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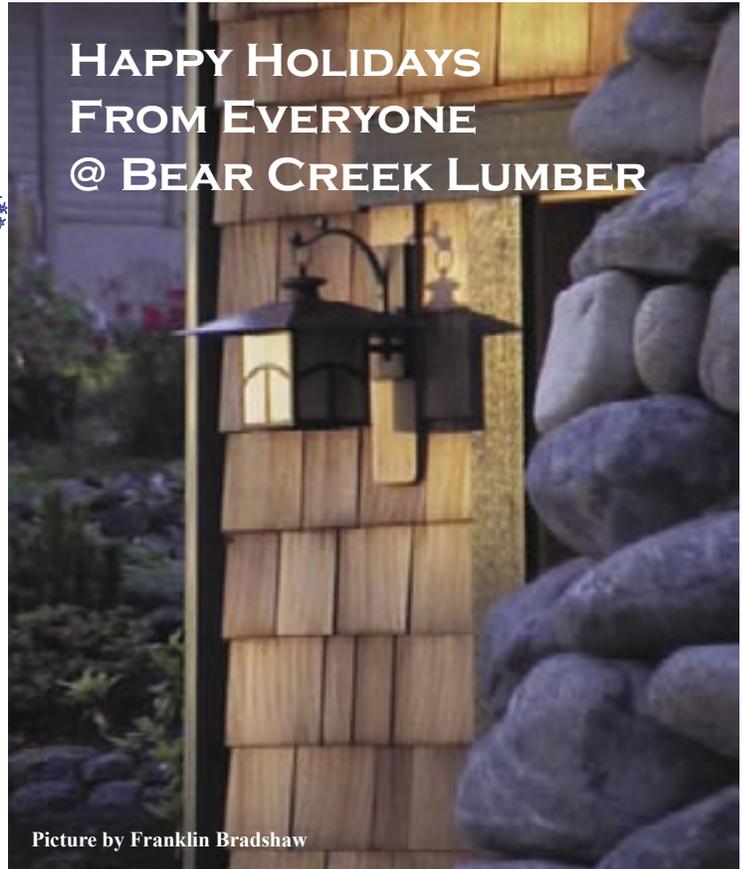
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Holiday Hours At Bear Creek Lumber

This holiday season, we are planning to maintain a professional presence at the sales office (except on the actual holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day) so that you will be able to communicate directly with Bear Creek Lumber.

However, we cannot vouch for third parties, snow storms and any other winter obstacles that may impede the shipment of your lumber. If you are ordering close to the holidays, please keep in mind that things can happen without notice.

We will make every effort to keep you informed of any delays that may effect your shipment.



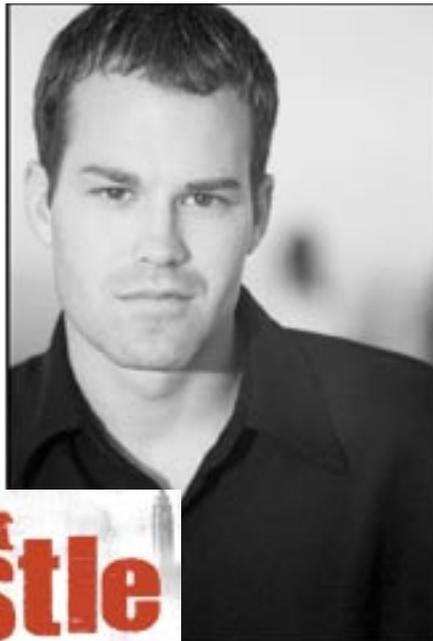
Picture by Franklin Bradshaw

Bear Creek Salesman/TIMBERLINE Writer Produces Independent Film

Bear Creek Lumber salesman and TIMBERLINE writer Sage Bannick spent his last year and half producing his first feature length film, "Just Hustle," with co-producer Ari Bernstein.

Born in Honakaa, Hawaii, Sage moved with his family to the Methow Valley in WA state while still an infant. Sage's parents, Cloud and Ela started Bear Creek Lumber shortly there after. He grew up in the family business, working in the yard throughout his teenage years. Looking for a challenge, he enrolled at Hawaii Preparatory Academy where he met, and started making films with Ari.

With the support of his parents he balanced academics, athletics and the arts. A honor roll student, a four-year letterman, a published author and a professional screen actor, Sage went on to college to study acting and directing. He graduated from the University of WA, and moved to Los Angeles where he worked as an acting coach while making movies with Ari at USC.



