SLIPPERY ROCK GAZETTE

THE BEACON OF THE STONE INDUSTRY www.slipperyrockgazette.net

FEBRUARY 2019
VOLUME 25,
ISSUE 296

Owen Sound Ledgerock Ltd. Supplies World-Class Limestone for North American and International Projects

Honed Algonquin Fleuri limestone panels clad this sleek modern residence in Ontario.

Peter Marcucci
Photos Courtesy Owen Sound Ledgerock

Located in Ontario, Canada, near Toronto, Owen Sound Ledgerock Limited (referred to from here on as Ledgerock) has been supplying the stone industry since 1958. With its scope of service firmly rooted in limestone from its three quarries, the company produces a full array of interior, exterior and landscaping products as well as dimensional building stone. Supplying a global market, Ledgerock's list of notable world projects is distinguished and exceptional, to say the least. More on that later, but first Some company history as told by supervisor and research and development head, Sean Stobbe.

"Ledgerock was started in 1958 by my grandfather, Harold Stobbe, as a way to provide exterior cladding material for his homebuilding and building supply store business. He was building houses primarily around Owen Sound and also in many areas around southern Ontario. This was during the 1950s and 1960s, and the original quarry was a way for him to get higher-end stone to put on his houses without paying a lot of money to someone else for it. However, as time went on, the quarry got more and more successful, and the hardware store and homebuilding business fell by the wayside as he focused more of his time on the stone end of the business. He was now supplying landscaping materials such as flagstone and split-face materials for walls and pavers. The quarry was small-scale, used few tools, and was low tech, so to speak."

By the time the second generation came in, Tom and Lynda Stobbe, production had become a little bit more complex in what they did, continued Stobbe. "We had started an architectural cut stone division for making custom pieces, and by the late 1980s bought our first CNC machine from Park Industries."

Tools of the Trade

Ledgerock's current cache of shop equipment has grown significantly to include ten CNC machines (Haas, Omag, Breton, Burkhardt-Löffler and Park Industries), ten large block saws, 12 smaller saws ranging from two to four-foot size blades, three automatic surface polishers and four radial arm surface polishers.

For their three quarry operations, Ledgerock has 12 saws of varied configurations, assorted drills, five hydraulic splitters, a crushing and screening plant to turn waste into gravel, as well as all the loaders and trucks needed for moving materials safely and efficiently. They also have some in-house built machines. Some are very basic, said Stobbe.

"Over the years we have built everything from a single blade saw with a pull chain, to a CNC for milling, to machines for gauging stone.

Please turn to page 2

Ready or Not, Here We Come

Sharon Koehler
Artistic Stone Design

Last year a man walked into our showroom and asked to use the restroom. After he had been in there awhile, we became worried that something had happened to him. We knocked on the door and asked if he was okay. He told us to go away. We waited a bit longer and knocked again. We got the same response but a louder "Go away." Again, we waited a bit (thankfully it was a slow showroom day) and tried a third time. The response this time was filled with anger and curse words.

Luckily for us, we had a retired police officer working out in fab and he knew just what to do. He took the outside hinge pins off the door so he could gain entry to OUR restroom and escort the man off OUR property. That all sounds so simple, take the door off the hinges and escort the guy out. But you know what? No one in the front office thought of it. Why did no one think of it? Because it had never happened or been discussed before. There was no plan of action in case something like this ever happened.

That was a people incident. What about a weather emergency? Let's face it, the weather is changing. More hurricanes, more rain, more thunder and lightning, more cyclones and tornadoes, global warming, higher highs and lower lows. A major insurance company even has a commercial out saying that we have had twenty six 500 year storms in the last 10 years. Back in the fall we had a tornado outbreak in my area.

Please turn to page 10

Owen Sound Ledgerock

Continued from page 1

"They probably total dozens over the years. Unfortunately, building your own machines got progressively more difficult because of OSHA-type safety regulations. It got harder to comply with these regulations when building in-house, and it became easier to just purchase a manufactured machine."

Total quarry square footage is in the neighborhood of 700 acres of land, said Stobbe, adding that there's well over 150,000 square feet of combined floor space at all their locations.

Safety First for the Workforce

"We do a lot of sandblasting and have a silica safety control program in place for that," continued Stobbe. "Fortunately, the stone that we quarry is Dolomite limestone, and we really don't have to worry about silica from that. Limestone can, however, be an irritant, so we provide masks to anyone needing them. We've also done a lot of environmental work to minimize the discharge of slurry into the environment. We have a series of settling ponds to separate stone dust, and the water that we discharge is often cleaner than what is in the creek!

"By and large, though, the safety requirements in Canada are more stringent than in America. An example of this would be in the more recent past when we purchased an American machine and had to add various forms of guarding of our own. All of our saws have gates to prevent people from getting to the blades while they're running. We've also had to deal with noise issues, particularly on our bigger saws, and counteracted that problem with better tooling that keeps them quieter. We've also implemented a traffic management plan to try and prevent any collisions. We have a lot of material handling equipment driving around."

The Agony and the Ecstasy of Quarrying

The original quarry in Owen Sound, Ontario is still functioning and where most of their production takes place, while their main quarry, where the bulk of their material comes from, is in Wiarton, Ontario, about 20 miles from Owen Sound. Their third quarry, about 20 miles north of Wiarton, is in Hope Bay, Ontario. Ledgerock also purchases a large amount of material from the Indiana Limestone region. Aside from that, continued Stobbe, they might get the occasional job that requires material from other sources.

Deep bas-relief carving in a block of Algonquin limestone, for the Owen Sound Attack hockey club shows the typical earth tones and grain variations found in this beautiful stone.

"We did a restoration job in Queens Park, Toronto where our Provincial Government is located. It required Red Sandstone from a quarry nearby that no longer existed, and we had to source that material from distant places. It wasn't a perfect match, but it was a reasonable one. We also did another job about ten years ago out of limestone from France, which turned out to be very similar stone when compared to material from Indiana.

"Our biggest challenge in quarrying is time-frame. We have a very limited amount of time that we can quarry and, generally speaking, it's from April to October. That's our window for extraction, and any blocks that come out of the ground after that have to come inside to fully dry out. Otherwise, the blocks can freeze. At our Wiarton quarry, everything is set up with fairly small benches, which means it's easy, because we don't have to do any horizontal cutting to extract the stone. The largest single layer to come out solid in that quarry is about five feet thick."

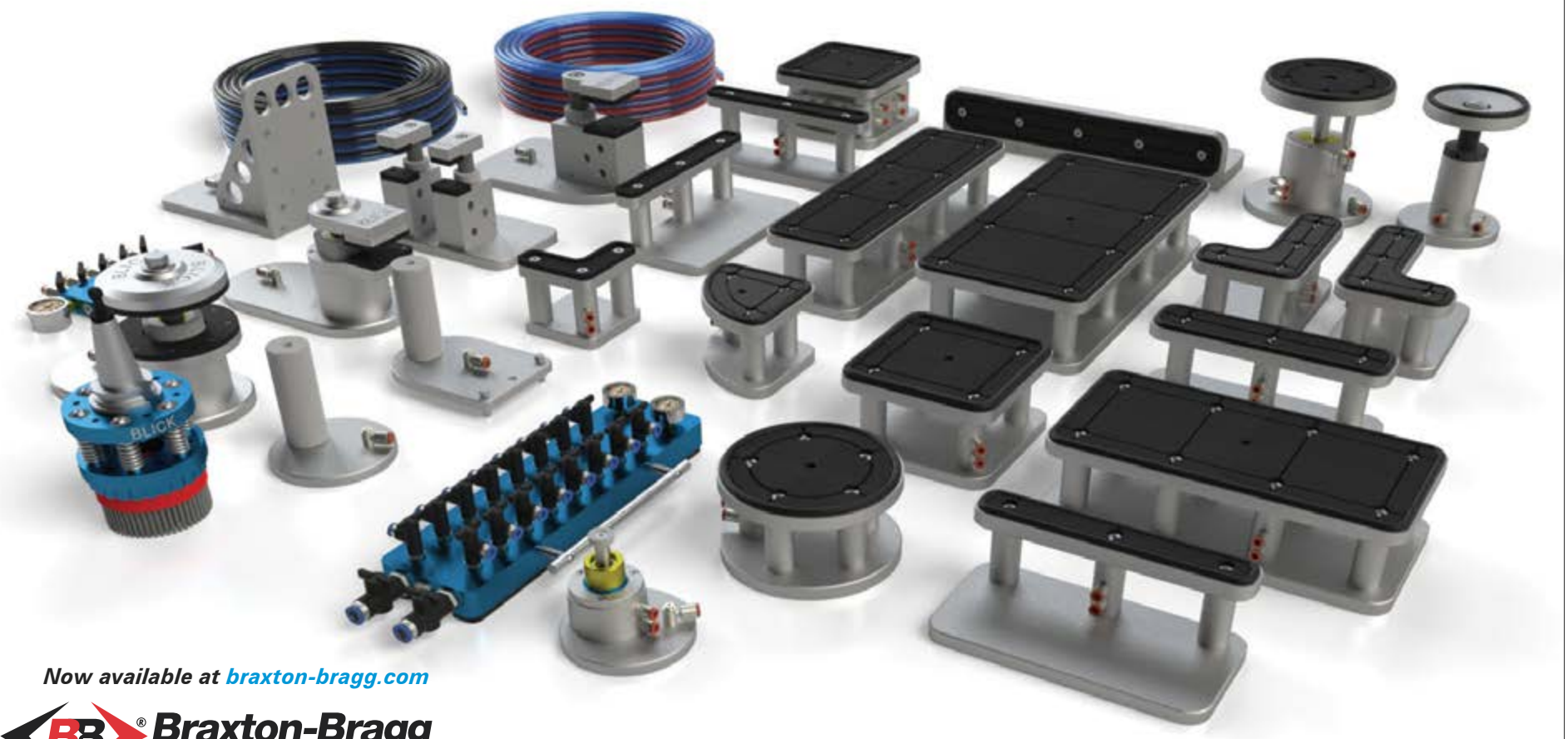
With several colors of stone in their portfolio, Stobbe went on to speak of his favorite. "Realistically, we have over nine colors. My personal favorite is the Eramosa limestone. In raw block form, it's a fairly light gray color, and when it's polished, it turns into a very nutty chocolate brown. We do a lot more tonnage out of the Eramosa only because there is a much bigger band in the quarry. You are going to have a hard time finding a stone that looks nicer than our Eramosa when it's polished. Typically it tends to have minimal pitting, and when polished, it is beautiful!

This Ledgerock quarry produces Eramosa limestone. Eramosa turns from light grey to a rich, chocolate brown when polished.

Please turn to page 7

We Don't Just VACUUM...

We also Clamp,
Support, Locate, Texture,
and more!



Now available at braxton-bragg.com

Braxton-Bragg
Better Service • Better Value

THE AUTHORITY IN VACUUM WORKHOLDING

Blick Industries has the largest selection of suction cup shapes.
View our entire selection of products at www.blickindustries.com.

BLICK INDUSTRIES

2245 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 | (949) 499-5026

Makita® XCV04Z Cordless HEPA Filter Dry Vacuum

Includes:
- 2 Anti-static hoses
- Crevice tool
- Nozzle
- Curved pipe
- Straight pipe
- Main filter
- Damper and pre-filter

Item #	Description	Price
11486	Makita® XCV04Z Cordless HEPA Filter Dry Vacuum	$738.45

Makita® XCV05PT HEPA Filter Dry Backpack Vacuum

Kit Includes:
- 39″ hose
- Telescoping extension wand
- Floor nozzle
- HEPA filter
- Filter dust bag
- (2) 18V Lithium-Ion Batteries
- Charger

Item #	Description	Price
11492	Makita® XCV05PT HEPA Filter Backpack Dry Vac. Kit	$667.69

Makita® 12 Gallon Wet/Dry Shop Vacuum

- 135 CFM
- 12.0 Amp
- 92″ of Static Water Lift
- 27 Lbs.

Item# 11491

Includes:
- Main Flat Nano Filters (Pair)
- Fleece Nano Filter Bag
- Disposal Bag
- 1-3/8″ x 16′ Anti-Static Hose
- Crevice Nozzle
- Cuff Adapter

GUARANTEED BEST PRICE!

Makita

Item #	Description	Price
5146	Makita® VC4710 12 Gallon Wet/Dry Vacuum	$699.95
11482	Makita® Dust Extraction Surface Grinding Shroud for Makita 9565CV, 5″	$57.07
11491	Makita® Dust Extraction Surface Grinding Shroud, 7″	$70.77
11483	Makita® Dust Xtracting 4-1/2″, 5″ Cutting Guard with Shoe for Makita 9565CV	$118.47

BB® Better Service ◆ Better Value

Call 1-800-575-4401 or Order Online
www.braxton-bragg.com

Makita Vacs and Shrouds

for OSHA Compliance on the Job Site

In This Issue

DEPARTMENTS: Industry Spotlight

Owen Sound Ledgerock Supplies World-Class Limestone for North American and International Projects, by Peter Marcucci ..... Begins on 1

Heritage and Homecoming at the Bell Works Adaptive Reuse Project by Steven Schrenk ..... Begins on 32

Dry House StoneWorks: From Traditional Dry Laid to Veneer, by Peter Marcucci .... Begins on 36

Training and Education Sponsored by Braxton-Bragg

The Art of Scheduling, by Ed Hill ..... Begins on 5

Park Industries Announces February 2019 Digital Stoneworking Expo 5

NSI Announces 2019 Stone Industry Education Series ..... Begins on 9

Industry Topics, Tips and Regulars

Ready or Not, Here We Come, by Sharon Koehler ..... Begins on 1

The Stone Detective, by Frederick M. Hueston 10

Stone Restoration and Maintenance Corner, by Bob Murrell ..... Begins on 14

Adopting Lean Culture, by Codiak San Herrell 16

Now, Where Did I Hide It? by Sam Venable 17

Designing Kitchens with Personalities: What's Popular Right Now, by Megy Karydes ..... Begins on 24

Bookmatching: Geology Meets Geometry, by Karin Kirk ..... Begins on 26

What's In a Word? by Sharon Koehler 28

Stone and Tile Industry News

Park Industries Named Number One Global Reseller of Alphacam Software 8

Regent Stone Products Under New Ownership ..... Begins on 8

Braxton-Bragg Chosen as the Exclusive North American Distributor for Elephant Material Handling Products 9

NSI Completes Eighteenth Home with Gary Sinise Foundation 12

ISFA Announces New Board of Directors ..... Begins on 29

Chris Mackenzie Appointed Inside Sales Manager for Braxton-Bragg 31

Laser Products Industries (LPI) Announces Corporate Rebranding and Launch of ClearCut Measuring System 35

Classifieds and Marketplace 30, 31

"O, let the sacred obligations of this generation sink deep into our hearts. A great trust has descended to new hands. Let us apply ourselves to the great task now present: the task of preserving what our forbearers gained at such great cost."

