want to surround yourself with trees, both harvested and living. While it's true that many tree species will take time to grow before you can reap their benefits — for example, plant a black walnut tree now and you'll get your first yield in about three decades — there are some varieties that will bring advantages

within just a few years.

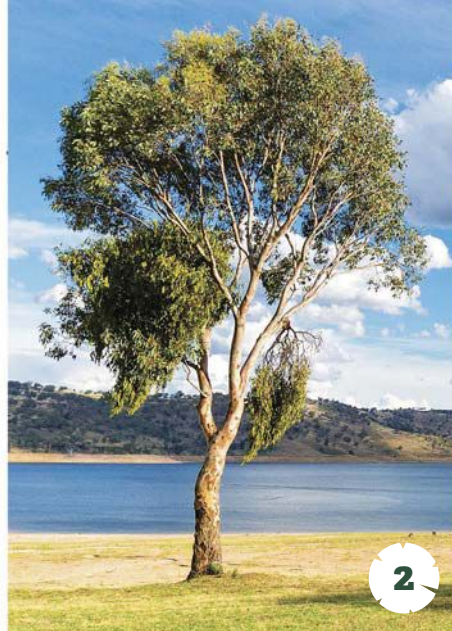
For log cabins and homes, the right tree choice can provide ample shade, protect the logs' exterior finish from harsh sunlight and enhance energy performance on the inside. Coupled with improving air quality and creating a more attractive landscape, trees offer a long-term return on investment that's tough to resist. Here are a few choices to consider:

1 Juniper

With a silvery-blue appearance and a dense, hedge-like structure, juniper makes a nice addition to any log cabin landscape throughout the northern hemisphere. They are highly drought tolerant, so maintenance is minimal, but they vary in size and shape — from tall and columnar to low and spreading — so be sure you research the properties of the variety you're selecting.

2 Eucalyptus

In warmer climates (zones 8 to 11), eucalyptus is a top choice because it can grow up to 6 feet per year and it smells amazing. Another bonus is that it tends to repel mosquitoes, so plant a couple outside a deck or patio area to keep the bugs at bay.



3 Norway Spruce

One of the fastest-growing evergreens, this variety is very cold hardy, so it's great all the way down to hardiness zone 2. It has a classic Christmas tree appearance, especially as it gets taller. In fact, it can reach soaring heights of nearly 200 feet. If you prefer a denser evergreen (maybe as a natural privacy fence), try the Colorado Blue Spruce.

4 Sugar Maple

Though most identified with the upper regions of North America, like New England, Wisconsin and, of course, Canada, if you live in hardiness zones 3 to 8, the fast-growing sugar maple offers all kinds of benefits for you. Not only will this variety give you ample shade, if

you're feeling ambitious, you can also tap it and turn the sap into syrup. Maples are known for their dramatic color changes and gorgeous autumn foliage — just be prepared to rake and don't plant them against prevailing wind patterns or you'll be cleaning out your gutters more frequently, too.

5 Weeping Willow

With its graceful profile and growth of up to 2 feet per year, this type of willow is a lovely addition to any yard in hardiness zones 6 to 8. Since it grows well in soggy soil, it's a top choice for wetter areas where other trees wouldn't thrive, like near marshes or ponds, for example. Just keep them away from your home's plumbing lines as the expansive root system seeks water aggressively.

To get the best shade protection, plant trees along the southernmost exposure of your property and about 20 to 40 feet from the house lest you put your foundation or utility lines at risk from root infiltration or subject your walls to potential insect infestation. Willows and poplars should be kept farther from your home than evergreens.

If you have buried gas or electric lines, call your local utility company before you dig so they can come out and mark those lines.

Planting even just a few trees can make a huge difference in your satisfaction with your home, and many log cabin owners tend to plant trees regularly — either annually or every few years — to compensate for the loss of older or dead trees. Plant now and it's very likely that you'll see the benefits quickly and for years, even decades, to come. **L**

FRESH TAKES

Pit for a King

The Emperor Wood-Burning Fire Pit features a wide bowl, steel banding, handcrafted rivets and a rustic finish. Each vessel is handcrafted in the U.S.A. from carbon steel to provide years of enjoyment. woodlanddirect.com, 800-919-1904



Get Fired Up

As winter thaws away, turn down the thermostat and heat things up outside! From toasting marshmallows to grilling-gone-green, these fantastic finds are sure to fuel your outdoor desires.



More S'mores

Branch out at your next campfire with a Marshmallow Tree. The steel fork has a tapered handle made of stained rosewood and the tree-shape design allows the fork to hold 10 marshmallows at once. romeindustries.com

Grilling Green (left)

Ecoque Grills consume up to 75 percent less fuel than similar-sized grills and come in a range of sizes from small, portable varieties to large three-burner units. The 15-inch model can cook a meal for up to eight people using as few as 16 charcoal briquettes. ecoque.com, 206-257-1128

Safety First (right)

Pave the way for a fire pit on your lawn, dock or patio without worrying about damage. The powder-coated, iron frame of the Fire Pit Safety Base is designed to keep 16-by-16-inch pavers (not included) in place under a fire pit or stove. The collapsible frame is easy to use and transport. plowhearth.com, 800-494-7544



Designated Smoking Area (left)

Feed a family or a crowd with the Classic 16-inch smoker from Horizon Smokers. The offset firebox and large cooking chamber can be used on a low heat for slow smoking or higher temperatures for grilling. Fuel it with wood or charcoal. horizonbbqsmokers.com, 866-468-4066

On the Rise (below)

The “Elevations” tiered cooking system for Weber’s Spirit 300 Series and larger gas grills takes advantage of the vertical space inside the grill. A vegetable basket, expansion rack and multilevel skewer system allow you to grill and roast a wide variety of foods to perfection. store.weber.com, 800-446-1071



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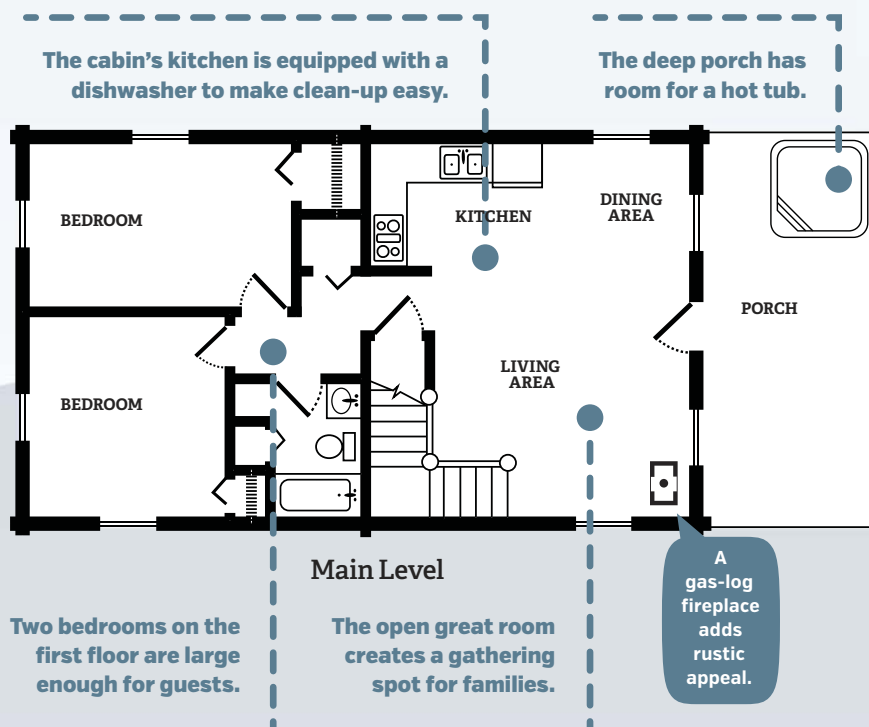
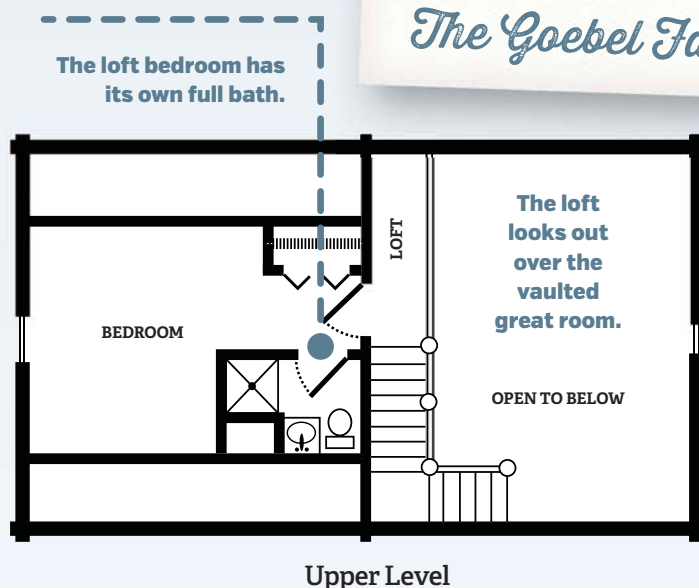


