

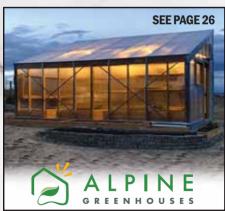
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## BUILDING SHOWCASE



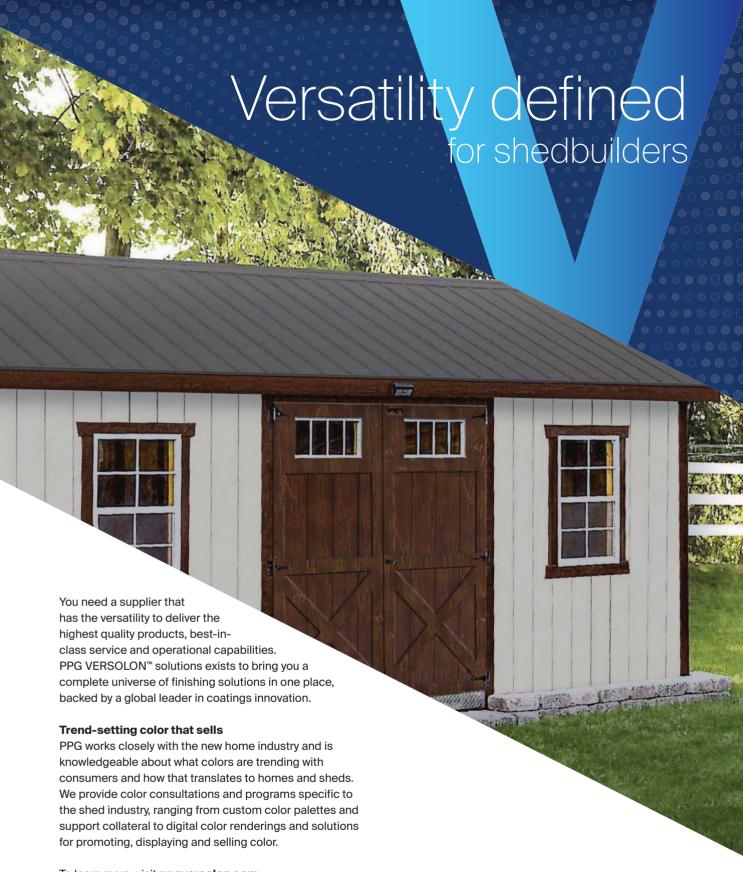












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### **Newness Abounds**

### New Editor Welcomes You to the Annual Projects Issue

rowth instigates change, and as Garage, Shed & Carport Builder and its parent company Shield Wall Media continue to grow, it has necessitated change in the form of the addition of another editor on the Shield Wall Media staff.

That was a first-person sentence because that new editor is me. I'm thrilled and honored to have rejoined my friends and colleagues after having gone to another magazine company for the past few years. Both an editor and a website manager, I used to run the websites for these construction brands, but this return to the brands now makes this my first stint with the magazine group itself.

I've been a writer and editor my entire career with the only exception being a short stint in sales for Leafguard (the Englert-supplied gutters). I won't pretend that made me a construction expert by any means; most of my personal experience in that regard comes from having just gone through the process of planning the building of our retirement home.

From a personal standpoint, my wife Angie (also an editor, but at a different company) and I live in the Shield Wall Media office hometown of Waupaca, Wisconsin, having built our age-in-place retirement house in the fall of 2021. I will be able to chronicle that build, and the things we've learned that could benefit you and your business, in the coming months and years.

We've certainly learned enough tough lessons in our first 18 months, including why your mechanical room door needs an alarm, why you shouldn't adjust your radiant heat temperature too low when it's minus-10 degrees F outside, and what to do when your new driveway buckles



The editor's new "age-in-place" home features in-floor radiant heat and a metal roof.

into the corner of your garage.

We have no (serious) complaints, however. The open concept features a single level of hardwood floors (luxury vinyl but you get the point), with half the house consisting of an enormous great room. The insulation quality borders on ridiculous (our first-year monthly heat bill average was \$50, which is now our budget, absurd in Wisconsin in 2023), and the metal roof tops off what is pretty much a no-maintenance building. Lastly to the right of our house is a delightful three-season room.

My first issue of GSCB is a special one. We feature our Building Showcase in this annual issue, and I thank our projects manager, Marcus Josiger, for his work on this section, which starts on page 18. If you'd like to get your project into a future magazine, please send him an email at marcus@shieldwallmedia.com.

### **New Frame Building Show**

Our publisher, Gary Reichert, used the Building Wins Live podcast in mid-February to announce a new show to be run by Shield Wall Media. The Post-Frame Builder Show will be in Branson on June 19-20, 2024. Reichert said the location is perfect not only for a fun business/family trip, but also from a strategic

### POST-FRAME BUILDER SHOW

location standpoint. We will also be running the Garage Shed Carport Builder Show again next year, January 24-25 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Learn more about both shows at shieldwallmedia.com.

We've also announced a new digital magazine, Build My Barndo. If you're interested in educating your prospects about barndominiums, or if you would like to find more customers or prospects in that space, visit shieldwallmedia.com/barndo to learn more.

Lastly, I will be building an advisory board of industry professionals in each topic vertical (that's part of my process

for any magazine I've managed) so feel free to email me and introduce yourself at rocky@ shieldwallmedia. com. I look forward to meeting you in person at an industry event, too.



—Rocky Landsverk



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Gary Reichert, Publisher, Shield Wall Media

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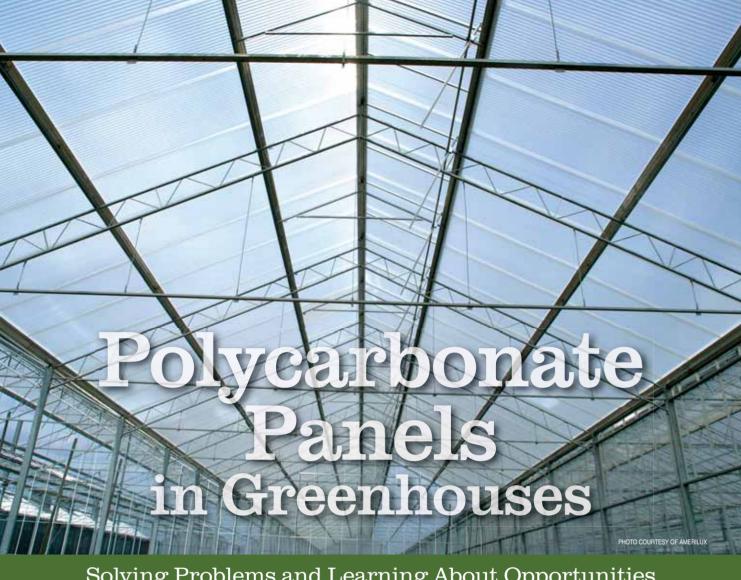
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Solving Problems and Learning About Opportunities

BY LINDA SCHMID

hen planning a greenhouse build, some customers desire a glass greenhouse for its aesthetic qualities, but they choose polycarbonates for their light diffusion properties and their shatter-resistant qualities.

However, some manufacturers make polycarbonate panels that very closely mimic the look of glass; it can be hard to tell the difference. Often their lightweight properties allow for architectural designs that are more difficult to accomplish with a heavier material like glass, too. Shop a bit to find the polycarbonate panel that is right for the project. Further, a clear polycarbonate can be dressed up with wood framing to create a look that is appealing to many.

#### **Heat Retention and Climate Control**

For clients who live in cold climates and are looking for ways to retain heat in their greenhouse, builders can steer them toward 14 mil or 16 mil, or twin wall to 4-wall panels which feature air gaps as added insulation. Add heaters. To enhance heat retention, use an approved silicone sealant around the frame, corners, fastening points and door or vent openings.

A shortage of ventilation is a common mistake. The simple formula to ensure enough air flow? Take the cubic footage of the greenhouse and ensure that the fans can exhaust all the air in one minute. Fans are marked with cubic feet per minute, so do the math.

Add ventilation near the floor so cool air flows in and at the top for hot air to escape. Ventilation can be manual or automatic.

