

SLIPPERY ROCK

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THE BEACON OF THE STONE INDUSTRY

JUNE 2010

SINGING THE BLUES: TENNESSEE BLUESTONE



FENTRESS COUNTY, TENNESSEE IS BEST KNOWN AS THE BIRTHPLACE OF WORLD WAR I HERO ALVIN C. YORK AND AS THE HOME OF THE

BIG SOUTH FORK NATIONAL RIVER, BUT LIKE NEIGHBORING CUMBERLAND COUNTY, IT IS ALSO A REGION RICH IN NATURAL STONE DEPOSITS AND RICH IN FAMILY-OWNED AND OPERATED STONE YARDS AND QUARRIES. THIS PREDOMINANTLY RURAL AREA HAS BEEN HARD HIT IN RECENT YEARS BY ECONOMIC DOWNTURNS AND BY A LOSS OF TRADITIONAL ARTISANS WHO HAVE EITHER MOVED AWAY OR FOUND WORK IN OTHER FIELDS, BUT PATRICK GARRISON AND JOHNNY PRESLEY, CO-OWNERS OF ROCKY RIDGE STONE COMPANY IN CROSSVILLE, ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO PRESERVE FENTRESS COUNTY'S HERITAGE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING THEIR CLIENTS WITH THE HIGHEST QUALITY NATURAL STONE AVAILABLE IN THE REGION.

Located in Crossville in Cumberland County, Rocky Ridge was profiled in the January issue of *Slippery Rock Gazette*. That article spotlighted how Presley's grandfather's quarry had been reinvented for the twenty-first century through the latest technology combined with a healthy respect for both traditional methods and craftsmanship, and for the environment. This same approach

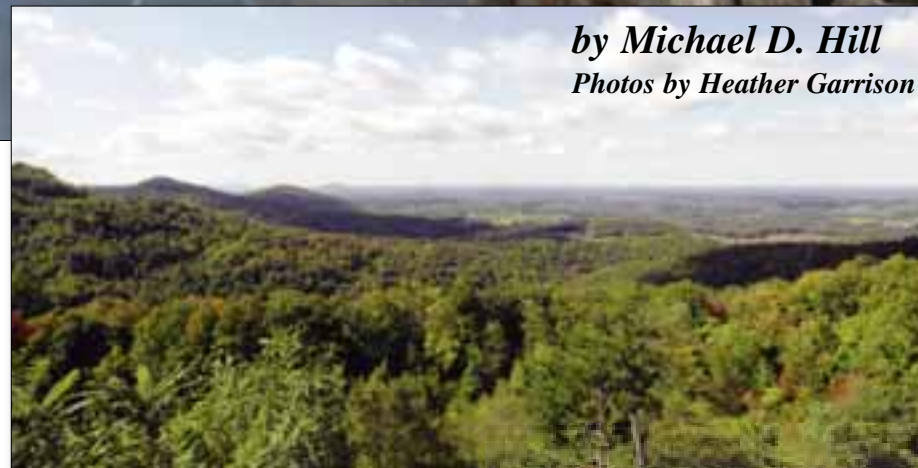


is now being taken with Rocky Ridge's recent acquisition of a unique Tennessee Bluestone quarry in Jamestown.

The Jamestown Quarries (formerly Clayborn Quarries and then C&C Quarries) have been in Jeff Clayborn's family for three generations, and he has stayed on under the new owners to manage the operation. As someone who literally grew up in the quarry, Jeff is an expert on Tennessee Bluestone, especially the best methods for harvesting it. Bluestone is unique, not just because of its deep color, but also because of its uniform thickness.

"It's so consistent," Jeff says, "that it comes out naturally in sheets ranging from three quarters of an inch to two inches thick all the way across the quarry." This consistent thickness combined with lengths that average four to five feet—but that may be as long as ten feet—means a greater yield of stone. "Because of these longer spans, you can get more mantles and stone hearths."

The yield is further increased by how easy the bluestone is to remove. As Jeff puts it,



by Michael D. Hill
Photos by Heather Garrison

"We don't have to take out the whole bank. We can take the rock away layer by layer." This also means that the quarrying has less of an environmental impact than traditional blasting, so that the Jamestown operation fits with Rocky Ridge's eco-friendly philosophy, and the bluestone is among those products offered by Rocky Ridge that are green approved.