The Goebel Family

Christian and Angela Goebel have plenty of experience with log homes: Christian has built 10 tiny cabins that serve as rentals in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. When it came time to add another cabin to their 7-acre Cast-a-Way Cabins community, they decided that this time around, bigger would be a bit better.

Why a log home: "There's something about a rustic log cabin that's very appealing," Christian says. "It's in keeping with the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains." From their experience with people looking for a vacation getaway, the Goebels know that log homes are a perennial attraction in every season.

Most important features: The Goebels wanted this new cabin to be large enough to hold three bedrooms and two full baths, but still wanted to maintain a fairly small footprint. The living area had to offer enough space for a family to relax, as well as a fully equipped kitchen. "People have higher expectations," Christian says, even when they are looking for a "rustic" vacation spot. While their other two-bedroom rentals have lofts that serve as seating areas with pull-out sofas, the Goebels wanted this cabin to have a third true bedroom suite upstairs.



PLAN SPACES

Square Footage: 1,400

Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2 full

The Lowdown

The Goebels turned to their trusted partner, Conestoga Log Cabins & Homes in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, for help. (Conestoga supplied the packages for all of the other homes Christian has built.) They started with Conestoga's Mountain Haven model and made a few adjustments. "This model provides two-story living within a reasonable budget," says Ronald Myer of Conestoga. "The loft can be open or closed."



The Inside Scoop

If you plan to purchase a log package, it can be confusing to directly compare what various log home companies offer. To help you navigate your options, Ronald provides these suggestions:

- **Study the contents of the package/kit.** "Ask for a materials list to see what is truly included," Ronald says. For example, "roofing" may mean just structural roof members for some companies, others might include shingles and other finishing materials.



ONLINE RESOURCE

Browse floor plans of all shapes and sizes in our growing online collection.
loghome.com/floorplans

- **Bring in your builder.** Ask your builder to review the materials list from a professional standpoint to let you know what you might have to purchase on your own.
- **Evaluate the level of pre-cutting.** Especially if you plan to build the home yourself, you might want a kit with pre-cut logs to reduce the amount of cutting you would need to do on site.

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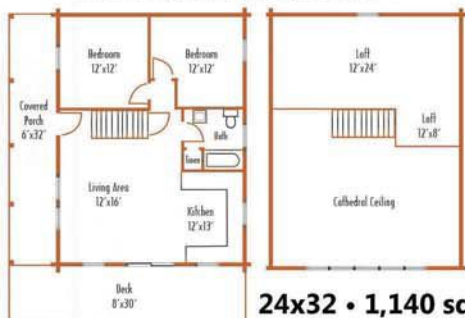


PINE OR CEDAR OPTION

Complete Package Price
based on Nov. 1, 2016 price list:

\$64,200

6x8 Pine Log from the Tradesman Series



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

Swiftwater



photos may vary from actual design

Woodland



Complete Package Price
based on Nov. 1, 2016 price list:

