



Be sure to join us for member appreciation day at the 2016 Showcase Home. Enjoy free refreshments as well as demos and tours of this energy efficient home.

Saturday, June 18
9:00 am – 6:00 pm

3502 Providence Dr.
Fayetteville, AR

www.ozarksecc.com/showcase

Aaron Wirth, owner of Cobblestone Homes, in front of the 2016 Showcase Home.

explains, “We wanted to showcase what we could do and we made an attractive home that people would want to come and see that included the best practices that we could implement regarding saving energy.” Aaron discovered many practical energy efficient solutions while building the first showcase home that he still uses on every single house Cobblestone builds. He says, “It’s not just about showing what can be done. It’s also about learning more and taking information and methods away from this project that we can implement in all our future projects.”

After the first two showcase homes, the size of the homes grew each year. Until this year, when Aaron and Ozarks Electric collectively decided that it was time to go back to the basics. Aaron explains, “Truly, the most energy efficient thing to do is to build a smaller house. We feel like there is a market for people who desire a very nice, energy efficient home, that is not too large.”

“There’s no doubt that the size is what will make the 2016 Showcase Home unique. We are taking a smaller home and doing all the same things on it that we would in a larger, more expensive home. So, it will perform extremely high.” The home

is only 1,588 square feet, but packs so many features into that space that it seems much larger. The home also uses geothermal heating and cooling, which hasn’t been used before in a showcase home.

Cobblestone Homes and the partnership with Ozarks Electric on the Showcase Home project have both benefited from Aaron’s background in mechanical engineering. His focus on systems, production and quality control have produced homes that are not only show places, but function and operate with just as much beauty. Once again, tapping into that interest he showed as a teenager to combine comfort and affordability and his current desire to create well-built, functional homes.

This year’s home will be the sixth Showcase Home presented by Cobblestone Homes and Ozarks Electric. Aaron says, “We’ve learned so much over the years and with the different homes. We’ve done all kinds of new things since we began. From the very beginning, we have worked to get real data back from each project to find out where we really did well and where we should change things. The projects have evolved from this and we are very proud of what it has become.”

A “Showcase” of Energy Efficiency

Back to the Basics
2016 Showcase Home

Aaron Wirth, owner of Cobblestone Homes, has been working with Ozarks Electric Cooperative since 2008 to help build energy efficient “showcase” homes. There aren’t many things that excite Aaron like finding and implementing new ways to save energy within residential homes. Aaron says, “We have truly formed a real partnership with Ozarks Electric. They are willing to think and dream and talk, and are very progressive in their attitude toward energy conservation.” Aaron says that the partnership began

during the recession when energy conservation was actually something people were beginning to pay attention to. He says, “I have always enjoyed trying to make houses more efficient. I did do a lot of formal training on this while I was in college (to become an engineer), but I’ve been interested in it since I was a child.”

“My father and I built a heat transfer system together when I was in high school. I’ve always been conscious of money and I realized very early on

that doing what you can to conserve energy really does make a difference. I’m a systems guy and very intrigued by what we can do to make things more comfortable and more affordable at the same time.”

Though people were paying closer attention to energy efficiency during the recession, Aaron says it just isn’t something that would generally draw a crowd. So Aaron and Ozarks Electric set out to create some hype surrounding energy efficiency. Aaron

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