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FEBRUARY 2015

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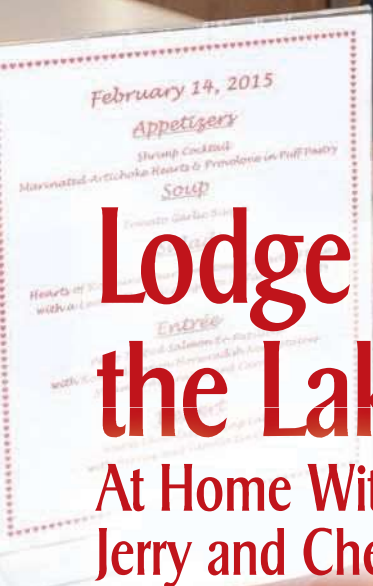
## Kiss the Cook

J.B. and Lori Gross  
create meals and  
memories together

## Lodge on the Lake

At Home With  
Jerry and Cheryl Cassels

Possibilities  
Before You Tie the Knot  
Caring for the Future  
In the Kitchen  
With Pam Powell



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### ON THE COVER



*J.B. and Lori Gross enjoy sharing meals with friends and each other.*

*Photo by Sarah McVean.*

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (817) 613-1533 or visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).



## Editor's Note

*Greetings, friends!*

Love is in the air! I look forward to Valentine's Day every year. It could be because of the tasty treats gifted to me by my children, sharing a romantic meal with my husband or receiving greeting cards that offer thoughts of admiration. Maybe it's all three! I wish you much love this month and all year long.

As we think of sharing our hearts with loved ones, it reminds me that we need to take care of our own heart health. February marks American Heart Month, and tips to stay heart healthy are available at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

Here at *WeatherfordNOW*, we're celebrating our fourth anniversary. Our hearts are filled with gratitude! We appreciate the support we've received from our readers and advertisers over the years. And to all of the residents who have shared their stories with us — we say thank you!

Take care!

### Amber

Amber D. Browne  
*WeatherfordNOW* Editor  
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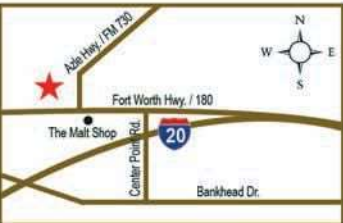
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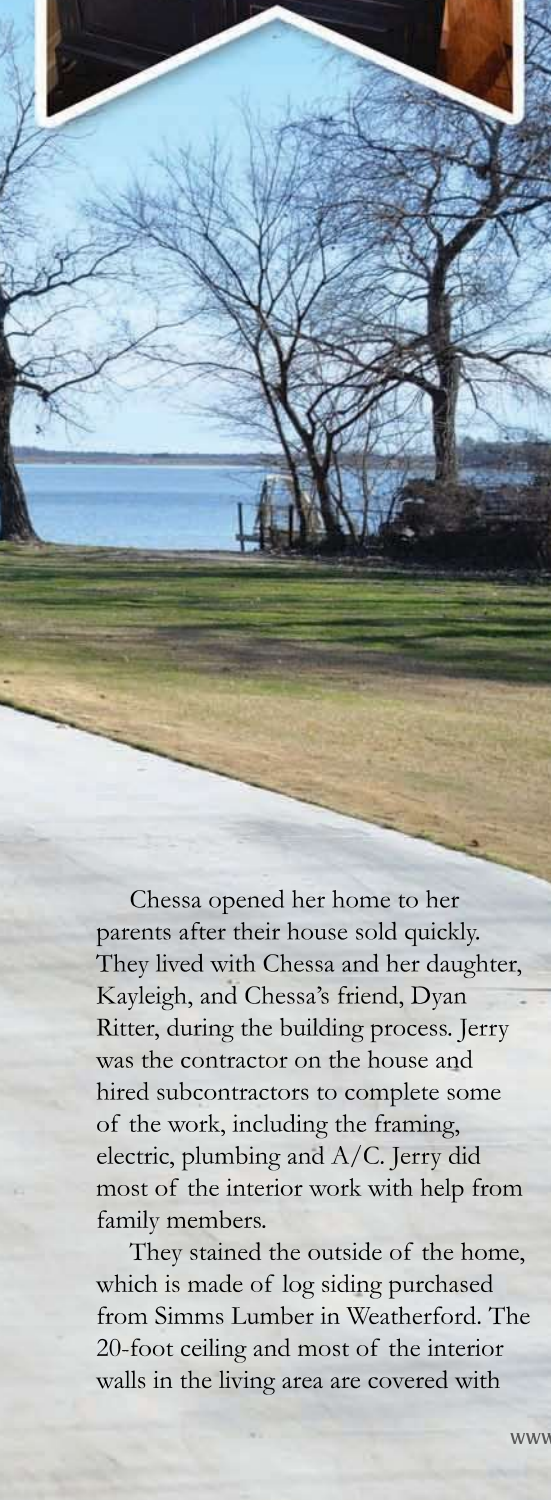
# Lodge on the Lake

— By Amber D. Browne

## At Home With Jerry & Cheryl Cassels

*When you think about a log cabin on a lake, your mind may wander to the deep woods of Wyoming. However, Lake Weatherford has a log cabin of its very own. Jerry and Cheryl Cassels always dreamed of owning a house on the lake, but they didn't want a "cookie cutter home." They decided on a cabin with an open floor plan, vaulted ceilings and ample windows to view the water below. "We wanted to be comfortable," Jerry shared.*

The bottom level of the three-story cabin can house four vehicles, but right now, it's full of boxes that Jerry and Cheryl need to rummage through. They moved into the home in May 2014, after nearly two years waiting for its completion. Once some room opens up in the garage, Jerry plans to restore a 1965 Mustang for his daughter, Chessa Cassels, and a 1965 Mustang Fastback for himself.