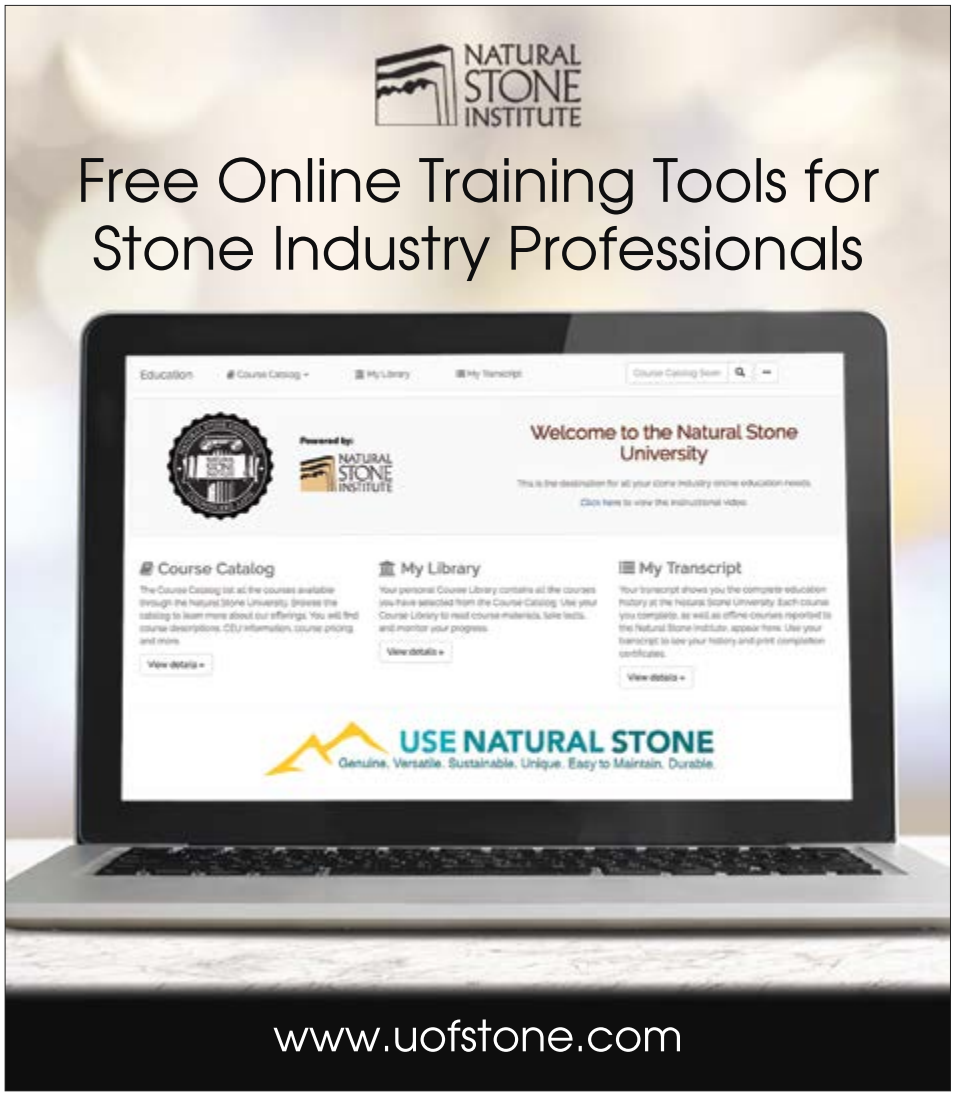
Daniel Webster
Bunker Hill Oration

SLIPPERY ROCK GAZETTE®
The Beacon of the Stone Industry

Visit our online edition www.slipperyrockgazette.net to place a classified ad and to view current and back issues.

Rick Stimac	Publisher
Larry M. Hood	Editor and Design Director
G. William Brown	Graphic Designer
Codiak San Herrell	Stone Industry Consultant
Ed Hill	Synchronous Solutions
Frederick M. Hueston	Stone Forensics Consultant
Megy Karydes	usenaturalstone.com
Karin Kirk	usenaturalstone.com
Sharon Koehler	Artistic Stone Design
Rufus B. Leakin	Guru of Urban Folklore
Peter J. Marcucci	Special Contributor
Bob Murrell	Restoration Consultant
Steven Schrenk	Polycor
Sam Venable	Department of Irony

Read our online edition at www.slipperyrockgazette.net. Use the department tabs to place a classified ad and to view current and back issues. Send address updates to b.burgess@braxtonbragg.com, and comments c/o editor lhood@slipperyrockgazette.net. Subscription requests, a classified ad submission form and our 2019 Ad Guidelines are available online at www.slipperyrockgazette.net.



Training & Education

Park Industries Announces February 2019 Digital Stoneworking Expo

The first Digital Stoneworking Expo of 2019 will reignite the fire that fuels your business' future success! Countertop Fabricators from across North America, will come together on February 21st to learn and discuss top-level content and on February 20th for the local fabricator bus tour. Park Industries® is hosting a Digital Stoneworking Expo™ (DSE) in Sacramento, California.

Park Industries® was honored with the 2018 Envision Award from the International Surface Fabricators Association (ISFA) in recognition of the Digital Stoneworking Expo™. This award attests to the vast amount of knowledge, technology, and valuable discussion that is packed into this event. The DSE has continued to evolve since its inception, and it has grown to become the Single Most Important Experience in the Stone Industry. Park Industries® is excited to welcome you to learn, hear, and see first-hand what the DSE experience is all about.

Key Topics

- Labor Shortages Impact Our Industry
- Evaluating Your Shop's Performance: What's Your Number?
- Digital Fabrication: From Start – Finish Demonstrations from Laser Products, Slabsmith, and Moraware

There is no charge to attend this expo. Learn more and register at Park's DSE webpage – www.parkindustries.com/events/tradeshows/tise/#.

Training & Education

The Art of Scheduling

Ed Hill
Synchronous Solutions

Scheduling orders in a custom manufacturing environment is much more art than science. The scheduler must consider a myriad of factors every day for the manufacturing system. If installation of the finished product is also required, the scheduling system becomes even more complicated.

Essentially, the job of the Scheduler is to load sold orders into the manufacturing system to its capacity while meeting customer demands. The result should be a plan that meets customer due dates within the internal capacity of the business.

To do this, you must first know the system capacity. In fact, your system has finite, not infinite, capacity. With the fickle and unpredictable market demand day to day, your process must reduce that market variability to a manageable daily schedule. Some companies simply take the daily demand and cram it into the manufacturing system without careful consideration of actual capacity. This approach is doomed to failure. You must know your system's capacity and schedule to it. Submitting a schedule that exceeds your manufacturing capacity will never work, and will certainly create lots of chaos. Ultimately, this "wishful thinking" approach will not satisfy the customer and will create ill will in the market.

It takes negotiation with the customer base. It is hard work for the scheduler and requires a skill-set that not everyone has. A talented scheduler is a great asset to a custom manufacturing business.

> ***Scheduling is the process of arranging, controlling and optimizing customer orders in a production process.***

The "Level Load" Schedule

An ideal schedule creates a daily "level load." That means that the scheduler works to minimize the variability day to day. Every manufacturing manager will understand this issue. When the schedule creates a "roller coaster ride" with way too much work one day and not enough another day, the shop is virtually impossible to manage. A level load will actually increase system capacity. In other words, with careful consideration for minimizing schedule variability day to day, your business will actually produce more. Guaranteed.

Level loading requires use of a metric that relates to actual labor demand. Any dimensional metric, like square feet, linear feet or linear inches, will not do this. The metric we recommend is Throughput. (See *Square Feet vs. Dollars* in the July 2018 issue of *The Slippery Rock Gazette* for more information on this subject.) Throughput ($T), which is defined as the measure of value added, represents the transformation of raw material investments into the income for finished products. $T is the value of that transformation and is an accurate reflection of the labor content for a job, including factors such as mitered edges and sink cutouts, which would not be recognized by a dimensional metric like square feet. More importantly, $T is directly relative to the financial performance of the company. At a planned $T earning for the month, you can know how much profit you will make. Not so with square feet.

True Level Load scheduling can only be accomplished with a metric like $T. Note that this could mean a different amount of square feet per day, but a consistent amount of $T which will occupy about the same labor content.

How Many Schedules are Needed?

Your business capacity is determined by your system's constraint. Just as a chain is only as strong as the one weakest link, your business capacity is determined by the one process step that has demonstrated the least daily capacity. That is the only place that determines the capacity of your entire business system.

Please turn to page 8

> **The scheduling function is the bridge between Sales and Manufacturing. It is an operational function and should report to the Operations Manager.**

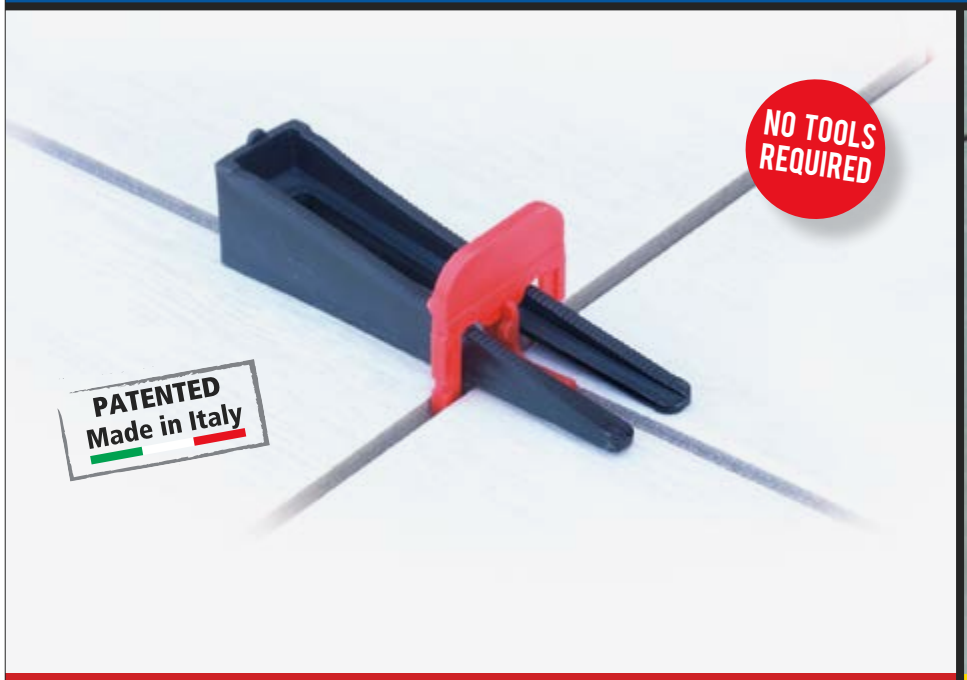
NEW

The Next-Generation

ALPHA®

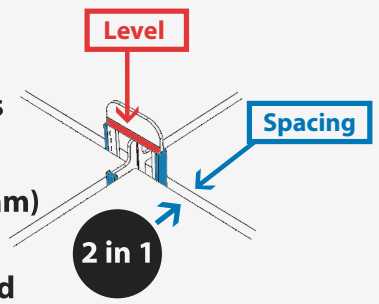
TILE LEVELING SYSTEMS

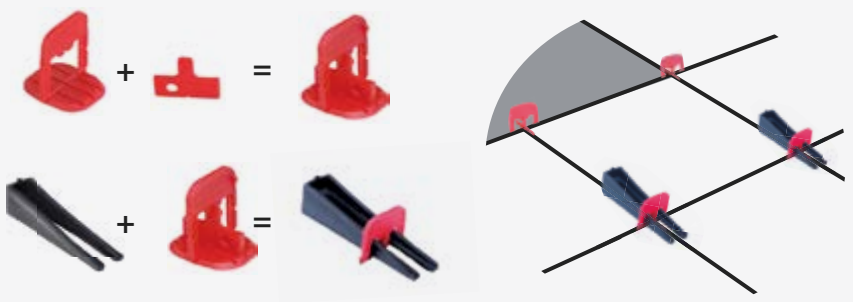
Designed for Edges and Corners



EZ WEDGE

- ✓ Install Along Tile Edges
- ✓ Add Angle Tabs to Install on Corners
- ✓ Save Time & Money (Up to 75%)
- ✓ Available in 1/16" (1.5mm), 1/8" (3mm) & 13/64" (5mm)
- ✓ Dual Function - No Spacers Required

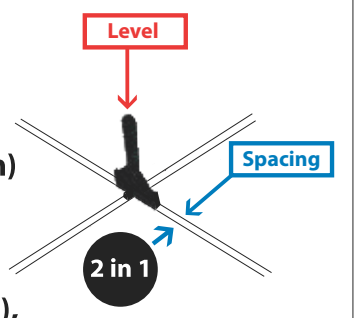




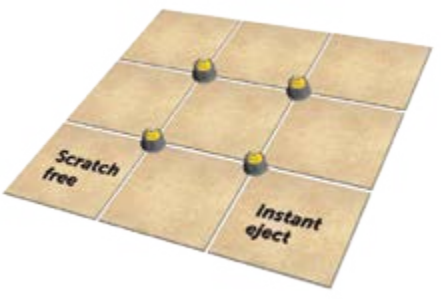
* *Optional Plier Available for Calibrated Installations*

EZ CLICK

- ✓ Instant Screw Ejection Leveling System
- ✓ Supports Tile Thickness: 1/8" to 5/8" (3mm to 20mm)
- ✓ Minimum Joint Calibration: 3/64" (1mm)
- ✓ Ideal for Both Floor and Wall Tiling
- ✓ Proprietary Scratch-Prevention Edge
- ✓ Built-in Spacer Calibration: 5/64" (2mm), 1/8" (3mm) & 5/32" (4mm)
- ✓ Compatible With Many Older-Generation Systems



Tightens and Releases by Hand



Alpha Professional Tools®

103 Bauer Drive, Oakland, NJ 07436 • 800-648-7229

www.alpha-tools.com

Now Available at

Braxton-Bragg

Better Service • Better Value

www.braxton-bragg.com • 800-575-4401

Polished Eramosa vein cut tiles and planks were chosen for the flooring and wall cladding at the Armani tower in Dubai.

Owen Sound Ledgerock

Continued from page 2

"Our Algonquin doesn't have the deep designs like the Eramosa does. It is a very warm light brown that I would call an earth tone, and is also quite popular. It also has some grainy character to it, and not like Indiana limestone."

Supplying the Demands of a Worldwide Market

Ledgerock mostly supplies materials within the North American market. Outside of this market, the company has brokers that are headquartered in Singapore, because there are a lot of jobs in Asia which use their stone. When asked what their flagship product is, Stobbe said, "It's hard to give one single product domination. In terms of sheer volume, our split-face material for wall cladding is at the top. Most of what we produce is for exterior, with some interior. Not a lot of countertops, but a few here and there. So it's mostly split-face, panels for cladding buildings, pavers for patios and walkways, and curbing and windowsills. There is no product that dominates, because we do a lot of sales of all of them.

"Our volume really hasn't changed over the years, but the demand for product types has, particularly for our split-faced wall material.

"About ten years ago we produced a lot of material that had a natural surface on top and bottom. That market has now mostly dried up. It's still out there, but not what it used to be. Now, it's a sawn finish on top and bottom to give a consistent look that's popular today, but takes more saw time that we didn't have to deal with in the past. Additionally, customers' demands for higher quality have increased considerably in the last ten years, and we've had to invest in new machinery and techniques to meet those demands as well. Specific products to order have changed, too. We do make tiles here, but the demand for them changes from year to year. Some years we can't make enough tiles, and some years we don't make a whole lot. It's very unpredictable.

"In general, though, the major difference in what we've had to produce over the years is due a lot to the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the American dollar. When the Canadian dollar was on par with the American dollar, we did very little work using Indiana limestone, because we couldn't compete from a cost standpoint. But now that the American dollar is stronger than ours, it starts to be less costly for us to do it here. So our current market is strong, and there's a lot of demand out there for what we do. Our challenge is just trying to keep up with it."

According to Stobbe, all of their sales go down one of two different paths. "We have a series of dealers set up primarily in southern Ontario, and have a handful of American dealers.

Please turn to page 19

The Art of Scheduling

Continued from page 5

Every other resource should strive to feed the system's constraint.

In the countertop industry, the point at which money is earned is normally at installation. This is "where the company's cash register rings." As such, this is a desirable location for the business schedule and one that can be visible upstream to all manufacturing functions. Therefore, only one schedule is needed. Multiple schedules create confusion. Establish one schedule and make it visible to everyone.

Clean Sheets

In most companies, orders come in with some open questions. The order may be closed, but the customer may have not made the final decision on color, edge, backsplash, or some other important piece of information. It is important to never release a job to scheduling (much less the shop) until all these questions are answered. We call this "clean sheets" meaning all the blanks are filled in. Scheduling should only work on jobs that are "clean." In fact, it is desirable to manage a group of "clean" jobs so that scheduling can plan a good routing and can consider all the factors that are important, such as:

- **Customer service and due dates**
- **Equipment capacity**
- **Employee capacity**
- **Product mix**
- **Level loading**
- **Installation geography**
- **Plan for Murphy…**
- **– Employee absences**
- **– Weather conditions**
- **– Customer demands and rush jobs**
- **Installer skillsets**
- **Maximizing company profitability**

"Clean sheets" should mean that three tests are considered before jobs are even made available to the scheduling function:

All information known. No open questions about exactly what the customer wants.

All material available. Either the needed material must be on site or there must be confidence that it will be available in a timely manner so as not to delay any manufacturing function.

Jobsite ready. A customer service or project management person must have confirmed with the customer that cabinets are set and no delays should be expected at template or at installation.