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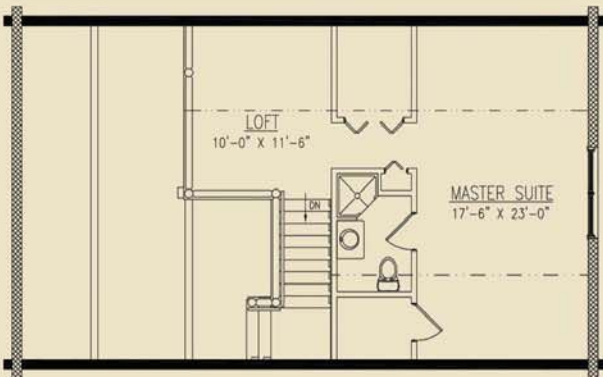
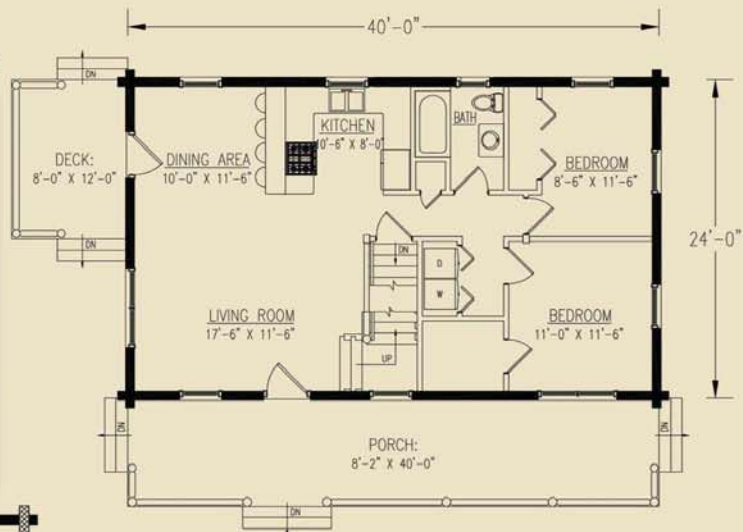
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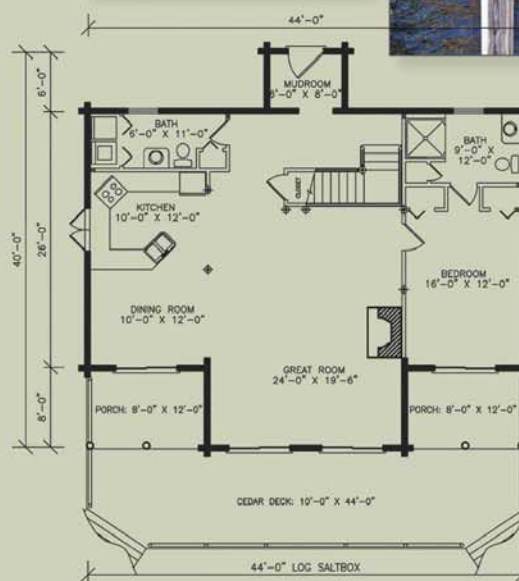
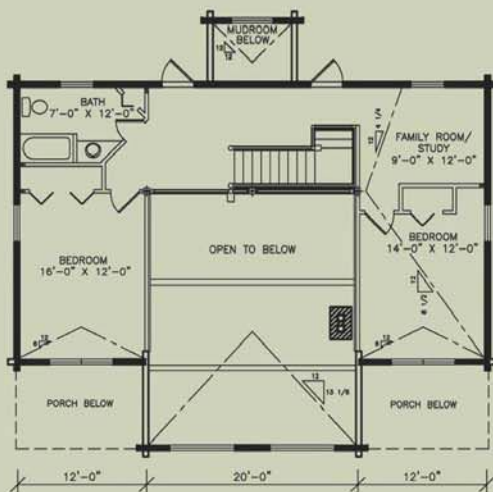
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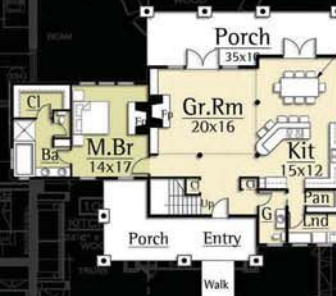
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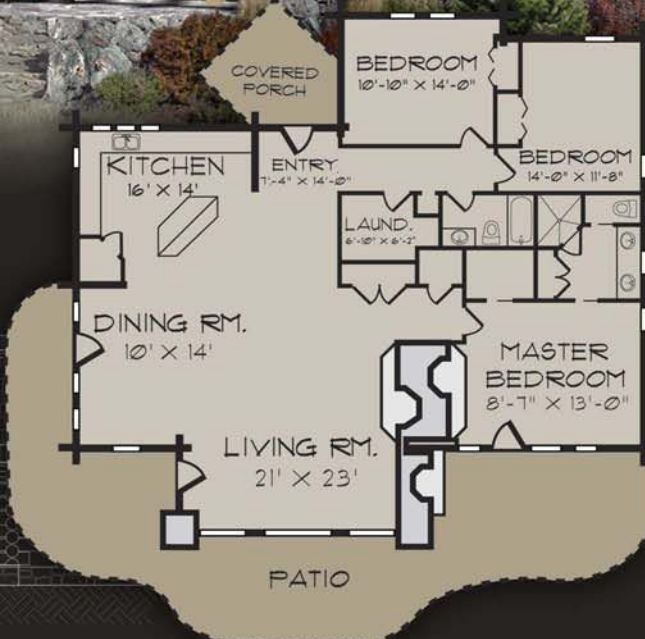
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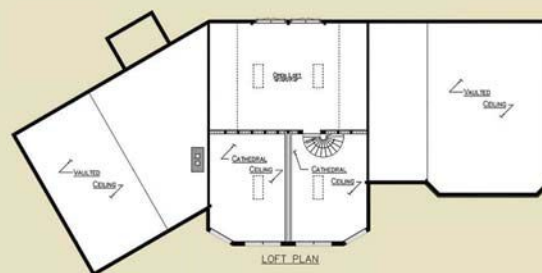
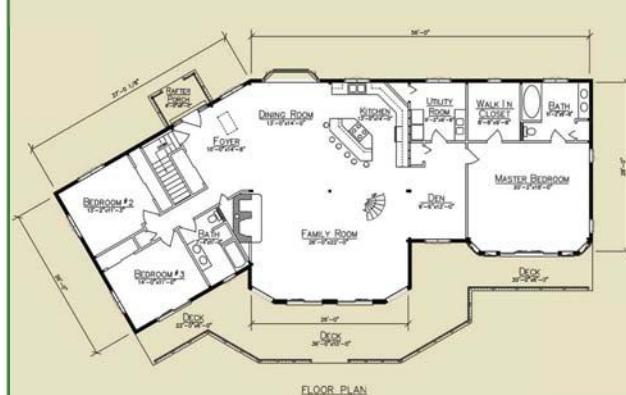
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Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2.5

Square Footage: 1,946

Package Price: Call for prices

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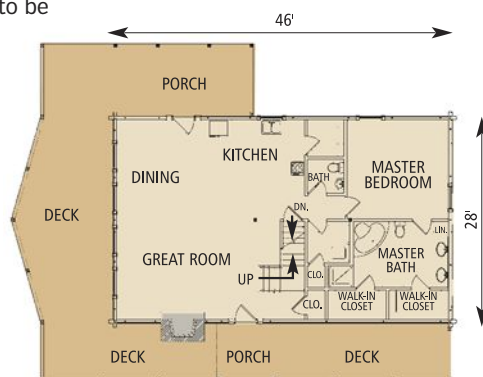
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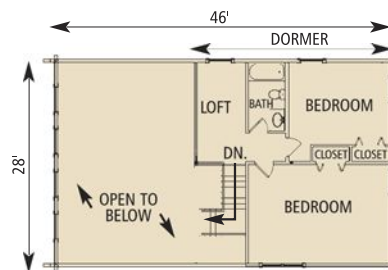
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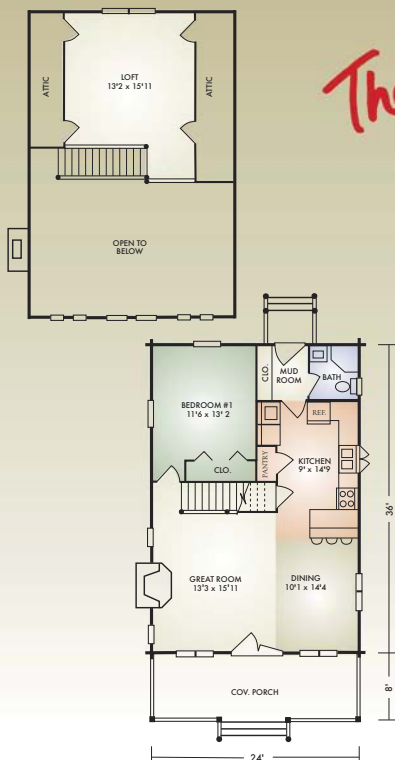


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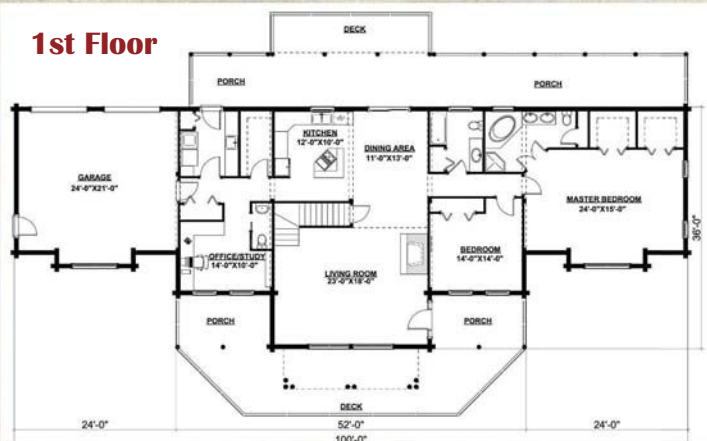
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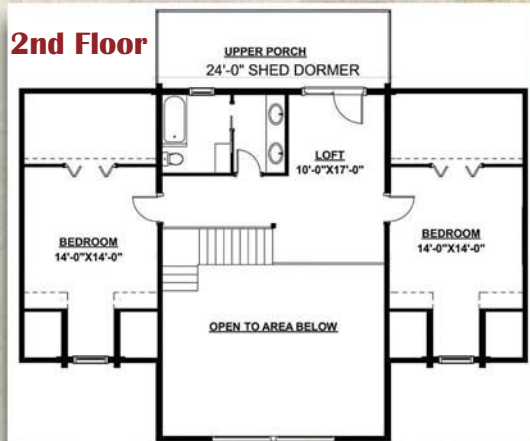
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Bedrooms: 3 **Baths:** 2.5