Chessa opened her home to her parents after their house sold quickly. They lived with Chessa and her daughter, Kayleigh, and Chessa's friend, Dyan Ritter, during the building process. Jerry was the contractor on the house and hired subcontractors to complete some of the work, including the framing, electric, plumbing and A/C. Jerry did most of the interior work with help from family members.

They stained the outside of the home, which is made of log siding purchased from Simms Lumber in Weatherford. The 20-foot ceiling and most of the interior walls in the living area are covered with

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natural finish, tongue- and groove-wood siding. Jerry's brother, Harold Cassels, built scaffolding to install the paneling. Harold passed away from cancer last March, but Jerry is glad the two were able to spend quality time together working on the house.

Their daughter, Vanessa Cludius, and husband, Andrew, also worked on the home. Jerry called on Andrew to help install logs on the lakeside interior wall. The split logs weighed about 500 pounds each. Jerry and Andrew used a pulley system of chains to maneuver

them into place, adding reinforcement and log accents to the natural wood paneling. "Any time I need a strong back, somebody a little younger," Jerry said, "I call Andrew." The wall has just shy of a dozen windows and a sliding glass door that leads out onto the covered deck overlooking their waterfront backyard.

Neutral colors of beige and brown are prominent in the second-floor master bedroom and bathroom. Antler hardware on the bathroom cabinets exudes the feeling of a mountain cabin. The sliced pebble shower floor mimics a dry creek

bed as it flows up the center of one wall. Jerry's brother, Gene Cassels, made several trips from New Mexico to help him install the tile in the master and guest bathrooms. Jerry's late father, Vernon Cassels, worked in construction, so as children, Jerry and his brothers learned a lot about the industry. Their knowledge was put to good use finishing the interior of the home.

Instead of using wood paneling in all rooms, Cheryl decided on Sheetrock for the interior walls in the bedrooms, bathrooms and the wall leading upstairs.

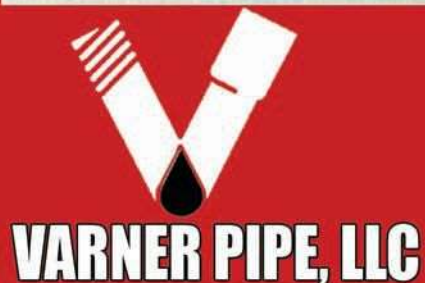


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Chessa laid the tile backsplash in the kitchen and added hand-troweled texture to the Sheetrock. She and Cheryl painted all of the rooms in neutral colors.

Cheryl's eye for interior design is apparent throughout the home. Her main contribution on the house was coordinating the selection of all finishes including cabinetry, light and plumbing fixtures, flooring and paint, as well as materials, doors and surface textures. The dining table sits atop a longhorn rug, and turquoise accent pieces add color to the room. The kitchen features stainless steel appliances and copper light fixtures above the island. Rustic decor, including a horse sculpture, gives visitors plenty to view as they relax on the rust-colored leather sofa in the living area. An elk mount purchased at an estate sale is a focal point on the lakeside wall.

Jerry assembled a log staircase leading to the third floor. It includes a stringer made from an entire tree that was cut lengthwise. Their Doberman Pinscher, Jack, sleeps under the staircase in a four-poster bed custom-built by Jerry. The third-floor loft includes a pool table for guests. A door leads to a covered deck that displays an American flag and overlooks the front yard. A guest bedroom features mountain cabin decor, complete with a stuffed moose and black bear.

Although Cheryl must head off to work at First Financial Trust and Asset Management Co. in Fort Worth each morning, Jerry spends his retirement enjoying the view. "I'll drink a whole pot of coffee before I even think about trying to do anything," he admitted. Deer and families of opossums often surprise Jerry as he enjoys his mornings on the lake.

The mood of the home is relaxation. "We just like the feel of it," Jerry said.







And, Jerry is ready to relax. He retired from his position as vice president of parts operations from Southwest Ford in December 2013. Although he's been living at the lake for just under a year, Jerry's only been fishing once. He's ready to change that fact soon, possibly this summer when their grandchildren, Kayleigh and Kaleb visit.

Jerry and Cheryl enjoy spending time with their family and attending their grandchildren's sporting events. They reared their daughters in Weatherford, after moving to the area from Carlsbad, New Mexico, in the mid-1970s. Both of their daughters graduated from Weatherford High School and still live in Weatherford.

The Cassels have been married for 42 years. They met in New Mexico when Cheryl went to the auto parts store where Jerry worked to purchase parts for her parents' automotive repair shop. Jerry has worked in the auto parts business for his entire adult life, including his time in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He initially attended school to be an architect. He's enjoyed using that knowledge to plan for and build the log cabin they now call home. Cheryl has consistently worked in the banking industry, including at First National Bank and TexasBank. She recently took about three years off to care for her mother, Jessie Gough, who passed away last August.

Although they haven't had much time to socialize recently, their lakeside community has been welcoming. "In between building and our garage sale," Cheryl explained, "we've met a lot of our great neighbors."

Work continues on their cabin on the lake. Jerry has extended the backyard deck and built a pergola and picnic table with leftover lumber. He plans to use the other half of the staircase log to build benches for an outdoor fire pit. They are settling into their new home. "Living at the lake," Cheryl shared, "feels like we're on vacation." **NOW**

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