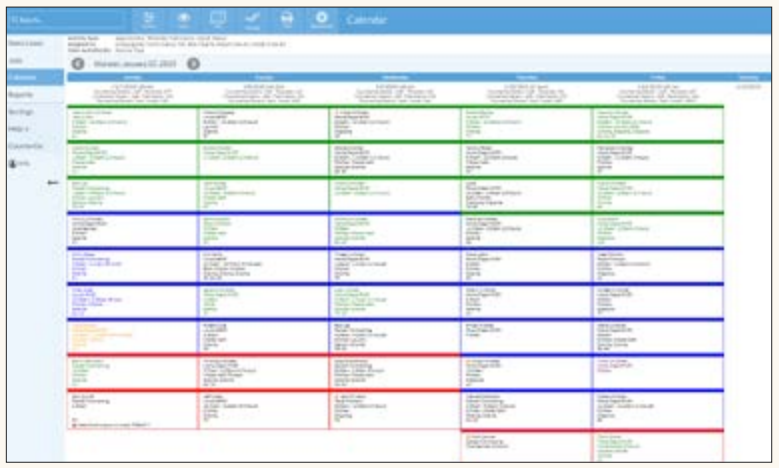
Two Elements of Scheduling

Your vehicle runs best with the proper mixture of gasoline (fuel) and air (oxygen). If that mixture is not correct, the engine will not run well, if at all. Scheduling is much the same. A good schedule requires the proper mix of volume (how much) and velocity (how fast). The volume should be "Level Loaded" using $T to assure the labor content is about the same day to day. The velocity, or time allowed, must be controlled too. A desirable and common process time for the countertop industry is one week from template through install. A good schedule will allow the same process time for all jobs. In fact, scheduling jobs with different process times will cause manufacturing disruptions and chaos. The best schedule is one that is "level loaded" and all jobs planned to flow at the same pace.

Plan, Schedule, Track

The best business performance is one that creates a plan for action in advance of each month. You should know how much value added ($T) you need per day in order to make a given level of profit. You should set up these goals for your scheduling department to load that amount of $T for each product line each day of the month. "Level Loading" means to keep this consistent day to day and maintain an even flow of jobs (no "leap-frogging" of jobs). And, you will need to track this performance plan every day to assure that the goals can be met at the end of the month.

Clean Sheet production means all the variables and blanks such as customer choices, installation date, product availability have been filled in.



Having done all this will be your best shot at optimizing the art of scheduling. But it is still a difficult job in a custom manufacturing business. It requires a special person to do it well.

For more information on The Art of Scheduling, including a detailed job description, contact Ed Hill at Synchronous Solutions at 704-560-1536, www.SynchronousSolutions.com.

"You can't do anything about the length of your life, but you can do something about its width and depth."
— H.L. Mencken

Park Industries Named Number One Global Reseller of Alphacam Software

Vero Software has presented the Number One Global Reseller Award to Park Industries®. Vero Software is a world leader in CAD CAM software development, producing world-renowned brands including Alphacam. Park Industries® is the largest distributor of Alphacam in the world. It is a valued partnership between Park Industries® and Vero Software. Park Industries® is honored to have been awarded with recognition of this achievement.

Perry Boyett, Alphacam Sales & Service Director, presented the award to Joan Schatz and Mike Schlough, Park Industries® Co-Presidents.

Perry Boyett, at center, presents the Number One Seller award to Joan Schatz and Mike Schlough, Co-presidents of Park Industries.

Regent Stone Products Under New Ownership

GranQuartz, a division of Pearlman Group and a portfolio company of The Stephens Group, LLC, has acquired Regent Stone Products. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Since 1992, Regent Stone Products has distributed stone fabrication and restoration tools and supplies. Based in Virginia Beach, Virginia, Regent has built a loyal following with fabricators in the Mid-Atlantic region. Dan Davidenko, CEO of Pearlman Group, commented, "We are excited about the addition of Regent to the Pearlman family. They have a fantastic sales force, who has done an excellent job establishing themselves as trusted, reliable resources to their customers. We look forward to continuing to offer that level of service."

Tim Siviter, President of Regent Stone Products, added, "I've long admired the GranQuartz division of Pearlman Group and believe our organizations will be stronger together. It was a pleasure to work with The Stephens Group throughout the transaction. They delivered on everything they said they would."

Please turn to page 35

NSI Announces 2019 Stone Industry Education Series

The Natural Stone Institute and sponsor *Stone World* magazine are pleased to announce the schedule for the 2019 Stone Industry Education Series. Stone Summits will be held in ten cities across the United States.

The ten Stone Summits scheduled for 2019 will cover a wide variety of topics relevant to natural stone fabricators, including maximizing shop efficiency and profits, using metrics to measure success, understanding OSHA safety regulations, and creating a plan for finding and retaining top talent. 2019 Stone Summits will be facilitated by a team of experienced industry leaders including GK Naquin (Stone Interiors), Tony Malisani (Malisani, Inc.), Duane Naquin (Stone Interiors), and Eric Tryon (Premier Surfaces.)

For more information, please visit www.stoneindustryeducation.com.

2019 Stone Industry Education Series begins **February 28** with the Texas Stone Summit: Analyzing Shop Performance. Host: Arizona Tile, Dallas, Texas

March 21:
California Stone Summit: 12 Business Axioms; Host: Pacific Shore Stones, Modesto, CA

May 2:
Utah Stone Summit: 12 Business Axioms; Host: Arizona Tile, Salt Lake City, Utah

May 23:
Connecticut Stone Summit: Stone Shop Management; Host: Boston Granite Exchange, East Haven, Connecticut

June 13:
Ohio Stone Summit: Knowing Your Business; Host: MSI, Cleveland, Ohio

Please turn to page 15

Braxton-Bragg Chosen as the *Exclusive* North American Distributor for Elephant Material Handling Products

Braxton-Bragg has been chosen as the exclusive North American distributor for Elephant material handling products. Elephant, based in Rimini, Italy, produces jib cranes and vacuum lifters for the stone industry and other industries where heavy lifting is required. Elephant jib cranes and vacuum lifters are manufactured in several different sizes and load-bearing capacities.

"We announced our new partnership at the TISE show in January," said product manager Matt Maples. "Elephant offers manual and automatic vacuum lifters, both are very well made and durable. Elephant jib cranes fill an important niche in our product offering. We are very pleased to be able to offer these quality, heavy-lifting products to our customers."

Elephant was founded in 1979. Over the past 40 years, the company has excelled in producing products designed to solve engineering problems in the careful handling of materials in the industrial and artisanal fields, like marble, steel and glass. To date, Elephant has over 70,000 systems for lifting and handling materials deployed worldwide.

Today, thanks to the passion for excellence of the owners and the professionalism of the technical staff, Elephant has taken a progressive path in the production process, producing innovative products, working to continually improve customer service, and achieving a substantial increase in production through the acquisition of technologically advanced equipment and a recent program of company expansion.

Throughout 2019, Braxton-Bragg is planning a year-long celebration to commemorate 25 years of providing quality tooling and supplies to the stone and tile industries. Founded in 1994 by Doug Slocum and partner Ron Weiler, Braxton-Bragg has grown from a start-up to a national distributor with international ties.

From floor polishing machines and powders, to diamond pads and discs, Braxton-Bragg has all you need to grind, polish and restore concrete, stone or tile floors. For more information on the company or their products visit their redesigned website www.braxton-bragg.com .

The system utilizes a diamond cup wheel followed by up to three diamond abrasives and a precise depth adjustment to eliminate chips and produce a clean sharp edge.

Air Kit Includes:

- Seam Phantom®
- Adapter for Air Tool
- Arbor Extension (Also Available in M14 Thread)
- 48" Glide Guide Rail (72"/96" Sold Separately)
- SL3 Adapter (Also Available in M14 Thread)
- 60 Grit SL3 Rigid Turbo
- 150 Grit SL3 Rigid Turbo
- 300 Grit SL3 Rigid Turbo
- 2" SL3 Cup Wheel
- 2 C-Clamps (For clamping Glide Guide)
- Gauge Blocks
- Angle Adjustment Washers
- All Required Hardware
- Instruction Manual

The Seam Phantom is back!

The Seam Phantom®
is an innovative system for producing near perfect seams in all types of stone and quartz.

NSI solutions

MADE IN THE USA

• Grinder NOT Included

Dress Flawless Seams in 15-20 Minutes.

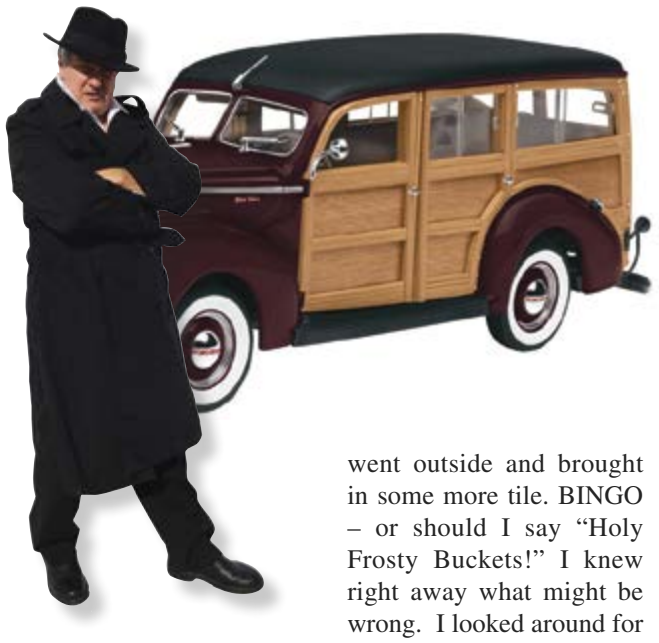
Braxton-Bragg
Better Service • Better Value

Call 1-800-575-4401 or Order Online www.braxton-bragg.com

The Stone Detective

"Baby, It's Cold Outside!"

Frederick M. Hueston, PhD



I hope the title of this month's column is not going to offend anyone, but the it is fitting for a case I was asked to evaluate. Read on and you'll see why…

It was a cold winter morning here in Florida … heck, I think it got down to 65 degrees F. (Sorry, had to rub that in for all my friends in the North.)

So, I put on my overcoat, grabbed my fedora and headed out the door to go you know where. Yup – off to my favorite greasy spoon for some cold-fighting carbs and a cup of joe – or maybe this morning I should change it up a bit and grab some hot chocolate.

Just as I was starting the ole Woody, my cell phone rang. "Stone Detective here," I said, shivering. The voice on the other end was faint, as if they were talking from a distance. The gentleman started saying something about a tile job he did, and the tile wasn't bonding properly. Well, this is a common problem – I see it all the time. There are dozens of reasons why a tile can debond, so this was going to take some investigation.

I started asking him all the standard questions. What type of tile was it? What type of setting mortar? Etc. etc. I asked him over 100 questions and every answer was well within industry standards. I realized this was going to be another puzzling case. I told him I would have to come and inspect the job to see what was causing the debonding, and he agreed.

Well folks, if I thought I was cold now, sitting in my 60 degree car, this project was in Minnesota – and it was January. Talk about cold! It was time for this old man to break out his long johns, or maybe even wear the snow mobile suit I use for riding my Harley in Winter. Anyway, we made arrangements for me see the project the following week.

When I arrived at the Minneapolis airport, there was this white stuff on the ground. I felt cold just looking at it. I rented a car and headed to St. Cloud where the project was. On the radio, I heard it was even colder there. Why is it I always get these projects in the winter? If anyone has a project in Hawaii…let me know ASAP – LOL!

I got in my rental car, cranked up the heater, and headed down the frosty road for the inspection. Wouldn't you know – just as I was leaving the parking lot, it started to snow. I mean really snow. I have never seen snowflakes that big in my life! Luckily, I had rented a four-wheel drive SUV. It amazed me how people seemed to be zipping around, driving without a care in the world, in these conditions! They acted like nothing was on the road. I passed several semis that were stuck on the side of the road as I crawled my way down the highway at 30 MPH.

I eventually arrived at a large office building and managed to find a parking spot amidst the piles of snow. Just as I placed it in park, I noticed a large gentleman looming beside my car. He looked just like Burl Ives, and for a minute I thought he was going to break out into the Frosty the Snowman song. (I realize that some of you youngsters might not have a clue who Burl Ives is – so Google it, kids.)

I got out of the car and he greeted me with that well-known Minnesota accent. You know the one. If you've seen the movie Fargo, you know what I'm talking about.

"I assume you're the stone detective," he said. I extended my shaking hand out to him and said, " Yes, I am, and boy, I've never experienced this level of cold and snowy!" He mentioned something about a blizzard on Halloween in 1991. I assumed that's a Minnesota thing.

He led me into the office building, where they were still laying tile. He pointed to the area that had been completed, took a suction cup and pulled up a tile as if it was just laying there. I examined the back of the tile, looking for a fiberglass backing or something. I asked him for some water, so I could test the absorbency of the tile. He handed me a bottle out of a near-by cooler (I didn't ask why they needed a cooler in this weather), and I placed a drop of water on the tile. It absorbed it, lickity-split. So, my next guess was it was a setting mortar issue.

He showed me what they used, how they mixed it. "As a matter of fact," he said, "my guys are setting some now. Let's go take a look."

I watched his guys work for about a half an hour and did not see a thing they were doing wrong. Just as I was about to ask to have a sample of the mortar tested, one of the installers got up and went outside and brought in some more tile. BINGO – or should I say "Holy Frosty Buckets!" I knew right away what might be wrong. I looked around for Burl and found him outside smoking. I asked him to come inside and I would tell him what I found.

I walked over to the tile that the installer had just brought in and picked it up. I handed it to him and asked. "How does that feel?" He looked at me and said, "Like a tile." I chuckled and then asked him if it felt cold. He shook his head yes. I then told him the reason the tile was debonding was due to temperature difference between the tile and the setting material. The setting material was inside a warm building and the tile was out in the cold. The temperature difference was not allowing for proper bonding. He shook his head in agreement. I told him they should bring the tile inside and let it acclimate to the temperature inside, and it should then bond, with no problem. He agreed that would solve the issue, and sang, grinning, "*Baby, it's cold outside."* I almost told him he even sounded like Burl Ives - but I didn't want to offend him - LOL!

The Stone Detective is a fictional character created by Dr. Frederick M. Hueston, PhD, written to entertain and educate. Dr. Fred has written over 33 books on stone and tile installations, fabrication and restoration and also serves as an expert for many legal cases across the world. Send your email comments to him at fhueston@stoneforensics.com.

Ready or Not

Continued from page 1

A friend of mine rushed to the school to pick up his daughter. Guess what? The school was on lockdown. He couldn't get in and his daughter couldn't get out. My friend drove through a tornado infested area to accomplish nothing. The school knew what to do. He did not. He questioned the school at a later date and found that the school had sent home severe weather instructions at the beginning of the school year and the school severe weather policy was posted on their website as well.

What about disasters that aren't people or weather related? Look at the Woolsey and Camp fires in California late last year. Those are just 2. There is an average of 100,000 wildfires a year across the globe. Some are in remote areas and impact no one, but some reach into densely populated areas and force evacuations. What if the building you work in catches on fire? Do you know what to do or how to evacuate?

Then there's earthquakes. There are 12,000 to 14,000 worldwide every year. Granted, most are small but we have all seen news coverage of devastating earthquakes. Back in December Alaska had several over 3.0 and Tennessee had one over 4.0. I live in Virginia and several years ago we had one over 5.0 that did a lot of damage. I remember that day. After it was over, I was desperately trying to get in touch with a loved one much closer to the epicenter than I was. I tried and tried but the calls weren't going through and I was getting more and more upset. Later on I learned that texting is a much better way to communicate with loved ones in disasters. I didn't know that. (A lot of police 911 departments are adding text to their 911 services. My area has it. Check with your area and see if they do as well.)

The point here is that we don't always know what to do in case of emergency. Large institutions like schools and hospitals have very specific plans in place to deal with most disasters. Large corporations that employ hundreds or even thousands of people have plans in place as well. Where things fall short is in the smaller privately owned companies.

A recent survey noted that 68 percent of small businesses DO NOT have plans in place for natural disasters or man-made incidents and disasters. What? 68 percent? That is a huge number! When asked, a variety of answers were given:

Don't have time
Too overwhelming
Too complicated
Don't know where or how to start
Don't need one (!)

Whatever the reason why don't have one, there are two big reasons to do it: the safety of your employees, and your peace of mind.

Please turn to page 12

"Facebook was founded on February 4th, 2004, and around February 5th, we were feeling pretty confident it would be bigger. We would see Facebook on every single laptop in class. We knew there was a bigger story here."

