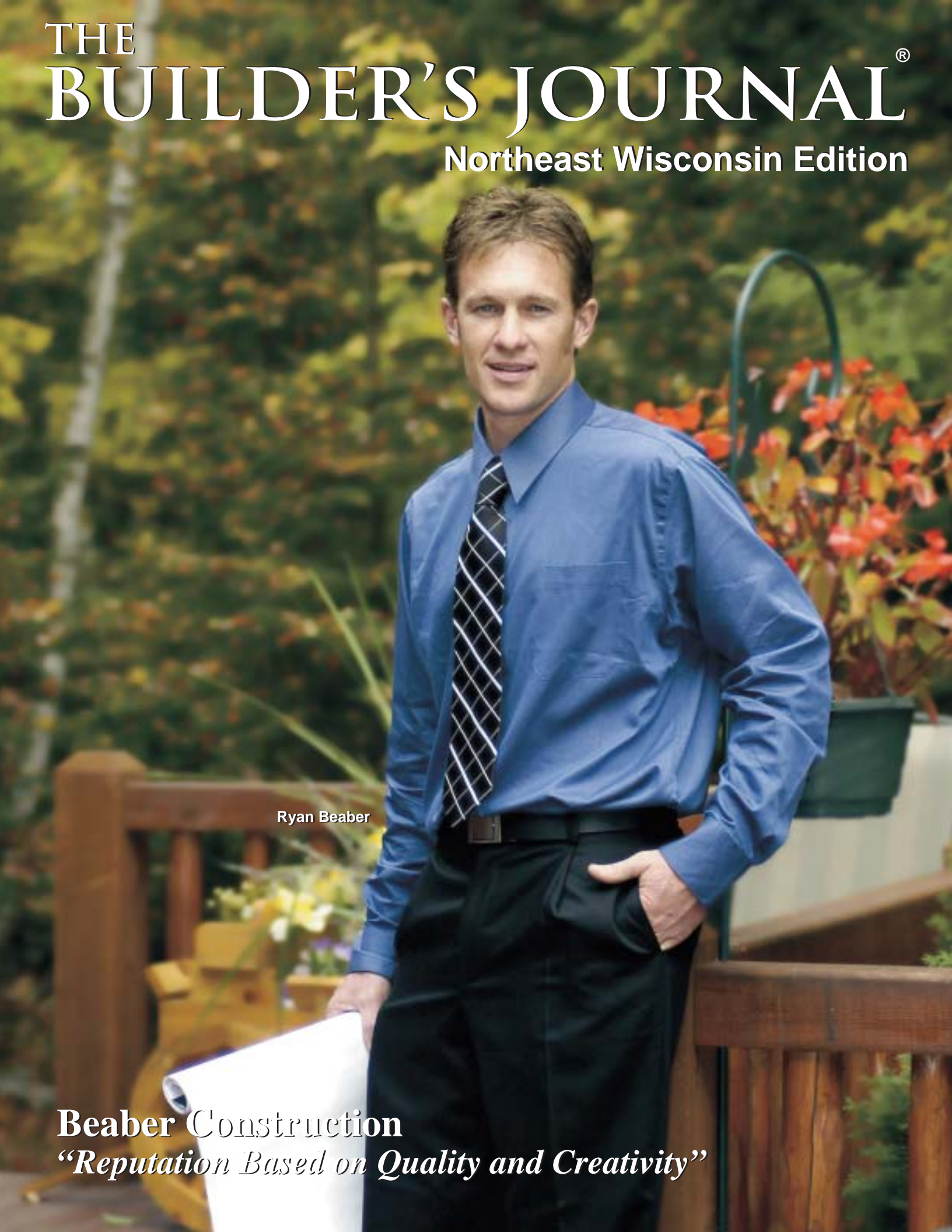


# THE BUILDER'S JOURNAL<sup>®</sup>

Northeast Wisconsin Edition

A man with short brown hair, wearing a blue long-sleeved button-down shirt, a black and white patterned tie, and black trousers, stands on a wooden deck. He is holding a large roll of white blueprints in his left hand and has his right hand in his pocket. The background is a lush garden with green and yellow foliage and a potted plant with red flowers.

Ryan Beaber

**Beaber Construction**  
*“Reputation Based on Quality and Creativity”*



This rustic kitchen features hickory cabinetry with matching black appliances while overlooking a breathtaking view of the lake. Photo by Sanderson Photography.

## Beaber Construction “Reputation Based on Quality and Creativity”

By Heather Levin

Ryan Beaber, of Beaber Construction, has been in the building industry a long time. A very long time. Since he was 12, in fact. He comes from a long line of builders and his first job was where everyone has to start—at the very bottom of the ladder. He spent his school-day afternoons and weekends working for his dad and grandpa, hauling lumber and mixing mud.

As he got older he branched out

and worked for a few other local builders to gain more experience, and at age 20 he started his own communications company. It was an important step, because it showed him what he was really meant to be doing. “And it wasn’t communications,” Ryan says, laughing. “I didn’t know how much I loved building until I started that company. I sold it after a few years and went back to work with my dad. It’s

just where I belonged.”