SAGE BANNICK

"Just Hustle" is the story of a young private detective (played by Sage) who gets set up by a beautiful woman in a college football betting scheme. It co-stars Benji Olson of the Tennessee Titans, Jake Muxworthy of "American Dreams," Samia Doumit of "The Hot Chick," and features a voice over by blues legend Chuck E. Weiss, who frequently plays at LA's famous Viper Room.

The film was co-financed by Bear Creek Lumber CEO Cloud Bannick with promotional help from Ela Bannick, the co-owner of the company and publisher of TIMBERLINE.

Sage is currently on a winter promotional tour, showing the movie at college campuses, film festivals and movie theaters throughout the Northwest and Hawaii. The filmmakers hope to have it's official commercial debut in Nashville, Tennessee in early 2006. Copies of the video are available for sale off the Internet at the film's website www.justhustlemovie.com.



Pictures by Franklin Bradshaw



The Bradshaw House

Homeowner Franklin Bradshaw lovingly created a residence that is as easy to look at as it is to live in. He has been more than generous over the past years sharing pictures of the construction of his house with Bear Creek Lumber. He has used so many of our products that it is a literal advertisement of what we can do for any homeowner who wants a natural-looking wood home. We can't thank Franklin enough for these marvelous shots!

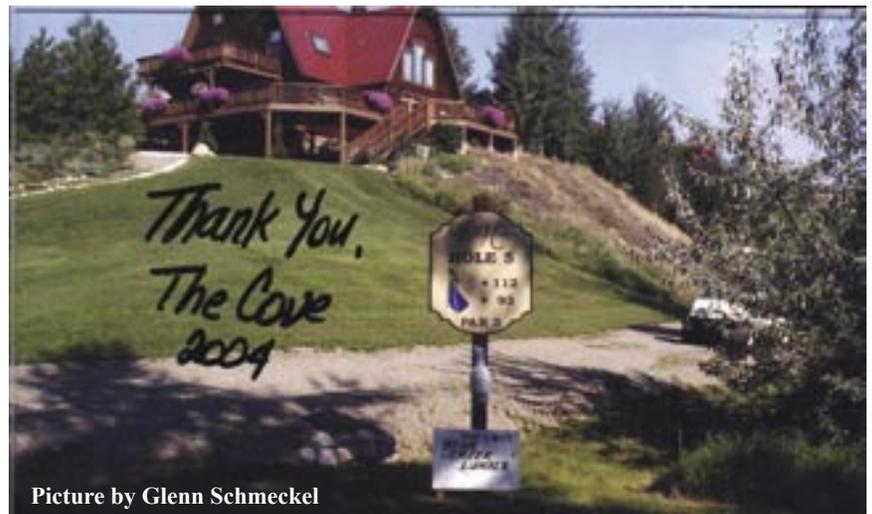


Clear western red cedar, selected for color is used throughout the Bradshaw house exterior. Cherry flooring, and vertical grain fir trim highlight the interior. The project was built over a three year period by the owner in Mukilteo WA.

Bear Creek Lumber Goes Golfing

The Methow Valley is one of those small communities that takes care of their own. In the summer months, a private landowner who has his own golf course, donates it for a day to the local community service center, The Cove, for a charity golf tournament. Various businesses, including Bear Creek Lumber, sponsor each of the holes. This year, Bear Creek also fielded a team, led by salesman/filmmaker Sage Bannick. A good time was had by all, and substantial funds were raised to help the local food bank, hospice services and elderly care outreach.

Many thanks to the Lumry family and Windhaven for their generous support of this community event!



Picture by Glenn Schmeckel

Industry News

Sales of existing U.S. homes surged unexpectedly in September on low mortgage rates, a trade association group said in October, adding that activity would have been even brisker had hurricanes not hit the south. Sales of previously owned homes rose to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.75 million units last month from an upwardly revised 6.55 million unit pace in August, the National Association of Realtors said. Analysts had been expecting a drop to a 6.51 million unit rate. The realtors group said September's pace was the third-highest on record and would have been even stronger had hurricanes not ripped through the U.S. southeast during the month. "We've had a dramatic fall in 30-year fixed mortgage rates over the last several months and that's created a very favorable backdrop for housing," said David Lereah, chief economist for the NAR.