— Dustin Moskovitz

On the Naughty List

School officials say a substitute teacher who told first-grade students in New Jersey that Santa Claus isn't real will not be returning to the school.

NJ.com reports Montville Schools Superintendent Rene Rovtar confirmed the teacher will no longer work in the district after the incident one Thursday at Cedar Hill School.

Rovtar declined further comment, saying the issue is a personnel matter.

Officials say the teacher debunked other holiday characters as nonsense, including the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy and Elf on a Shelf.

Rovtar previously said she was disheartened by the incident and that "childhood wonder associated with all holidays and traditions" is special to her.

The substitute teacher's identity has not been released. But Santa knows who she is.

IT wasn't the Grinch who stole Christmas. It was a man who screamed "there's no Santa Claus" over and over during a recent holiday festival in Florida.

Please turn to page 15

AKEMI®
Easy Joint Matching with AKEMI

PLATINUM 3.0

(Uncured Product Color Example)

COLOURBOND

*50+ COLORS AVAILABLE

- Low color, translucent adhesives
- Easily tintable to match nearly all white and light applications
- Ultra strong Epoxyacrylate formula
- Formula will not discolor or darken during hardening
- Cures in under 20 minutes

- EpoxyAcrylate color matching adhesives
- Match quartz and stones with 50+ colors available
- Non-drip formula for easy miters, seams, joints and repairs
- Color matching app available
- Cures in under 20 minutes

*Applications for Platinum 3.0 and Colourbond Include: Quartz, Stone, Glass, Porcelain and Ceramics
Great for indoor use. For outdoor applications, use Akemi Akepox 5010

DOWNLOAD AKEMI® COLOR MATCHING APP

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

Braxton-Bragg
Better Service - Better Value

Call 1-800-575-4401 or Order Online www.braxton-bragg.com

NSI Completes Eighteenth Home with Gary Sinise Foundation

The Natural Stone Institute has provided natural stone and fabrication services for its eighteenth home with the Gary Sinise Foundation's R.I.S.E. program (Restoring Independence Supporting Empowerment).

The R.I.S.E. program builds specially adapted smart homes for severely wounded veterans and first responders. Natural stone, fabrication, and installation for US Army SSG Bobby Dove in Florida were provided by Granite Group and Florida Bath & Surfaces.

Growing up in Gloucester, Virginia, Bobby Dove loved spending time with his grandfather, a Korean War veteran. In August 2008, Bobby joined the Army Special Forces and earned his Green Beret in August 2011 after three years of continuous training. On June 9, 2012, Bobby ran over an improvised explosive device (IED). After being stabilized by his teammates and MEDEVAC'd to Kandahar, Bobby arrived at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on June 15. There he underwent extensive surgeries, spending a week in the ICU and three months in inpatient care. Bobby lost his right hand and suffered amputation to his right leg above the knee. He endured many other severe injuries from the blast.

Laura Grandlienard (ROCKin'teriors), chair of the Natural Stone Institute R.I.S.E. committee said: "Being involved with the R.I.S.E. program enables our industry to take a leadership role in supporting these veterans and their families who have endured so much to protect our freedoms. We feel tremendous pride in sharing our talents for such an important cause. It's a beautiful feeling to say 'welcome home' to these heroes."

Forty-six Natural Stone Institute members have donated their time, products, and services to this cause since 2016. A list of all donors can be found at www.naturalstoneinstitute.org/RISE.

Stone companies interested in getting involved with future projects are encouraged to contact Pam Hammond at pam@naturalstoneinstitute.org.

Bobby Dove and family at their new R.I.S.E. program home in Florida.

Ready or Not

Continued from page 10

In the middle of any kind of incident, do you want to be running around like a chicken with your head cut off, looking for your employees because they are all scattered and don't know where to go?

There are no more excuses to not have emergency plans in place for disasters. There are many excellent on line resources available to help put plans in place. A great one is ready.gov. They have put together tips and plans for approximately 30 kinds of disasters. They tackle Active Shooter through Wildfires and everything in between including pandemics, chemical hazards and yes earthquakes. They even guide you through Cyber Attacks. All this information is free to whoever needs it.

There are also multiple sites that will help you with templates to make putting your plans together much easier. These are usually called Business Continuity Plans. You do have to be careful, some sites do charge for the templates. Make sure you pick ones that can be modified to suit your needs. And, be prepared to make more than one plan. Different situations call for different plans. A fire plan may call for you to go outside and meet somewhere while a tornado plan may advise you to shelter in place in an interior room or under a desk.

We are still in the beginning of 2019. Don't let this be the year you needed a plan and didn't have one.

Please send your thoughts on this article to Sharon Koehler at Sharon@asdrva.rocks.

© MARK ANDERSON. www.andertoons.com

SAVE 10%

January 23RD through April 19TH 2019

ON ALL GROVES PRODUCTS!

STORAGE

RACKS & STORAGE SYSTEMS

FABRICATION

TABLES & ACCESSORIES

TRANSPORTATION

A-FRAMES, CARTS & DOLLIES

ASK FOR THESE *NEW* PRODUCTS SHOWN AT TISE!

NEW **Stacking Box**
Designed for easy & safe access to vanity's, cutoffs, remnants or valuable stone that would normally be discarded.
Model **STKB**

NEW **Single Sided A-Frame**
Single sided storage for your materials for space savings.
Model **SSECOA**

Braxton-Bragg
www.braxton-bragg.com

GROVES INCORPORATED

*Exclusions may apply

800.991.2120 – Groves.com

Stone Restoration and Maintenance Corner

Restoring the Craiglen Home

Bob Murrell
M3 Technologies
Photos by Bob Murrell

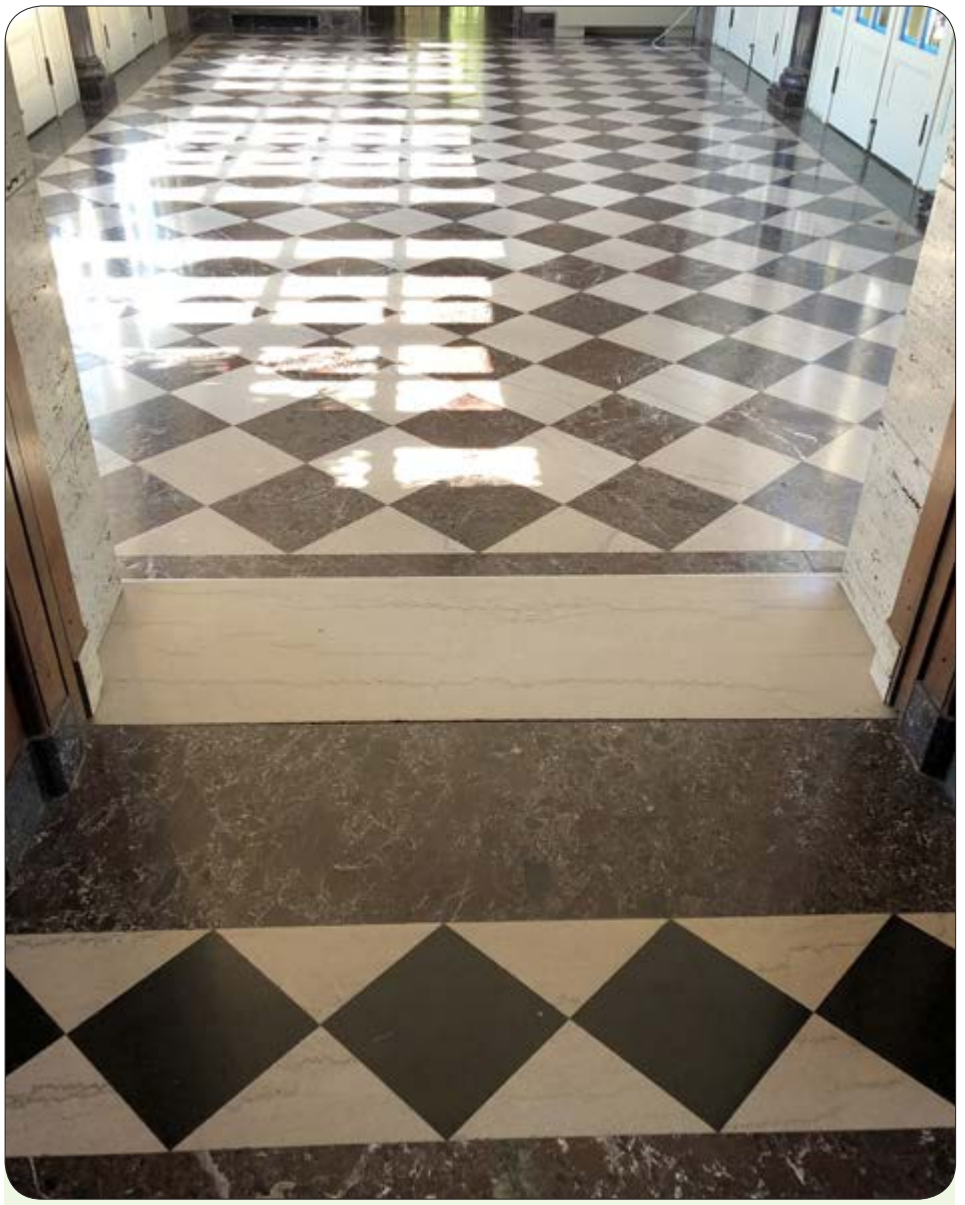
I recently had the pleasure of seeing one of our local gems restored, a beautiful blend of Italian and American architectural heritage. This is one of those extremely rare pieces of history that exhibits the enduring beauty and quality that solid marble projects.

In 1926, John Craig III built this historic house, just west of downtown Knoxville, Tennessee, as a showplace of his stature both in the local and marble communities. John was co-owner and operator of Craig quarries and Candoro Marble Company, which at the time was the third largest marble processing plant in the country (Vermont Marble was number one and Georgia Marble was number two).

The area around Knoxville and the Holston River was a marble mecca in the 19th through the mid-20th centuries. In the early 1800s, there were many marble quarries and a few mills that processed the stone. Some were capable of sawing (cutting into slabs) and rubbing (grinding and honing) while others had equipment for polishing, finishing, and carving marble to its final form for installation.

There were many varieties of marble being quarried (actually, the local marble is partially metamorphosed and re-crystallized limestone, which I will discuss in greater detail in a future article). In the late eighteenth century, the marbles of the region were typically referred to as Holston Marble.

These marble deposits were the result of the area being a shallow sea some 458 million years ago. There were many small sea creatures like coral and mollusks that grew in abundance. By the end of the Paleozoic era, continental drifts and the shifting and upheaval (think of our nearby Appalachian Mountains) of land masses resulted in great pressures and temperatures which caused the limestone (created by the accumulated dead sea creatures) to re-crystallize into the marbles of the region.



The formal loggia or entrance hall of Craiglen House features Tennessee Compania rose and Italian Rosa Antico marbles.

The Craiglen Home spiral staircase steps and risers are built from Wisconsin Kasoto limestone.

John J. Craig (the 1st) originally came to Knoxville in 1839. By 1878, he had formed the J.J. Craig Company (which later became the Tennessee Marble Producers' Company) which was both a quarrier and dealer in the local "Holston (or East TN) Marble." With the growing demand for marble both locally and around the country, John and his company became one of the largest suppliers of the East Tennessee Marble.

John J. Craig Jr. was born in Knox County in 1860. He was married to Lucy Craig and they had four children, including John J. Craig III. In 1896, John Jr. separated from the Tennessee Producers' Marble Company and re-incorporated as the John Craig Company, along with two partners.

John J. Craig III worked hard in the family business, eventually becoming president in 1911. He and his second wife Louise had two sons, John J. Craig IV and William Donaldson Craig. The John J. Craig Company prospered and expanded under his leadership and the company soon controlled many quarries in the surrounding areas.

Holston Marble, now called Tennessee Marble, was becoming very popular for government and other major public buildings across the country (mostly in the northeast and Midwest). There was a variety of colors and features from gray to an array of pinks and reds that were in great demand, at that time. Also, the stone was classified as an A marble. The classification of marbles were basically based on how well they shipped. Class A marbles were very sturdy with little to no faults and normally arrived unscathed. Class D marbles (typically ornate) were normally very fragile and broke easily, due to the many faults and fissures in the material.

With the growing demand for Tennessee Marble, John J. Craig III decided to expand into marble processing and finishing. In 1914 he incorporated the Candoro Marble Company. They acquired some land in south Knoxville and began production of a massive marble processing facility there.

They were next to a rail line which helped facilitate shipping, and a creek which supplied the water necessary to produce steam. Steam powered the huge polishing and cutting equipment until the 1940s, when TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) began to supply cheap electricity to the region, and made electrically-powered equipment use possible.

Craig wanted a facility large enough to process the marble blocks not only from his quarries, but surrounding county quarries as well. Eventually, Candoro Marble Company became the nation's largest producer of Tennessee pink marble and one of the largest importers of foreign marbles, as well.

I have presented all of this information to lay the foundation for the story of the Craiglen Home. I thought it important that you know a little (and I do mean a little, as there are books and books about this subject) of the history regarding Tennessee marble and how it became one of the most relied-upon domestic marbles in the country.

Please turn to page 18

"How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives."

— Annie Dillard

2019 Stone Industry Education Series

Continued from page 9

July 11:
Missouri Stone Summit: Stone Shop Management; Host: Universal Granite & Marble, St. Louis, Missouri

July 25:
Virginia Stone Summit: Knowing Your Business; Host: MSI, Virginia Beach, Virginia

September 19:
Michigan Stone Summit: Analyzing Shop Performance; Host: Universal Granite & Marble, Detroit, Michigan

October 10:
Florida Stone Summit: Stone Shop Management; Host: MSI, Tampa, Florida

November 7:
Washington Stone Summit: 12 Business Axioms;Host: Daltile, Seattle, Washington.

The Natural Stone Institute is a trade association representing every aspect of the natural stone industry. The current membership exceeds 2,000 members in over 50 nations. The association offers a wide array of technical and training resources, professional development opportunities, regulatory advocacy, and networking events. Learn more at www.naturalstoneinstitute.org.

"If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress."
– Barack Obama

VISIT the VIPER DEN

For all your fabrication accessories!

Side Protection Core Bits

Granite Wet Polishing Pads

Silicon Carbide Grinding Wheels

Non-Marring Masking Tape

Fiberglass Rodding

Stirring Sticks

Hearing Protection Ear Muffs

Countertop & Floor Protection Film

Epoxy Mixing Cups

Heavy-Duty Aprons

Chemical-Resistant Gloves

Steel Razor Blades

Over-the-Shoe Shop Boots

Braxton-Bragg
Better Service • Better Value

Call 1-800-575-4401 or Order Online www.braxton-bragg.com

On the Naughty List

Continued from page 11

A southwest Florida woman shared cellphone footage with Fort Myers television station NBC-2 of the man yelling during the Cape Coral Festival of Lights one Saturday night.

Cape Coral police told the station that officers were at the event but couldn't do anything because the man was "exercising his freedom of speech." They added they could have intervened had he used a voice enhancer such as a megaphone, or started a riot.

Cindy Menkes of Cape Coral says it's about decency and said she's sad that "the magic of this time of year" was taken away from some children. Yes, Mrs. Menkes, there oughta be a law.

———

Utah parents Lisa and John Henderson simply canceled Christmas for their three sons, who they felt have been acting overly entitled. In a blog post, Lisa writes:

"Our kids have been acting so ungrateful lately. They expect so much even when their behavior is extremely disrespectful. We gave them good warning, either it was time for their behavior to change or there would be consequences. We patiently worked with them for several months and guess what, very little changed. One day after a particularly bad display of entitlement, John said, 'We should just cancel Christmas.' And, so that's what we did."

The Hendersons will still decorate, go to church, and partake in other family traditions. They just won't have presents or Santa. Instead of getting, they'll give: they're using the money they would have spent on gifts for service projects, and adopting grandparents — older widows and couples with no family for the holiday — for Christmas dinner.

Seamless Seams

NEW PRODUCT!

Braxton-Bragg is expanding the Stone Shield adhesive line with the addition of a high-quality Vinyl Ester adhesive.

With the current kitchen trend of using light-colored stone, this translucent vinyl ester adhesive provides superior color matching, and is designed for a stronger bond.

Call one of our knowledgeable sales staff to learn more about the Braxton-Bragg advantage!

