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Small House



Journal

Season of Content

Northwoods cabin rejuvenates a busy family



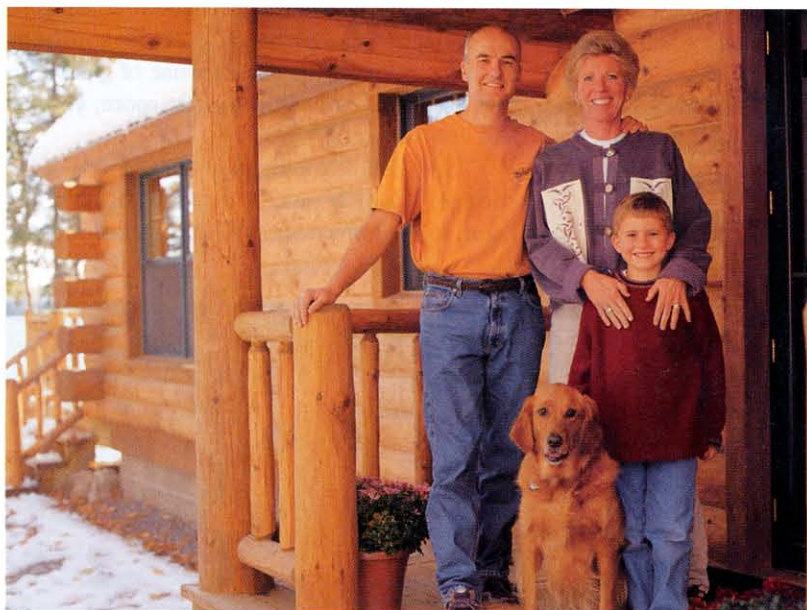
When he was growing up, Jim Winter and his family always vacationed in northern Wisconsin where his father was born. “I have such wonderful memories of those days that I wanted to provide our son with the same experience,” he says. “Ever since I was a young child, I had visions of someday owning lake property up north.”

When Jim and Connie, general dentists who practice together in Janesville, Wisconsin, were married, Jim began lobbying for a cabin. “Over the years, I’d kid her about saving things for our cabin,” he says. “At first, she had no interest in owning lake property. Now that we’ve built our

vacation home, she has said more than once that we’ll never sell it. I’ve converted her to a lover of the Northwoods.”

It was on one of the couple’s vacations that they

stopped at a real estate office in Minocqua to inquire about lake cottages. After seeing several, they decided they were going in the wrong direction by seeking an existing cabin. They asked the real estate agent to show them undeveloped lots instead, and they finally found exactly what they were looking for. “Once we saw it, we knew it was going to be perfect for us,” says Jim of the 6 1/2-acre wooded parcel on White Sand Lake near Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin.



Tomahawk Log & Country Homes photos/Styled by Debra Grahl

“One of the things that I was looking for was a site that faced south,” Connie says. “Also, I wanted a level lot. And, with our 8-year-old son and his friends coming up here, I

wanted to be able to be in the cabin and see them in the water. So when this lot was level, had a southern exposure and had nice trees, we knew this was it.”

The Winters chose nearby Tomahawk Log & Country Homes to construct their vacation getaway after their agent recommended the company as one of the premier builders in the area. “Probably the

Opposite: Jim and Connie Winters found the ideal spot to build their log home—a wooded lot on White Sand Lake. Above: Jim and Connie, with their 8-year-old son Stewart, take advantage of their getaway year-round.

biggest selling point with Tomahawk was that once I made the initial contact, Troy Gullo was extremely prompt and courteous getting back to me with original drafts on the drawings," Jim says. "He was very helpful in making suggestions for changes and getting the cost-estimates to us quickly."

Troy, Tomahawk's representative, enjoyed working with the Winters on the project, and he describes Jim as a very particular individual who knew what he wanted. "Jim was more than average as a knowledgeable customer," Troy says. "He was well-educated and had done his research. During construction, there was hardly a day that we wouldn't talk."

Their log home was the fifth construction project for the Winters. Years earlier, they had built their primary home and their office building and then added on to both. "We're very familiar with the construction process," says Jim, who admits he once considered going into architecture as a career. "When it came time to design our log home, I sat down and went through a half-dozen

different designs," he says. "Each time, I'd bounce the plan off Connie and get her thoughts. So it was a combined effort."

Eventually, Jim was satisfied with the plan, so he took it to Troy, and together they customized one of Tomahawk's standard plans by incorporating Jim's ideas. "Jim is very much into proportion—the size of one thing in relation to another," Troy says. "He had a lot of neat full-log ideas that we had to accomplish in a half-log system."

"Those massive half logs that frame the windows on the prow end were new to us at Tomahawk," Troy continues. "That was his idea."

The spacious cottage of northern white and red pine nestles into the woods overlooking the crystal clear water of the lake. It employs Tomahawk's Energy-Log construction system with fully insulated, conventionally framed 2-by-6-inch stud walls, 1-inch foil-faced rigid insulation, an exterior log wrap and 12-inch Saddle-Lok logs.

"When you're in the great room, it feels very generous for its size because of the southern-facing windows with the expanse of glass," Jim says. "When you walk into that room, you just feel very welcome."

"I had definite opinions about the style of this cottage," Connie says. "I didn't want it to be a house, so that's why we wanted to keep the loft open."

Opposite: The great room ceiling soars 23 feet. Massive half logs frame the windows that flood the room with natural light. Below: A half-log staircase leads to the loft.





