

# Growth Rings 2001-2002

www.loghomeguy.com



Ed & Jean Schoen  
Schoen Custom Log & Country Homes  
65 Co. Rd. #6  
Phelps, NY 14532  
315-946-4360 ejschoen@redsuspenders.com

In 2001, we added another growth ring to the “tree of life” and we celebrated 30 years of being pioneers in the wave of log home building that started in the early seventies. We have been involved in well over 600 homes since the hanging out of our first shingle out and this year we’ve added more. Every home has a story and in each story we find the beginning of another adventure that makes “log home living” the treasure it is.



For Neil and Joan Gates, they dreamed of a log home since being married and almost built a modular. Several log home open houses and a practical design allowed them to make their budget and order a Real Log Home. Choices were made to add a larger loft

for very few additional dollars and we made some changes in the gable windows to create a wonderful view from the inside as well as the outside. Neil and Joan, with the help of some family, started their project late in 2000 and assembled the first floor deck and the pre-cut numbered and lettered logs through the girder and joist system. A local contractor built the gables on the 28’ X 42’ log structure and he also assembled the roof. It was a joy to be able to hold several “cold and semi-warm” open houses through the late winter and early spring as Neil and Joan finished their home with the assistance of some local contractors through the year.

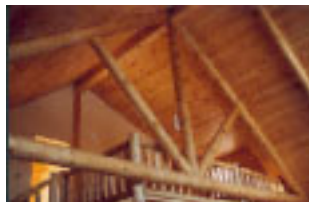


Kelli Smith’s evergreen site



overlooks Seneca Lake, not far above Watkins Glen. Her 28’ X 36’ chalet was built on a walkout pre-cast Superior Wall, and was contracted to be finished in the early

spring. A garage has been added, as well as the porch and the decks completed, for several family and friend gatherings. Kelli has several talented musical friends who just can’t seem to get enough of the view from the loft, or the driveway. When the bonfires are lit and notes fill the air, log home living is celebrated.



High up in the hills south and west of Dansville, Klaus and Monica Zwinger contracted an Asperline 24’ X 36’ hunting and family retreat. The porches, loft skylights, and outside

lcony give this home a view of the wildlife from all directions. Eventually, the family may retire there to just “blend” into the scenery.

During the late spring we took delivery from the Real Log Home



Montana Plant of a custom Swedish Cope for Gary and Lori Mullen on a private lake in Pennellville north of Syracuse. Gary had torn down the old two room family cottage and the site proved to be just the “right” spot among the old growth oak,

beech and fir trees for their Real Log Home. The Superior Wall basement added a whole new level of living with the lake view. Gary and Lori did most of the log handling themselves. In floor-heat and a green metal roof were added



in the fall to provide shelter for the “winter project” of adding the mechanicals and interior walls and finishes. During several of my visits, the family pets greeted Father and I. Both were southern hunting dogs with personality and a love of people. One was totally blind yet navigated the building site without too many bumps and bruises. She and Father found several occasions to enjoy the lake. She swam and Father got a fishing line in once in a while.

Just across the lake from Keuka College, Bernie and Marie Fullagar’s vineyard has been in the family many years. They have had a



dream for many of those years to build a log home to retire in. Four year ago, they started visiting some of the homes we had built and started “working” the plan to get it right. The contracted 28’ X 36’ traditional cape from Real Log Home was started in June. A breezeway

and garage help were added to meet all their needs. Marie and

Bernie got involved with the cleaning and staining and it looks great. I must confess, this story started for me back in 1962 when Marie was my high school chemistry teacher. She was a “new” graduate from college and my class gave her the baptism into her profession. She did her job well and we all benefited.