Jeff notes that the ease with which the bluestone can be quarried means that "it's easier on the masons and gives clients a faster turnaround on projects."

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Top: Tennessee Bluestone Flagstones and mixed stone retaining wall from a private residence in North Carolina are all Rocky Ridge Stone products, showcasing the beautiful variety and utility of the Jamestown Bluestone and Rocky Ridge Grey and Brown natural stone products.

Above: The rolling hills of Fentress County, Tennessee cover a wealth of Bluestone, laying close to the surface in deposits of a uniform thickness. Quarrying the stone is easier, and has a lower environmental impact than traditional blasting.

IN THIS ISSUE

Featuring Tennessee Bluestone from the Jamestown, TN Quarry

Kevin Padden reports on the 2010 Coverings Show and new products

Aaron Crowley presents some good advice on being honest

The Stone Detective learns a new thing or two about caffeine-inspired stone care

Varmint County and the Census

Anne, Carmen, Ida Mae and Rufus call 'em as they see 'em

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS OF 7TH ANNUAL TILE LETTER AWARDS FROM COVERINGS 2010



THE NATIONAL TILE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (NTCA), THE LARGEST TILE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION IN THE WORLD, PRESENTED THE SEVENTH ANNUAL TILE LETTER AWARDS AT COVERINGS 2010 IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA.

The NTCA hosted a special ceremony after the show floor closed on Thursday, April 29th, at the Orange County Convention Center. The NTCA presents tile and stone contracting professionals with first and second place awards in both commercial residential installations. And new this year, the program also included special recognition awards for stone and mosaic tile installations.

The NTCA's Seventh Annual TileLetter Awards ceremony which took place Thursday after the show and began with a cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m. in Room S320D, and carried over into S320 rooms E and F. The Awards Program was from 6-7:30 PM.

In addition to the program's tile and stone project awards, the NTCA also recognized its annual selection for the prestigious NTCA Joe A. Tarver Award for 2010, which was presented

to Dr. Giorgio Squinzi, Chief Executive Officer of MAPEI Group.

Other highlights included the Tile Partners for Humanity recognizing a valuable industry contributor with a special community service award, and the Tile Council of North America named their annual Tile Person of the Year at the NTCA's Seventh-Annual TileLetter Awards program.

The National Tile Contractors Association is pleased to announce the sponsors of this year's TileLetter Awards program: Laticrete, Custom Building Products, Schluter Systems, Dal-Tile Corporation, Tile Council of North America, Marino Tile and Marble, Mer Krete, Mapei, Grout Boost, TEC Specialty Construction Brands, Bostik Inc. and Wedi Shower Systems.

About the NTCA

NTCA is a non-profit trade association serving every segment of the industry, spearheading education for the professional installation of ceramic tile and allied products.

For more information, please contact the executive director, Bart Bettiga at bart@tile-assn.com, via telephone at 601-939-2071, or visit www.tile-assn.com.

INTERNATIONAL STONERWORKS: SIMPLE WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR NATURAL STONE SURFACES AND FLOORS DURING HURRICANE SEASON



INTERNATIONAL STONERWORKS, HOUSTON'S PREMIER NATURAL STONE RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE BUSINESS, WANTS GULF COAST HOMEOWNERS TO BE PREPARED FOR THE START OF HURRICANE SEASON.

Since Hurricanes Ike and Rita, International Stoneworks has and still is repairing the damages done to natural stone surfaces and floors due to these storms, according to Rawi Tabbah, International Stoneworks president. This hurricane season (June 1st to December 1st, 2010), homeowners can take a few precautions in order to save money on future home repairs.

Most natural stones are porous. Heavy rain and wind can cause water and moisture to penetrate the stone from not only the surface but also from the sides (through the grout) and from the substrate (below the stone).

In order to protect the stone from the surface and sides, International Stoneworks always recommends that the surface of the stone and grout be properly sealed with a water repellent penetrating sealer. Some sealers last longer than others but a light sealing every two years

is highly recommended.

