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Capture the *Moment*

Real people. Real stories.





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The best years of my life have been in the mountains of Southern California. A world away in just a couple hours. Leaving behind the hustle and bustle of the city, you're among the trees, animals, blue sky, and fresh air. I got this love of the outdoors from my dad. He had an old cabin right by Lake Arrowhead on the edge of the National Forest. Later in life, for my dad's birthday, we took him back up to the lake. (It was the last time before he passed). My dad was in heaven. I pictured myself in a log cabin with a Chesapeake Bay retriever, listening to country music and reading a good book.

1940 Miner's Cabin

I cashed in every last cent of my savings and bought an 800 square foot rundown 1940 miner's cabin which sat on a perfectly located lakefront lot. I loved that cabin for 9 years but squeezing 4 daughters and my wife into that little place wasn't going to last long. So build we did. Throughout the building process, it gets a little crazy with all the decisions and details that crop up. Surprisingly, choosing a stain brand and color seemed to be one of the hardest decisions. We did loads of research, really valuing the opinion

of those whose business was staining log cabins. It seems we kept hearing, "Sashco is the best" but now we couldn't decide between Transformation and Capture and Cascade. The person I hired to do the staining was really pushing us hard to use Transformation and said he loved the way it looked and lasted. Others told us the virtues of Capture and Cascade. I 'threw a dart' and went against the sub's preference.

A Work of Art

I'm not sure how we would have liked Transformation, but I do know that we love the way the Capture and Cascade turned out. The color we chose is gorgeous. Our sub loved working with the products, too. All I know is that if I close my eyes and try to dream of the perfect hand-scribed chinker-style log cabin, the images and floorplan in my mind don't compare to the cabin we built. It truly is a work of art, like a painting, and the paints we used on our easel were from Sashco. After 4 years, we just had our first maintenance application. Only having to apply the clear-coat of Cascade was a money saver and made the cabin's wood 'pop' again. I think of my dad a lot now.....especially when I am at the cabin, reading a good book with Sam next to me - my Chessy buddy, who

happens to be the best dog in the world - listening to some country. And I feel him smiling down on me as I pass on the love of the outdoors to my kids.

Summer Scene

One summer scene seems to bring it all together. Each summer morning that my family is at our cabin, we wake up early to wakeboard and waterski. We are one of the first boats on the lake. The CD player is set to play - 'My Father's Eyes' by Eric Clapton. We fire up the boat and idle out. It's so quiet, the lake is smooth as a mirror, the sunrise is gorgeous, and my kids are either amped to board or wiping the sleep from their eyes. I'm enjoying the sound of the boat's engine, my wife has a beautiful smile on her face..... and Clapton comes on. The song and its words are an excellent tribute to my dad. My kids are now young adults and tell me that whenever they hear the song they think of me and those summer mornings. It's a comforting thought. I think they will remember those moments for the rest of their lives.



Gary & Robin

Big Bear, California



Capture the Beauty of the Southwest Real people. Real stories.

A trip to the southwest and the beauty of the Rocky Mountains were the catalysts for our "love affair" with log homes. We knew we would not be happy until we had one! Having a construction background, I decided to build our dream log home. That was 33 years ago, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Love for Log Homes

Log homes are such unique structures that working on them brings us a feeling of fulfillment and satisfaction. Nothing is more gratifying than the praise and thanks received from satisfied customers. Walking into a log home is like receiving a big warm hug from someone you love and we feel privileged to work on them, as well as live in the one we built.

Pictures are worth a Thousand Words

Our company, Airtight Chinking and Sealing, is a full-service log home finishing, maintenance and restoration company, and we use Sashco log home products exclusively. When customers ask about other products, we explain that we live in a log home and have

used Capture/Cascade on the exterior and Capture/Symphony on the interior. The beauty of each log and its wood grain and characteristics are allowed to shine through the translucent pigment of the Capture stain. Since pictures "are worth a thousand words", we share photos and stories of homes that have required a complete restoration, due to "other product" failure. Their reaction to the "after" photos is priceless.

Great Results

Texas is not a typical location for a log home, nor is the climate particularly log friendly. Make no mistake: restoration work on these homes is labor intensive, dirty, tedious, and costly. Only those who are passionate about bringing log homes back to their original beauty will endure the process. It is crucial that the proper products be used to protect the home and keep it from returning to a deteriorated state. We can say, with conviction, that a 16 year old log home finished with the Capture/Cascade two-part system still looks brand new all those years later! For that reason, the only products that go on our jobs is Sashco's Capture Stain, followed by Cascade clear coat.