Passive solar greenhouses can be very effective in retaining heat and allowing plant growth throughout the winter months. Build a tall back wall covered in reflective insulation with a shorter wall facing south. Create a floor of light-colored gravel for a heat sink that catches the reflected heat and passes it on to

the plants above it in raised beds and shelving. Combined with twin wall polycarbonate panels, the greenhouse generally has more than enough heat during the day; in fact the temperatures can get dangerously high, so good ventilation is doubly important with this type of setup. A supplemental heater may be needed at night, when the temperatures drop way down.

#### **Protecting Panels**

One problem that installers have sometimes encountered is panels cracking over time. That is the result of the way the panels were installed. When the fastener is attached, tiny cracks can develop which grow as the panel expands and contracts. If the holes are predrilled, slightly wider than the diameter of the fastener, the pressure is alleviated and cracks or warps will not appear in the panel. Silicone sealant is advised, as it will move with the panels.

Polycarbonate panels used for greenhouses should have the UV inhibitor, and during installations, builders should ensure that they are placing panels with

the UV protective coating on the exterior. The UV coating helps prevent the panels from yellowing and becoming brittle, but it can't do its job if it's on the interior side of the structure. You

can tell which side goes on the outside because that is the side the protective film is applied to.

Proper cleaning will help you get the most from your panels. Manufacturers usually include recommendations regarding the proper cleaning, but abrasive cleaning agents, glass window cleaners, or chemicals of any kind are deemed unfit for these panels as they can corrode the UV coating. Further, don't try to

wipe the panels when they are dry as that can lead to scratches, affecting the coating, light diffusion (one of the important reasons that owners choose polycarbonates), and aesthetics.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EPLAST

#### **Channel Installation**

If H or U channel proves hard to slide on, a little dish soap on a rag can help. Putting walls together can be simplified, according to customer feedback some manufacturers have received, if you use Snap-H channel profiles. They should easily snap together as the name suggests.

#### **Moisture Challenges**

Moisture can cause greenhouse problems, and there are a number of steps to take to avoid them. Panels should be

installed so that waves, channels, and seams run vertically and water can flow out. It is important for builders to educate customers about the importance of cleaning the panels occasionally so that snow and rain don't get trapped in debris that accumulates on the roof; pooling water may eventually find an entrance into the structure. Another practice that our experts suggested trying: drill weep holes in the lower channel of a multi-wall panel's framing.

The temperature differential between the inside and outside

Garage, Shed & Carport Builder expresses its sincere appreciation to the following sources for sharing their expertise and insights.

- · Lucia Villegas, Onduline
- Buddy Pullen, AmeriLux International
- Everlast Roofing
- Dan Ludeking, ePlast
- ·Leo Vildosola, Klar
- Dave McCarson, Alpine Greenhouses
- Andrew Mullen, Direct Metals Inc.

temperatures can cause fogging which can interfere with light transmission. Condensation can potentially mean bacteria-ridden water dripping on the plants as well as slippery patches on the floor. This can be avoided with an antifog/anti-

condensation coating.

Seal the edges of corrugated polycarbonate panels with closure strips, foam, wood, or plastic; for better air flow use the ventilated plastic strips. For multiwall panels, H and C channels can be

used with microperforated tape on the edges for ventilation with a channel to seal the ends will keep dust and bugs out. Some experts advise that self-adhesive sealing tape, butyl or expanding seal tape can be applied at the side and end laps using moderate hand pressure to ensure a proper seal.

At the top or bottom of roof or wall edges, or at the roof ridge/cap, the space between the panel's profile and the purlin or girt should be closed with a contoured foam closure strip matching the panel profile. GSCB

### The View from the Greenhouse

Jordan Hosking, owner of Wisconsin Greenhouse Company, says that the desire for greenhouses is growing. There is a lot of interest in cold climates where people are looking for ways to enjoy nature during the winter months. A greenhouse environment can create the feel of a spring day while the temperature is freezing outside.

Hosking says that they predominantly get requests for backyard structures. They make them with aluminum frames, stainless steel fasteners, and glass or hard cover polycarbonate glazing.

For greenhouse glazing with insulating properties, he advises double glass low-E or 5/8" wall polycarbonate panels. They are fairly similar in their insulating values, but the double glass is about three times the price and can shatter. However, many people prefer the glass aesthetic because it is clear and does not need to be replaced over time. Polycarbonates on the other hand will not shatter like glass can, but still need to be replaced every 10-15 years.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks in the greenhouse business is educating customers on appropriate usage and interior furnishings. Since the COVID-19 era, more and more people intend to use it as an office or an entertainment space. Hosking has even seen pianos and elegant indoor furniture in greenhouses, which can be harmed by the moist environment.

"Keep the dialog open with the customer; they need to know what to expect," Hosking said. "They need to know that the greenhouse can be chilly, wet, bugs may make their way in, and there is a learning curve when it comes to heating and cooling."

There are ways to mitigate some climate concerns, according to Hosking. One way is to connect the greenhouse to an insulated



room or heated garage. This can help immensely, especially if there is a window between that can be opened and closed.

Further, the greenhouse can be built into the side of a hill or sunk into the ground for thermal advantages. Choosing a site that is less exposed, perhaps sheltered somewhat by another structure or at least not sitting atop a hill where it can be hammered by the wind, can help keep the temperature a little less erratic.

However, all these considerations should be embedded in the sales process. Understanding customers' needs and designing the controlled environment to meet their expectations is what makes a greenhouse company successful, Hosking concludes.



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### **Upselling Sheds**

### Regional Differences Define 'Entry-Level'

BY ROCKY LANDSVERK

ouses, barns, and sheds aren't what they used to be, as anybody older than about 50 years old can attest. In fact, some of today's sheds would have been considered a pretty nice home 100 years ago.

As the shed industry continues to evolve from "place where you store your lawn mower" to sometimes meaning "small home where the grandchildren can play and sleep," it can be difficult to define entry-level, mid-level, and upscale sheds.

And regional differences are making it even more difficult to assess. In more rural areas like much of the Midwest, there are often still entry-level sheds with no windows. In the Northeast, even entry-level typically means something nicer than your great-grandparents' house.

"If you look out in the Midwest, a basic shed is still a basic shed," said Thomas Slack, sales rep at Shed Windows and More. Move to the Northeast, however, and "that standard shed typically has at least two windows and a double door."

Justin Burnett, sales manager at Midco Building Products, said the South is also moving toward entry-level sheds that increasingly seem like mid-level sheds. "Definitely over the last 10-15 years there has been an increase" in the quality and features of basic sheds to the point that they're really more like what we would have called a mid-level shed before. For instance, the South often has traditionally used a more-affordable aluminum frame door "but we are seeing a slight trend toward a bettergrade fiberglass door," Burnett said.

How did we get here, and what happens next?

#### Basic vs. Mid-Level in 2023

Most of the regional differences seem to track with urban vs. rural areas. If you want to generalize about what a mid-level shed is today, nationally, it will have windows, plus upgraded doors and siding.

"A middle-of-the road shed is still a standard LP SmartSide shed, maybe with multiple windows, maybe a rollup door," Slack said. He then continued walking up the food chain. "Your high-end sheds are going to be vinyl or Hardie with entry with a standard residential entry door, and then maybe then a double bifold door with a ramp."

Next up the ladder would be what Slack calls a specialty building, which would have double-pane windows and insulation and



Shed Windows and More outfitted this upgraded shed.

drywall.

Burnett gave some criteria for what he would call a mid-level shed in 2023.

- Fiberglass doors.
- PVC frame instead of wood.
- Double-paned aluminum windows.
- Ramps for wheelbarrows, lawn mowers, etc.
- Cosmetic upgrades such as window shutters and flower boxes.

"Upgradable components and creature comforts are what make the changes between an entry-level and mid-level shed," Burnett said.

#### Ranking the Important Upgrades

The first upgrade to be considered is typically the door. "It's the easiest replacement," Slack said. "Pop the trim off and then pop the door in. Put your trim on, and you're ready to go."

For the next upgrade, a builder would typically say windows. That could mean upgrading to include windows at all, or it could



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mean moving up to better windows.

Upgrading windows to a better quality is easy because the rough opening doesn't have to change, versus improving (for instance) the siding, which can impact the studs. "In the case of windows, you're just dropping a new product in there with the same dimensions," Slack said.

