



George W. Combs, INC.

FINE CUSTOM HOMES AND RENOVATIONS

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MHIC 38384 MHBR 201

Volume 2 • Issue 3

September 2005

Mentoring

As mentioned in previous issues of this newsletter, George Combs is about to become very active in the ACE Mentor Program as the leader of a team which will be starting the program next month in St. Michaels. The mission of the ACE Program is to inform and motivate students toward careers in architecture, construction management and engineering and to provide mentoring and scholarship opportunities for those interested in pursuing these fields.

The ACE Mentor Program is not the only mentoring done at George W. Combs, Inc. We have been privileged since early May to have Doug Davies on our staff as a summer intern. Doug is a 2005 graduate of Easton High School where he wrestled and was a member of Skills USA, a technology oriented club which competed with other schools' teams throughout Maryland. Doug is a graduate of the first ACE Mentoring program at Easton High. He is currently a freshman at the University of Maryland at College Park, with an intended major in architecture.

While he was with us this summer, Doug was



Intern Doug Davies

a part of George's design-build team, working on designs for floor-plans, elevations, sections, and cabinet shop drawings. Doug had learned to do this kind of design work while taking four drafting courses at Easton High School.

As a part of the Combs team, Doug worked on the drawings for three projects, accompanied George on site visits, met some of our best architecture firm contacts, and attended the American Institute of Architects Chesapeake Bay Chapter's Annual Boat Cruise.

Doug had previously done an internship with Architect Charles Goebel of Easton.

We wish Doug well in his studies and hope to have him back next summer.



National Association of Homebuilders Seal

Is Your Builder or Remodeler Certified?

Why should you care? Isn't licensing by the Maryland Home Improvement Commission enough to provide the consumer adequate protection when choosing a home improvement contractor?

The answer is an emphatic no! We have all heard stories about builders or remodelers who have put their customers in horrible situations because of their inexperience, bad business practices, financial instability, or unethical

behavior. In spite of this reputation, however, many great builders and remodelers exist. But how does the consumer know?

To help consumers, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) has established the University of Housing which offers professional designations certifying that their holders have fulfilled stringent educational requirements in building technology, business and finance, project management and sales and marketing.

George has completed the requirements and applied for the Certified Graduate Builder (CGB) and Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR) designations. He is awaiting final certification for the designations.

George is continuing his education through NAHB. He is currently working on the Graduate Master Builder (GMB) designation.

Poplar Island Restoration

It is 10:00am on a hot June morning. We are on the Terrapin, a vessel owned by the National Aquarium in Baltimore. The boat is on course for Poplar Island, 1 ½ miles offshore from Knapps Narrows and Tilghman Island. We are going to plant marsh and submerged aquatic grasses!

Once a 1,200 acre rustic summer retreat for Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman, the island had a small village and a clubhouse tucked into a tree filled landscape. By 1993, wind, ship wake, and a steady rise of sea level had reduced the barren island to five acres.



Poplar Island Restoration Cell B34
In 1998, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

and the Maryland Port Authority began a 25 year restoration project. The original shoreline of the island has been recreated with huge boulders and the 1,140 enclosed acres have been criss-crossed with dikes upon which huge earth moving machinery transports gray muck dredged from the Bay's navigational channel.

The dredge muck is deposited in cells walled with rocks in a thick layer which is dried for several weeks. When it is dry it is covered with another layer of muck. In this manner, an island is re-emerging foot by foot from The Bay.

We are going to the island as part of a ten-day restoration project during which the public has been invited to plant grass in dredge cells that have been completed. We arrive and plant.

In five hours a group of twenty-five volunteers planted 11,000 grass plugs along the edge of an already recreated marshland which will become a habitat for terrapins and many species of birds



Poplar Island Grass Restoration Area

Did You Know That...

...Shannon is the Treasurer of the Talbot County Cancer Society?

...Paul is a member of the board of directors of the Family Support Center on Port Street?

Recent Staff Additions

Rudy Milligan: Project Manager, June 2005

For a copy of our brochure, contact Paul Ray: paul@georgewcombs.com

If you wish to have your name removed from this list, reply to sender only with subject line: Remove