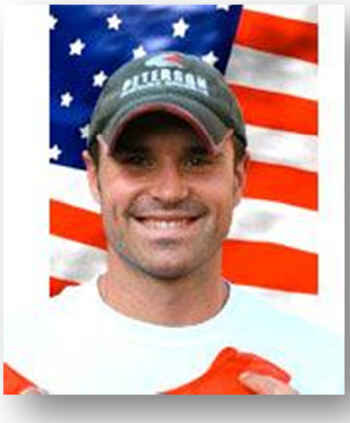
FOCUS ON CUSTOM SAWMILLER: NATHAN WATERFIELD



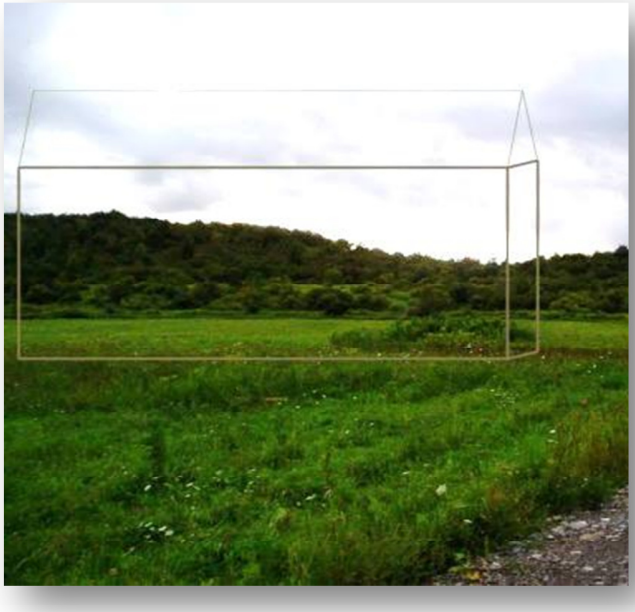
Born and raised in Warren, Pennsylvania USA, American lumberjack, business owner, builder and family man Nathan Waterfield is living life to the full.

Nathan uses his Peterson WPF sawmill to assist the daily operations of his business Timberworks Tree & Stone which specializes in Forest Management, specialty sawmilling, and Residential Tree Services.

Not one to shy away from hard work, Nathan shares with us a look into the build of him and wife Holly's two-story family home; a project which they undertook over the past three past years.

"Initially we always knew we wanted a home that we could call our own. After we got married we looked high and low for one to buy but could not find anything that suited so we decided to build one."

It took a lot of hard work but because of Nathan and Holly's strong will, they were able to save tens of thousands of dollars and have felt immense pride knowing they have accomplished the build of their own two-story family home.



"After we finished the driveway we were very excited to envision our future home."

The rough model of the house made of a variety of residential and salvaged trees milled with Nathan's Peterson 10" WPF sawmill.

Framing is in place for the foundation footers as the concrete begins to flow.

Once the gravel was leveled the footer preparation was complete.

Insulated concrete forms (ICF's) were used to construct the basement walls. Here, the forms with supports are in place with a cat-walk for the concrete pouring process.

2”x8” framing boards were milled with the Peterson WPF and were laid on top of the subfloor over the basement.

The first bend is test-fitted on the deck using 8"x8" posts, and beams with 4"x6" knee braces.

Holly refining an 8"x8" post using a belt sander.

Nathan is using a forstner bit to rough out a mortise in a 10”x10” post.

Friends gather to help assemble a bent to hold the beams in place.

Fozzy (the family pet) hard at work inspecting a few beams, which will be used for the first floor framing.

First floor construction coming along nicely.

Cutting mortises with a broken leg.

The top plate was constructed using 6x10timbers and 4x6 knee braces to tie the bents together and stabilize the frame. The trusses will sit on the top plate.

While recovering from a broken leg Nathan built the roof trusses in his workshop 200 yards down the road from the house.

Truss installation day: Nathan milled and constructed six roof trusses which were installed over a two day period using a forklift with a 40 feet broom extension.

With one last roof truss to be fitted, the frame is near complete. Some early snow created some interesting challenges for the final roof assembly.

One down, five more to go: Nathan assembling a bent on the outside framing.

Outside roof panels complete on a foggy winter's day.

Laying the natural stone veneer on the chimney before the roofing is installed.

Good friends rally together to construct the standing seam metal roofing.

Holly nailing up finished white-washed pine boards three weeks from her due date.

Preparing for the basement floor: radiant tubing is laid on foam board to create heated flooring before the concrete is poured.

Preparing to put the chimney through the roof. 6x8 and 4x6 supports were added to reinforce the roof around the opening of the chimney.