What would Burnett recommend to upgrade? He listed upgraded side panels such as LP SmartSide and some kind of improved door, perhaps a metal roll-up door. He said you should also consider upgrading the roof to shingles to match the house. Other items on his list:

- Upgrading windows to include transom windows.
- Upgrades in flooring to either floor panels or LuxGuard rubber floors.
- Vented gables.
- Upgraded door hinges (from gal vanized or zinc to a more decorative black powder coated hinge).

#### **Regional Differences**

Why these regional differences? Slack said much of the difference is that HOAs and covenants in the Northeast are stricter and/or have higher standards. Sometimes that is rooted in simple urban vs. rural differences, but often it's just what got passed from town to town, regionally.

"The Midwest is more rural, and rural means less rules, less regulations," he said. But in the Northeast, "the shed has to look like the house, and the house has windows, so the shed has to have windows. If the house is a cream color, the shed needs to be a cream color."

Example: Here is a section of the covenants for a subdivision near GSCB's office in Central Wisconsin. "One shed per residence, with a maximum floor area of 192 square feet." End of discussion on the topic. So as opposed to most of the stricter covenants in other areas of the country, including but not limited to the Northeast, Slack said in this instance, "the shed could be bright orange."

Meanwhile, in some areas of the



Midco Building Products doors and windows on a shed.

Northeast, Slack said, "We're working in some developments that require the shed to be on a concrete foundation. It has to be a vinyl building that matches the vinyl of your house, or the closest match that is available. It has to have fiberglass doors and has to have hurricane clips, to be anchored. You're essentially building a mini-house."

### **Prioritizing Upgrades**

All things considered, Slack said his vision of a middle-of-the-road shed includes two windows, a double-door, and painted and trimmed LP SmartSide.

What do experts strongly recommend to get upgraded? Put another way, what do customers often regret *not* upgrading?

"That depends on the use of the building," Slack said. "Is it just for lawn equipment, or will you be keeping valuables in it? Will it be used for an office or a workout studio?

"If you are trying to keep your lawn equipment dry, you need a door that's wide enough to get your lawn equipment in and out. If you have a riding mower, do you need a ramp? How much do you care about the way a door looks?

"If you're going to put nicer things in it, then you want a fiberglass door, so it becomes air- and water-tight, and in that case, we're going to seal the entire building properly, and insulate." What people seem to be inquiring about in today's uncertain economic times mirrors what happened during the 2009-era recession. "Fiberglass doors and double-pane windows," Slack said. That kind of upgrade was popular during that previous recession, and he said people are utilizing the same philosophy in today's uncertain times — their attitude seems to be avoiding expensive upgrades in favor of practicality"

### **Upscale Trends**

Sheds are also increasingly serving as living spaces, or turning into the backdrop for patios enclosed as three-season rooms, Carolina rooms, and multi-use outdoor spaces. "You have sheds being converted into offices, into game rooms, into gyms, yoga studios," Slack said.

Burnett said he's seeing a couple trends currently, including dormer windows, and lofts for storage or sleeping, turning the shed into a bit of a cabin. "Dormer windows add better views and increase the building's stylishness," he said. "Lofted barns enable more storage, or a place to sleep in a cabin-shed."

We know these trends toward higherend and more extravagant aren't going to stop. In the same way that everything gets fancier every day, Burnett said, "We can expect the quality of sheds to continue to go up in years to come." GSCB Luke Menzel of JLT Enterprises LLC in Mocksville, NC purchased his first Mule in 2020, a Mule 5, and in October of 2021, he upgraded to a Mule 628T. That decision has made a world of difference in his work. "Due to having a Mule with tracks, I'm able to work through wet and muddy weather, where before I had to wait for the ground to dry out," he says.

"I'm working more towards the mountains," Luke explains, "and that's probably why it's more paramount for me to have the Mule so I can get the building into the location where the customer wants it. Often there's no way you can get a trailer in there."

Luke loves what he does, and loves the people he works with. He says, "I couldn't ask for nicer people across the board. Most all the shed haulers I meet on the road honk or wave, and everybody on Shed Haulers Facebook page is great, and all the shed hauler barbecues and competitions – It's a great community and I'm privileged to be a part of it."

superb. "Anytime I reach out to them, someone's happy to get me an answer as quickly as possible and everyone I've spoken with has been superb at getting my questions answered. They are on the ball immediately. I could not recommend them more highly.

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# Framing a Carport

Tips and Considerations

BY LINDA SCHMID

ne might think that carports would not be popular in northern areas where the elements can often be less than pleasant and mild. However, after speaking to Roy Rodriguez of Midwest Steel Carports, it is apparent that would be a false assumption. He assures us that carports are popular for many reasons, including the affordability of these wall-less structures. They provide easy accessibility to the items stored within them, they give protection from the elements, people are not continually cleaning snow away from vehicles, and items are conveniently contained in one space. Further, because carports are pre-engineered and pre-manufactured, they can be quickly

constructed.

Manufacturers bend the tubing to create a pre-fabricated carport frame to be assembled like a puzzle. However, there are no instructions so a bit of experience is a very helpful thing.

#### **Carport Materials**

Carports frames can be made of aluminum, but steel is a much stronger material for a lasting structure. Rodriguez says that their carports are usually 14-gauge steel with a diameter of 2 1/2 x 2 1/2 or the heavy-duty 12-gauge steel option with steel to steel 3/4" SD tech screws. Hex zinc screws can also be used, #12

(continued on page 17)















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#### (continued from page 14)

screws that are self-tapping with a drill bit for ease of installation (no pre-drilling required). Neoprene washers give a tight, longlasting seal to help prevent leaks.

Brian Thomas, the Dealer Support Manager at American Building Network, finds that 14-gauge Grade 50 Galvanized Tubing is most-often used for framing. They primarily use selfdrilling screws and thru-bolt anchors for fastening the structural components to each other and the siding to the frame. He adds that steel trusses and column components are pre-fabricated offsite and assembled onsite. Depending on the foundation, a 36" auger anchor can be drilled into the ground or a 6-prong anchor is used with asphalt, and a wedge anchor with concrete.

Rodriguez adds that galvanized steel is a good choice for rust resistance in a climate where the structure will have to withstand snow, rain, and hail.

#### **Tips On Carport Construction**

**Level Site.** The first thing to ascertain is that the site is level, within 3" Thomas advises. An un-level site can lead to problems; firstly you may be looking at a lopsided-looking building. More importantly the structure may not be as sturdy as it could be, for instance the anchors holding the structure down are in danger of pulling out when strong winds come along.

**Installation Clearance.** Leave yourself at least 3' to 4' of clearance for panel installation; unnecessary items left in that space can end up damaging the panels if they are banged or scraped up against them.

Check for Pipes. Ensure that the ground you are working is free from pipes, electrical, or septic lines; check with the owner and ensure that they have had the area surveyed.

Do Not Over-Tighten. As you assemble the carport, take care not to over-tighten the screws, or the washer can give out eventually and you have a leak. This can be avoided by using the correct tool at the correct torque speed. Also a higher quality of screw can help.

Veteran Finish. Do not allow a newbie to do the finish work unsupervised, as pieces may be poorly cut, calling the craftsmanship of the whole project into question.

Rodriguez said if you are the new guy on the job site, learn as much as possible from the experienced workers, look up videos online, be vulnerable to criticism. This is how you will learn!

### Job Site Etiquette

Communication and respect for the customers' property is first and foremost on any job. Customers may have items that they don't realize are in the way of construction, but before moving their belongings, ask for permission and ensure that

they understand what is happening.

Take breaks away from the job site and refrain from smoking on the premises.

Don't leave packaging or any garbage behind.

These basic courtesies can make the difference between positive and negative word of mouth.

### Temporary or Permanent?

Carports may or may not need a permit. It is up to the state, county, city ... but often they are required nowadays.

Permits are not necessary if the building is considered temporary. It depends largely on the foundation; if it's on concrete, it probably needs a permit. Size can also play a part; if it's over 200 sq. feet, it's most likely considered to be permanent. However, you need to be sure what the requirements are in the area you are building.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIDWEST STEEL CARPORTS

Because of the materials used, carports have the potential to last a long time; as Rodriguez says, steel is the material used for bridges and skyscrapers. Framing can have a 20 year warranty and the roof panels generally have many more, perhaps double that with a proper build and maintenance.

