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BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE MAY 19, 2019 | REALESTATE.BOSTON.COM



ABOVE The Pferchys' custom-designed Yankee Barn Home in New London, N.H., features a screened-in porch off the dining area and kitchen.

BELOW The kitchen design was particularly important to Leslie Pferchy, who loves to cook.



CHERYL SENTER FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

BEAM *with* PRIDE

A N.H. manufacturer celebrates 50 years in business.
Vacationers celebrate life in their new timber home.

BY CHRIS MORRIS | GLOBE STAFF

The slogan for Yankee Barn Homes is “Post. Beam. Dream.” Spend a few minutes exploring the Grantham, N.H., company’s website, and you’ll see just how perfect that slogan is, because that’s exactly what happens: With each click on a picture of a stunning post-and-beam house, you lose yourself in a fantasy of what your very own Yankee Barn Home might look like.

And that’s exactly where Ron and Leslie Pferchy found themselves, and how Loon Crossing –

a stunning 2,355-square foot home with three bedrooms, four bathrooms, soaring ceilings, and room to grow – came to be.

The Maryland couple leaves the D.C. area, where they work and live, whenever possible, Leslie Pferchy said. And in a few years, when Ron retires, they will leave for good. Now, thanks to Yankee Barn Homes, they know where they will be going.

It’s a bit of a winding tale, how the Pferchys came to build their Yankee Barn home. In 2006, the couple purchased land on Pleasant Lake in New London, N.H., where Leslie’s family has lived and spent summers for decades. At the time, they heard about Yankee Barn Homes through word-of-mouth and checked out the company. They even sat with a designer to create plans for their dream home, but they never moved forward.

Sitting tight turned out to be wise: In 2009, when Edith, a friend and neighbor in her 90s, de-

VACATION HOME, Page



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THE PFERCHY FAMILY

TOP The screened-in porch and the home’s window placement are designed to make the most of breezes and keep the house cool on even the hottest summer days, without air conditioning.

ABOVE A fire pit extends the family’s time outdoors in central New Hampshire.



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The Gardener

CAROL STOCKER
Answers your questions
about flowers, plants,
vegetables, soil, and more.

What to do in the garden: Though it has been unseasonably chilly, we should be frost free from now until October. That makes Memorial Day weekend the traditional time for planting frost-sensitive summer vegetables, flowering annuals, and container gardens. Shop in the next two weeks while the selection and quality are best. Watch for garden club plant sales. If critters eat your flowers, buy more impatiens, marigolds, zinnias, and snapdragons. Dahlias, tomatoes, peppers, melons, and other heat lovers could be planted now, but I prefer to wait two more weeks to give the soil time to warm.

Q. Is garlic mustard edible?

A. Garlic mustard can quickly overwhelm woodlands because it blocks the growth of soil fungus necessary for many native plants. But like many wild plants, you can eat it if you know how. Pull the plant out by the roots in May before it finishes producing its four-petaled white flowers, which can be chopped and tossed into salads, along with the jagged leaves. These are less bitter if harvested before the hot weather. Check to see whether you have the right

C.S., *Concord*

plant by crushing and sniffing the leaves, which should smell like garlic. Bag the roots, which should be eaten only in early spring and late fall and taste like horseradish. You can sauté the leaves on a low heat with garlic and olive oil and then add a few drops of water to steam them for five minutes until they collapse. Add a dash of balsamic vinegar or pine nuts for pesto.

Q. I saw your reply to a question about cabbage moths (“Ask the Gardener: What you should be doing now in your garden,” April 10.) I had the same problem. I planted anise hyssop next to the cabbage. The flower attracts pollinators, including wasps that go after the caterpillars. No chemicals. Pretty flowers. Great solution.

N.P., *Concord*

A. Just as garlic mustard can change soil chemistry to repress the growth of its neighbors, other plants can enhance the growth of others around them. Many experienced vegetable gardeners use this ancient practice called “companion planting.” Some grow herbs like hyssop next to vulnerable plants such as cabbage and cauliflower to repel cabbage moths, as

you have. Scientists find the “companion planting” concept vague and superstitious, but they have documented many scientific benefits to placing the right two plants together, which they instead call “plant associations” and “intercropping.” Generations dependent on their vegetable gardens for survival explored plant combinations long before the invention of insecticides, so their fieldwork must be worth something. Experiment in your own garden. The best-known reference book is “Carrots Love Tomatoes” by Louise Riotte. Incidentally, Hyssopus officinalis is the Latin name for anise hyssop, an ancient Middle Eastern herb once considered so sacred it was used for cleaning religious sites. It benefits bees and is reputed to repel slugs and promote the growth of grapes. Hyssop produces bushy 2-foot spikes of blue flowers and bitter but edible leaves used in salads, soups, and even fruit pies. It grows easily in partly shady soil sprinkled with lime and can be planted now.