Study Indicates Wood Is Most 'Green' Building Material

A new report concludes that wood is one of the most environmentally-sensitive building materials for home construction -- it uses less overall energy than other products, causes fewer air and water impacts and does a better job of the carbon "sequestration" that can help address global warming.

The research showed that wood framing used 17 percent less energy than steel construction for a typical house built in Minnesota, and 16 percent less energy than a house using concrete construction in Atlanta. And in these two examples, the use of wood had 26 percent to 31 percent less global warming potential.

This \$1 million study was prepared by the Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials, a non-profit corporation of 15 research universities. It was published in the Journal of Forest Products and is the first major update on this topic since a 1976 report by the National Academy of Science.

The type of information and data provided in this report may be increasingly useful as consumers and government agencies try to identify construction techniques and materials for homes and other structures that minimize environmental impacts, said James Wilson, a professor of wood science and engineering at Oregon State University, and vice president of this research consortium.

"There's a significant consumer movement and even some voluntary standards that are interested in green, or environmentally conscious construction methods," Wilson said. "We need to have a good understanding of the overall effects that different types of construction."

The Future of North American Forestry

One of the continent's most sustainable and renewable resources is timber. Both hardwoods and softwoods grow abundantly with little additional energy assistance. The products that come from our forests make us able to produce a variety of products including building materials. Increasingly the wood scrap and trees too small for timber products are also being examined for use as an alternative fuel. This new source of energy is less polluting, more domestically abundant and represents an opportunity to restore neglected and overgrown forest lands to a more healthy and productive state.

Forestry has suffered over the years from a negative image of slash and burn. But our nation's forests are more at risk at this point from a lack of management than they are from logging. Huge and costly fires wipe out both environmental and economic assets. A balance between harvest and maintenance is obviously needed.

Economics Threaten Forests

Forest land that is not productive economically is also at risk for non-forest type actions such as industrial or residential development. Our forest lands are an important part of our ecosystem, but private forest land owners cannot be expected to lose money maintaining them for birds and squirrels, no matter how noble a cause that is.

Using slash, waste trees and other forest waste products as a fuel is gaining popularity. According to the USDA Forest Service in a study by the Forest Products Laboratory. There is little net production (-51%) of carbon dioxide (CO₂) the major greenhouse gas, from wood combustion because the CO₂ generated during combustion of wood equals the CO₂ consumed during the life cycle of the tree. Transporting the material using petroleum does generate excess CO₂. Wood fuel contains minimal heavy metals and extremely low levels of sulfur; wood fuel is no threat to acid rain pollution. Particulate emissions from wood are controllable through standard emission control devices such as bag houses, cyclone separators, and electronic precipitators. Bottom ash is minimal. Usually, wood ash is less than 1% of the weight of the wood, and sometimes ash may be used as a fertilizer.

Cheaper than Fossil Fuels

The principle economic advantage of wood-burning systems is that wood fuel is usually less expensive than competing fossil fuels. However, the price of wood for use as fuel can be extremely variable. Sometimes when surplus supplies of wood residues are available at nearby forest products manufacturing plants or municipal solid-waste handling facilities, the cost can be very low or even negative. Transportation for delivering from the supply site to the wood combustion or wood-processing unit is the primary expense of wood fuel.

At other times, mostly dependent on location of the wood power facility, the cost of wood fuel can be quite high because large volumes of fuel are needed to have a dependable and consistent supply of wood fuel (1,360 green kg (1.5 tons) per hour per megawatt of power generated). However, wood power plants can find and do maintain a fairly low price and consistent fuel supply when adequate quantities are available. Staff foresters allow plant personnel to focus on operation while foresters focus on wood fuel procurement issues.

One size doesn't fit all when it comes to efficiently using wood products for fuel. Everything from individual power plants to community size generating facilities are being discussed. Since transportation is the major issue, keeping such facilities close to the source is the key. And just as lumber mills have struggled throughout the history of their industry so can power plants, unless a steady source is available.

There will be people in the community who continue to argue against any type of logging but the reality is logging can be done with good environmental oversight. It can be a boon economically and it can minimize the destruction that is caused by wildfire. We need to have a vision in North America where profit, productivity and the sustainability of green forests are all mutually agreed objectives. High grade wood should be reserved for lumber products and low grade waste can be used as a fuel. Important wildlife considerations should be given in deciding how to proceed with careful management but these must include how to avoid catastrophic wildfire. These goals can be achieved in harmony with social objectives. The future of our North American forests depends on it.



Bear Creek Lumber

TIMBERLINE

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