A proper build ensures the carport is engineered to meet local building codes which in turn ensures the integrity of the structure during heavy winds and snow loads. Of course, accidents happen and there have been occasions where buildings have been damaged by vehicles or fallen trees. Thomas warns that concrete cleaning chemicals can cause damage to the galvanized coating if over-sprayed.

On a positive note, repairs of steel buildings are typically not too complex since the structures fit together like puzzles. **GSCB** 

### Multi-Use Garage

### PORTAGRACE MANUFACTURING

WWW.PORTAGRACE.COM

#### **SPECS**

MEASUREMENTS: 30'x36'x12'

**ROOF PITCH: 4/12** 

#### DOORS:

Big doors: 10x10 Janus International 650 Series, Bronze, Insulated, 26 ga. Entry door: Harvard AS3 3'x6'8"

FASTENERS: Supply Technologies, color-matched 1" Tek 5 self-drillers

INSULATION: rFOIL Double Bubble

**ROOFING PANELS: Porta Grace PG** Rib 29 ga., antique bronze

**VENTILATION: Solid PG Rib** 

WALL PANELS/SIDING: Porta Grace PG Rib 29 gauge, Clay 3' Wainscot, antique bronze

MISC.: 12'x30' lean-tos, 1' overhang on eave walls

his residential, detached, multi-use garage was built primarily for storage and as a workshop. It also stores a boat. The big doors are insulated, increasing the versatility of this beautiful building.







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### Log Cabin Shed

WARREN'S SHEDS AND CARPORTS

WARRENSSHEDSANDCARPORTS.COM



#### **SPECS**

**BUILDER:** Warren's Sheds and Carports in Cander, N.C., a dealer for Cherokee Structures in Chuckey, Tennessee

**SPECS**: 14' by 31'

**ROOF PITCH: 6/12** 

FASTENERS: Southern Carlson

**INSULATION:** 

31-W or Energy Savers Insulation

**ROOF PANELS/SHINGLES: JD Metals** 

SPECIAL INTERIOR FEATURES:

8' dormer

**VENTILATION:** Ridge vent

**WALL PANELS/SIDING:** 

LP SmartSiding

WINDOWS:

WEH Supply-Single Hung Vinyl

MISC.:

Wood Shutters and Log Railing

Il the buildings that Warren's Sheds and Carports sells are Cherokee Structure buildings including this Log Cabin. There are more than 15 styles of quality available, and each of those comes with at least one window and one loft. The shed shown is 14'x31' and has an 8' dormer but there are plentiful options, including seven options with lofts, seven options with ramps, 14 options of doors, six window options, and six siding options including log, metal, and lap to batton.



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### Cabin-Style Model

BACKYARD STORAGE & SUPERIOR SHEDS LLC (S.C.)

WWW.BACKYARDSTORAGE.COM & MYSUPERIORSHEDS.COM



#### **SPECS**

BUILDER: Superior Sheds LLC, MySuperiorSheds.com

**SPECS:** 12' by 24'

**ROOF PITCH:** 6/12

DOORS: Custom Barn Doors /
Apple Outdoor Supply

FASTENERS: Apple Outdoor Supply

**INSULATION:** LP TechShield

#### **ROOFING PANELS:**

Pro Cut Metals, Easley, SC

**VENTILATION:** Apple Outdoor Supply

### WALL PANELS/SIDING:

LP SmartSide Lap Siding

FLOORING: LP ProStruct

WINDOWS: Apple Outdoor Supplies

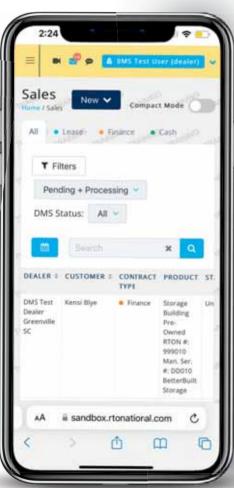
his 12'x24' Deluxe
Cabin-Style Model was
built with the goal of
showing off several features
to include in your customer's
next shed, including the
dormer, super-tall walls, new
LP ProStruct flooring, loft,
LP SmartLap siding, and an
electrical package.

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### **Utility Shed**

### **ONDULINE**

US.ONDULINE.COM/EN/DIY

#### **SPECS**

SPECS: Overall 4'x8'

**ROOFING:** Onduline Ondura Premium

Series roofing

ACCESSORIES: Ridge caps, fasteners, closing strips from Onduline

PAINT: Behr Legendary Grey

MISC.: PVC trim, lockable door, built-

in vents

**PHOTO CREDIT: MW Hunter Custom** 

Woodworking (Instagram

@mwhuntercustomwoodworking)

his small utiliy shed fits the bill perfectly for a customer who wants quality but doesn't need size. Roofing and other accessories are top-notch and the color could be matched to the house if desired.







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### Greenhouse Kit

ALPINE GREENHOUSES LLC (AMERILUX PANELS)

ALPINEGH.COM

#### **SPECS**

**MEASUREMENTS: 12'x20'** 

ROOF PITCH: 5/12

#### **FASTENERS:**

Big Timber BTX Deck Screws 9x3"

INSULATION: Insulfoam R-Texh 1.5" Rigid Foam with reflective foil

ROOFING PANELS: AmeriLux 8mm polycarbonate twinwall clear

#### SPECIAL INTERIOR FEATURES:

Solar Mirror, Insulfoam Inc, 1.5", 48"x96" R-Tech insulation with reflective foil

**EXHAUST FAN:** Alpine

Greenhouses, stainless steel cold weather exhaust fan

**VENTILATION:** J. Orbesen Telnik, Gigavent automated vent openers

WALL PANELS/SIDING: Simpson

Strong Tie 11'4" TWBs

**POLYCARBONATE PANELS:** 

AmeriLux



his greenhouses was made from a kit, with several sizes available. They feature AmeriLux polycarbonate. Greenhouses are designed to grow maximum amount of food in adverse weather conditions, so this building's specs are up to the task, including 100+ mph wind loads, 60 lbs/square foot snow loads, and a warranty against hail. The north wall has shelves plus the ground floor doubles the food production in same footprint as conventional greenhouses.



This is a variation of the same greenhouse.





Here are other variations of the same greenhouse shown on page 26.



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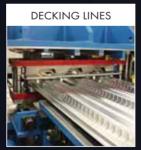


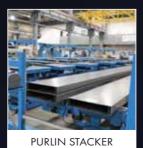




TRIM LINES

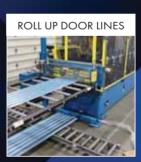














**ROLL-UP STATIONS** 









### Garden Shed

### COUNTRYSIDE PORTABLE BUILDINGS

COUNTRYSIDEPORTABLEBUILDINGS.COM

#### **SPECS**

#### MANUFACTURER:

North Star Portable Buildings

**MEASUREMENTS: 10'x16'** 

**ROOF PITCH: 4/12** 

DOORS: 6' wide double doors (also available is 4' double doors, or 6' or

9' roll door)

INSULATION: Closed cell spray foam

**ROOFING PANELS:** Everlast

SIDING: LP SmartSide





hese pre-built portable buildings are manufactured by North Star Portable Buildings. Countryside Portable Buildings of Portage, Wisconsin, is one of their distributors. Styles include utility sheds, garden sheds, garages, lofted barns, and cabins (loft optional). Almost everything is customizable: wall heights, siding, windows (insulated or not, or transom), wood or diamond-plate ramps, window boxes and shutters, etc. The walls and floors can be upgraded to extra height, or heavy duty, and ADA options are available, along with A/C cutouts, patio doors, and more.

### BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

















### BUSINESS CONNECTIONS \*\*

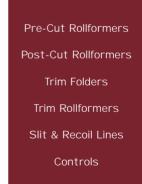














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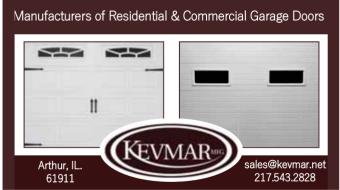
### BUSINESS CONNECTIONS















### **Hobby and Work Shop**

### WICK BUILDINGS

WICKBUILDINGS.COM

### **SPECS**

#### MANUFACTURER:

Wick Buildings

BUILDER: Willie Kimmons,

Merrill, Wisconsin

MEASUREMENTS: 40'x64'x20'

ROOF PITCH: 6/12, 2' overhangs

**DOORS:** Plyco Exterior Walk Doors

with 22"x36" windows

INSULATION: Dripstop® applied to roof steel, fiberglass batt Insulation

VENTILATION: MWI RV-100 Ridge

Vent and vented eaves

**TRUSSES:** Wick Raised Lower Chord Trusses and Wick Bonus Storage

Trusses

WALL PANELS: Wick Steel.