Send comments and questions, with your name or initials and community, to stockergarden@gmail.com for possible publication.

For \$950,000, a cottage that hugs a R.I. river

122 DRIFTWOOD DRIVE, TIVERTON

By John R. Ellement

GLOBE STAFF

Cape Cod has beautiful beaches, traffic jams, a flyover built to ease those traffic jams, and ice cream. Tiverton has ice cream, beaches, and, traffic, too, but a calming welcome to the summer home community awaits — roads lined with rolling hills, salt marshes, and farms.

The last house on Driftwood Drive is a 51-year-old, two-bedroom shingled cottage that could not be built today because it sits so close to the Sakonnet River. It was this proximity to the Narragansett Bay feeder that inspired the overhaul of this home — particularly the addition of plate-glass windows that offer unobstructed views, thanks to narrow white framing. In another nod to the setting, slabs of schist, an iridescent fish scale-like stone with a stippling like waves, line the wraparound patio.

The renovations maintained the home’s original footprint. The walk-out lower level is built for play — with a pool table, a family room with a wood stove, engineered-wood floors the color of dry sand, built-in seating, and windows to enjoy the view.

There are two bedrooms on this level, both with fantastic views, as well as a full bath that has a tub/shower combo with a stone surround, flooring with radiant heat, a heated towel rack, and a single vanity with a stainless-steel cabinet and a porcelain sink.

Stairs with a cable railing lead to the second floor, where the windows, view, and open floor plan combine to offer a cohesive experience.

Here, the dining area can accommodate a full-sized table and has a slider to a wraparound ipe hardwood deck with white-metal corkscrew stairs and a

swath of clear plastic that allows sunlight to filter down to the patio.

To the right is a kitchen where the counters are a dark schist, the appliances are high-end stainless steel, and the slow-close cabinets are black.

The living area takes up the rest of the L-shaped space. The flooring on most of this level is engineered wood.

The master suite is behind a door made of slats that look like driftwood and a natural stone slab step. (Note: The home has a septic system approved for only two bedrooms.) The bedroom has a slider to the deck. The closet is hidden behind a pocket door. The bath offers a shower with a tile surround, stone flooring with radiant heat, and a single floating porcelain vanity.

The guest bedroom, found at the rear of the house, offers a skylight.

The final full bath features a floating porcelain trough sink with two faucets, a stone backsplash, river rock flooring with radiant heat, a heated towel rack, and pocket doors.

The home, which sits on just shy of a quarter acre, has a circular driveway of crushed shells. The plumbing, electrical, and heating systems and the roof are new. The one-car garage is tucked under the cottage, and the property comes with a mooring licensed by the harbormaster.

Dina Karousos of Gustave White Sotheby’s International Realty in Newport, R.I., is the listing agent. As of press time, an offer with contingencies had been accepted on the property.

Follow John R. Ellement on Twitter @JREbosglobe. Send listings to homeoftheweek@globe.com. Please note: We do not feature unfurnished homes and will not respond to submissions we won’t pursue.

HOME OF THE WEEK



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF



\$950,000
Style: Cottage
Year built: 1968
Square feet: 2,968
Bedrooms: 2
Baths: 3 full
Sewer/water: Private
Taxes: \$12,266 (2018)

TOP: Windows in the kitchen and living area look out at the Sakonnet River.

LEFT: The home was renovated inside and out.

See more
View additional photos of this property at realestate.boston.com.

Vacation home’s energy-savings are point of pride

►VACATION HOME
Continued from Page H1

cided to sell her camp next to Leslie’s family’s place, the Pferchys jumped at the opportunity, selling their first New London property and buying Edith’s. For eight years, they vacationed at the cottage, all the while planning to build a four-season house for their retirement, with serene Pleasant Lake as a backdrop and with parents and other family nearby. In 2017, with retirement in the not-so-distant future and summers with grandkids to think of, it was finally time to make the leap. They went back to Yankee Barn Homes and restarted the process, hoping to adapt their original design.

Yankee Barns was ready. The couple worked with design manager Kerri Terwilliger on their home, and it’s clear from talking to Terwilliger and the Pferchys that they formed a bond.

Terwilliger says that’s a big part of it: When she designs a home, it’s important to establish a relationship with her clients. She wants the scoop, right down to the nitty-gritty of their day-to-day so she can design a home that will work for them: “Is one of you watching TV late at night while the other is sleeping? What’s your routine? When you’re drinking your morning coffee overlooking the lake, do you want to be in a comfy chair or sitting at the dining room table?”