BEST Brands!
BEST Guarantee!

Braxton-Bragg
Better Service • Better Value

BEST Service!
BEST Rates!

www.braxton-bragg.com 800-575-4401

Adopting Lean Culture

Codiak San Herrell
Solid Surface Designs

In any industry, a company's main goal is working toward success. A dozen elements come to mind as to what a company should be practicing to ride that gravy train. Off the top of my head, a primary focus should be putting out quality products by meeting customer's expectations, and worker productivity.

These two elements to success are closely tied. If productivity is too slow, deadlines may not get met, and your product can lose demand. But if your production is too fast, errors can get made, and double-checking might not happen… unless an established and maintained lean program is set in place.

At Solid Surface Designs, we have adopted the lean culture mentality: holding lean meetings on a weekly basis; taking a step back, evaluating every department; looking for unnecessary movements; and emphasizing necessary movement. We are quite serious about following the concept of "two second lean."

One of the first areas we checked was our production floor, where the workers were often waiting on a forklift. So we decided putting in crane systems above fabrication tables, CNCs, waterjet, Jaguar and Fastback was a high priority. And in turn, this eliminated our fabricator waiting time, allowing them to move tops independently.

Another interesting point we noticed was that workers were walking across the shop to use the bathroom, only to find the door locked and occupied. So we placed a bright red light over our bathroom doors, wired to the light switch in the restroom, so when that restroom is occupied, the red light shines visibly across the shop, saving unnecessary waiting and movement away from the job at hand. We also rediscovered that caster wheels were invented for a good reason, and attached them to our fabricator's individual supply carts, fans, and trashcans, to assist in easy and effortless access to these resources. When the supply carts and supply closets are organized, maintained and even compartmentalized, workers save a creditable amount of time accessing tools and supplies, and assigning workers their own tool belt is similar train of thought.

Our warehouse created a sample board to inform and cater to customers, looking for an actual color sample of their chosen countertop. This eliminated an average of a 15-minute trip to the scrap mountain by customer service, every time a customer wanted a sample to see or take away. The sample board is faced, and each colors spot is labeled for quick location.

Emphasizing necessary steps is also working lean; if a procedure is overlooked, or double checking habits are not maintained, you may look at a possible remake, or for the office, a supply reorder – which is wasteful, and the opposite of lean culture. "Did you?" signs were laminated and hung in various prominent places around our facility, as a constant reminded for specific tasks. "Did you?" check sheets were placed in job folders, demanding to be checked and initialed by whomever responsible for overseeing that task.

When your supply carts and supply closets are organized, maintained and compartmentalized, workers save a creditable amount of time accessing tools and supplies.

Lean culture, to a high-volume, deadline ridden company, includes such details as making sure your forklift has good tires to help it ride smoother and more efficiently. The key to lean culture is to train your team to think lean, and adapt to the organization and culture, and then stay consistent with this progressive way of thinking. A rapid way to fail a policy or procedure is to neglect the importance of one vital step.

Codiak San Herrell is a native of Aurora, Missouri. He is Warehouse Supervisor with Solid Surface Designs, where he serves on their safety and LEAN committee. Codiak is CPR / AED certified and currently working on other certifications.

Now, Where Did I Hide It?

Sam Venable
Department of Irony

IT would be a lot easier to give a gift to my wife on Valentine's Day—any other holiday, for that matter—if I didn't:

1. Acquire these things in advance.

2. Have so many convenient hidey-holes around the house.

Concerning Number One: I don't shop like normal people, meaning at the appropriate time of year. I just buy stuff on impulse, whenever I happen to see it, regardless of season.

If I'm in a store on, say, August 5 and spot something I think Mary Ann would like for her birthday the following July 4, I get it right then. And hide it.

Which leads us to Number Two: Where the %$#! did I stick the %$#! thing?!

Consider a series of events from last Christmas. Throughout the spring, summer and fall, I made book-signing rounds at a variety of retail venues. At several of these places, I acquired trinkets for Mary Ann. Each went into the witness protection program until Christmas Eve.

"No problem," I remember smugly thinking as we drove home from midnight Mass. "I'll send her to bed, and then Santa Sam will get to work."

Ha. I nearly tore the house apart. For naught.

Seriously. After an hour of furious hunting, I had (a) found nothing and (b) lost every smidgen of Christmas spirit imparted at church.

The worst part about a situation like this is you can't vent audibly for fear of waking Mrs. Claus. Ask any Type-A. There's nothing more frustrating than having to squeak out a 10,000-megawatt tirade under your breath.

Spent and defeated, I quit. I started upstairs, wondering how I was going to explain this nuttiness in the morning—when it abruptly dawned on me that I'd removed everything from one favorite hidey-hole to another a few days earlier!

Yep, there they were. I wrapped, taped and deposited them, with a thud, under the tree.

Which brings me to my, uh, "present present" crisis. Somewhere, I have a Valentine's Day gift for my beloved. I know this for a fact. I know exactly what it is. I can tell you the day and place I bought it. There are witnesses.

I just can't remember—gad-nabber-whip-snit-chap-ahooey!—where I hid the pea-picking thing!

Oh, well; at least time is on my side. There are still a couple of favorite hidey-holes to check.

But if—worst case scenario—you encounter some idiot in the wee hours of Valentine's Day, cursing quietly to himself and pawing through mounds of leftover gift junk at an all-night store, don't say a word. Just keep walking.

Cupid Venable won't be in the mood for small talk.

Sam Venable is an author, entertainer, and columnist for the *Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel*. He may be reached at sam.venable@outlook.com.

"There is no person so narrow-minded as the person who is sure that he is broad-minded; indeed, being quite sure that one is broad is itself a form of narrowness."
G.K. Chesterton

Stop in the Name of the Chip

The California Highway Patrol says it *may have* used the Autopilot system of a Tesla to stop the car after its driver fell asleep.

The CHP says officers attempted to stop the Tesla Model S, which was doing about 70 mph (113 kph) on a highway early one Friday in the San Francisco suburb of Redwood City. After the driver didn't respond to lights or sirens, the officers say they pulled alongside and realized he was asleep or unconscious at the wheel.

They pulled in front and began slowing to a stop, hoping the Tesla's driver-assist program was on and would do the same. Authorities say the tactic worked.

Alexander Samek of Los Altos was awakened and arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence. It's unclear whether he has a lawyer.

Tesla hasn't confirmed whether the car was using the Autopilot feature.

FillaChip
Chip Repair Kits and Refills

SEE THE VIDEO WWW.BRAXTON-BRAGG.COM

Master Kit Includes:
- 1 Plastic Carrying Case
- 2 Glue Syringes
- 4 Polish Syringe
- 1 Large Flashlight
- 1 Small Flashlight
- 2 Large Release Sheets
- 30 Small Release Sheets
- 1 Dremel Bit
- 30 Tips In Plastic Case
- 1 Plastic Case (To contain razors or whatever the customer chooses.)
- 19 Color Syringes (Blue, Red, Ivory Gold, Yellow, Dark Creme, Translucent Creme, Dark Brown, Translucent Brown, Medium Brown, Grey Vein, Light Gray, Maroon, Translucent White, Brilliant White, Translucent Black, Brilliant Black, Off White, Uba Tuba, Concrete Grey)
- Instructions

FillaChip

See www.braxton-bragg.com for basic instructions, color syringes, and other replacement items.

MADE IN THE USA

Item #11535

Starter Kit Includes:
- 1 Plastic Carrying Case
- 4 Glue Syringes
- 1 Polish Syringe
- 2 Small Flashlights
- 8 Release Sheets
- 10 Tips
- Instructions

Item #11533

Refill Kit Includes:
- 4 Glue Syringes
- 1 Polish Syringe
- 8 Release Sheets
- 10 Tips
- Instructions

Amazing Results! Super Fast!

Everything you need to fix nicks, chips and gouges are in the FillaChip Master Kit.

FillaChip is a UV curable adhesive. A great feature is that the adhesive cures into a solid — so there is no dipping in the repair from evaporation, and it's super fast. FillaChip cures in about 30 seconds.

Item #	Description	Price
11533	FillaChip Chip Repair Refill Kit	$49.50
11534	FillaChip Chip Repair Starter Kit	$99.50
11535	FillaChip Chip Repair Master Kit	$550.00

BB Better Service ◆ Better Value

Call 1-800-575-4401 or Order Online
www.braxton-bragg.com

Restoring the Craiglen Home

Continued from page 14

In 1921, John J. Craig III engaged Charles Barber, a contemporary architect who had studied in Italy, to design an office and showroom for Candoro Marble Company. He later employed Barber (in 1926) to renovate an earlier Craig summer home, called Glen Craig, that was built in 1886.

Later in 1926, Barber was employed yet again to build Craiglen Home for John J. Craig III and his family. As stated before, Craiglen Home was a showcase for the marble from the Craig quarries and the marble imported from around the world by the Candoro Marble Company.

Craiglen Home was designed in 15th century Florentine style, and looks like it came right out of the Tuscan hills. There were plenty of Tennessee pink marbles used throughout the home, Verona marble of mottled orange and tan, Kasota stone from Minnesota, Marmor Pink, Roman travertines, Italian Rosso Antico, Tinos Green from Greece, Alabama White, Belgian Black, Italian Dolchetta Perlato, and Portoro (black & gold) were some of the many marbles used throughout the home. All of these were of course dimensional stone (meaning 3cm – 6cm material). 12 x 12-3/8 inch marble tiles are not available anywhere.

The master bath has marble walls, a solid marble dressing table, and a hand-carved vanity and counter of French Grand Antique, which is an extremely ornate marble. The floors were an inlay of Belgian Black and Lamarr Gray.

J.C. Kimball was hired to carry out the decoration of the home. She spent several months in New York purchasing furniture, fabric, light fixtures, and arranging for the manufacture of custom furniture. The house was completed in 1928 at an approximate total cost of about $130,000 (based on materials cost at the time).

In November of 2018, Knoxville Marble Polish was employed to help with renovation after the home was sold to its newest owner. The new owners wanted to keep the stone looking aged (with the acquired patina) and did not want the more modern glassy-polished look on any of the marble in the home.

Only deep scratches and bad etches were repaired. Majestic 5X Gold was used to clean and refresh the stones. It worked perfectly and gave the stone a refreshed look but did not change the almost leathered look from 90 years of wear. Majestic Stone Soap will be used as the regular maintenance product for cleaning and conditioning the stone. This will help keep the colors bright while helping to resist soiling and staining.

The Craiglen Home master bath includes a hand-carved French Grand Antique marble vanity and counter. The dimensional stone sink alone is a masterpiece of the stoneworker's art.

Restoration in progress in Craiglen Home living room using Majestic 5x Marble Polishing Powder. Compare the completed section at top, with the scratched, dingy unrestored state, mid-photo to bottom.

I was very fortunate to be involved with this project as it actually has meaning to me and one of my long-time friends, Jeff L. Craig (btw, his brother is John J. Craig VI). John J. Craig III was Jeff's grandfather. Jeff worked at the Candoro Marble Company for many years, as did my Grandpa (see *SRG Archives* Sept. 2016).

Please turn to page 20

"A man is not only happy but wise also, if he is trying, during his lifetime, to be the sort of man he wants to be found at his death."

— Thomas à Kempis

Owen Sound Ledgerock

Continued from page 7

"These dealers simply call us and say, we want this, this and this, and we'll ship it to them using a number of carriers that we know. The other direction our sales go is for our architectural materials, through various architects or brokers. Sometimes they function like a dealer would, but their orders are not standard products. We don't have any architects on staff, but we do have drafts people who are involved with these projects. They will go onsite to discuss any issues that come up. We also use our own project managers for the larger projects."

Notable larger jobs include supplying the exterior stone for every Kentucky Fried Chicken location built in Canada during the 1970s and 80s. They've also supplied stone for homes for a many well-known people including Alan Jackson, Derek Jeter, Mel Gibson and David Cone.

CNC Carvings are also a specialty at Ledgerock, and are almost exclusively done by machine with final finishing by hand. There is, however, a small amount of hand carving done on very detailed pieces, said Stobbe, because CNCs struggle with very small details. For the most part, though, the company doesn't do as much hand carving as was needed for architectural elements, in the last decades of the Twentieth Century.

As for employees, business volume fluctuates in size between summer and winter said Stobbe. During the summer they employ between 130 to 150 people, and in winter, around 70 people. This includes their office, quarry and shop.

A Future Carved in Limestone

"We are one of the largest limestone producers in Canada," continued Stobbe. "There are a lot of granite quarries that are quite a bit bigger, but as far as limestone goes, we are one of the largest. Our American dealers tend to be in the upper Midwest and New England area, and sell in those areas, but outside of those regions we really don't have any representation. So if companies out of these areas want our materials, they can probably buy directly from us. We are also cognizant of the fact that we don't have an infinite amount of stone, and need to insure that we have other ways of doing business, as well. That scenario is quite a ways down the road. However, we are looking into landscaping and construction products as well as other markets to stay ahead of the curve. Opening other quarries has also been a topic of conversation, because we need to have the resources to keep working. As for the size of Ledgerock, we are very happy with its current production capacity, and any future expansion would be minimal."

For more info and many more notable jobs, please visit Ledgerock's website at www.ledgerock.com.

Above: Split Face Algonquin on a Hope Bay residence. Split face stone is very popular and comprises a large segment of Ledgerock's market.

Below: The Richard Ivey School of Business in uses several different varieties of limestone from Ledgerock: Honed Algonquin panels on the higher levels/floors; Splitface Wiarton Grey Ledgerock (4-inch bed width); and Algonquin Crust Face panels can be seen under the right side of the copper entrance overhang.

Bottom: the Toronto Opera House showcases polished Algonquin fleuri cut large format tiles.

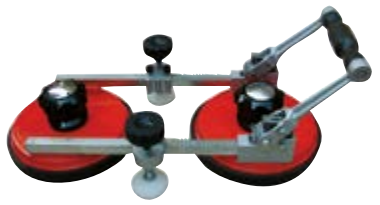
© MARK ANDERSON. www.andertoons.com

"Archery Department, please."

INTRODUCING A NEW LINE OF PRODUCTS

Slab racks

HERCULES
Material Handling



Seam Setter

A-Frames

Telescoping
Forklift Boom

Clamping Dolly

Carry Clamps

Fabrication
Stand

Fabrication Table

Better Service ♦ Better Value

Call 1-800-575-4401 or Order Online
www.braxton-bragg.com

Restoring the Craiglen Home

Exterior of the Craiglen Home, built as a showcase for marbles from Tennessee and around the world.

Continued from page 18

I was able to invite Jeff and his son Zach over to the place during the renovation. He told me that he had ridden a teddy bear with cast iron wheels across the Cedar Pink floors in the living room (he probably contributed to some of the patina and scratches). He told me stories of how they played there when he was a kid.

This business has its ups and downs. We, as restoration professionals, get to see a world that many have no idea exists. This project was definitely one of those ups–a very special project indeed.

As always, I recommend submitting a test area to confirm both the results and the procedure prior to starting a stone or hard surface restoration or maintenance project. Also the best way to help ensure success is by partnering with a good distributor that knows the business. They can help with technical support, product purchase decisions, logistics, and other pertinent project information.

Bob Murrell has worked in the natural stone industry for over 40 years and is well known for his expertise in natural stone, tile and decorative concrete restoration and maintenance. He helped develop some of the main products and processes which revolutionized the industry, and is currently the Director of Operations for M3 Technologies.

A Snowball's Chance in Severance, Colorado

A nine-year-old boy has convinced the leaders of a small northern Colorado town to overturn a nearly century-old ban on snowball fights, and he already knows who his first target will be — his little brother.

Dane Best, who lives in the often snow-swept town of Severance, presented his arguments at a town board meeting one Monday night, and members voted unanimously to lift the ban.

"I think it's an outdated law," Dane said in the lead-up to the meeting. "I want to be able to throw a snowball without getting in trouble."

Dane's mother, Brooke Best, told *The Greeley Tribune* her son had been talking about snowballs since he found out about a month and a half ago that it was illegal to throw them within town limits. The last time it snowed, Dane said he and his friends looked around for police and joked about breaking the law.

Kyle Rietkerk, assistant to the Severance town administrator, said the rule was part of a larger ordinance that made it illegal to throw or shoot stones or missiles at people, animals, buildings, trees, any other public or private property or vehicles. Snowballs fell under the town's definition of "missiles."

