



**BEAVER  
MOUNTAIN**  
Log & Cedar Homes

# Naturally HOME

Newsletter Volume 36

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## The Custom Built Home they had never dreamed of

Photography by Kim Prochazka

When Fred and Johnna purchased their property in the Catskills, they envisioned a big remodel on an older farmhouse. The farmhouse was nestled in a hollow and needed a lot of work. They called a local builder, Max Dutcher, who had built a building for their son incorporating energy saving features. That experience showed Fred and Johnna that he was knowledgeable yet a bit of a visionary. They had faith in his skill and his wisdom.

Max took one look at their farmhouse project and handed them a Beaver Mountain Log & Cedar Homes brochure. He knew the couple and had figured that he had an idea about what they would really like. Max was blunt and said "Tear down the old farmhouse and custom build what really fits your needs."

The couple talked things over with their son who had done a makeover of an older house, who agreed with Max. That began their journey to Beaver Mountain. Max introduced them to Chris Weyer, sales consultant, and they reviewed the options that Beaver Mountain had to offer. Max summed it up with a few succinct sentences. "You spend a lot of time and money with a remodel project and still have a drafty old house. Build on the bluff and you can see for fifty miles." They chose new. They chose the bluff. They chose a Beaver Mountain custom built home and they are thrilled!

Fred & Johnna worked with Sr. Design Consultant John Lanner to custom design a home that was uniquely theirs. They wanted an open floor plan so that family and guests could comfortably move from one space to another.

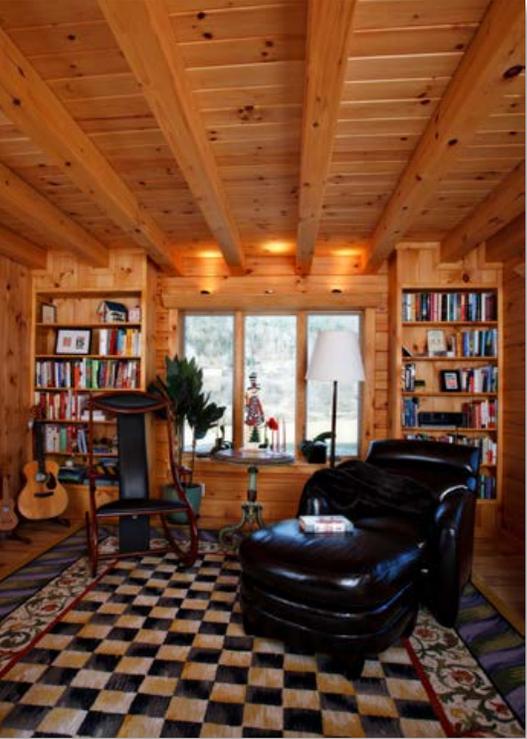
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### Custom Home continued...

They chose to have an open staircase, a prow front to fit with the bluff that the home would be on and non fixed windows that lined up with one another to allow a breeze to flow through the home in the summer. The dining room and library were designed in the back of the house to make the first floor open for entertaining guests. Side windows allow them to see the deer in the orchard. The living area is in the front overlooking the valley, which gives them fifty mile views.

The home does what all homes should do. It serves as a graceful backdrop for the charismatic couple and their possessions. They have lived in many



places and during a lifetime filled with moving they have acquired some original art folk art and handcrafted furniture. As Fred and Johnna move through the home they point out pieces that have special significance. The coffee table is from Hawaii and the children played card games on it when they were younger. The bistro set just off the kitchen is from Santa Fe where Fred's first management position was. Fred is a retired hotelier and while the family moved often, Johnna still worked as a journalist and wrote speeches for a former presidential hopeful. Their stories are wonderful, but they charm a person with their ability to listen. They have a gift for finding a common thread with people and because they are interested in so many things, they find a shared interest soon after introductions are made.

It's obvious that they enjoy showing off the first home they built from the ground up. Johnna said she had a lot of remodeling done on a home on the West Coast, but they had never been involved in building a custom home before.

Max's name was mentioned frequently as the couple pointed out the massive fireplace. Max had fixed a cold air return on the fireplace so that it can cool in the summer as well as warm in the winter. They even put one of their own stones in the fireplace. They fondly call it "the keystone". The sun warms the living area and the kitchen is the heart of the house. A little smaller than Johnna originally wanted it, the open floorplan makes it work. She does team cooking with Fred, and a wonderful La Cornue stove makes a simple chore fun. The appliances are stainless and the workspace is enlarged with a rolling countertop that serves them well for big occasions.



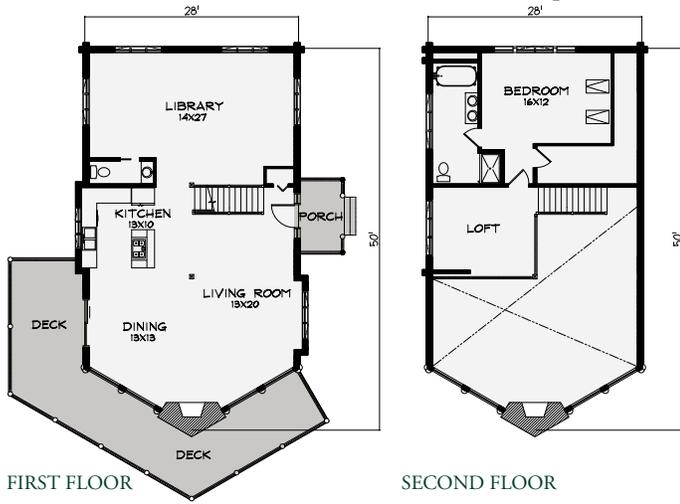
Fred and Johnna love the Beaver Mountain log home that they helped design and build and now call home for 4 months out of the year. Johanna decorated for their first Christmas in the new home with an old fashioned Christmas look. Many of the quirkiest furnishings that give the home a fun feel were designed by upstate New York artist Mackenzie Childs. A train track circles the Christmas tree and Fred had a lot of fun firing the engine up to show visitors.

The home is full of warmth and charm, but Fred and Johnna are the main attraction as they chat with a visitor about the honey that Fred helped harvest himself. It is obvious that they are best friends and enjoy their home in the Catskills. Their home is an expression of their mutual interests and shared lifetime experiences. They appreciate the beauty that surrounds them, but they value one another more. Nature and nurture dwell in their new Beaver Mountain custom built log home.



## HOME DETAILS

1 Bedroom • 1.5 Bathroom • 1980 sq. ft.



## ABOUT THE BUILDER: Max Dutcher

Max Dutcher, owner of Dutcher Construction, has built over 90 Beaver Mountain homes and enjoys working with the Beaver Mountain team. His son Graydon works with Water & Soil Conservation as Program Coordinator of streams in Delaware County and also works with Max doing excavation work. "I have built Beaver Mountain homes for over 25 years and it's always a pleasure to work together. Because of the detailed construction drawings and the integrity of their customer service a problem is never a problem for long. The quality and craftsmanship of their homes are top of the line and that makes my job much easier!"



*Pictured above: Builder Max Dutcher, Fred, Johnna, Sales Consultant Chris Weyer*

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*"Excellence is never an accident.*

*It's always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillfull execution." - Anonymous*