



# Growth Rings 2013-14

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Ed & Jean Schoen

Schoen Custom Log & Country Homes

65 Co. Rd. #6, Phelps, NY 14532

315-946-4360 585-734-1004 [edschoen@hughes.net](mailto:edschoen@hughes.net)

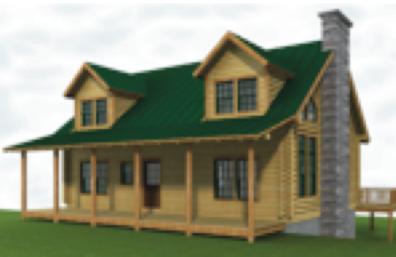
As we look back on 2013, the Senate passed a comprehensive “immigration reform” bill and a farm bill only to have the House not address immigration and split the food aid side from ag programs of the farm bill. Everyone is trying to figure out what “health care” reform means without addressing the additional number of general practitioners needed and limiting litigation settlements (tort reform). We saw much of the country suffering from far less drought; but there were several local weather related disasters that placed many in peril. The economy appears to be recovering and with that, a renewed interest in log home building.



The Ditzels added another family member which brought the decision to cover the cathedral ceiling with floor joist and add another bedroom. I cut the required log materials from a stand of pines and my brother-in-law, Rick Monheim, used his Wood

Miser Band Saw to cut the joists to match the existing joists in the house. It took a couple of afternoons to cut notches in the house “M” log course to place the joists to ready for flooring. The added space was just the ticket.

We also took some logs and peeled the bark off, then Rick flattened a surface of the materials needed to help in the remodeling of a “Shire” model Real Log Home that was built in 1977.



Much of the last of the year 2012 and the beginning of 2013 was spent working through a custom designed “camp” to be built on a piece of prime woodlot north of

Naples. The lot has so many views; we turned, flipped, redesigned, added, subtracted, and sometimes started all over again. The CAD software really helps to “picture” the building from inside and out on the site.



Real Log Home calendar pictures, scrapbooks, magazine pictures, and novel ideas were all considered before the custom design came to fruition. One of the primary considerations was

to get as much natural light into the “camp” as possible, and that is what drove the final layout. We had ponds to the north, morning sun to the east, a pond to dig out on the south and an old ski area to the west - all amongst the mature stand of mixed pine trees. By the end of April, we had the “final plans” stamped and could apply for the building permit. The existing camp was removed, and a basement dug for the Superior Wall. The exposed south side of the Superior



Wall foundation was lined with Anderson windows salvaged from the “old camp” that will add prime living space. The old camp came down in the first week of May and the Superior Wall was set in the third week of May. The pre-cut 8 “Swedish Cope” package was delivered in the latter part of May and early June.

The Swedish Cope System is always a bit more of a challenge to build. The Contour 8 or Contour Flat 8 has a tongue and groove to match, but the Swedish Cope has a rounded surface to seat the logs. Mark Mitchell, Bob Yott, and their helpers did a great job assembling the package, as the rains came and continued. The digging of the “south pond” took on an added challenge as the surface was really a floating bog





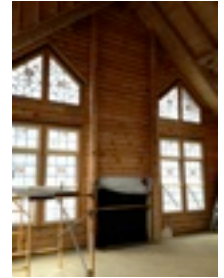
and the excavator just did not float very well. By mid July, the logs were up and the roof members were started. Since this was a full double roof



kitchen cabinets and custom counter will accent the cabin décor.

I reached another milestone as I celebrated my 1963 Class Reunion in September. There was great participation as we met at the shores of Keuka

Lake, walked the Finger Lakes Trail, built a memorial garden at the “old school”, water witched, and learned from classmates working for the Peace Core living in Africa. We caught up with our foreign exchange student from Viet Nam who is now living in the state of Washington, listened to children’s



system, the main glue-lam ridge was set then all the pre-cut log rafters were added. Layers of 2X6 “select” t&g pine, then 5 inches of ridge Hi-R Board (R-40), an 1



½” air space, then 5/8” plywood was added to ready the roof deck for the raised seam metal roof to be installed. As porches and decks were added,

additional details were modified, subtracted, and redesigned.

It was good to get the remaining windows and doors installed and get started on the 9’4” ceiling of 2” select pine



books written by a

classmate, tested our skills navigating an electric wheel chair through a challenging obstacle course, and helped finance the stocking of the local food cupboard.



A Beautiful Place

([www.abeautifulplace.org](http://www.abeautifulplace.org)) continues to be enjoyed by many a traveler and their pets. We are amazed how many people are from out of state, and yet we have several who use it as a ground base to visit family and friends. Check it out.

As we look forward to 2014 and add another Growth Ring to our “Tree of Life”, we recognize there are many families that have lost loved ones and/or have had financial difficulties. May we find ways be a source of comfort and a resource for hope and peace.

Thank you for your Blessings, and we wish you God’s peace and good health for 2014.

Shalom,  
Ed & Jean



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flooring to cover the ceiling log floor joist. A few partitions were added to the open floor plan and two bedrooms and a bath were defined in the loft. The exterior of the Rumford Fireplace was erected and selected stone installed.

Electrical wiring was strung to pre-drilled holes for the outlets, wall sconces, lights, switches, and fans. The basement has been partitioned off and the heating system installed. Soon the partitions will be covered with pine, trim will be added and interior doors installed. Interior finish and sealers will be applied to cover and protect the logs and pine before the hardwood flooring is installed. The “floor to ceiling”