"All of the kids always get blown away that it's illegal to have snowball fights in Severance," Rietkerk said before the meeting. "So, what ends up happening is (town leaders) always encourage the kids with, 'You have the power, you can change the law.' No one has."

Then Dane took up the cause, writing letters with his classmates in support of overturning the ban.

And after that Monday night's success, his 4-year-old brother Dax had better watch out. When board members asked Dane during a meeting in November who he wants to hit, he pointed at his little brother.

Dane and his family have researched other Severance ordinances, including one that defines pets only as cats and dogs.

Dane has a guinea pig, which, as it turns out, is illegal in Severance, too.

Why did the NO LIFT Install System™ WIN New Product of the Year in 2018?

ISFA Best New Product, 2018 (ISFA = International Surface Fabricators Association)

Because the NO LIFT Install System™...

- REDUCES LABOR
- INCREASES PRODUCTIVITY
- HELPS ELIMINATE INJURIES

NO LIFT INSTALL SYSTEM™

The Third Man
for the Professional Install Crew

1. ROLL easily

2. ROTATE safely

3. RAISE mechanically

WATCH VIDEOS ONLINE AND GET STARTED WITH NO LIFT TODAY!

Going to TISE in Vegas?
Check out our demo at the SFA CAGE on Wednesday January 23 at 1pm!

THE INTERNATIONAL SURFACE EVENT

Visit our website for pricing and more information.

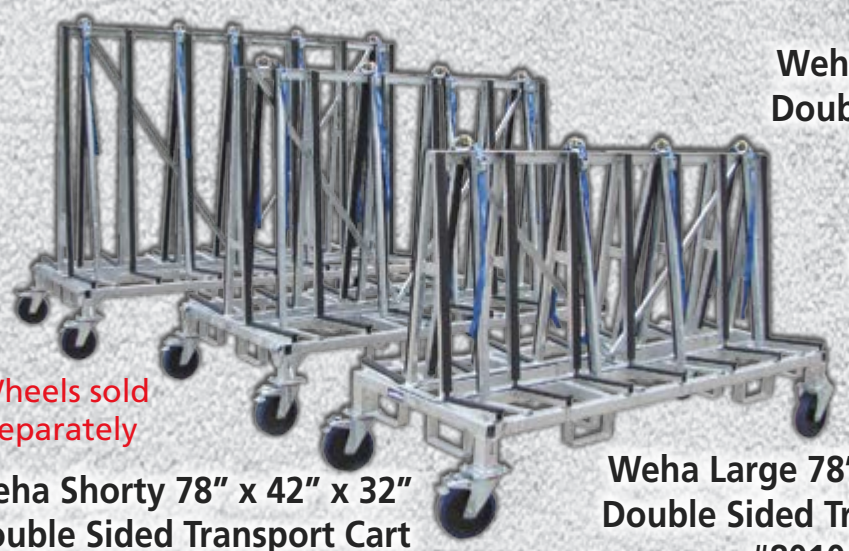
MADE IN USA

www.NoLiftSystem.com ▪ 503.406.3243 ▪ Sales@NoLiftSystem.com

weha

Everything for the Stone Industry

10% OFF MSRP



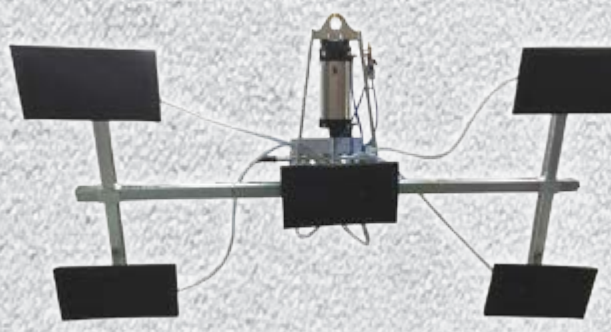
Wheels sold separately

Weha Shorty 78" x 42" x 32"
Double Sided Transport Cart
#8010487
~~Reg. $1030~~
NOW $927

Weha Large 96" x 43" x 68"
Double Sided Transport Cart
#8010484
~~Reg. $1734~~
NOW $1557

Weha 78" x 56"
Single Sided Transport Cart
#8010483
~~Reg. $1051~~
NOW $946

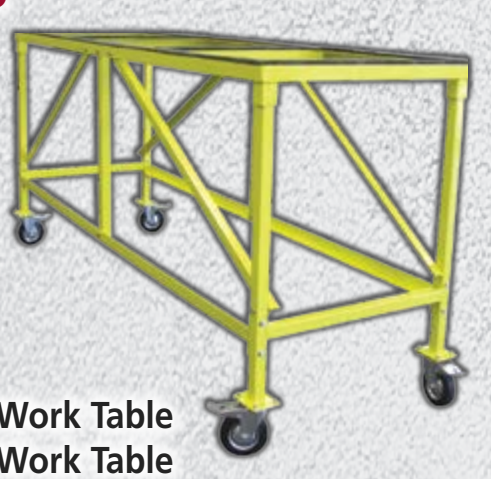
Weha Large 78" x 43" x 68"
Double Sided Transport Cart
#8010480
~~Reg. $1377~~
NOW $1239



Weha A1500 5 Pad Vacuum Lifter
1500 lb Capacity
#138514
~~Reg. $6406~~
NOW $5765

Weha 94" x 81"
Single Sided Transport Cart
#800002
~~Reg. $1433~~
NOW $1290

Weha Large 94" x 71"
Single Sided Transport Cart
#133321
~~Reg. $1395~~
NOW $1256



Weha 84" x 27" x 40"
Yellow Granite Work Table
#140465
~~Reg. $499~~
NOW $449

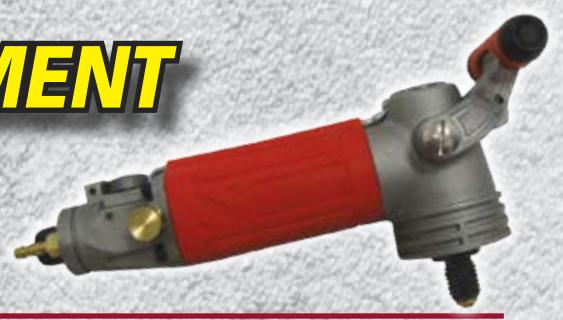
Weha 84" x 28" x 40"
Granite Work Table with Locking Posts
#140470
~~Reg. $799~~
NOW $719

Also Included:
143370 Weha 27" Wood Top Insert Work Table
143371 Weha 28" Wood Top Insert Work Table

Visit www.wehausa.com to see our complete line of Material Handling Equipment.
Please visit your preferred Weha distributor to purchase.

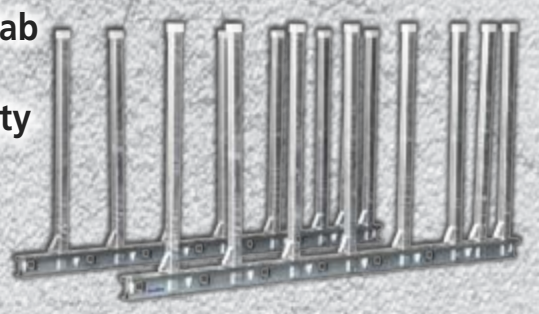
ALL MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT

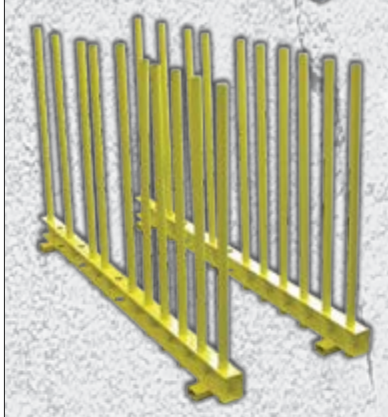
Spend $2000 or more and receive a FREE Weha Blizzard Air Polisher*



Weha Hippo HD Bundle Rack
190,080 lb Weigh Capacity
#137605
~~Reg. $2346~~
NOW $2111

Weha Buffalo Bundle Slab Storage Rack
92,000 lb Weigh Capacity
#137328
~~Reg. $1479~~
NOW $1331





Weha Heavy Duty Remnant Rack
#134947
~~Reg. $378~~
NOW $340

Weha Bison 5 Ft. Interlocking Slab Storage Rack Set
#127435
~~Reg. $740~~
NOW $665

Weha Yellow Granite and Stone A Frame Storage Rack Set with Crossbar
#137635
~~Reg. $265~~
NOW $238

Weha Yellow Single Sided A Frame Storage Rack with Crossbar
#139453
~~Reg. $236~~
NOW $212

Weha Granite Shop Cart
4 Swivel Wheels
#139451
~~Reg. $212.50~~
NOW $191

Weha Granite Shop Cart
2 Swivel Wheels/ 2 Fixed Wheels
#139452
~~Reg. $198~~
NOW $178

Weha V Cart Flip Cart
2000 Lb Capacity
#137206
~~Reg. $475~~
NOW $427

*Offer good January 1, 2019 thru February 28, 2019. Free products while supplies last. Achilli products excluded from sale. Replacement parts and accessories also excluded from sale. You must spend at least $2000 (not including taxes or shipping) to qualify for free items.

Designing Kitchens with Personalities: What's Popular Right Now

Megy Karydes
Usenaturalstone.com

Kitchens are often called the hub of the home, where everyone gathers to eat and drink, start their days, or end their evenings. Kitchens are also one of the most popular rooms of the home to renovate and an opportunity to really let a family's personality shine through their choices of cabinetry, floors, and paint, among other things. While natural stone has often been used throughout the kitchen space, experts agree that homeowners today are more mindful of how they use the material and are showing off its true beauty.

Trends in Kitchens

When it comes to kitchen trends, Suzanne Shumaker, principal of Shumaker Design + Build Associates, LLC, is noticing the mixing of materials, including natural stones: two different types of stone for countertops, or a kitchen island that is different from the perimeter countertops. Homeowners are choosing stainless steel appliances with brass hardware and light fixtures. She's seeing it in the use of cabinetry, too—for example, pairing white upper cabinets with a fun contrasting color on the base.

Custom Valencia Waterjet in Calacatta Gold with Purple Glass.
Photo courtesy Artistic Tile.

Nancy Epstein, founder & CEO of Artistic Tile, is definitely seeing more color in kitchens designed today. Where kitchens have been dominated by white over the past several years, Epstein is delighted to see color finally making a comeback. "We're seeing more ornate and colorful backsplashes, and in a continuing trend, those backsplashes are now going up the entire wall behind stoves and above countertops," she says. "Where designers once created smaller decorative panels, now they're using more decorative elements on the entire backsplash, and turning backsplashes into feature walls that envelop hoods, surround cabinets, and reach up to the ceiling."

Natural Quartzite, Misto, 3cm polished from Terrazo and Marble Supply
Photo Credit: Suzanne Shumaker for Shumaker Design+Build Associates

Epstein is also seeing use of waterfalled slabs for countertops and islands, and a move toward the modern minimal look of slabs flowing from countertops up onto backsplashes, and waterfalled at the countertop edges so they run from ceiling to floor, with vein-matching or book-matching across each component.

Natural stone's millennia-long popularity in kitchens has not flagged one bit, and Epstein and her team are seeing movement towards more highly veined materials and back towards more colorful natural stone. That's not to say it's all about color all the time. "White and grey will likely remain popular for several more years, but more adventurous designers and homeowners are beginning to embrace striking stone like Invisible Grey, Botanic Green, and Fusion Wow, whose intense movement and dramatic colors make a statement out of a surface," explains Epstein.

"For kitchens, many homeowners are attracted to natural quartzite, which has less acid sensitivity than marble," adds Epstein. "Azul Bochira is a great example of a beautiful, colorful natural quartzite, with sea blue tones and wispy clouds – it's really quite beautiful, but I'm biased towards blue. Honed surfaces are the most popular for kitchens, as they minimize the appearance of etching on natural stone."

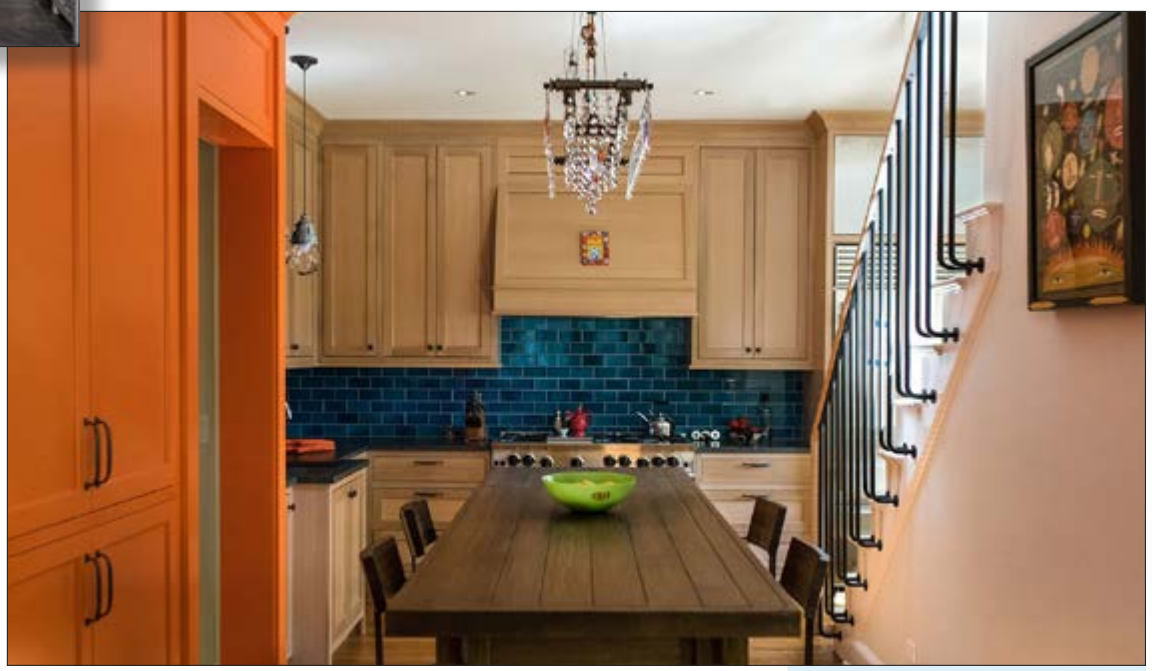
Shumaker is noticing homeowners choosing different kinds of textures to add interest in their kitchens. She's also noticing they're choosing less of the high-polished materials and turning to more leathered and suede finishes, which she calls a casual sophisticated finish which even disguises fingerprints and watermarks.

"One of my favorites is a black granite with light grey veining in a leathered finish," Shumaker says. "It has the look of soapstone, but is more durable with less maintenance."

She's also seeing natural stone being used in unique ways that take advantage of its hardiness as a material. Shumaker's clients love the natural quartzites that have elegant veining like marble. "The natural quartzites are harder than marbles, more stain resistant with less chance of chipping," she says.

Make a Statement in the Kitchen Using Natural Stone

For those who really want to make their kitchen stand out, natural stone is a great way to create a statement piece.



Virginia Mist Granite, 3cm leathered tops from MGSI
Photo Credit: Suzanne Shumaker for Shumaker Design+Build Associates

"Choose a colorful slab as the centerpiece and decorate around it," recommends Epstein. "Go for monotone, or high contrast themes. Other options including adding light under your cabinets to highlight your backsplash, and book-match, or vein-match whenever you can. "Definitely push your backsplash as high up as you can, tile your floor, and waterfall your countertops," she adds.

A kitchen needs a design element that creates a focal point, according to Shumaker. She and her team then carefully pair that focal point with other materials that won't compete with the core piece. Neutralizing some elements, so there are layers of interests, is the key. "It could be a highly-saturated orange cabinet wall, then pairing it with natural wood cabinetry (the neutral), with one more color like a deep turquoise blue backsplash," she adds.

Please turn to page 25

Designing Kitchens with Personalities

Continued from page 24

What to Consider if Planning a Kitchen Update or Remodel in 2019

Not everyone needs to completely overhaul their kitchen to update it. Changing out small details with thoughtful materials can update a kitchen without needing a remodel.

"Updating your backsplash or countertop will make a huge difference in your kitchen's aesthetic," says Epstein, who updates her own backsplash once every 15-20 years. "If you choose timeless materials, you shouldn't need to update it any more frequently than that. If you need a complete overhaul, dig in, and do it!"