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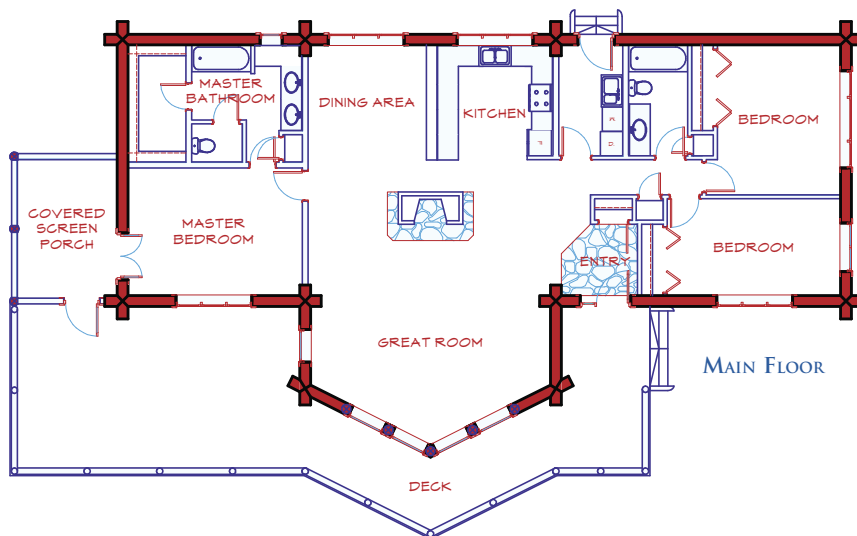


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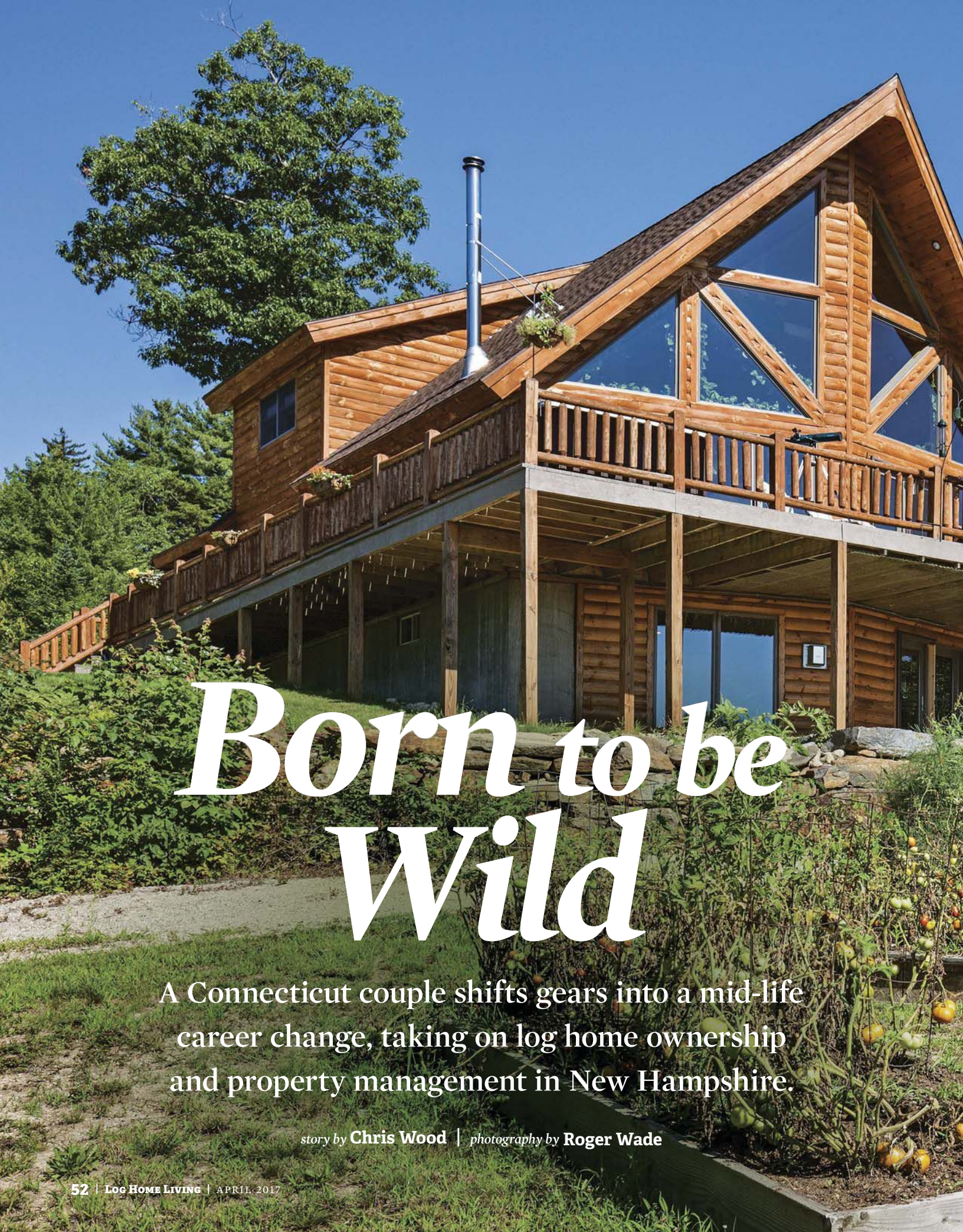
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Born to be Wild

A Connecticut couple shifts gears into a mid-life career change, taking on log home ownership and property management in New Hampshire.

story by **Chris Wood** | photography by **Roger Wade**



Nothing was going to stand in the way of Mark and Diane Luth and their dream log home. The couple met in 2006 and instantly hit it off, sharing a bucket list that included a mountaintop cabin and a motorcycle run from Connecticut to Nova Scotia. Then, right in the middle of a simple training ride, a deer jumped in front of Mark's bike. In the ensuing crash, he broke his collarbone and an ankle.

Never ones to sit idle, Diane still made the Nova Scotia run, while Mark attacked their other long-term goal: researching suitable log home sites in New Hampshire to check out upon her return. One of the properties in Marlow had an existing foundation, but Diane told Mark to skip it.

"I came up here, even though she didn't want me

to, and I couldn't believe the view!" recalls Mark, who spent summers in the area with family since he was a boy. "Even with the old foundation, I didn't want to look at anything else. It was remote and we had to put in all of our underground power and utilities and clear a driveway up to the site, but it was all worth it."

A lower-elevation perspective highlights Mark and Diane's home's distinctive tradesman-style prow, which is surrounded by deck space and offers incredible unobstructed, mountaintop views of the southern New Hampshire countryside.



A photograph of a rustic log cabin interior. The walls and ceiling are made of horizontal wooden planks. A large black wood-burning stove sits on a raised platform in front of a stone fireplace. A tall black chimney pipe extends from the stove to the ceiling. To the left, a flat-screen TV is mounted on the wall. A wooden barrel and a potted plant are also visible. Sunlight streams in from the left, casting shadows on the floor.