Tomahawk's 2-by-6-inch standard construction faced with half logs inside and out gives the Winters the advantages of a stick-built home plus the feeling of being in a full-log home, Jim says.

Jim especially appreciated the opportunity to tour another Tomahawk log home before they began to build their own. One feature that struck the Winters was that a fireplace built flush to the exterior wall didn't seem large enough. "Having seen that, we changed our design to bring the fireplace into the room more and made the hearth wider, so it would look more massive and complement the size of the room," Jim says.

Connie and Jim agree they also benefited from consulting with Jaleen McCurdy at Madison Lighting Ltd. in Madison, Wisconsin. "Working with a lighting specialist was very helpful—es-

pecially one who has had experience in lighting log homes," Jim says.

Jaleen placed lights on the beams to shine up into the ceiling and fewer cans on the ceiling facing down. "The wood in a log home absorbs so much light," Connie says, "so Jaleen used different fixtures than she would use on plastered walls."

The Winters incorporated several other amenities into their cottage. "With an 8-year-old son, we wanted a mudroom entrance," Connie says, "and that is the best room in the house."

Opposite: The simply decorated dining room includes views of the deck. Below: The airy kitchen includes a granite-topped island, Corian countertops and distressed pine cabinetry.








Above: The guestroom offers a rustic feel to the home with its bright patchwork quilt and pine pole bed. Right: Stewart's room includes a bunk bed for when his friends visit.

To balance the addition of the mudroom, they added more hallway and closet space on the other side of the cabin.

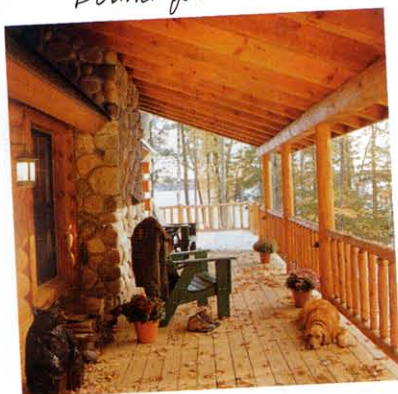
The couple purchased 6-inch antique heart pine flooring from The Joinery Company in Tarboro, North Carolina, for a more rustic look. They upgraded to solid core knotty pine, four-panel interior doors and installed distressed pine cabinets and Corian and granite countertops in the kitchen for durability.

Now the Winters find themselves heading north a couple of times each month.

"We're kind of high-pressure people," Connie admits, "and the only place we totally relax is at the cabin." 



Bound for nature



The porch offers a welcome retreat, perfect for enjoying the outdoors.

Notebook

Log package price:
\$125,000 to \$150,000

Square footage: 2,421

Log producer: Tomahawk Log & Country Homes

Bunk beds: Vermont Tubbs

Bunkroom rug and guestroom lamp: Sundance Collection

Chinking: Sashco

Dining room chandelier: Hinkley Lighting Inc.

Dining room table and chairs: Habersham Plantation Corp.

Great room lamps: Palecek

Kitchen cabinetry: Wood-Mode

Kitchen faucet: Grohe America Inc.

Kitchen sink: DuPont

Landscaping: Stoney Creek Gardens

Masonry: Norb Renn Masonry Inc.

Master bedroom side chair: Old Hickory Furniture Co.

Master bedroom side table: Hammary Furniture

Oven: Dacor

Roofing materials: CertainTeed Corp.

Stain: Velvit Products Co.

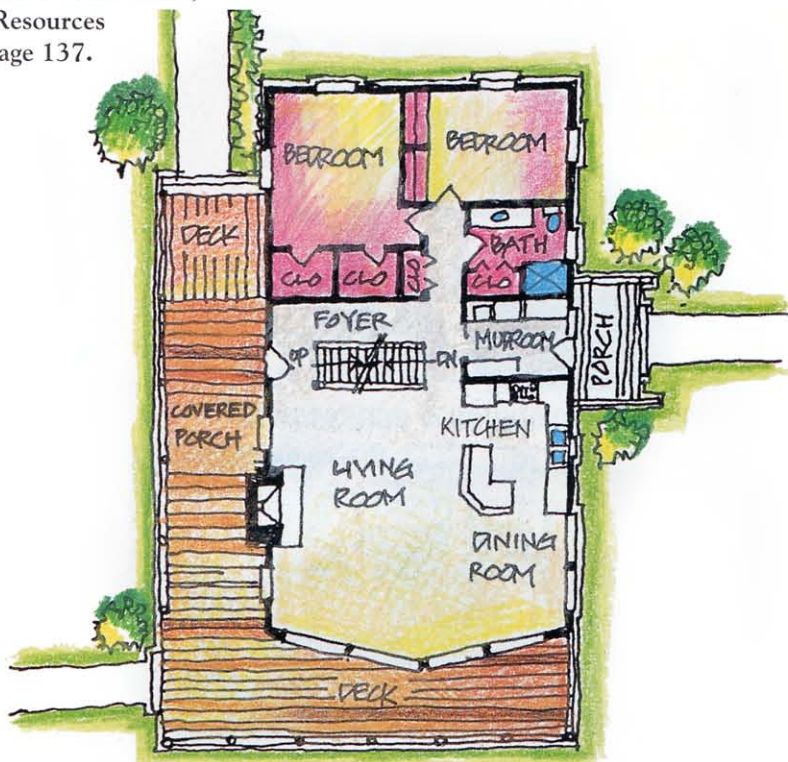
Windows: Pella Corp.

Wood flooring: The Joinery Co.

For more information, see Resources on page 137.



Second Floorplan



First Floorplan