Shumaker recommends replacing countertops with natural stone, painting existing cabinetry, and adding new cabinet pulls. Even a few new light fixtures can go a long way, she adds.

She also recommends hiring a professional to help, even for smaller projects. "They can look at the larger picture and plan a more cohesive design," says Shumaker.

Calacatta gold kitchen with a pizza oven
Photo courtesy of Artistic Tile.

"Petulant obstinance is no substitute for visionary virtue in the leaders of men and nations."
—Thomas Chalmers

Seek and Ye Shall (Eventually) Find

A Pennsylvania man has his wallet back nearly four years after it apparently fell out of his pocket while riding a roller coaster.

It became a running family joke to tell the kids to look for dad's wallet every time they visited Hersheypark, in Hershey, PA.

Then one day, Jon Anson tells WHTM-TV, he got a call from the park that maintenance crews had found his wallet.

Inside were his Hersheypark passes, a $25 gift card to a book store, a gift card to a golf center and a Starbucks card with a balance of 87 cents.

Shaun Cooney of Hersheypark says his team tries its best to reunite lost items with their owners… even if it takes four years.

And FYI– Anson was able to use the remaining 87 cents on his Starbucks card.

Bookmatching

Geology Meets Geometry

Karin Kirk
usenaturalstone.com
Photos and Charts by Karin Kirk, Natural Stone Institute

You saw the title of this article and are probably expecting to read about marble, but for now, let's talk about marble rye bread, the perfect medium for a salami, Swiss, and arugula sandwich. When it's time to make a sandwich, I reach in the bag, grab two neighboring slices of bread, put them on a plate, and then flop them open like I'm opening a book. (A book about sandwiches, no doubt.)

The same idea – minus the salami – applies to marble stone slabs, as well. When two neighboring slabs are 'opened up' and polished on the surfaces that were facing each other, the pattern on each stone will be virtually identical, except they will be mirror images of each other. These twin slabs can then be arranged along a common edge to produce a stunning, kaleidoscopic pattern. Bookmatched slabs sometimes look like butterflies, or Rorschach (inkblot) tests, or many other fanciful shapes. Bar none, bookmatched slabs are one of the most dramatic and impressive ways to use natural stone.

Best Places for Bookmatching

A pair of bookmatched slabs commands a lot of attention. For maximum effect, these statement pieces should be used where there's ample room to accommodate a large expanse of stone, like a big kitchen island, a conference room table, a wall, or an oversized shower. If you have a large area to cover, bookmatching is a handy way to ensure that the pattern runs fluidly from one piece to the next.

It's not a great idea to cram a bookmatched pattern into a surface that's interrupted by corners, cutouts, and appliances. The bigger the expanse, the greater the impact. That said, a bookmatched pattern need not be limited to full slabs. Smaller pieces of bookmatched stone are often used in flooring tile or backsplashes.

Variations on the Bookmatch

If the standard two-slab bookmatch is somehow insufficient to satisfy your design tastes, you can take it up a notch with diamond-matching (also called quad-matching). This arrangement uses four pieces of stone, and is so named because it commonly produces a diamond-shaped pattern.

Bookmatched pieces needn't be all on the same plane, either. A vertical slab on a wall can be mated to its twin on a horizontal countertop or bathtub surround, for example. This gives an immersive effect, as if you are sitting inside of a vast block of stone.

Another variation on the theme is called vein-matching (or slip-matching), where the key visual elements of the slabs are matched to flow across seams and produce a continuous pattern. Vein-matching is commonly seen on 'waterfall' arrangements, where a horizontal countertop joins a vertical panel of stone that runs from the countertop down to the floor, or from the countertop up to the backsplash. Vein match in these instances is typically preferred over bookmatch.

Considerations When Hunting for Slabs

At the quarry, large blocks of stone are removed from the ground, then shipped to a facility for processing. Here, the big blocks are sliced into slabs. When the slabs are all polished on the same side, it's called 'consecutive' polishing (also called 'sequential' polishing). These slabs are usually numbered so you can purchase neighboring slabs if needed.

To create a near-perfectly matched pattern, the surfaces of two neighboring slabs have to be processed so the surfaces that were facing each other are both polished. This operation is usually done when the slabs are cut from the block, and is not commonly done at a fabricator's shop.

Please turn to page 27

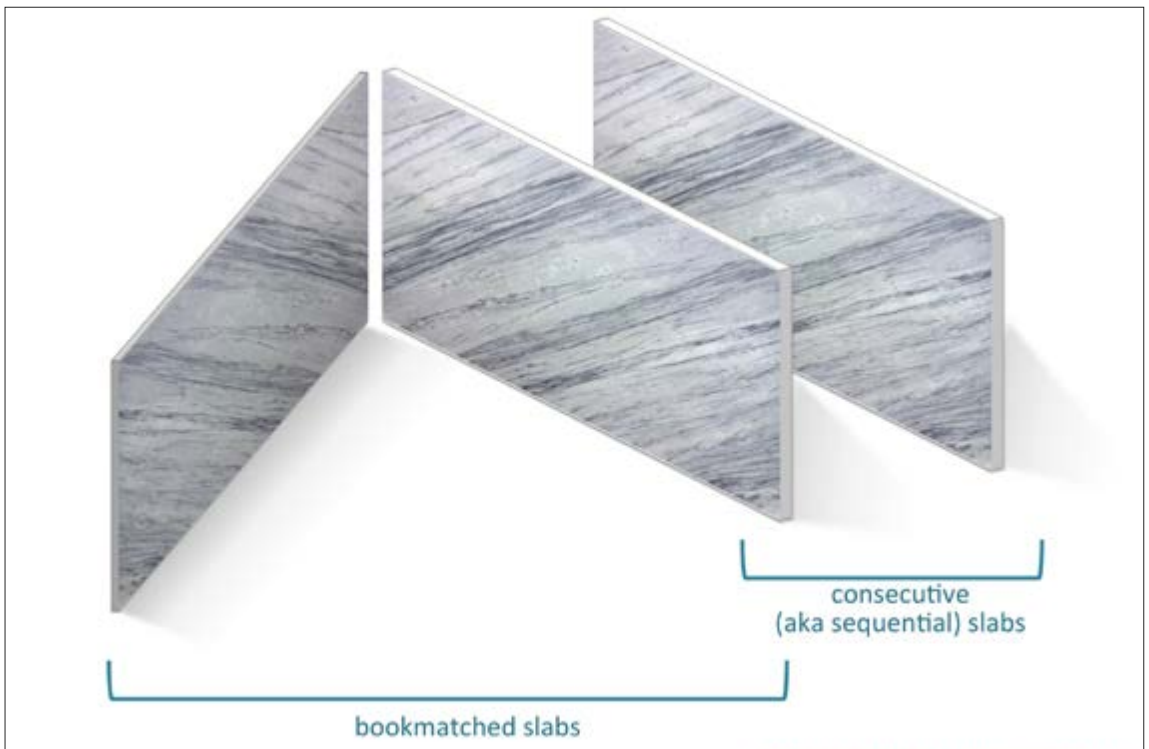


Image by Karin Kirk for the Natural Stone Institute

Bookmatched slabs are made by polishing two consecutive slabs cut from the same block on their adjacent sides.

Featured stone in these 2 seam renderings is Agatha Black, by MSI. Image by Karin Kirk for the Natural Stone Institute.

Bookmatching

Continued from page 26

In some cases it's possible to convert sequential slabs to bookmatched slabs by polishing the back side of one of the slabs. But it's less hassle and more reliable if the slabs were originally processed and polished with bookmatching in mind.

Because bookmatched slabs generally originate at the sawyer, there can be significant lead time if stone needs to be ordered. Plan ahead and be patient – the wait will be more that worth it.

Bookmatching tends to be more expensive than a standard layout, because in every case two slabs are needed, even if the area to be covered is not that large. And if one slab is lost to breakage or other issues, the entire layout of slabs can be lost due to the irreplaceable nature of the one slab. The painstaking planning and fabrication required to execute a precise match-up of the pieces may also add to the cost.

Any of the four edges of the slabs can be aligned. Showrooms often have bookmatched slabs on display like an open book, but keep in mind you can swap them left to right – or top to bottom – if you want. Each arrangement will yield a different pattern. You can mock up different variations to visualize the possible outcomes.

Images Two and Three were created in PowerPoint by importing a single picture of a slab, copying it, making a mirror image of it, then dragging and rotating the two shapes to make different designs. For those who prefer a hands-on approach, you can print two photographs of the slab and fiddle with various layouts. (Warning: Regardless of the method, this is a mesmerizing and addictive process!)

While these graphics are electronically generated and show perfect mirror images, such perfection is not attainable in actual stone fabrication due to variation within the stone. Even in neighboring slabs, the patterns can vary over short distances, depending on the nature of the pattern and the direction of the grain. So, it is wise to expect a certain amount of non-uniformity amongst sibling slabs.

Since bookmatching requires two pieces of stone to be placed exactly next to each other, the edges of the slabs that are destined to be joined together have to be in near-perfect condition. Any chips, cracks, or awkward areas that are trimmed off of one of the slabs must also be removed from its mate.

Patterns: The Good, the Bad, and the Whaaat?

The natural colors and patterns in stone will almost look amplified when presented in the mirror-image arrangement of a bookmatched pair. A certain amount of movement is required to create a visually interesting effect, but an overly complex stone can cause sensory overload. Stones with soft hues and flowing movement, like marble, will create a beautiful look that's not too jarring. Vivid slabs with bright colors and high-contrast patterns are not for the faint of heart, but offer an unforgettable statement.

It's practically inevitable that you'll see images in the adjoining stones. Maybe it will look like a beautiful flower or a snowy owl. Or… maybe you'll see the face of a malevolent goblin, or, heaven forbid, something resembling the, ummm, human anatomy? Once seen, these forms can't be unseen; they will greet you every time you walk in the room. So take your time and carefully examine the potential designs and shapes you'll end up with once the stones are cut and assembled.

Craftsmanship and Communication

A downside to bookmatching is that there is little room for error in the fabrication and installation. The trimming and alignment of the slabs has to be spot-on. For this reason, careful communication with your fabricator is absolutely essential. Don't assume you both know which way the slabs will be oriented and which parts will be cut off. Make sure that the fabricator has plenty of experience with bookmatched slabs, and that you share the exact same vision for the final product.

The best way to visualize and communicate the plans is with is with photographic images, mockups, and a dry-lay of the stone panels prior to installation. Many fabricators have the ability to import images of the slabs into computer software and then decide where each cut and seam will go. It's imperative to go through this step together, and to sign off on the final plan. Neither the customer nor the fabricator wants any surprises on installation day, so if there was ever a time to be extra-careful in the planning phase, this is it.

Bookmatching is Natural Stone at its Best

The coolest thing about bookmatching is that it takes the patterns of geology, which are plenty awesome on their own, and boosts them to an almost supernatural aesthetic. If you feel there's no artist that can rival Mother Nature, then bookmatching might be for you. Pairing your own imagination with the inherent beauty of the Earth can forge a phenomenal result.

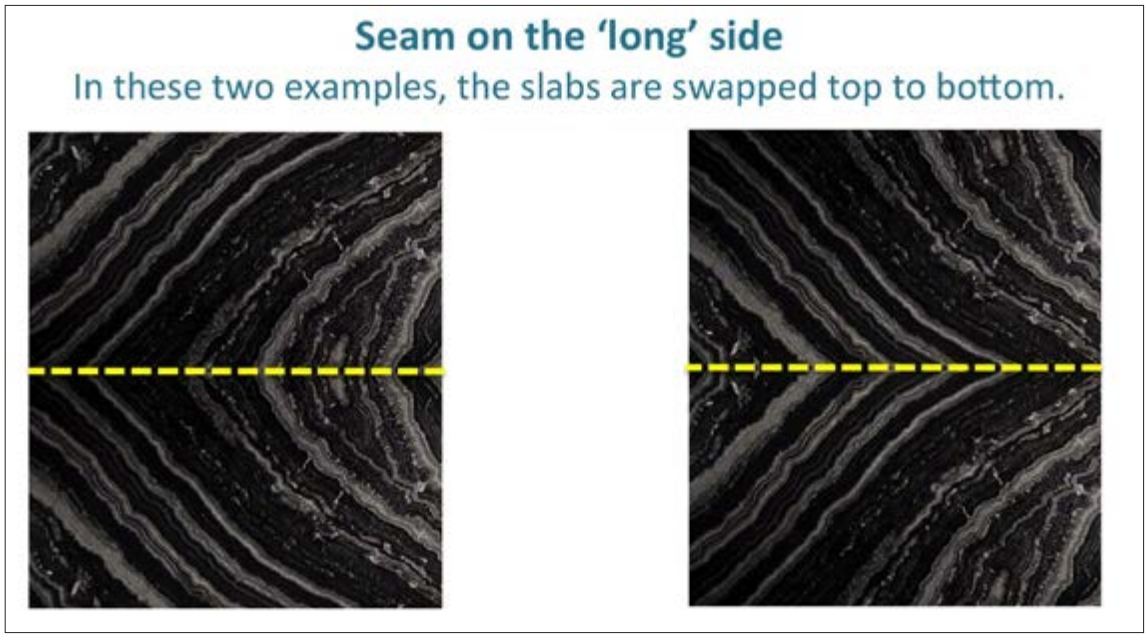


Image by Karin Kirk for the Natural Stone Institute

Bookmatched full slabs make an awe-inspiring feature wall, requiring little enhancement other than placement. Showroom photo courtesy United Marble Fabricators in Hanley, Mass.

"Everyone loves a witch hunt as long as it's someone else's witch being hunted."

— Walter Kirn

Target of Opportunity

Police say a Pennsylvania man released from jail immediately stole a car from its parking lot.

Westmoreland County Prison officials say that moments after 36-year-old Thomas Lee Williams was released, he attacked a woman in the parking lot that Tuesday evening and stole her car with the victim's one-year-old child in the back seat. The Tribune-Review reports Williams crashed about 15 minutes later and ran into the woods, where he was apprehended.

Police say the Philadelphia man was back in custody the following Wednesday on $250,000 bail. Both the boy and his grandmother were taken to hospitals to be checked out.

Williams pleaded guilty in January 2017 to dealing drugs and was ordered released the day of the incident.

No lawyer who could speak for Williams is listed in online court documents. After this latest "alleged" abduction, he will have a hard time getting sympathy.

Makita

Makita® 5″ Grinder
Variable Speed
Item # 9375

Makita® 4-1/2″ Grinder
Variable Speed
Item # 9377

Makita® 4″ Wet Polisher
Variable Speed
Item # 9001

Makita

Get a Handle on it!

Item #	Description	OUR Price
9375	Makita® 5″ Grinder, 9565CV	$149.98
9377	Makita® 4-1/2″ Grinder, 9564CV	$149.98
9001	Makita® 4″ Wet Polisher, PW5001C	$299.97

BB® Better Service ◆ Better Value

Call 1-800-575-4401 or Order Online
www.braxton-bragg.com

What's In a Word?

Sharon Koehler
Artistic Stone Design

"Hey, you wanna do some fishing this weekend?" What does that question bring to mind for you? Maybe for you it summons up grabbing a pole or two and heading on down to the river or lake to catch a few fish. It sounds nice and peaceful to regular people. To criminals this and other words mean completely different things. Not only are criminals giving new meaning to old words, they are making up new words as well.

Fishing/Phishing: When criminals send fake emails from what look like real companies to get people to reveal personal and financial information about themselves like social security numbers, banking information or credit card numbers. Just remember, no reputable company will send you an email asking for vital information.

Smishing: No this is not squishing fish! It is actually the same as phishing EXCEPT that it involves sending a text message (SMS message) to your phone. Again, looking completely real, all the while being completely fake. People tend to fall for this more often than regular phishing because for whatever reason, people seem to think that their phones are more secure than their tablets or computers. They aren't. Phones are just small computers that you can talk on. That's all. Here again, no reputable company will send you a text message asking for personal or financial information.

Vishing: Sorry, not videoing fish. This one is phishing as well EXCEPT instead of an e-mail or text, they use their voice. The criminals actually call you on the phone and try to scam you either directly or in a voice message. For example, a guy called me and told me he was from Visa. After the pleasantries, the first question he asked me was, "Where are you?" Red flags went up because he had called me on my home land line. If he was really from Visa he should have known that was my home phone and what my address was. You have to be careful. You can give away vital information without even realizing it just by answering innocent sounding questions. The one vishing scam that everyone recognizes is when they call you and tell you they are from the IRS. Don't fall for it. The IRS communicates by mail.