Prow windows provide a greenhouse effect that has the Luths' abundant plants climbing to the ceiling. They copped the idea from a favorite restaurant. The couple maximized every inch – horizontal and vertical – of their 1,687-square-foot home.

Originally, the Luths had planned to hold onto the property and defer building until retirement — Mark from his job as a diesel mechanic and Diane from a position selling construction vehicle telematics technology. While visiting a construction site together in 2007, the couple was involved in yet another accident, with Diane breaking her neck and Mark nearly losing his leg. “That’s when we decided we weren’t waiting anymore,” Diane declares. “We were going to start building our dream right then and there.”

Mark’s pension was enough to get started, and the couple selected the small “Swiftwater” plan from Coventry Log Homes to build at the base of the property while Diane continued to work remotely and save money for a larger log home on the mountain’s peak. Forced into early retirement due to his injuries, Mark began helping builder Craig Tombley on the cabin and quickly discovered an untapped talent for carpentry.

“He had never touched a carpentry tool in his life, and now all of the sudden here he was saying, ‘Honey, keep ordering more tools,’” Diane says with a laugh.

By the time utilities had been run and the mountaintop site was ready, so was Mark. Craig and his son constructed the building envelope — the logs, windows and roof — and Mark was able to build the rest. “Even though we’re on top of a hill and exposed to a lot of wind, you don’t feel anything in this house. It is unbelievable how solid the log walls are,” Mark says of the final result, a slightly modified version of Coventry Log Homes’ “Aspen” model, a tradesmen-style log home featuring a distinctive prow-front and open-concept floor plan.

“With Mark’s leg, we wanted to plan for the future and have at least one bathroom, one bedroom and a washer/dryer on the main floor,” Diane says. “We also wanted a plan that was roomy, but not so big that it felt empty with just the two of us. The way the layout is, it’s so efficient from a space standpoint and it didn’t cost as much to build.”

Mark made some modifications to the

story continues on page 60



The image shows a two-story log cabin interior. The walls and ceiling are made of horizontal wooden planks. A large, thick, dark wood beam runs horizontally across the upper part of the room. In the foreground, there is a dark brown leather sofa with two patterned pillows. To the right, a dark wood dining table is set with chairs. In the background, there is a kitchen area with wooden cabinets and a stone wall. A balcony with a wooden railing is visible on the left side. The overall atmosphere is warm and rustic.

"It's a big move, but it was a smart one for us. It was a move to a stress-less life," shares Diane, referring to how life-altering circumstances urged the couple to build sooner than later.

If a tree falls ... The prominent cross beam is from a pine tree brought down on the property during Hurricane Sandy. It was peeled, dried and installed by owner Mark Luth and strengthens the opposing exterior wall.





The high-end kitchen (without the high price tag) features granite countertops from Affordable Granite and Samsung and Electrolux stainless steel appliances. The range and oven are incorporated into an island, allowing the chef to entertain and be entertained while cooking.

A relaxing loft serves dual purpose as an office where the Luths manage their cabin down the hill and work on design concepts for a possible third log home to build on the property.



HOME DETAILS

Square Footage: 1,687

Bedrooms: 3 Bathrooms: 2 full

**Log Provider:
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Aspen plan, including switching casement windows from the basement to the main floor to allow the room to open up to the deck; installation of radiant heat to the ground level and upstairs bathroom; the build-out of the kitchen, bathroom and loft spaces; and even the installation of a huge pine beam from a tree felled on the property by Hurricane Sandy during the home's construction in 2012.

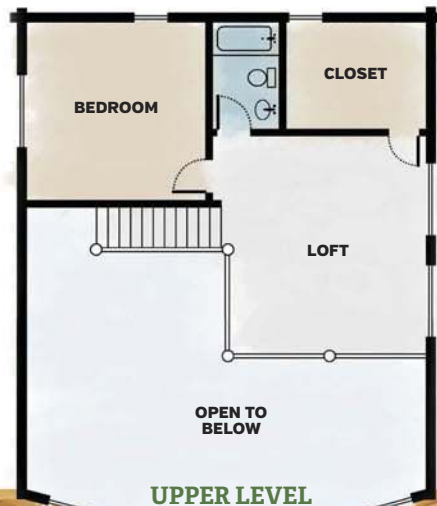
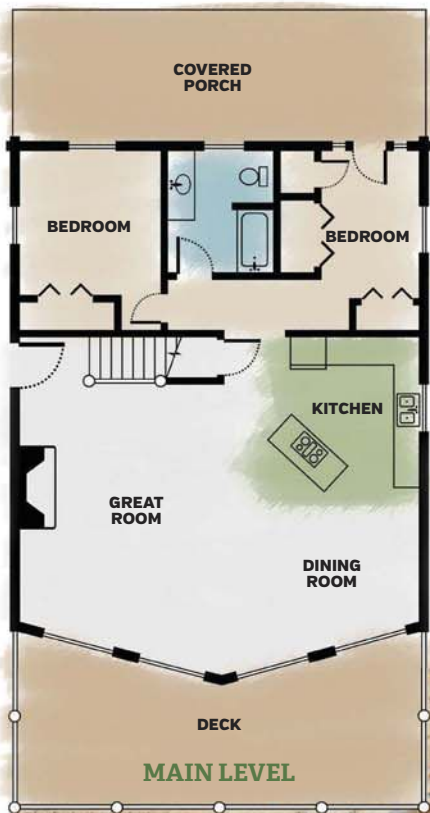
"For the cabin itself, I pushed for the 8-inch-round pine so the house would have more character," Diane says. "On the ground floor we installed pre-finished hickory flooring, which holds up well with four grandkids and two 130-pound malamutes." On the pre-existing foundation, Mark built a maple syrup sugaring shack, an adjoining greenhouse and a catwalk connecting the outbuildings to the main cabin.

To help pay for construction, Mark and Diane began renting out the Swiftwater cabin, which they still do to this day. It has them seriously contemplating building again and getting into the log home resort business.

"We've already decided on a name: Mountain Top Property Management," says Diane. "The business up here is good, and I suppose that's what's going to become our retirement plan. We were fortunate that we were somewhat forced into it. A lot of people are afraid to make that move where it's a half hour to get to a gas station and there's no pizza delivery. It's a big move, but it was a smart one for us. It was a move to a stress-less life."

And with that, Mark starts talking about the tools he'll need for the next cabin's construction and Diane jumps into a story about the importance of staining your logs right away to prevent mold from taking hold on your raw timbers. For some reason you have the feeling that the third Luth log home isn't far behind, and there's probably going to be a new out-building for the motorcycles, too. A stress-less life indeed. **L**

LEFT: It's pine on full display with knotted tongue-and-groove lap walls and ceilings in the upstairs bedroom, which, without heat, can still become the warmest room in the house due to convection.