When just passed the entrance to the Filmore State Park on Rt. 38 in Moravia. In preparation for delivery of their Real Log Home, Dan and Kelli White moved the doublewide out, dug a hole for a walk-out Superior Wall. They inlaid heating

tubing in the basement floor and Dan and his brother-in-laws built their 28' X 46' cape with a full loft (somewhat modeled after Gates' home in East Palmyra). Dan took leave of his job and Kelli stayed on the "job", building new bridges at both ends of the



town. I remember a lot of water on site visits yet the materials were ready for it. "Mash" had a military camp during the Koran War and the 60's vintage camper Kelli, Dan, Brian, and Hooch rented had many similarities. Dan traded an old truck engine for a hemlock log for stair treads. We supplied the custom

white cedar log railings. The interior walls are up, loft is laid, plumbing is finished and the kitchen is about to be installed.



Currently, Dan has been back working a couple of months and the camper has moved down the road. Everyone has moved into the basement and it was a welcome change till the

upstairs is finished. Soon the furniture will be moved out of the storage trailer, the cupboards will be stocked, and the rockers on the porch will be filled with memories of another dream that came true.

George and Pauline Merrell of Brockport-Spencerport Rd. took down an old home down and dug a new foundation for a Superior Wall in the late spring. Their son, David, was hired to assemble the deck, logs, build the garage and a group of George's friends from the reservation tipped the trusses up on their new custom 1450 sq. ft. Real Log Home Ranch. David finished the plywood on the roof and applied the shingles. Now, "Coach" has room for the whole team of Little Leaguers and then some.



Jean and I were pretty busy most of the summer as we made several weekend open houses available for those who have an interest in building a log home. We are very thankful to many of our homeowners for allowing us to show their homes.

Later in the fall, Jim Steele and Debbie took delivery of their Real Log Home in Cato, NY, next to their mobile home. Jim and Debbie care for several children with special needs and their home was designed for several handicapped features. Their Su-

perior Wall went up in a couple of hours and soon after that, the deck was going on. Jim, with some help, had the walls of their 28' X42' four bedroom ranch and loft up in less than a week. The roof is nearly on and so let it snow.



Tom Evans took delivery in late November of his modified "White" 28' X 46' Real Log Home, just west of Skaneateles. Tom moved the master bedroom from the first floor to the loft. The rear dormer will allow a 6' slider to enter the second floor outside deck for a future location of the hot tub. Tom and friends had most of the logs up in a weekend.

John Seneca and Annie took delivery of a modified Steele home in December. They added a prow to the center extension of their custom Real Log Home. The package was delivered on to the deck and sorted the same day. The contractors showed up the next day and by the end of the week, the logs were ready for starting the roof.



The same week, Mary Dries had her 28' X 32' cape delivered to a remote site that was a part of the old farmstead in Auburn. The local deer population checked us out just before we unloaded her Real Log Home. It is all tucked away and ready to go.

Several deliveries are scheduled for next year, so there will be many more stories to report on and lots of action to keep track of.

The web site, [www.loghomeguy.com](http://www.loghomeguy.com) was reorganized to give greater speed in loading and, to date, we've had over 1500 visitors. Real Log is now offering Andersen Windows as well as their standard Hurd. We will be "corn blasting" the interior and the exterior of our home to brighten things up after almost 30 years. The "corn" is actually the cob, ground and screened, used as the blasting media. We have purchased a machine and arrangements can be made for other homes.

Father's solar teepee greenhouse is now completed and operational. Those seeds will never have it so good.



Jean and I had the opportunity to visit Ballingburg, an outdoor museum in Switzerland in October. The experience of seeing, walking through, and touching log buildings that were built over 500 years ago was exciting. The construction and design gave us a greater appreciation

for the craftsmanship that was used to build their shelters.

We are blessed with four healthy grandchildren and rumor says there could be another one arriving in mid June.

For many and for all of us, 2001 was a time of personal loss and shock. It has changed the way we live and we know that life is a special gift. If we believe in Christmas and the "gift" in Christ to the world, to the whole world, then we must recognize there is "evil". God's plan has always triumph. Let us all rejoice. Blessings to you in 2002!



Ed & Jean