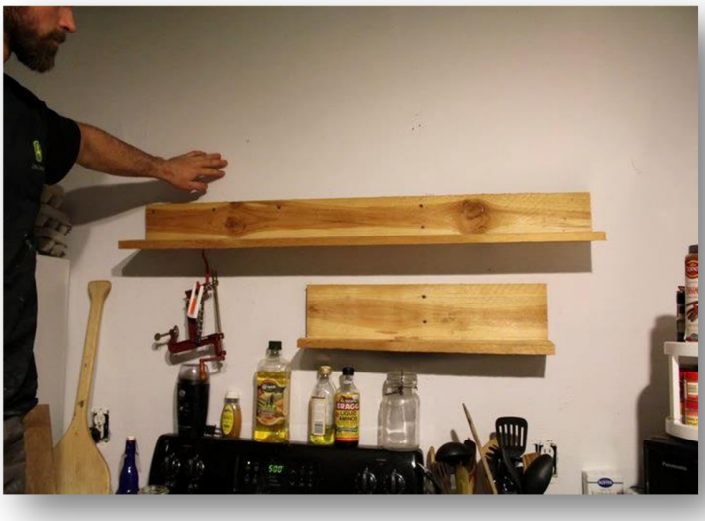
View from the second floor: working on the second floor bedrooms.

Freshly milled panels are laid out on the second floor so they can dry quickly.

Getting ready to move; Nathan and Holly's mother's helping to clean the windows.

Black Walnut timber was milled into slabs before becoming the kitchen counter and bar top.

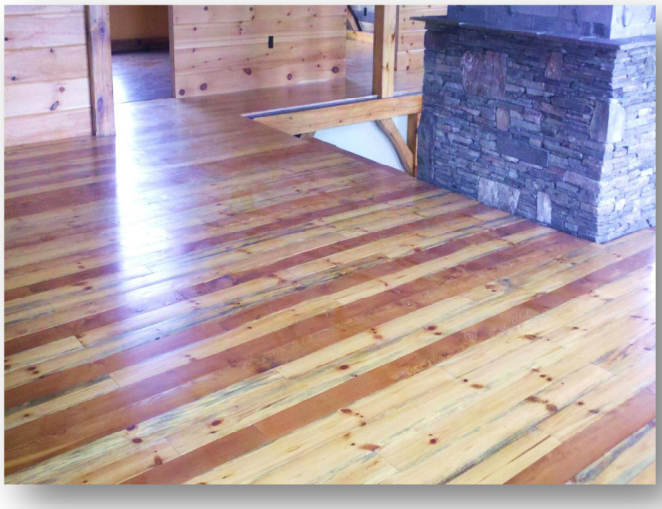
Milled over 10 years ago, Nathan had this mighty black walnut slab stored away before it was put to great use as a beautifully crafted kitchen bench and bar top feature in their new home.



Made of aspen and soft wood Nathan milled this kitchen shelf for their first apartment using 1x10, 1x8 and 1x8 boards.

The finished kitchen shelf was dismantled and re-installed for use in Holly and Nathan's new home.

Holly and Nathan welcome little Cora to the family.

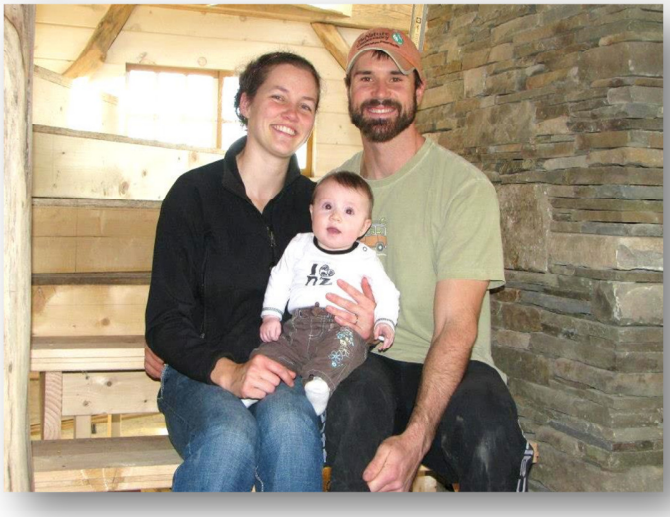


The second floor: beautifully clean, finished timber flooring.

Floors were finished with Waterlox Tung Oil Finish.

The upstairs stairway half way through construction.

Baby Cora enjoying some one-on-one time with her toys in her new home.



Once the main internal components of the house were completed Holly, Nathan and Cora were able to move into their beautiful new home.

"You can't put a value on what we have built"; Nathan says. "A lot of the features we have created in our home would have been very difficult to achieve if we had hired a team to build the house for us. With the Peterson WPF I was able to mill any lumber I needed right on a whim which made it just so easy. I would say to anyone wanting to create their own home, to build it themselves."

The Waterfield family would like to express their deepest gratitude to their many family and friends for their kindness and support in helping to make their house build possible.

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