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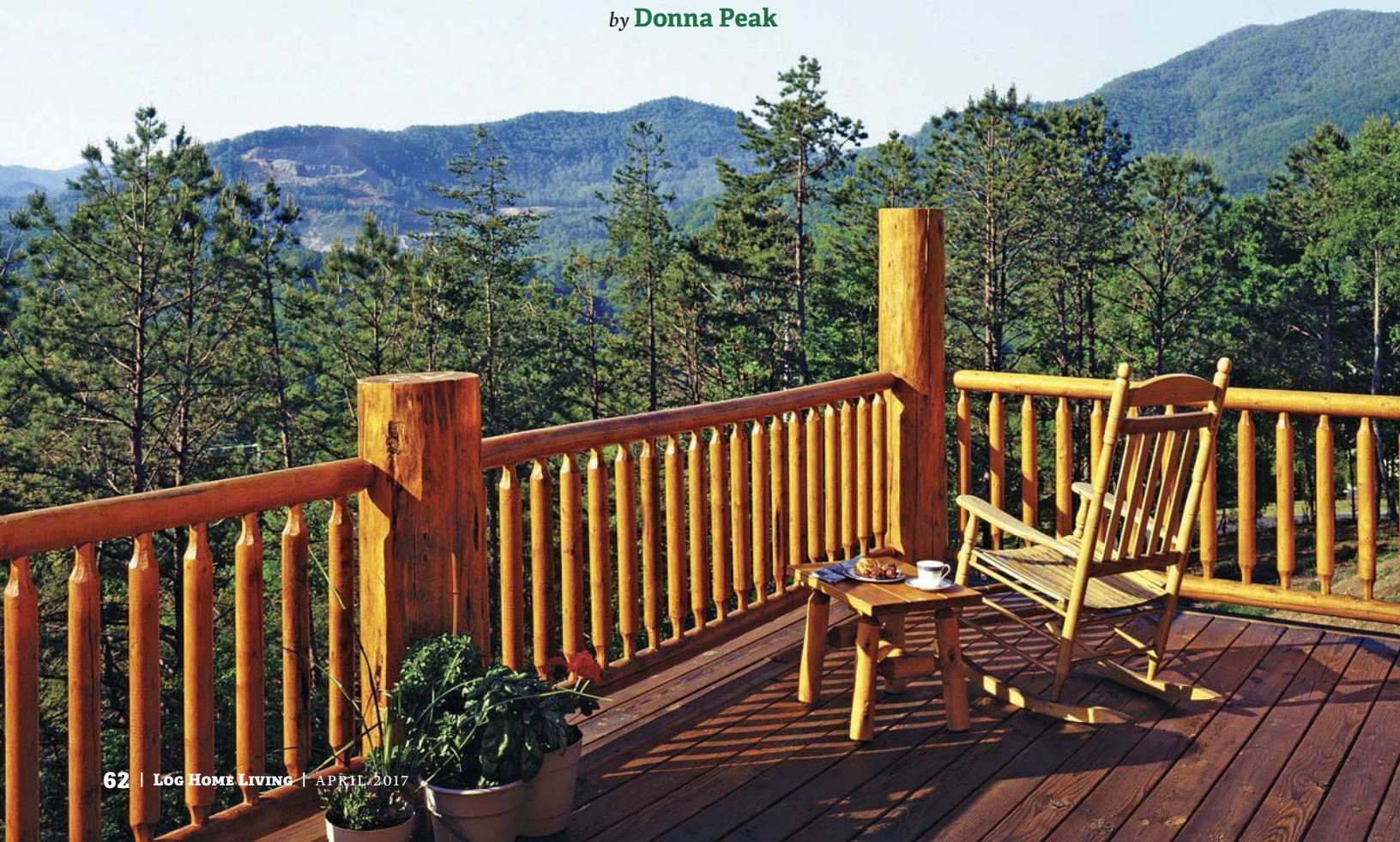


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by Donna Peak



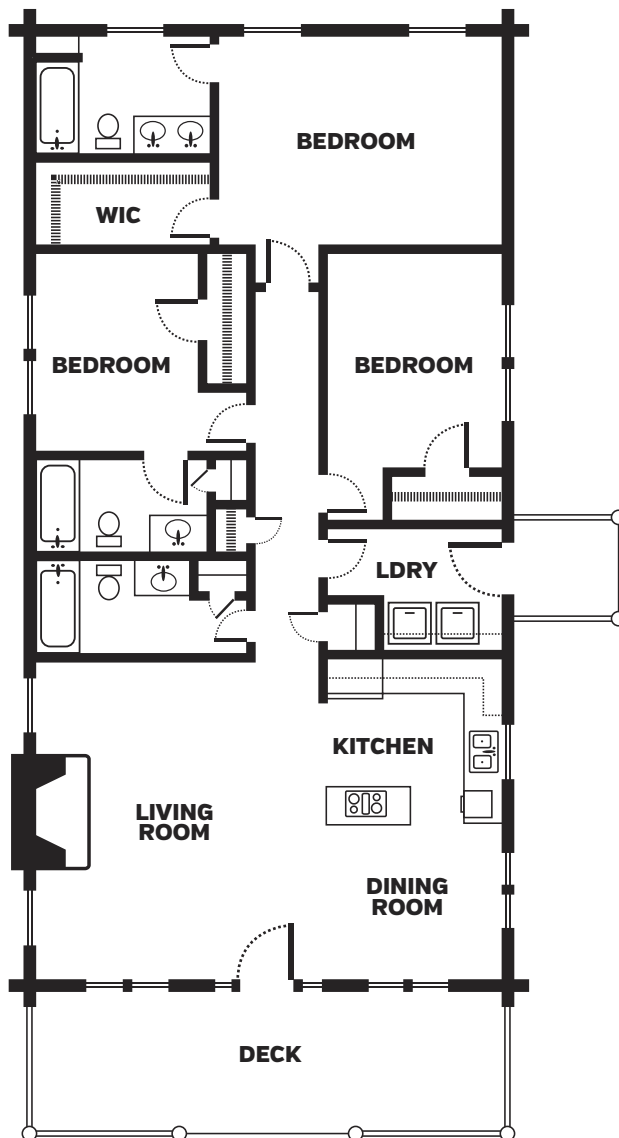
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ABOVE: Your cabin's floor plan should reflect the frequency of your visits, length of stay and the number of people who will typically occupy it. With three bedrooms, an open-concept great room and laundry, this single-level getaway is perfect for a family of four to six who intend to enjoy the home for several weeks at a time.

LEFT: Your location and terrain should play a big role in your design. With a view like this, ample outdoor space is just as important as what's inside.



For those who seek a heavenly log home-away-from-home, there are a few universal truths: A desire for a peaceful, natural setting; outside living areas that capture spectacular views; a floor plan that fosters time with family and friends; and (typically) a design that is the polar opposite of their primary residence.

Owning a second home may feel like a pipe dream, but there are many valid reasons to take the second-home ownership plunge. First, you'll always have a vacation destination that's per-

fectly suited to your needs, you won't have to throw your money away on hotels and your pets are always welcome. Second, real estate is still a strong investment, and with land and housing prices back on the incline, there's never been a better time to dive in. Third, depending on your plans to use the home, you can write off the mortgage interest on your taxes, just like your primary residence. And, with log cabins enjoying a hot rental market, your cabin may even be a source of secondary income.

But with all of the above aside, most log

cabin buyers say their main motivation is to have a place where life can slow down and they can make memories that will last a lifetime.

To accomplish that, you need to start with a smart design that works. Here are three key considerations to get your plans in gear.

1 Consider your ideal site.

What do you want to wake up to every day? Is it a spectacular mountaintop vista? A sweeping view across a misty lake? The location you choose will impact your design.

If a mountain respite is for you, chances are your property will have a significant slope. Take full advantage of it by incorporating a walk-out basement. This feature will increase your usable square footage dramatically without adding a great deal of cost. Building in the mountains often also means dealing with snow, so be sure to protect your log cabin by designing steeply pitched roofs to shed the white stuff and deep overhangs/covered porches to keep it from accumulating against your log walls.