And it’s where he stayed until three years ago when he bought out the majority of the company from his dad and made it his own. He still gets to work with both his dad and grandpa, who is now 78 and still works 30 hours a week building homes. “They’re both amazing,” he says. “I feel so fortunate to have them around, because I’ve learned so much from them.”

WISCONSIN





This log sided home is surrounded by beautiful north woods plus it overlooks a gorgeous lake, fishing anyone? Photo by Sanderson Photography.

Ryan and his crew build up in the north woods where, he says, business is booming. “We really stay busy up here,” Ryan says. “We’re primarily building second homes for people that live in the Green Bay and southern Wisconsin area. Many of our clients have lake lots they want a cabin on, which is great because when you’re done it looks like a postcard. Building on a lake requires more creativity though, because most of the time we design the home to specifically fit that lot and that view. We also have to keep in mind that most of the time these homes have to sleep a lot of people that come up here for the weekend. It definitely keeps it interesting.”

Ryan prides himself on being the

first builder in the area to start building up to Energy Star standards. He started a few years ago

because he wanted his own home to be energy efficient. “The Energy Star program is fantastic,” he says.



Space is very important when you are building your primary home or a home away from home. This great room features a two story cathedral ceiling, a hand crafted stone fireplace that’s energy efficient, and a wonderful view overlooking a lake. Photo by Sanderson Photography.



How about a nice quiet morning with a warm cup of coffee and a view of nature outside in your yard. Photo by Sanderson Photography.

“The people that represent Energy Star are a great source of information. They can teach you so much if you just listen. They show us how to build better homes and make them safer for our families. I like things that challenge me to be a better builder, and Energy Star does that.”

Ryan is also the only builder in the area that builds using Insulated Concrete Forms, or ICFs. “ICFs are an amazing product, we use the TF System a vertical ICF which gives us

a little more versatility,” Ryan says. “We build entire homes out of it because you can be so creative when you use it. It’s energy efficient, durable, termite and rodent proof, and great at reducing outside noise. It looks exactly like a normal home would except that the doors and windows are just a bit deeper than usual which gives the home a European feel and a sense of security.”

Both of the homes photographed for this issue were built to Energy Star standards and both utilize

ICFs. The log home is a 3 bedroom, 3 bath located on a lake in Oconto county. The home features plenty of trapezoidal windows that let in the amazing view as well as an impressive stone fireplace in the Great Room. Ryan says the design of this home is what makes it one of his favorites. “It’s very open on the inside,” he says. “Each room just flows into the next, creating a really fluid effect. The home was also designed with the lot in mind, so each room has a great view of the lake.”

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Kitchens are a great entertaining hub. This one is no exception; with access to the great room, it's perfect for creating a meal or some snacks after hiking or biking. Photo by Sanderson Photography.

The second home, a 4 bedroom 2 bath also on a lake, it's completely constructed using ICFs. The exterior

is high-end vinyl siding, and Ryan had the idea to add some log railing to make the home fit in more with

the wooded environment. The owners wanted the home to be efficient, maintenance free, but still have a cabin style up north feel to it.

Ryan says he tries hard to stay on top of industry trends. He attends the "Better Building, Better Business" conference every year. He says it really accelerates his knowledge in energy efficiency. He also stays on top of the building industry by scouring the web to learn about new trends in design as well as new products coming out.

"My subs also keep me really informed," he says. "They're all great about sharing knowledge. I really depend on them for a lot of things, and without them and their quality work I wouldn't be in business."

Ryan says he's most proud of



Everyone's tastes are different. It is however hard to argue with this being a great view to start and end your day with! Photo by Sanderson Photography.



Curb and lake appeal are very important to Ryan when he is going over the many different options & plans with his customers. Photo by Sanderson Photography.

where he's taken the company over the past three years. "I've learned that bigger isn't always better," he says. "We're a small company that focuses on building nice homes and living right, and that's the way I want to keep it. Building this way allows us to focus on one project at a time and we don't spread ourselves too thin."

Ryan spends most of his days at the job site, supervising his crew

and his subs. Only when all the fires are put out, though, can he do what he loves best, which is slinging the hammer. "I love being out there building," he says. "There's really nothing else I'd rather be doing. We're building a home that is going to stay with someone hopefully for the rest of their life and the life of their family. When you get done and see the look on their faces, when they walk into their

new home, it's just priceless."

When Ryan isn't working he enjoys racing dirt bikes and spending time with his family, wife Aundrea and daughter Kelsey Grace.

The Builder's Journal is proud to feature Ryan Beaber of Beaber Construction as our builder of the month. If you would like to get in touch with Ryan, he can be reached at 715-850-0366 or 715-276-9650.

**TBJ**

*The Builder's Journal is a monthly trade magazine mailed to residential building professionals in nine counties of northeast Wisconsin (Green Bay and surrounding communities). Individuals and companies featured as cover stories have been nominated by their peers within the industry based upon their business ethics, quality of workmanship, and dedication to their customers. For more information about the magazine please call Matt M Miotke Publisher of The Builder's Journal for NE Wisconsin at (800) 666-5659.*