Exterior: Hunter Green (roof & wainscot) and Alpine White walls Interior: White Liner, Red Trim and

Charcoal Gray wainscot

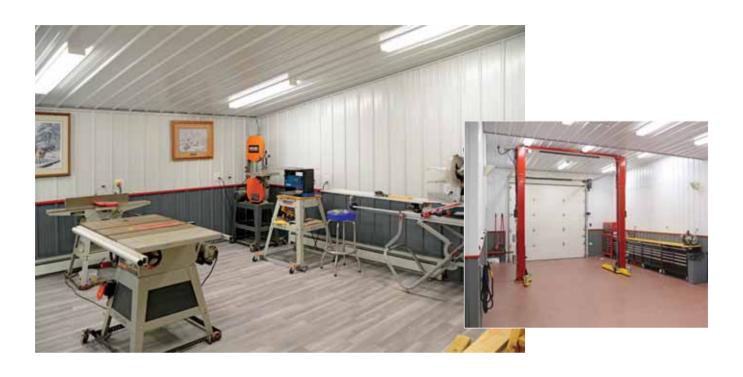
HOUSE WRAP: Kimberly-Clark Block-It





his amazing hobby and work shop in North Central Wisconsin has an interior second story with attic storage. Down on the first level, the owner can pull trailers through. The vehicle shop has a lift on the ground level, while the second level has both a woodworking shop and an archery range.





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### Residential Garage

### MARTIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

WWW.MARTINCONSTRUCTIONCO.COM FLEETWOOD. PA

### **SPECS**

**SIZE:** 32'x50'x9'6" & 14'6" 6/12 (main roof) & 8/12 (reverse-A)

DOORS: Hormann 16'x8' (2) & 12'x13' (1) model 3200 cottage-style long panel with Stockton windows & jack-shaft operators

FOUNDATION: Poured concrete (footers & walls), rebar-reinforced 8" walls with 1/2" rebar

INSULATION: Owens-Corning batt-type R-21 walls & R-38 ceilings

SPECIAL INTERIOR FEATURES: Shiplap/Raw Pine T&G Ceiling

POSTS: Conventional 2x6 stud wall

SHINGLES: GAF Timberline HDZ

**VENTILATION:** Cobra Gun type under cap shingle ridge venting.

WALL PANEL: Mastic Ovation

WINDOWS: Simonton Profinish vinyl, Low-E glass, 36"w x 48"h

TRUSSES: Rigid Ply Rafters 32' x 14'

span, A-Frame 30# Live Load, 32'
Girder Trusses for center reverse-A.

WALL & CEILING LINER: Metal Sales painted steel wall & ceiling liner 29 ga. classic rib painted steel liner panel.

ADDITIONAL FEATURES: 50-amp subpanel, plumbing including frost-free hydrants, fiberglass wash tub with ondemand water heater. LP gas fired unit heater (Modine Hot Dawg).



artin Construction was in the permitting phase for the construction of a commercial building for this client's logistics trucking business when he approached the builder about designing and building an upscale insulated and finished garage at his residence. The main goal was to house and maintain cars, pickup trucks, a boat, and a semi-truck tractor. The truck tractor presented the greatest challenge, with height restrictions along with a limited area to build. The design requirements also included similar exterior coverings to his residence. Martin came up with a design utilizing a reverse-A center roof allowing a residential-sized garage that fit into the property's setting. By utilizing girder-style trusses to support the reverse-A trusses, Martin Construction kept the garage free of interior support columns.









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### **Drop-Down Barn**

CARPORT CENTRAL. INC.

WWW.CARPORTCENTRAL.COM

#### **SPECS**

**BUILDER:** American Building Network

SPECS: Overall 54' × 31' × 16/9' Two 12' x 31' x 9' vertical roof leanto-side sections

Two 10' x 10' automatic roll-up doors with header seals and Dutch 45 cuts Two 10'  $\times$  8' roll-up doors with header seals and Dutch 45 cuts

Two 8'  $\times$  8' roll-up doors with header seals and Dutch 45 cuts
Two 9 Lite premium walk-in doors

Twenty-seven 36" × 36" premium windows

**ROOF PITCH: 2/12; 3/12** 



he purpose of this beautiful drop-down barn was to look aesthetically pleasing on the property while storing personal property and affording a place to gather. This structure could present a challenge for most to design, but Dakota Goss of Carport Central understood the customer's vision. He was able to sketch it out and get it to partner American Building Network to manufacture and install.







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# BUILDING SHOWCASE

# **Backyard Office Studio**

OUTDOOR OFFICE, INC.

WWW.OUTDOOR-OFFICE.COM

#### **SPECS**

**BUILDER:** Outdoor Office, Inc.

SPECS: Overall 10' by 16'

DOOR: Marvin 36"x80" Full Lite Black

Steel/Glass

FASTENERS: Fasten Master HeadLOK

#### **FOUNDATION:**

Outdoor Office Inc Post & Pier

**INSULATION:** Owens Corning Mineral

Wool - Fire & Sound

#### SPECIAL INTERIOR FEATURES:

Shiplap/Raw Pine T&G Ceiling

VENTILATION: Ductless Mini Split
Ductless Mini Split Cooper & Hunter

9,000 btu

#### WALL PANEL:

James Hardie 8 1/4" Smooth

#### **WINDOWS:**

Marvin 96"x48" Essential Series

FLOORING: Mohawk Laminate

SIDING: Vertical Cedar, 4" T&G Cedar

Siding to match house

PAINT: Sherwin Williams SuperPaint

ADDITIONAL FEATURES: Custom Step Out Deck, 16' Cedar Deck, Dedicated Extra Interior Outlet plus extra circuit for wine storage, CAT5e internet line installed to main home



his was a custom-built home office to create a space for working from home. The exterior was designed to match the main home along with creating an inspirational and appealing space. With all the modern features of today's home (electrical, insulation, drywall, flooring, interior trim), it also includes a Wi-Fi/Bluetooth-operated Ductless Mini Split that provides quiet and efficient heating and air conditioning to the space. This office was built on a fairly significant slope and with large boulders in the area, creating a stable and secure post & pier foundation was a challenge. To cover the elevated and exposed posts, Outdoor Office created a 2"x2" cedar slat system to match the modern style of the deck rail system of the house. This project demonstrated how an outdoor office can add value and functional space in the yard vs. a standard storage shed conversion.









# BUILDING SHOWCASE

# **Hobby Garage**

#### WALTERS BUILDINGS

WWW.WALTERSBUILDINGS.COM



#### **SPECS**

**MEASUREMENTS:** 30' x 40' x 12'

ROOF PITCH: 3/12

DOORS: Plyco Series 20 6068

FASTENERS: Maze Nails, ST Fastening System Screws

#### **ROOFING & WALL PANELS:**

JSW Steel Panels, 28 ga

WINDOWS: Plyco 4030 Windows

MISC.: MWI Components, 1' Soffit



alters Buildings built this 30' x 40' Hobby Garage next to a new home construction on a large rural lot in New Berlin, Wisconsin. The homeowners wanted more storage and an additional space for entertaining guests with summer cookouts on their property. The project features overhead doors on both sides of the pole barn for easy drive-through access. The porch faces the driveway and provides an inviting entrance for guests to join in the party. The project features red JSW Steel panels with a gray trim package. The end result is a modern take on the traditional red Wisconsin barn.





PPG's new epoxy offers increased fire protection for steel buildings.

#### **New PPG Epoxy Creates Fire Protection for Steel**

PPG announced the launch of PPG Steelguard 951 coating, an epoxy intumescent fire protection coating designed to meet the demands of modern architectural steel, including up to three hours of cellulosic fire protection, which should help the steel maintain its structural integrity in the case of a fire.

"PPG Steelguard 951 fire protection coating, based on PPG's patented flexible epoxy technology, offers excellent durability and edge retention properties," said the press release. "In a fire situation, the coating expands from a thin, lightweight film into a thick, foam-like layer that insulates the steel and maintains its structural integrity, providing more time for people to escape and limiting damage to buildings and assets.