Is waterfront property in your future? Then take into account what type of water it is. Oceanfront log homes aren't common, but they do exist. If you're planning to build on the beach, your builder will know what hurricane-proofing measures you'll need to comply with code and make your home strong. Also factor in the effects of salt from sea spray. Salt is corrosive, and even if your house isn't right on the water's edge, it could impact things like metal roofing and fasteners, as well as degrade your

logs' sealant faster than in other geographic areas. If you are building along a lake or river, make sure your home is set back far enough to prevent flooding. The county building department should have records for the highest water level your area has reached. Remember that some lakes, like the Great Lakes, can be tidal and have waves and storm surges.

For those who crave the wide-open expanse of a prairie, choose a design that's in harmony with its terrain. A house should complement the land, not impose itself on it, so a single-level ranch is right at home here. Plus, since high winds can be a factor in the flatlands, a long, low home is more aerodynamic and efficient.

Even land that feels totally flat usually isn't. Work with your builder to identify the spot on your property that will allow for the best drainage for septic systems and water runoff. This may require building your home site up to ensure the proper grade. You want to make sure water isn't channeling back toward your

cabin — especially in the case of a vacation home, when you're not there 100 percent of the time to monitor things.

2 Decide on your typical length of stay.

The span and frequency of your visits could impact your needs and your cabin's design.

For example, when trips to your getaway cabin are limited to weekend visits, the last thing you want to do is spend all your time maintaining it. Every house requires upkeep, but to hold it to a minimum, small and simple is the way to go.

A lot of people make the mistake of thinking that they need all the same amenities in their cabin that they require in their full-time home when, in fact, they don't. Keep your space compact but maximize what you have. Combine living and dining rooms into one open area; do away with hallways to make good use of every

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inch; incorporate more storage than you think you'll need (vacation cabins often come with a lot of recreational gear); design fewer but larger bedrooms that can accommodate bunks and pullouts to sleep a crowd; and forego closets for dressers or even suitcase stands. And don't waste time with a laundry room. If you're only here for 48 to 72 hours at a clip, are you really going to wash clothes?

If you're planning longer excursions, your needs shift slightly. You'll likely want a little more defined space and privacy, if you intend to use the cabin for a week or two per visit. Keep the living/dining/kitchen area open, but separate it from the sleeping quarters with a hallway. More than one full bathroom also may be necessary. Since you'll be bringing more of your wardrobe with you, closets are a good idea, but make them small. Like the weekend retreat, keep the overall design simple for low maintenance. You're here to have fun, not to tackle an endless list of chores.

Some lucky folks will use their cabin as a part-time home, enjoying it for months at a time. If this is the lifestyle for you, it essentially means you are going to maintain two households. The upshot is you won't need to pack – you'll likely have everything you need ready and waiting for you at each residence. To do this successfully requires planning, though, and that starts with your home's design.

For starters, you may want a little extra square footage, a dedicated dining room and a true master bedroom with a private en suite. A half-bath near the main living area will be needed for dinner guests and short-term visitors, while a guest bedroom will need a full bath to accommodate overnight company. You'll definitely want a laundry room in this scenario, as well as any amenities you require in your main home, since, after all, this will be your primary residence for extended periods.

3 Determine the regular number of occupants.

Whether your cabin is going to be a forever home for you and your spouse or party central for extended family and friends will certainly influence your floor plan. Sure, there



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will be exceptions when your home-for-two will burst at the seams with visitors or when your six-bedroom log lodge is devoid of guests and is eerily quiet. But to ensure the house is right-sized most of the time, objectively evaluate how many people will frequently roam within its walls.

If it's a couple's retreat, keep it compact. Two people don't need an excessive amount of room. But by the same token, don't sacrifice basic amenities, like ample windows, porches and even recreational space, no matter how small your home's footprint is.

Also, provide space in the design for when you do have family or friends over, including a first floor bedroom. In most multi-story houses — even in vacation homes — buyers, themselves, want a bedroom and bath on the first level to ensure they can continue to enjoy it as they grow older and stairs become more challenging. In other cases, they like to keep their guests confined to the main floor of the home and make other areas, like the second level, their private retreat within the retreat.

Even in a second home, a traditionally sized family (meaning two parents and two to four kids) has special requirements. A few of the main requests are to provide direct lines of sight from the kitchen to a family room, play space and yard. Create bedroom separation (i.e., kids' rooms on one side/level of the house and a parents' sanctuary on the other) and build in some dedicated kid-friendly zones. Basements and lofts are perfect spots for those. Extra insulation and sound-proofing measures within interior walls and between floors will help quiet things down.

If a multi-generational/multi-family cabin is calling you home, you have a whole different set of design factors to consider.

There are a few scenarios at play here: You could simply have a very large immediate family. If that's the case, chances are there's a wide age range between your kids. To keep the peace (and your sanity), carving out sufficient private space is key — not just with bedrooms, but also with play or hangout areas. Ensure that there's a communal area large enough for you all to be together when you want, but also plan enough separate spaces for different age

or interest groups to hang out. Perhaps a play room where small kids can spread out their toys; a teen hangout space with video games, air hockey tables and a movie screen; and, maybe most importantly, a dedicated hobby room or outdoor balcony off the master bedroom for you to escape it all.

If you'll have more than two generations under the same roof, having both communal and private space is still important; but here you want to make sure aging family members can get around the house easily. A first-level master is essential. Even if everyone is highly mobile now, chances are there will come a day when that won't be the case. You may consider an elevator — or at least design a shaft in your home that could house an elevator one day — to allow access to every part of the home. (You can use the shafts as closets or storage areas until you need to convert them.) Widening the halls and doorways will greatly improve mobility should anyone need a wheelchair, and they make a house feel more spacious and grand, even if its footprint is small.

And then we have multiple, non-related owners. It's not uncommon for a group of friends to pull their resources to buy a second home. It can be highly rewarding and a lot of fun, but you do have to consider everyone's needs and desires. In this case, some of the most successful houses have multiple kitchens and living spaces, with one large communal great room and dining area so you can all hang out together when you wish.

A really smart idea in this multi-family scenario is to create several exterior entries. In other words, every family gets its own "front door" that leads to private space, like a sitting room off of a bedroom. This way you can come and go as you please without disturbing anyone else. Separate wings around a central, common core may be something to consider.

Despite all the factors that have to be weighed, building your dream vacation cabin can be one of the most fun and rewarding experiences of your life. Done thoughtfully, it's not only something you can fully enjoy now, but you can leave your legacy for generations to come. **L**



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Rocky Mountain Log Homes photo

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Outside, this home is the picture of mountain cabin charm, with its steeply pitched roofline, square dovetailed logs, cedar-shake accents and deep porte cochere. But inside it's the epitome of modern rustic elegance.

An Hour Away, a World Apart



Nearly every weekend, this family of young professionals leaves city life behind and heads for their log cabin in the Georgia mountains.

story by **Donna Peak** | photography by **Tom Harper**

Scott and Regan Holroyd lead hectic lives. As vice presidents of their respective companies (him in commercial construction; her in human resources), and the commute from their primary home in Marietta, Georgia, to their offices in Atlanta, the work week can really wear them down. They wanted a place so they could unplug and unwind. And they got just that in their rustic-yet-modern log cabin retreat, located in the Blue Ridge mountains just 52 miles from their home.

"It's only an hour from driveway to driveway," says Regan. "If we were going to make

the investment, we wanted a place that we could get to quickly so we would use it often."

