



Growth Rings 2011-2012

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The year 2011 had a "wet" late spring followed by a bone-dry late summer and a mixed fall. Winter has still to hit the Northeast. Both Europe and Japan had "meltdowns" while elected officials here struggled, at best, to address the real is-

ues, posturing for self-interest instead. 2011 will be another year of "politics".

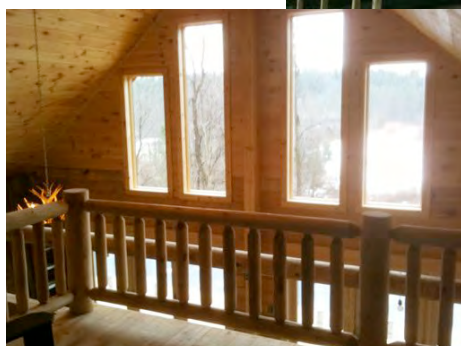


In March, we celebrated the completion of Curt and Patty James' Real Log Home in Naples, NY with an open house to share with the public.

For Curt, the shorter drive to school has been a blessing and Patty seems to like the "wind-down" time she has coming back from Strong.



The "log living" has been a dream for them and now that it is their reality, life is pretty special.



In the mid 70s, Bill Scheg and friends built a pre-cut "Royalton" Real Log Home in LeRoy, NY, and over the years, he and Peg made it very special. Together, they built a successful business, Genesee Valley Taxidermy and Shooting Supplies, serving



the hunting and recreational interest of the area. They were able to travel to the many corners of the world bringing back many exotic species to share the ecology with schools and other interested groups.



Just before Thanksgiving 2010, an electrical fire started in the business and spread to their home and, despite the great efforts of several local fire companies, the entire home and business were lost. I was contacted to design a



new custom Real Log Home on the same basement that was more contemporary, had natural light, laundry and master bedroom suite on the main floor, a loft, hot tub room, and a great room that just begged for more "good times". Porches and decks were added for additional recreational space.. Once the 2,200 sq. ft. design

came together, it was decided to scrap the existing foundation and install a Pre-cast Superior Wall to match up with the existing garage block foundation.





.A second entry from the garage to the basement was added. Their pre-cut engineered Real Log Home was delivered the end

of July. This was a turning point as the loss of a home and all that is connected to it, could now be left behind. As walls were built and windows, gables rafters, and roofs added, the new



dream began to be a reality and more plans are in the works for decorating and getting it finished off just right.



Jim and Sue Johnson also had a dream and since the stock market was not helping them realize it, they decided to take matters into their own hands. For many years, Jim and his family have built a thriving Christmas

Tree Business in Marbletown, NY, JJ's Tree Farm. They expanded to another property north of the Zurich Bog in the Town of Arcadia; and with it came the desire to build a two bedroom Real Log Home with the help of relatives and friends.



Jim had been connected to the landscaping business for many years so preparing for his walkout Superior Wall Foundation was second nature. The custom designed 28' X 40' ranch has a cathedral great room and extended dining area. The full-length 8 ft. porch was a

must as they both are looking forward to the amazing sunsets to come. Once the logs arrived, it was a welcomed learning experience. There have been some bumps and



bruises along the way, but this will be a year to remember. Now the mechanicals and interiors are being added. A 3-car garage with living space above was designed for



Karen Simmonds in Honeoye Falls.

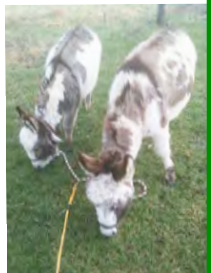
A Beautiful Place www.abeautifulplace.us continues to be enjoyed by many a traveler and their pets to the Keuka Lake. We are amazed how many people are from out of state, and yet we have several who use it as a base to



visit family and friends.

Yes, we did add some mini-donks to the family and if you are interested - there is more to the story.

As we look forward to 2012 and add another



Growth Ring to our "Tree of Life", we recognize there are many families that have lost loved ones this year; and I guess if I had a wish, it would be that they find some hope and peace. It would be great to use Christmas to give hope to those who are hungry so they need not be hungry again, to give hope to those who face medical uncertainty and those who need healing of both mind and soul. Then there are those who are in other lands in harm's way. Stores just have a hard time wrapping the real gifts.

Thank you for your Blessings and we wish you God's peace and good health for 2012.

Shalom,

Ed & Jean