"PPG Steelguard 951 coating also provides effective corrosion protection for very corrosive atmospheric environments up to ISO 12944 C5 without the need for a top coat, which also reduces project time and costs to achieve results. It can provide up to 3,500 microns dry film thickness in a single coat and cures rapidly, making it ready to handle the day after application."

The coating is based on PPG's patented flexible epoxy technology and is tested in accordance with all recognized national and international fire and corrosion standards.

#### A1 Garage Door Service Buys Legends Garage Door

A1 Garage Door Service, a national garage door service and sales company, announced the acquisition of Legends Garage Door of northern Arizona. Legends Garage Door has begun operating as A1 Garage Door Service. Legends Garage Door was founded in 2006. It offers garage door consultations, inspection and repair, installation and maintenance for both residential and commercial customers. Founded in 2007, A1 is now in 32 markets.

#### **TFC Launches New Catalog for Roll Formers**

Triangle Fastener Corporation announced the release of their new market-specific catalog to target manufacturers of metal roofs, walls, and various other cladding materials.

This Selection Guide consolidates fasteners for attaching through-fastened and concealed-fastened panels and is designed to assist the customer in selecting and specifying the right fastener for the application. It includes all the technical information for engineering and highlights inventory management programs that benefit purchasing.

The new catalog is available in print and digital formats. For more information call (800) 486.1832 or visit their website at www.trianglefastener.com.

#### ABC Supply Moves Into Lakeville, Minnesota; **Acquires Thermal Tech**

ABC Supply Co., Inc., a wholesale distributor of roofing and other select exterior and interior building products across North America, has opened a new location in Lakeville, Minnesota. Brett Coleman will manage the new location. ABC Supply, based in Beloit, Wisconsin, is nearing 900 locations across the U.S. and Canada.

ABC Supply also announced it has acquired the assets of Thermal Tech, Inc., a siding distribution business in Kalispell, Montana. It will operate as an ABC Supply branch focused on distributing roofing, siding, windows, gutter and rainwear products, decking and railing, as well as other related exterior building products and accessories. Craig Metzler will manage the location. Roy Nordwall started Thermal Tech, Inc. in Columbia Falls, Montana, in 1975. Roy retired in 1993, passing the company to his son, Jay Nordwall. In 1996, the company moved to its current site in Kalispell.

#### CVSA Announces International Road Check is May 16-18; Emphasis on ABS, Cargo Settlement

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) has announced May 16-18 as this year's International Roadcheck.

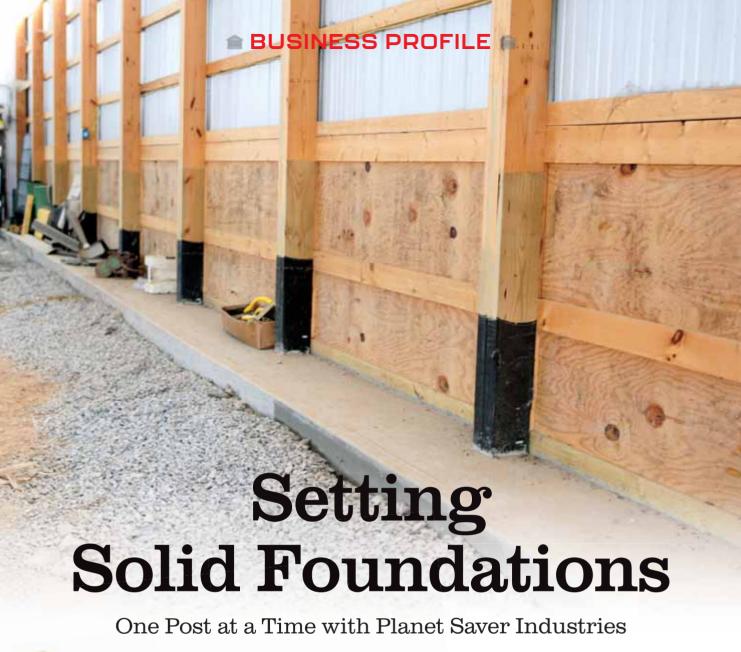
International Roadcheck is a high-visibility, high-volume 72hour inspection and enforcement event where CVSA-certified inspectors in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. will conduct inspections of commercial motor vehicles and drivers at weigh/inspection stations, designated inspection areas, and along roadways.

This year, inspectors will focus on anti-lock braking systems (ABS) and cargo securement to highlight the importance of those aspects of vehicle safety.

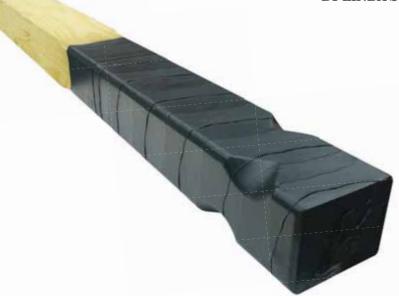
During International Roadcheck, inspectors will conduct their usual roadside safety inspections of commercial motor vehicles and drivers.

During a routine North American Standard Level I Inspection, inspectors focus on two areas — driver and vehicle safety compliance.

Learn more at www.cvsa.org. GSCB



BY LINDA SCHMID



reen Post by Planet Saver Industries started out as Post Saver USA, a company that had developed a double barrier of waterproofing and polyethylene to protect posts for post-frame construction, as well as decks and fencing, from rot and decay when posts are sunk in the ground. In 2008, the company became Planet Saver Industries LLC. Around 2016, Daniel Lapp, the current owner, realized the value of post wrap and acquired the company.

Barry Hoffman was one of Planet Saver's first customers, and he believed in it so much that he became an employee, and today he and Mel Lapp run the company.

#### **BUSINESS PROFILE**

Hoffman believes that effectiveness and product awareness, pure and simple, are what caused the company's success. In some regions, people are concerned about placing treated posts in the ground because the chemicals can be toxic and can leach into groundwater. Hudson Valley, New York, is an example. The Hudson Valley is the well-spring of New York City's underground water supply, so they did not want anything leaching into the water. Therefore, there is special financing available for agricultural businesses who use Green Post as part of their post frame buildings.

Green Post is now the signature product of Planet Saver Industries, and it works like this: Posts are waterproofed with a bitumen emulsion and wrapped in polyethylene that is heatsealed onto the post so it is practically inseparable from the post itself.

When Green Post was getting started, the company was using manual processes for certain stages to apply the double barrier. Hoffman and his wife used a prototype machine to apply Green Post, loaded them on the trailer and delivered them. Over time, about 16 years, the company designed, developed, tested, and tweaked the machine, and they have created the Super-Winder. This automated machine now yields up to 45 Green Posts per hour.

The majority of their Green Post customers join an ASO program (Application Service Only). The builder/supplier has their posts sent to the applicator to have the GreenPost barrier applied. This is the most cost-effective way to work this out because warehousing of 15 different kinds of posts is not required by the applicator. Further, many of the suppliers receive volume discounts on their post purchases, so this process is the most cost-effective for everyone.

The company is located in New Holland, Pennsylvania, with application machines currently in Pennsylvania and Ohio, which allows them to cover half the USA. As well, Postsaver and Polesaver Sleeve — post solutions that can be applied to posts in the field — can go anywhere across the country, and are used where Green Posts are currently limited by shipping.

Customers purchase the Side-Winder and set up their own facility to provide Green Post barrier wrap to suppliers, builders, and contractors in their area, building their own business. There are two in the field and a few more are currently under consideration.

Hoffman says this is their business model. When someone buys a machine, they agree upon a territory so that suppliers do not have to compete with each other, then they support them in marketing their services and assist them in developing a healthy business.

However, that is not their only avenue of growth. Marketing is a big help as well. Hoffman says there are constantly more



The Super-Winder machine yields 45 posts per hour.



The Lehigh Valley Railroad Pavilion sports Green Post.

builders and contractors using Green Post, and there are more and more engineers specifying them.

The company's success is no doubt also because of the company's business philosophy.

"We want to form relationships with people who care about quality and service," Hoffman said, "people who value what we bring to the table. We want to support those people to the utmost making it a heathy and profitable relationship.

"Knowing the investment of time and resources I went through, I would not encourage anyone to get involved if I didn't believe it would work for them.