To protect the stone surface and grout, lay two layers of contractor's paper or felt paper. Plastic is not recommended because it inhibits the moisture evaporation. When using tape to hold the paper onto the stone, first use Blue® painter's tape then waterproof that tape by covering it with a layer of Duct tape. The Blue® tape will not leave a sticky residue on the stone.

Protecting the substrate is more difficult and may not totally prevent moisture from migrating inside and penetrating the stone. However, a little prevention may prove very useful: make sure that windows, doors, etc. around the stone (inside and outside) are properly caulked.

As soon as possible following the storm, remove the paper, damp mop the floor with a neutral cleaner and let the surface dry. Use fans and dehumidifiers if necessary. Surface moisture sometimes evaporates in time and the stone does not need restoration or replacement. If there is some discoloration and it does not disappear, an on-site evaluation by International Stoneworks (or another a certified restoration specialist) may be needed.

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INTERNATIONAL STONWORKS: SIMPLE WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR NATURAL STONE SURFACES AND FLOORS DURING HURRICANE SEASON

Continued from page 29

"A large part of stone care is learning how to maintain your natural stone. Taking precautions to protect your stone floors and surfaces during the hurricane season can end up saving you a lot of money. Even though Hurricane Ike was in 2008, I recently went to a home that still had extensive damage done to its marble floors. Hopefully these simple steps will help homeowners take a proactive role in preserving their home during the coming months," said Tabbah.

Tape and paper products can be found at your local hardware store.

Orders for sealers and neutral cleaners can be placed online at www.braxton-bragg.com or by calling 800-575-4401 for recommendations.

About International Stoneworks, Inc.

International Stoneworks, established in 1982 by Rawi Tabbah, is Houston's premier natural stone restoration and maintenance business. Many prominent Texas buildings and homes have used International Stoneworks to clean, restore, protect, and maintain natural stones such as marble, travertine, granite (polished or flamed), slate, limestone (honed or polished),



onyx, flagstone, terrazzo and other natural stones.

International Stoneworks is an active member of the Marble Institute of America (MIA) and has done work for commercial and residential customers in Houston and its surrounding cities, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio and Austin for 28 years. Not only does it perform stone restoration services, it also sells safe and efficient products in order for clients to maintain their stone investments.

For more information on International Stoneworks, please visit them online at www.intlstoneworks.com or call 713-956-8291.

READY OR NOT, HERE I COME!



WOULD-BE BURGLAR WAS CAUGHT EARLY ONE WEDNESDAY AFTER HE GOT STUCK IN THE VENTILATION SYSTEM OF A MARYLAND CONVENIENCE STORE, POLICE SAID.

Shane Morgan Hall, 21, of the first block of Mahogany Drive in North East, Md., told Cecil County sheriff's deputies he was playing hide and seek.

Hall was arrested at 7:14 a.m. when deputies and firefighters answered a call about a man stuck in the ventilation system at the BP station in the 2300 block of W. Pulaski Highway.

Lt. Bernard Chiominto said when the owner arrived to open the store, he spotted a pair of feet dangling from the duct.

Deputies said Hall had removed the ventilation cover, crawled through the vent, got stuck and set off a fire extinguisher that sprayed powder over the store, Chiominto said.

Deputies freed Hall and took him to Union Hospital in Elkton, where he was treated for minor injuries.

Hall, who allegedly gave police two false names, was charged with two counts of submitting false information to a police officer and one count each of second- and fourth-degree burglary and malicious destruction of

Anne Tenna
Resident Grandmother

property.

He also was wanted for failing to appear for court on a non-related drug charge.

Hall has persisted in his story that he was just playing hide and seek on the roof with some other adults and decided to hide in the ventilation system.

He was being held in the Cecil County jail on \$30,000 bail.

Source: *Delaware Online*
<http://www.delawareonline.com>

Hide and seek is a wonderfully, adventurous game that, I'm sure, we all remember playing at one time in our childhoods. But, unless you have small children or grand kids, I can't imagine grown adults having any reason to want to play a game where you have to find a hiding place and stay there until you're found.

Adults with that kind of leisure can surely find better things to do with their time and energy. Mr. Hall's excuse was obviously one made up in haste and, unfortunately, made him look even more ridiculous to the authorities. In some twisted way, fabricating a flimsy reason for getting stuck in a vent made more sense to him than just admitting to the crime.

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