And they do. The couple, along with their 11-year-old daughter Jordan and a bevy of family and friends, make the short trek to the mountains three weekends out of four.

When they're there, it feels like they are a world away. A far cry from their typical suburban spec home in Marietta, this cabin exudes cottage charm outside and sleek modern flair inside. "We wanted it to feel completely opposite from our weekday home," shares Scott, "and it absolutely does."

BELOW: The Holroyds splurged on many custom-crafted fixtures (like the lighting) for their home, but they kept the kitchen budget in check by using high-quality prefab cabinetry. The wide distance from the island to the sink is what designer Michael Grant calls "a two-butt kitchen." With a span of 5 feet between them, there's room for several cooks to maneuver.







From this bird's-eye view you can take in the entire main living area, as well as the couple's favorite "room" – the porch and outdoor fireplace – at once. The loft serves as a craft room for the kids, and the kitchen/dining combo makes good use of the small space. Five species of wood, including hemlock and white pine, were used, as were custom-blended stains. "Every species takes stain differently, so we'd test each color on every type of wood before we decided on it," says Regan. Designer Cynthia Fisher was instrumental in choosing everything from materials to furnishings.



The home's modern influences are most evident in the living room. The stain's gray undertones complement the stonework and are a stark contrast to the more common honey-toned choice. A floating staircase was one of Regan's "must-haves," and the treads pull in the deep chocolate brown of the hardwood floor. In the center of it all is a hemlock post, which was one of Scott's requirements. "Michael Grant and the Modern Rustic Homes team did a great job of listening to what we wanted and guiding us through the process," Regan says. "They made our dream come true."

WWW

For even more photos and details about this home, visit loghome.com/modern_georgia_cabin

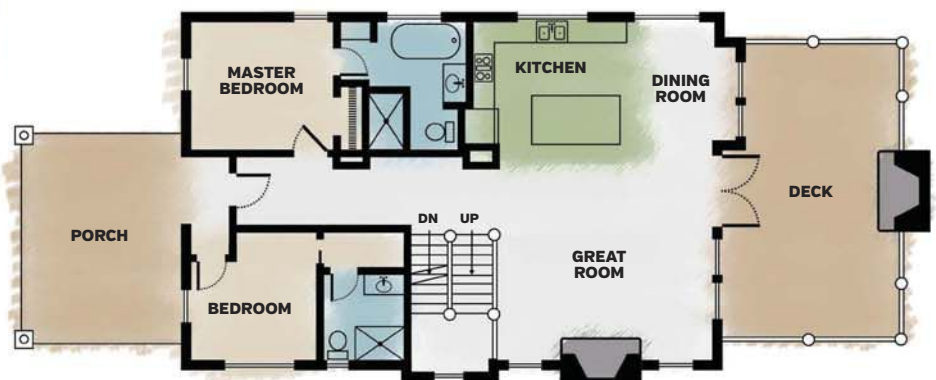


ABOVE: To maximize their gathering space while staying within their small footprint, Regan and Scott shaved square footage off of the bedrooms, including the master. "All we do is sleep there, anyway," explains Regan.

RIGHT: With its clawfoot tub and crystal chandelier, the master bath is distinctly feminine. The flooring is porcelain tile that mimics slate but is much more durable and nearly maintenance free.



SECOND LEVEL



MAIN LEVEL (Lower level not shown)

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Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 4

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Builder: Joe Dixon

Interior Designer: Cynthia Fisher

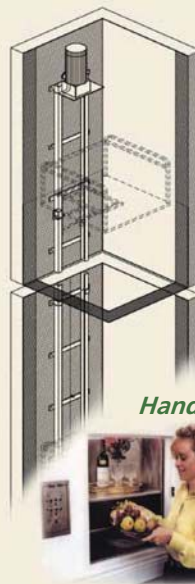
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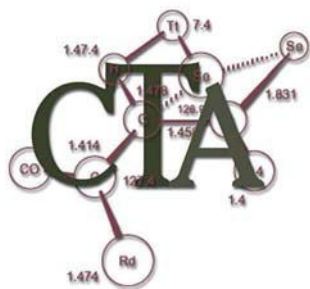
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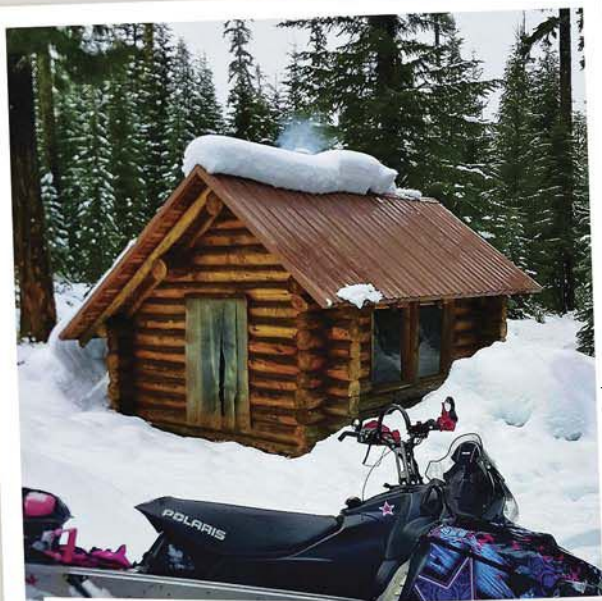
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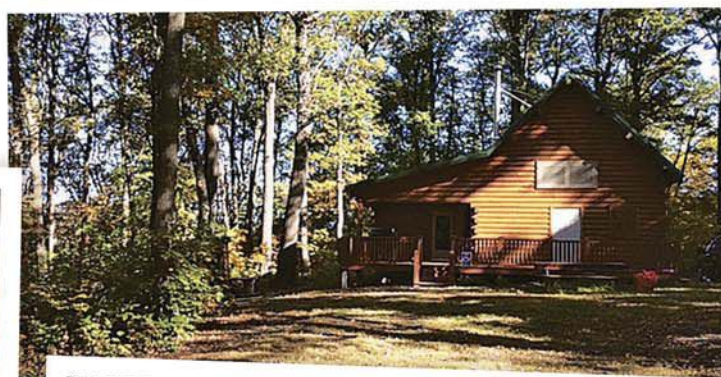
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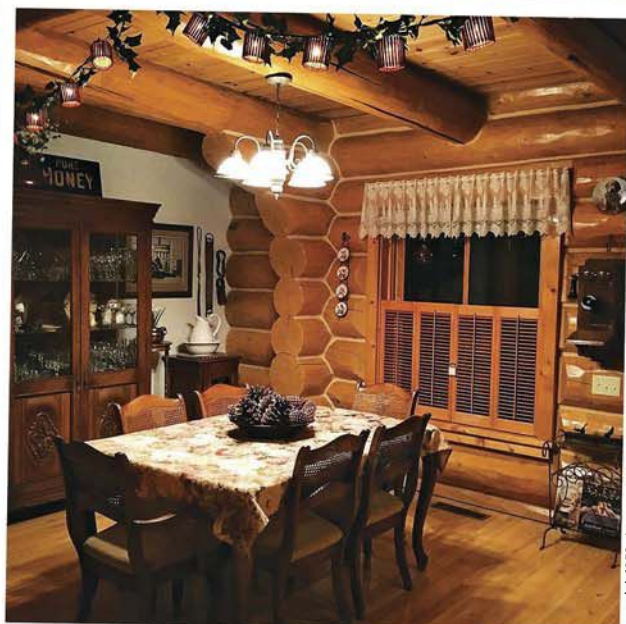
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