"Approaching people with honesty, respect for the individual, and understanding how we can help them succeed ... these are the foundations we lay for business partnerships." GSCB

# Faith & Hard Work

### Farm + Yard From Texas Gives 15 Tips

BY SHANNON LATHAM, THE SHED GEEK

Travis Beachy of Robinson, Texas will tell you that includes shed sizes, metal structures, and customer service.

Travis and his wife Rosa are the owners of Farm + Yard, a family owned and operated retail location in the heart of the Lone Star state. They first opened the doors in 2016 with a product focused on serving large farm operations in need of large metal structures, and also providing a solution for the

homeowner searching for a smaller storage solution that was

convenient for their home.

ve always heard they do everything bigger in Texas!

A lot has changed for Travis and Rosa since opening. Rosa is now a full time stay-at-home mom, where she helps to raise the couple's 6-year-old daughter and 4-year-old twins. Travis, along with four full-time sales advisors, takes care of the sales at Farm + Yard, and each year comes with its own new challenges and rewards.

Travis has come a long way since his introduction to sheds in 2013. He has now moved into helping to manufacture, deliver, and market sheds. He and Rosa are expanding into their role as a "one-stop shop," as Travis says for "anyone looking for an outdoor structure."

Here are some tips from this successful, family-run business.

#### 1) What products and services do you provide?

"We're dedicated to providing a solution to the customer. That's why we want to be able to offer a smaller more price point driven shed, but also carry a variety and have the option to service the more quality, and customization driven client. We carry a wide range of products to be able to meet the customers needs such as traditional storage sheds in a variety of styles, swing sets and play sets, horse barns, metal buildings, chicken coops, poly furniture, greenhouses and more."

#### 2) What is the current territory you service?

"Ninety percent of our products sold are to Texas customers. We will occasionally service customers as far away as Oklahoma, Arkansas, Alabama, and New Mexico, but the majority of our customer base is central to east Texas."

#### 3) What is the business climate in your area?

"Very healthy and growing, it seems. Texas is a very pro-



business state; it is a wonderful state in which to be a business owner. Not to get political, but it seems several states are seeing an exodus, and they are finding refuge in states like Texas. The more homeowners move in, the more sheds and other outdoor structures are purchased as well."

# 4) What is your primary customer base? Residential, agricultural, commercial, light industrial?

"Definitely residential! Probably as much as 75% of our customer base will purchase for residential purposes, mainly storage. About 25% of our customers will have a need for a smaller wide-span metal building for their farms and ranches."

# 5) Is there a lot of competition in your area, and if so, how do you differentiate yourself?

"Absolutely. There are about 15 different locations to purchase most of our products within 15-20 miles from our office with the exception of play sets, chicken coops, and greenhouses. There is a large amount of shed dealers, in particular. We differentiate mostly by the way we market. It's important to us to brand well in the community and provide exceptional customer



service. By offering a wide range of products, we are able to meet the customers expectation by giving them a 'Yes."

#### 6) What challenges has the company had to overcome, and how have you done that?

"COVID was probably the most challenging. Sale were good, maybe better than ever, but distribution and supply chain issues plagued us. We purchase most of our inventory so it was imperative to our business to operate with maximum communication to the customer. We had to make sure that we and our suppliers didn't fall into the temptation to overpromise and underdeliver. We wanted to make sure that we could do more than just obtain the sell — we wanted to make sure we could service the sell, and that meant letting customers know how things were progressing. With lead times being 14 to 16 weeks, the customer could tend to lose focus and we could lose credibility if we didn't make sure to monitor our orders. We're happy to be back to a more sustainable lead time on most all of our products."

#### 7) To what do you owe the success of your business?

"God, plain and simple. We had many ups and downs getting started. We would get a few sales and it would lift our spirits. Having faith that things would work out is what we relied on. We are also very thankful for our team. We work with a group who is not afraid to take ownership in their roles. We learned not everything you try works out, and not everyone does, either, but you have to keep moving forward. As a leader, it is important to know when to let go of the reigns and let an employee handle things, and when to step in and help steady the ship. It has been a learning curve for us all, but we are headed in the right direction."

#### 8) What would you tell yourself three or five years ago if you could?

"I would like to tell myself that what you think is good in sales is awful, and you could do better. What was once a good month is equal to what we are able to do in a week now. We are so surprised at how much of an increase we have seen by simply committing to our craft. We have learned more about the product, and more about what the customer needs. We have attended events and trade shows to get out of our comfort zone and challenge ourselves. I sure didn't see our personal and professional development becoming such a huge part of the process. You are capable of more than you know."

#### 9) What is your advice to somebody who is brand new in your line of business?

"You have to have some 'stick-to-it-iveness.' You have to know your product, manage your weaknesses but learn what you're good at and go all in on that. Sales can be emotional. Don't give up because you lost one sale. Learn how to sell, and don't just treat it as a hobby. Be the best at your craft you can be. There is a lot of opportunity for someone who is willing to be a professional shed seller. Learn how to handle rejection, and try to stay moderate with your emotions, not too up, and not too down. Study the psychology of the sell, learn how to read people, and most of all, have a servant's heart."

#### 10) Where do you see the biggest opportunities in the coming months and years?

"We are working to get better with the online sales process. We see a trend and an uptick in the way shoppers are moving to this model more and more. We have begun to focus more on CRMs, and our social media presence and effectiveness, as opposed to just location, location, location."

#### 11) Where do you see the biggest challenges in coming months and years?

"Being steadfast with finances, not taking too big of leaps, but not standing still. Sometimes it can be difficult to know when to push forward with new products, or (instead) growing the team. Probably the same things most business owners deal with."

#### □ DEALER PROFILE □



The Farm + Yard team poses in front of its office, which serves as a great example of its own work. From left to right: Sales Advisor Lori Patterson, Travis Beachy, CRO Rosa Beachy, Sales Advisor Dave Boyer, Sales Advisor Hailie Ortiz. To learn more about Farm + Yard, visit farmandyardtx.com.

## 12) What are things you are not good at and would like to learn more about?

"Sales are a constant moving target. There are a lot of new products to learn about and services to understand. I think I'll always be growing my knowledge on CRMs, drip campaigns, social media marketing, copywriting, and writing call-to-action-based posts. I would also like to start writing more blogs."

## 13) What are three keys to which attribute your success?

"Hard work! You can't cheat sales. If you don't put in the work, it'll catch up with you. Also, don't fake it until you make it. You should genuinely enjoy what you do. The last is probably what we all know, the Golden Rule. I try to treat customers the way I would like to be treated. We are all consumers, so it's important for me to remember what it feels like to be on the other side of the conversation. Sticking to those three things has helped me to find success.

#### 14) What are your business goals for the future?

"We would love to expand. We want to make sure to grow consistently as opposed to biting off more than we can chew. For Farm + Yard, it is important to always put the customer first. If we grow too quickly, we may not be able to meet our com-

mitments. That is something we avoid at all costs. I am excited to participate as a member of the Executive team for the newly established Shed University. Through that adventure I hope to better my own sales process while also being part of a team that helps to bring community to the shed seller."

# 15) Tell us about your company culture and business philosophy.

"Our company culture is great. We really work as a team. We approach things from the 'round table' mentality when problem solving and overcoming customer objectives. Our philosophy is to take care of employees and they will take care of you. Help them to grow and be sure to be passionate about the personal and business development. We believe in having a servant's heart."

Shannon Latham is a 6-year veteran of the shed industry. He has served as sales manager, quality control, and RTO dealer support specialist, among other roles. He hosts the Shed Geek Podcast [shedgeek.com/] and has a desire to help move the shed industry forward.





# **Cautious Optimism**

## Annual Frame Building Expo Encouraging for Industry

BY ROCKY LANDSVERK

autious optimism was in the air during the 55th Annual National Frame Building Association Conference & Expo held February 22-24 in Louisville, Kentucky.

More than 140 exhibitors set up at the Kentucky International Convention Center to show off new products and meet both existing and potential customers. The most common question? "Will there be a dropoff this year?" The most common answer was "yes, eventually there will be a slowdown, but if it's happening this year, there's no evidence to that effect." The near future of the financial markets, both broadly and specifically in post-frame, was the single biggest topic of discussion at the Shield Wall Media booth and at social events.

"Cautious optimism continues to be the theme in our market," said Mike O'Hara, National Sales Manager for Levi's Building Components. "Rollformers and contractors continue to be busy and are anticipating a good first half of the year."