A Great Partnership

In the competitive business world, reputation is everything. We are very proud of our reputation and the friendships we've maintained with each one of our homeowner customers. Because we stand by our workmanship, it is important to partner with a company that stands behind their products. It's why we use Sashco - our reputation is important to them, too.



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Pictured: Texas Log Home



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Ever since I was a young girl, I dreamed of having a place on a lake. I had fallen in love with water skiing at the age of nine when I got up on my first attempt. Before we “jumped in with two feet” and took the plunge to buy a place, we tested the waters by buying a condominium to see if we would really make use of a vacation home. After 3 short years in that condo, we had our answer! My childhood dream became a reality in 2007 when our family built our custom lake house.

Everybody . . . Up to the Lake House!

Even though we’re a small family with only one son, I believe we have taken half the community up to the lake over the years. We’re on the lake by day and roasting s’mores in the fire pit by night. We love teaching kids how to wakeboard and water ski, and watch them bounce across the wakes on tubes.



Fair Advice from a Great Builder

Center Hill Lake in middle Tennessee is one of the most beautiful lakes you’ll ever see. The water is crystal clear and it’s surrounded by gorgeous rolling hills covered in lush vegetation. Since you can’t build directly on the lake front, we chose a spot completely in the woods but only a half-mile from the dock. Our fabulous custom-home builder, Mary Ann Fair of Classic Design Construction, walked us through the process from choosing the architectural plans to furniture placement.

Her suggestion on stain brand has proven to be one of her most valuable bits of advice. She had used many products over the years and recommended using Capture and Cascade by Sashco. Wow, was she right! The color is rich and lasting. It still takes my breath away every time we drive up to the house and I see that magnificent cedar and stone façade.

Beauty worth a Thousand Words

When guests see our lake home for the first time, we anticipate their reaction. They all say something like, “It’s so beautiful!” and it confirms to us that we made a wise choice. We know the cedar siding is the focal point of those remarks so we have faithfully had a coat of Cascade clear applied every 3 to 4 years. We want those compliments to continue for years to come!

The McGraths



Center Hill Lake, Smithville, Tennessee



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Shortly after my wife and I married in 1989, we attended a log building school in Canada (kind of a different honeymoon). Six weeks later, in the dead of winter with all our possessions in the back of a pickup truck, we arrived in Alaska and established a business constructing custom handcrafted log furniture. Towards the end of the eight year life of that business, I was installing a log handrail for a customer. He asked me if I could refinish two walls of his log house. That was 1997 and my first experience refinishing logs. It was also the birth of our log home refinishing and chinking business.

The Family Business

Here I am, 17 years later. The whole family has been involved with the family business in one way or another. Running a family-operated business has allowed me to earn a living while spending time with my family, a privilege few enjoy. In fact, my oldest son, Hans, works full time with me. Hans, like his older sister before him, started out in log restoration as a little guy, pulling plastic and tape from windows, vacuuming decks, cleaning windows, etc. Since most of our work season occurs during the summer months, our kids have helped me on the job since they were very young. Hans started working with me full time when he was fifteen, finally strong enough to operate a disc grinder safely. Now barely twenty, he is

fully capable of handling by himself any restoration project we might take on. At a time when good help is hard to find, it's great to have a co-worker like Hans who has the same standard of quality as I do.

Tough Alaskan Environment

Here in Alaska, we have a very short season for doing exterior work. In late September, as the snow is about to fly, I can't afford to use products that will fail. And I sure don't want to spend any time re-doing something for free. Every time I use it, Sashco's Capture/Cascade staining system exceeds my customers' requirements and expectations. They're happy and I'm happy. Sashco's products hold up remarkably well under some of the most extreme conditions imaginable. I have refinished and chinked some very beautiful log homes up on the hillside in Anchorage overlooking Cook Inlet. These homes are exposed to winds in excess of 100 mph throwing salty rain and silt right at the house. Then there are the long Alaska summer days with around-the-clock UV exposure. It's an extremely tough environment. I revisited one of these homes about 11 years after I did the original refinish work. The Cascade clear coat was still intact and beading up water. That was the moment I decided that the best choice for all of my customers was Sashco's Capture/Cascade system.

Delighting Customers

My customers are, understandably, very particular about their homes. A log home is a considerable investment and the homeowner usually wants only the best products and services. They know the aesthetic they're after and the performance they need. They want to see the grain of the wood, achieve a natural look and do it all with water-based products that don't require toxic solvents for clean-up. Sashco's Capture/Cascade system fits the bill. It always lives up to the buildup I give it during the bidding process. One customer was so happy that she said I could put my name on her house. (I didn't.) It's very satisfying to get such a positive reaction from a customer and to make an already good-looking house look stunning. There is no better advertising than that in this business.



*Manfred & Hans
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