



Gregory Martin / Grand Champion / Vashon, WA / LT40 Hydraulic

## Timer Frame Treasure

by: Alicia Ford

**M**ore than three years ago, when Gregory Martin began building a new 3,700 square foot house for himself and his wife, he had no idea that his Wood-Mizer sawmill would be so invaluable. “I cut over 117,000 board feet for the entire project,” Gregory said.

Using his Wood-Mizer LT40 Hydraulic mill, Gregory built nearly 100% of their new home with the wood from their property.

“I cut all of the wood except the plywood used for shear to meet code,” he said. “I always knew that I could cut whatever piece of wood we needed regardless of the species, color, shape or character of the wood.”

Gregory relied heavily on his Wood-Mizer sawmill to complete the house. “The sawmill is tremendously versatile and dependable,” he said. “Because of my lack of experience, its simplicity was great.”

Gregory and his wife Jan live in Vashon, Washington, an area known for its wide variety of wood species. Many types were used in the construction of the home: douglas fir was used for framing and siding, maple and madrona for the flooring and cabinets, alder for the ceiling, cedar for the exterior and interior trims, and black locust was used for some handmade furniture pieces.

Building this home was especially important for his wife’s health due to her extreme reaction to toxins that developed from her job. With that in mind, Gregory started planning. “I knew I could build the most environmentally safe home for us,” he said.

Preceding the home were a new well house, a drying shed and a garden house, for both of their hobbies. These smaller structures provided experience for the new house.



“We used different timber framing techniques in order to make the final choice for the main structure,” Gregory said.

“Throughout the project, we chose the trees to cut, which log to use, the dimensions of the lumber, and various shaping styles that we wanted.”

While building the home, Gregory always had one or two people helping him. “At times, like the big framing week,” he said, “I would have other friends come to help as well.”

Living on such a wooded lot was especially beneficial. “I knew I could never have matched the quality of wood we used if we had to purchase it,” Gregory said.

Completing the home brought a tremendous amount of pride. “When I finished, I was amazed at how in awe I was even though I had done all this work over three years,” Gregory said. “Even today, I marvel at how the sawmill was able to help create such a magnificent structure.”

Over the three years of building, friends and family had come as participators and spectators, but in the end, they were all astounded at the results. “Everyone who has seen our home has given us the highest praise and compliments,” Gregory said. “It has been an extremely rewarding endeavor that I know my family for many generations will enjoy.” 