What the post-frame and metal building markets seem to be exhibiting is that they are increasingly a solution for a lot of builders and homeowners. "Metal roofing continues to gain in popularity for residential use," O'Hara said, while post-frame

companies also said their practicality offers hope even if the building boom declines.

Headlining the new products on display was a new precast concrete skirt board product from Perma-Column®, while SDI (Steel Dynamics, Inc.) has a new ability to print on metal that will likely be game-changing as well.

The biggest industry news came from the NFBA itself, which announced it has created an online course in conjunction with the University of Missouri Extension entitled "Basic Principles for Post-Frame Construction - Basic Self-Study Guide." It is intended for contractors and builders to educate employees and hopefully create an opportunity to recruit younger people by demonstrating a clear path to a good job.

Here's a rundown of the biggest newsmakers at the show.

#### **FBE Show News**

#### Perma-Column

Perma-Column<sup>®</sup> introduced precast concrete skirt boards which it says "elevates the post-frame industry again." A patented product, precast skirt boards have a hybrid concrete-wood design that eliminates all wood contact with the ground. "There's

#### SHOW COVERAGE



The MWI Components booth showed off the company's products and allowed attendees to experience the components firsthand.



Tony Del Ghingaro explains Dripstop®.



Pine Hill Trailers had a busy time showing off its big shed trailers.



Palram is celebrating its 60th anniversary so it hosted an in-show event while introducing new products including Sunsky® corrugated panels for daylighting, and the new interior wall cladding panels that contain no fiberglass particles.



Reuben Hostetler of Dyna-Cut Shears shakes hands, always a good sign at a show, while coworker Jeff Hochstetler looks on.

nothing like it in North America," said Mark Stover, CEO and President of Perma-Column. "This is the new way to build."

The company also announced a new Pro Builder program. Pro Builders receive sales and marketing support from Perma-Column®, branded gear, and exposure on Perma-Column®'s social channels and website, in exchange for supporting the program. "Perma-Column" Pro Builders have fantastic stories to tell and knowledge to share with fellow post-frame builders," Stover said. "They have made a commitment to building on permanent foundations that benefit customers. Their inspirational stories serve as valuable learning experiences for the industry overall. We're looking for more builders like them to recognize and honor."

Learn more about that program at permacolumn.com/ pro-builders. Stover said Thursday of the show was one of the company's best ever, adding that "builders are very optimistic about 2023." He said there were four Perma-Column® distributors exhibiting.

#### Steel Dynamics Digitally Printing on Metal

Steel Dynamics (SDI) has started taking orders for its new product that is unlike any previous attempt to print images on

#### SHOW COVERAGE





(FAR LEFT) Big machines are always present at shows like this one, including these gorgeous Variobend folding machine that got put to use all week at the Hershey's Metal Meister booth.

(LEFT) The MRS (Metal Rollforming Systems) team posed for a group

been fortunate at this show to have customers lined up. The reason is we start with real wood and our creative team does their magic."

A typical use case: "We are working with a company that makes log cabins and we'll be able to do the chink line, as an example."

metal. The company is using the latest technology including "electron beam coatings and curing." Don Switzer, company Sales Manager of Special Products, said it's been a few years in the making and available a few months. "We have been painting steel for 20 years and our customers have been after us to do prints," he said. "We were waiting for the technology to catch up. About three years ago, we started investing in the process. We have spent a significant amount of money and time developing the process."

It paid off with a product that's been available a few months. It's called Tru-Steel HD and it prints a reproduction of an actual picture or image, which doesn't repeat for up to 32 feet. The high-definition image is 400 dpi and "it's very lifelike. We've

#### NFBA Online Course

The NFBA announced that it has created a Post-Frame Builder Training Curriculum which includes an online course to teach people the basics of post-frame construction. The online study course is described as "a great way to teach the students if you do not have the time or resources to teach the course." The online study course is conducted by the University of Missouri.

The curriculum is primarily a tool to help younger or new employees to more quickly learn about their jobs. It is also intended a good tool for sales and support staff to learn about their company's own products, which is often a shortcoming.

To learn more about the curriculum or to inquire about pricing, contact the NFBA at NFBA.org. GSCB

## New Products

Hixwood announced it would soon be producing a "commercial rib panel" that Sales Manager Bob Kortbein said is sometimes called an R-Panel or a PBR Panel. "It will primarily be used for commercial buildings with a steel frame," he said. It will be available in 24 and 26 gauge and have a profile of 12 inches.

HB Fuller unveiled a deck post anchor system that is far less cumbersome than cement and is permanent. From a press release, "Simply mix the two-component kit, pour the contents into the hole, and let it sit for 15 minutes. Each two-pound bag easily sets a 4" x 4" post in an 8" deep

hole. This means that you can set posts with smaller holes and get more from each bag."

Post Protector, which offers slide-on "Barrier" protection for in-ground posts as its primary product, has now licensed a remedial chemical treatment designed to "re-treat" in-service posts. For 25 years, this technology has been used exclusively in the industrial sector, extending the service life of utility poles by restoring preservative levels as their original preservative treatment depletes.

Post Protector is now offering this same technology to the retail sector as

"Post Proservative." It dissolves and is dispersed into the post to create up to 10 more years of protection. Simply drill a hole and insert the preservative stick. Sticks are typically "re-loaded" every 6-8 vears.

S-5! Introduced CanDuit Pipe Clamps (pictured) after feedback from customers asking for a better way to handle conduit and pipes. "CanDuit is the perfect solution to restrain, secure, and support piping, conduit, condensate lines, and other round shapes - all while protecting your metal roof." The new product fits all S-5! Clamps and brackets.

# GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PRODUCTS & SERVICES SEEN IN THIS ISSUE. HERE'S HOW:

# If you are looking for more information from companies featured in this issue, fill out this form.

Mail the completed form to us, and we will have those companies get in touch with you. There's no need to fill out multiple forms; we'll do the legwork for you.

Name (please print)		
Signature (required)	CHECK WHICH TITLE APPLIES TO YOU:	
Company		☐ President☐ Owner
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Telephone ()		☐ Engineer/Architect☐ Vice President
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L Han		☐ Installer☐ Other
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## What Do GSCB Subscribers Do?

Shield Wall Media and METALCON partnered to generate data about the market segments we serve. Through the survey we learned what builders and manufacturers experienced in 2022 and what they anticipate for 2023.

That 49% of the Garage, Shed & Carport Builder subscribers are involved with sheds and portable buildings and 56% are involved with metal buildings makes perfect sense. Only 2% of subscribers list modular, sheds and carports as their primary business, with 12% listing that as metal buildings. The 2% is similar to all respondents, but the 12% is significantly lower.

This indicates that garages, sheds, carports and metal buildings are not the primary business or revenue source for subscribers. Stick-built is significantly higher among subscribers than all respondents.

We will follow up with a additional survey(s) asking how long subscribers have been building sheds and what market niche started their business.

For more titles, check out Shield Wall Media online: www.shieldwallmedia.com

What is your primary type/ area of construction?	All Respondents	Garage, Shed & Carport Builder Subscribers
Roofing	7%	2%
Metal Roofing	20%	26%
Other (Gutters)	0%	0%
Post Frame	23%	23%
Metal Building	20%	12%
Wood Framed (Stick Built)	7%	14%
Modular, Sheds & Carports	1%	2%
Masonry, SIPs & Concrete	3%	4%
Sub-Contractor	1%	4%

In what types/niches of construction do you participate?	All Respondents	Garage, Shed & Carport Builder Subscribers
Roofing	33%	28%
Metal Roofing	66%	60%
Other (Gutters)	22%	19%
Post Frame	47%	54%
Metal Building	54%	56%
Wood Framed (Stick Built)	35%	36%
Modular, Sheds & Carports	31%	49%
Masonry, SIPs & Concrete	13%	11%
Sub-Contractor	10%	9%

What is your annual volume in gross sales?	All Respondents	Garage, Shed & Carport Builder Subscribers
\$0-2,000,000	30%	30%
\$2,000,000 - 5,000,000	19%	14%
\$5,000,000 – 10,000,000	11%	12%
\$10,000,000 – 20,000,000	14%	14%
\$20,000,000 - 50,000,000	9%	11%
\$50,000,000+	17%	18%

