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JUNE 2016

Competitive Living

Chubby Turner's passion led to three world championship titles

Worth It

At Home With Stephen and Cindy Stell

Life Goes On
Bountiful Harvest
Friends After the Loan
Dining Deals
In the Kitchen With Gail Simko



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ON THE COVER



Chubby Turner just loves what he does.

Photo by Amanda Olson.

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W&T

At Home With Stephen & Cindy Stell



Nearly six years after beginning to realize an idea of owning a dream home in Weatherford, Stephen and Cindy Stell can now appreciate their hard work. After meeting in January, Stephen and Cindy married in August of 2010. “We put down our roots together here,” Cindy shared. They purchased an older home on two acres and began renovations. Stephen had bigger ideas for the property. They dug a “swimming hole” behind the house and added catfish and perch for lazy afternoons of fishing. Both cabana and barbecue areas were added near the water’s edge. “My husband loves to be creative in designing and building things,” Cindy shared. They continued to build on the property, purchasing an adjoining three acres with two additional houses.

One of the houses was demolished to make room for their current homestead. “Once we got married and saw what our interests were, it helped to design the house,” Cindy said. The home-building process took just over two years, and the property clean-up was a strenuous task. Friends and family helped clear the acreage behind the spot where their home now sits. “It was dangerous. It was overgrown with thorns and brush,” Cindy recalled. They continued the clearing process despite cuts from briars and a few run-ins with bees and snakes. They now stock the cleared branches and trees as fuel for the multiple fire and barbecue pits on the property.

They used dirt from the pond as the foundation for their two-story dream home. Natural light is abundant with large windows covering the back wall of the open living room. Fresh air blows through open windows in each room, bringing in the outdoor smells. Neutral paint colors of yellow, amber and brown add warmth to the home, which features dark, wooden floors and a vaulted cedar-paneled ceiling.

Birth It

— By Amber D. Browne




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“Every party we have, every get-together we have — it all centers here,” she added. The light granite for the kitchen countertops was selected first, and dual cabinet colors to match. They installed an oversized refrigerator inside fully featured custom cabinets. “You think you’ll never fill it, and guess what happens,” she said, laughing. “It’s all full!”

Cindy considers her oversized round, mahogany dining room table from San Miguel her best purchase. “This has been a great dining room,” she said. “A round table allows us to visit together. That was the idea for the entire house.” The amber chandelier above the table matches wall sconces in the dining room and adjoining office. Impressionist artwork from Stephen’s late aunt is on display

along with Cindy’s mother’s paintings. With help from her mother, Cindy began painting landscapes of their property about a year ago. “I have the best art teacher in the world, so that really helps,” she smiled.

With her parents and brother, Harold, Anna and John Holcomb, just down the road, and two adult children, Aaron and Allison Wilson, living upstairs, guests are always visiting. Aaron recently graduated from Texas Christian University and teaches driver’s education. He also serves on the Weatherford Public Library board. He appreciates the warmth of the home. “Natural light is a big thing to me. You feel better when you’re in a room filled with sunlight,” Aaron said.

Allison also enjoys the natural, open

The downstairs living space allows the Stells to share meals with family and friends. “We have a lot of get-togethers and celebrations,” Cindy said. They often find themselves gathering around the large, maple butcher-block island in the kitchen to share Stephen’s barbecue.

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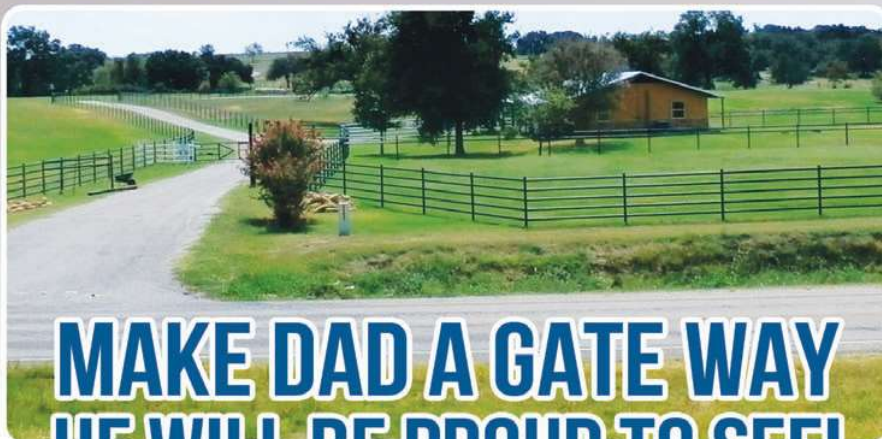
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feel of the home, but she's especially proud of her music loft. She is an aesthetician in Weatherford, but a musician in her free time. A Brazilian pecan staircase featuring light and dark wood leads to the upstairs loft, which offers great acoustics for her music. Instruments are featured throughout the area including a piano and guitars displayed in custom-made cedar boxes. Suites with a bedroom and bathroom flank each side of the loft, which overlooks the downstairs living space. Allison's balcony offers the best view of the property that now includes an additional 28 acres purchased late last fall.

A creek feeds into a lake on the property. The Stells have dubbed it Lake Paradise. It's stocked with fish and has become home to a number of wildlife, including ducks and turtles. The Stells added new fencing throughout the property to keep their cows safe. They often ask out-of-town guests to pile into "his and her" MULEs for a tour of the expansive property. Stephen enjoys barbecuing for guests from his chuck wagon overlooking the lake, and Cindy uses fresh vegetables from her garden for delicious sides and for canning. Future plans include screening in a porch near the chuck wagon for visitors to sit in the shade and share meals.



When Stephen isn't traveling for his business, Tech Con Trenching, Inc., he's enjoying the welcoming atmosphere of their place. "He has more fire pits and barbecue pits than anyone I've ever known," Cindy said. "He works really hard, so he might as well get to play a little bit hard, too." The pond is his pride and joy. Wherever you are on the Stell property, you can find a nice view of God's country.

The back patio offers a picnic table and tables and chairs for seating near the stone fireplace. Barn doors on the garage nearby open to share the sounds of music on the radio. Above the garage sits a game room complete with a poker table, two recliners and a television. A Murphy bed provides room for overnight guests. A table and chairs, which once belonged to Stephen's mother, were whitewashed and added to a corner of the room for additional seating. Building the game room was a fun project for Stephen and Cindy, and they enjoy sharing it with others.

"Weatherford has been such a blessing for us," Cindy said. "When I get up in the morning, have my coffee and do a little devotional, I look out and think we are in the best state and the best country. And, I get to be in Weatherford, too. That's the icing on the cake." The family enjoys spending time outdoors and bringing nature back inside the home with lots of natural light and earthy colors. "Reconnecting with nature is like reconnecting with God."

Although it took years to realize the full potential of their dream, Stephen and Cindy have created the perfect home for their family. With two houses at the front of the property ready to greet out-of-town guests and a game room with sleeping quarters for visitors, the property is shared among family and friends. The hard work paid off. "It's worth it in the end," Cindy shared, as Stephen nodded in agreement. **NOW**

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