“There’s a certain level of nosiness,” she said. But knowing the family and how the home will be used helps her design the perfect house. Will holidays be hosted there? These things matter.

Leslie Pferchy recalls the day she told Terwilliger that she was nervous her two big dogs would

think the floor-to-ceiling windows facing the lake were doors — and make a run at them. No problem, Terwilliger said. With the help of a computer-assisted design program, she was able to shorten the windows and give the Pferchys peace of mind.

When Pferchy wanted to do something special in her grandson’s room, Terwilliger came up with just the right thing: A ship theme, complete with a porthole and the three-person bunk that Pferchy’s father, a retired Naval officer, had long ago rescued from a submarine. Terwilliger said the idea came to her in the middle of the night. Now it’s one of Leslie’s favorite rooms.

The Yankee Barn Homes process is unique. The company is celebrating its 50th year, having started on Cape Cod in 1969, when Emil Hanslin set out to design timber frame homes. According to the company’s website, Hanslin got his start as the developer of New Seabury, a residential community in Mashpee. He had the idea that the post-and-beam style could be the basis of a nice house, and he developed a design he called the “Mark I,” which he began producing in Falmouth that year.

The Mark I was a complete home package that could be assembled on a prepared foundation in five days. Sales were initially focused on Greater Boston, but when Life magazine did a feature on the houses, it spurred growth that allowed the company to relocate to Grantham in 1973. Grantham is home to a planned community called Eastman, which was designed to be an environmentally conscious development of seasonal homes that fit in with and had minimal impact on the area’s natural beauty. Yankee Barn Homes was a perfect match.

According to Jeffrey Rosen, an owner and creative director at Yankee Barn Homes, the early designs were fairly simple. You could create different size and shape homes, but it was a lot like playing Tetris or building with blocks. That’s far from the case today. Rosen was an interior designer in New York City who discovered Yankee Barn Homes in an online search when he set out to build a spec house on Long Island. He loved the process — and the end product. There was a bidding war when his spec house went on the market. Eventually he had an opportunity to buy into the business. Now he and the company — which remains family-sized with about 20 employees, Rosen said — is designing award-winning homes that are anywhere from 1,200 to 8,000 square feet, from farmhouses to cottages to mid-century modern gems.

(Rosen said if he had to pick a favorite of the Yankee Barn Homes, it would be difficult. But he’s a big fan of Cove Hollow, a hybrid post-and-beam Shingle-style house he calls “a new old house.” It’s in East Hampton, N.Y. Google it for eye candy.)

There’s a lot that sets Yankee Barn Homes apart from traditional stick-built homes. The timber frames — Douglas fir from the Pacific Northwest — are constructed indoors. The company has developed trademarked roof and wall panel systems that fit within the post-and-beam construction and make the homes incredibly tight and energy efficient. And because the structures can be assembled and enclosed fairly quickly, Yankee Barn Homes are constructed year-round.

Yankee Barn designs the homes, but doesn’t finish them — they work in conjunction with the builders their clients hire. Rosen said the compa-

ny is constructing 14 to 18 homes each year, and while most are in the Northeast, Yankee Barn Homes can be found as far away as Ireland.

For the Pferchys, the efficient construction is a point of pride. Ron Pferchy says they hope to one day be a net-zero home, using solar panels to power the house. They took a pass on air conditioning, instead positioning windows in parts of the house they knew from experience could be counted on for afternoon breezes, and they installed radiant heat floors and a gas fireplace.

“I have the heat set at 40!” Leslie Pferchy said, “And it’s warm in here.” She was right: On a cold and dreary April day, it was cozy and comfortable.

The Pferchys house, decorated with family heirlooms and wooden loons Leslie’s father carved, went up quickly, Ron Pferchy said, over a six-week period in December 2017 and January 2018. Because Yankee Barn Homes are able to be enclosed so quickly, labor costs are kept in check. While the cost of building a Yankee Barn Home depends on the house size and the amount of timber and glass, a good estimate is \$90-\$120 per square foot for the shell package portion. Because the quality of finishes is up to the homeowners, the total cost is hard to nail down, but what Yankee Barn Homes hears from clients is that when all is said and done, it’s an average of \$225-\$250 per square foot (including the shell) for full finished costs in the Northeast.

For the Pferchys, who hosted their first Thanksgiving at Loon Crossing last year, the price — plus the proximity to family — was just right. Their patience paid off, a post-and-beam dream come true.

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