Spearfishing: No spears or fish involved, just criminals trying to fool you into thinking that email in your box is from someone you know. The emails look like they come from someone you deal with and trust, but they are not. Spearfishing is used to steal data and/or install malware. Both are big trouble, so be careful.

Catfishing: Nope, not trying to hook the big one for dinner. The criminal takes on a made-up online personality and then establishes a relationship with you. After they have sucked you in, they start asking you for things like money, shared credit cards/bank accounts or personal information. "I want to visit you so bad but you are so far away, and because of my son's last surgery, I have no money. Please send me some money so I can make the arrangements." The scams vary. Don't fall for it.

Trolls: Absolutely not the ugly mythical creatures who live under bridges or in caves in fairy tales. A troll is a person who goes on the internet with the specific purpose of posting off-topic, hateful, spiteful, inflammatory entries on public forums such as a blog, Facebook or chat room. Their intent is to distract people away from the topic and provoke anger or hate.

Trolling: Again, this has nothing to do with poles, lines, bait or fish. It is the acts of the above-mentioned troll: the deliberate, malicious posting of off-topic, hateful comments to provoke anger or hate. If you are being "trolled" as they call it, the best defense is, "Do not feed the trolls." Meaning: do not engage them and they will go away. They don't stay where they can't do mischief.

Honeypot: This is not the jar Winnie the Pooh got his head stuck in. It is a fake system set up to run along side a user's real system. The purpose of a honeypot is to trick hackers into attacking it instead of the main system it was built to protect. A honeypot has done its job if it gets hacked. Please be aware that a honeypot cannot replace your other defenses. It is just another layer. It cannot stop an attack. It can only, hopefully, divert an attack. Plus, it can only see when it is being attacked. It cannot see when other systems are under attack. There are several different kinds of honeypots, so if you decide to use one, make sure you pick the one that suits your needs.

Since hackers and other criminals have become more aggressive at trying to bilk us out of our hard earned dollars, we must be ever more aware of what is going on right in front of our eyes and react accordingly.

Please send your thoughts on this article to Sharon Koehler at Sharon@asdrva.rocks.

ISFA Announces New Board of Directors

Augie Chavez, of Gecko Solid Surface Solutions, To Serve as New President of the Board

The International Surface Fabricators Association (ISFA) announced the results of its election for the association's 2019 Board of Directors at its recent Annual Conference. Fabricator Member Directors are chosen by association members for a term of three years, with the option to renew for a second consecutive three-year term. Associate Member Directors are elected for a term of two years, with the option to renew for a second consecutive two-year term.

The new board convened on January 1. Augie Chavez of GECKO Solid Surface Solutions in San Antonio, Texas, will take over as ISFA President, and 2018 ISFA President Kate Dillenburg of Bisley Fabrication in Gresham, Wisconsin, will move to serve as Immediate Past President, as well as taking on the Board Secretary in 2019.

Paul "Max" Le Pera, of Global Surfacing Alliance in Cranbury, N.J., will serve as Vice President, and Mike Langenderfer of The Countertop Shop in Monclova, Ohio, will continue to serve as the Treasurer.

Leaving the board having fulfilled their service periods are Ryan Miller of VT Industries in Holstein, Iowa, who served as ISFA President in 2017; and Jessica McNaughton of CaraGreen in Carrboro, N.C., who served as an Associate Member Representative.

New to the board are Steve Mast of Precision Countertops in Wilsonville, Oregon, as Director, Austin Maxwell of Maxwell Countertops in Farmer City, Illinois, as Director, Eric Tryon of Premier Surfaces in Alpharetta, Georgia, as Director, and Joe Connolly of SASSO as Associate Member Representative.

"We are so thankful for the great work Ryan and Jessica put in on the board," said incoming President Augie Chavez. "We will miss their insight, but are confident that the new board members will also bring great perspectives and enthusiasm to the group."

Please turn to page 33

DIAMUT

For more than 30 years, Diamut has manufactured a complete range of diamond tools for stone, glass, and synthetic materials. Diamut tooling works on the majority of the machines on the market today.

Drastically Increase CNC Rates to Improve Production

HYS² (Hyper Speed Solution) tooling marked a revolutionary turn for Diamut. This tooling drastically increases CNC feed rates to improve production. Carefully constructed of premium materials, and now with high-performance diamonds and bond.

- Faster feed rates with lower AMP draws on the spindle, thus reducing the stress on the spindle and improving the spindle life
- Tooling is proven by the market to last longer than competition
- Better final edge/polish (option for position 5S with 800 grit)
- Diamut is the only manufacturer producing their own polishing wheels
- Stronger resins – lasting longer, more forgiving on sharp corners & in cases of lack of water

Your Preferred National Diamut Provider

Braxton-Bragg
Better Service • Better Value

For more information and pricing on Diamut tooling call
800-575-4401

Call 1-800-575-4401 or Order Online www.braxton-bragg.com

The Slippery Rock Classifieds

Classified Ad Guidelines

Ads not meeting guidelines will not be published.

• **We are again offering FREE online and print line ads for 2019!** Ads may be renewed or discontinued by contacting the *Slippery Rock Gazette* via email or fax at 865-688-2076.

•Maximum of 70 words or less per ad. All classified ads must be typed–No ads taken over the phone–No exceptions.

•Please review all your ad info before submitting– The Slippery Rock is not responsible for ads submitted with the wrong contact info or content.

•To submit a print or online classified ad use the online form at www.slipperyrockgazette.net/listingform – you will be sent a confirmation email. Send other ad inquiries to the editor, Larry Hood, at lhood@slipperyrockgazette.net.

2019 Classified Ad Deadlines

Issue	Ad Submission Deadline
March 2019	Wednesday, January 23, 2019
April 2019	Wednesday, February 20, 2019
May 2019	Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Readers Please Note:

The information contained in our Classifieds section is provided by third parties and not an endorsement of particular products, companies or employers. The SRG® encourages all interviewing employers to carefully conduct prescreening of all prospective employees, and purchasers of used equipment are encouraged to use caution and common sense.

Help Wanted

Portland Oregon - Custom Stone Slab Installer. Ever wanted to live in the Beautiful Northwest? We have a beautiful city with temperate weather - very few snow days and rarely below freezing, and in mid-summer we have just a few days above 95°F. We seek your expertise to install custom Minimum Qualifications: MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF TWO YEARS OF GRANITE / QUARTZ SLAB COUNTERTOP INSTALLATION EXPERIENCE. Must have references - be able to work Mon-Fri 7am to 3:30 or until job is complete on occasion, and overtime. We try not to work weekends but the occasional commercial project forces us to a few times a year. Must be able to complete a physical exam, background check (criminal and motor vehicle), and drug screen. Must hold valid driver's license - with a clean record. Must be able to accurately read a measuring tape & read and interpret installation drawings. Must be able to use hand tools and power tools. Must be able to lift 100+ pounds. Candidate MUST possess the ability to speak, read and write English. Paid Time Off & Holidays. Willing to Assist with relocation cost. Salary: $20.00 to $30.00/hour depending on experience and reference. Phone: 503-804-0382.

Business Opportunities

How Many More Sales Do You Want This Month? Let's partner up and grow your business. We have been helping granite fabricators since 2009 go from commercial to build a direct to consumer marketing channel. With over 20 million in countertop sales at this time, we will help you **Sell More Granite. Call 877-877-1916** or visit www.FireUps.com for more details.

Fabrication Facility For Sale or Lease. Fully operational, high capacity facility with all equipment including delivery vehicles. Perfect for company interested in expanding into a vibrant, growing market in the Philadelphia area. Email: aham1924@comcast.net.

For Sale

Omni Cubed Pro-Lift Installation Cart. Like New — Used only a few times! Omni Cubed Pro-Lift Automatic Heavy-Lifting Installation Cart Max Clamp Opening: 115 mm (4.5 in.) Weight Capacity: 1,000 Lbs. Product Weight: 74 Lbs. Max. Lift Height: 45 Inches. For Sale $3,300. Contact: Paul Ward, 301-627-7040, wardctile@comcast.net.

Production Equipment for Sale! 2002 Intermac Masterstone 4000E CNC Machine for sale by Leonardo's Marble and Granite. Please contact Vicki Plumaj for more information and pictures! $30,000. Phone: 248-468-2900, vicki@leonardosmg.com.

Production Equipment for Sale! 2005 Sasso Meccanica Flying Flat Polisher for sale by Leonardo's Marble and Granite. Please contact Vicki Plumaj for more information and pictures! $30,000. Phone: 248-468-2900, vicki@leonardosmg.com.

Production Equipment for Sale! 2016 Mondial Mec Fresa Manta Jr. Multigrado, Mitering Machine for sale by Leonardo's Marble and Granite. Please contact Vicki Plumaj for more information and pictures! $30,000. Phone: 248-468-2900, vicki@leonardosmg.com.

Production Equipment for Sale! 2002 Technomac Ideal 35 Bridge Saw for sale by Leonardo's Marble and Granite. Please contact Vicki Plumaj for more information and pictures! $30,000. Phone: 248-468-2900, vicki@leonardosmg.com.

Bridge Saw for Sale. 1980 Salin Bridge saw for Marble & Granite. Has hydraulic lift table and rotating head and comes with 2 blades. Get for new small business. I have pictures upon request. Comes with 20´ trailer, needs work on electric brakes. Bring a dually and drive it away, will not ship or tow to new location. $7,500.00 Contact: Scott Wargo, phone (602) 284-7424, scottw.nbs@gmail.com.

Join Us Each Month!

For your subscription requests, address changes, and

FREE CLASSIFIEDS,

visit www.slipperyrockgazette.net

Chris McKenzie Appointed Inside Sales Manager for Braxton-Bragg

Braxton-Bragg customer sales rep. Chris McKenzie has been promoted to inside sales manager. Chris will lead the growing Braxton-Bragg inside sales team of nine customer sales reps.

Chris has been with Braxton-Bragg since 2014 and brings to the position a history of 23 years managing a sales and call center with over 100 outbound cold callers, developed training programs, and achieved significant growth for his department.

Chris is also a special account manger for outreach to the Rockhead Group members.

2019 marks the 25th year for Braxton-Bragg providing quality tooling and supplies to the stone and tile industries. There will be events throughout the year to commemorate the company founded in 1994 by Doug Slocum and partner Ron Weiler.

Braxton-Bragg has grown from a start-up to a national distributor with international ties. Visit their website www.braxton-bragg.com .

Marketplace

The Slippery Rock Marketplace

Heritage and Homecoming at the Bell Works Adaptive Reuse Project

Steven Schrenk
Polycor

What does home feel like? Roads you know by heart. A familiar landscape, the way the air smells at the beach. A personal connection to a building, where you went to visit your dad at work. A literal piece of the earth from where you were born.

Those sensations and connections all fed the design of a new business for the chefs and partners of RBC Hospitality Group, who this year opened a new collective restaurant concept in the unlikely spot of the New Jersey suburbs.

Bell Works Exterior
Photo courtesy Bell Works

When they signed their lease at Bell Works, the adaptive reuse of a building that once housed Bell Labs, there was no customer data to project from. There wasn't even any foot traffic. Just a few tenant companies and many more promised to the under-construction live–work–play space. Part office building, part retail center, part pedestrian gathering place, Bell Works is the brainchild of developer Ralph Zucker who wanted to create a little city in suburbia, now called the metroburb.

Located an hour south of New York City, the building is the design of famed architect Eero Saarinen, perhaps more well known for the St. Louis arch and the TWA terminal in New York. The massive two million square foot structure - equal to the Empire State Building laying on its side - became a part of the National Register of Historic Places in 2017 and was this year named New Jersey's most iconic building by Architectural Digest.

Once off limits to the public, the wide open spaces of the glass enclosed atrium are now a quarter mile stretch of retail spaces called The Street. Visitors can explore the first floor of the modernist gem and take time to relax on the artificial turf lawns, visit the public library, shop in boutiques, and grab coffee at the family owned coffee shop. At lunchtime the first level of the building swells with the workers from more than 70 tenant companies that occupy the building, many of them dining at RBC Hospitality Group's new venture, Bell Market.

With the opening of Bell Market, husband and wife team Richard and Chantelle Corbo, along with their partners Chad Spencer and Jeff Systma launched a restaurant group founded on an ethos to deliver the best local ingredients, within an uplifting work culture not found in the traditional restaurant world. High quality food, with a high quality of life.

Bubz Deli image courtesy of Lapeg Photo

The chefs (and Chantelle, who is the group's beverage director) take great pains to source top shelf ingredients from local mills, farms and fisheries to deliver an elevated food experience to the now more than 2,000 workers at Bell Works and the growing number of the public that visits everyday. Out the four partners, Richard is the only one with a tie to the area, as a kid visiting his dad at work where he was as a signmaker and engraver for Bell Labs.

When it came to sourcing the ingredients for the design of the space, they reached out the best of the global market. Artisan tiles from Spain, wood burning pizza ovens from Italy, furniture from Denmark. And with the best comes a hefty price tag.

"I gave our designer a tremendous amount of freedom and he came back with something that was going to cost $5 million, and then I asked him to come back with something for $2 million," said Richard Corbo.

The team at nemaworkshop designed the layout of the 6,000 square-foot space that includes five distinct food stations - pizza, sushi, deli, salad, deli and bakery, plus a bar.

The team originally specified overseas marble for the six countertops which would require 12 slabs in total. The Corbos helped save the budget when they serendipitously discovered American marble.

When a friend passed on a sample of Polycor's Solar Grey marble from Georgia, Richard knew he had found his countertops.

"To see a sample of something beautiful that was a fraction of the cost, plus that was local and abundant, it was an easy choice," he said.

Richard was so determined to see the stone installed in the space he took delivery of them himself, ordering two extra slabs for his home kitchen.

Please turn to page 33

Atrium Photo courtesy Bell Works

The chefs of RBC Hospitality Group. Jeff Systma, Richard Corbo, Chantelle Corbo and Chad Spencer.
Image courtesy of Bell Works.

"It is not our part to master all the tides of the world, but to do what is in us for the succor of those years wherein we are set, uprooting the evil in the fields that we know, so that those who live after may have clean earth to till."
– J.R.R. Tolkien

Heritage and Homecoming at Bell Works

Continued from page 32

The Marble Factory in Elizabeth, NJ fabricated the countertops from 2 cm slabs with a thick build up on the mitered edge. "They did a fantastic job," Richard said. "The build up, it looks amazing."

For Chantelle Corbo, who grew up in Georgia and played near the Tate, Georgia quarry as a kid, it was a little piece of home in New Jersey.

"It's one of my favorite elements of the design of the space. Because the countertops are lower you can see their surfaces better. It ties the whole space together," Chantelle said. "And the fact that it's from Georgia, that it's from the U.S., it just made sense. See how the wood chairs look against it? I love it."

For more information on Cherokee White, visit www.polycor.com.

Photo by Lapeg Photo

Pizza ovens at Corbo and Sons
Photo: Lapeg Photo

ISFA Announces New Board of Directors

Continued from page 29

Retaining their positions as Directors are Matt Kraft of Custom Marble in Millstadt, Illinois,; Adam Albee of Counter Culture in Lincoln, Nebraska; Kelley Montana of Humboldt Countertops in Eureka, California; and Steve Stoddard of Advanced Surfaces in Corry, Pennsylvania, as well as Jim Callaghan of GranQuartz, who will remain on as an Associate Member Representative.

About ISFA: The International Surface Fabricators Association (ISFA) is a not-for-profit trade association dedicated to helping its members become more profitable through education, fostering professionalism and promoting the countertop industry.

For more information visit the website www.isfanow.org.

"I do not think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday."
– Abraham Lincoln

Mmm… Bacon!

Many Ohio State University students took a break from studying for last year's final exams by making a bacon run. And what's so strange about students craving a midnight infusion of caffeine and protein?

Senior Sarah Page, who studies meat science, says a ***bacon vending machine*** at the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences has turned out to be even more popular than expected. It has to be restocked four or five times a day. It offers cooked bacon strips and bacon bits for $1 a pop.

Proceeds will benefit the meat science program. Members of the program are responsible for the bacon machine operation on the Columbus campus.

The Ohio Pork Council sponsored the machine, with bacon donations from Smithfield, Hormel and Sugardale.

The machine remained on campus through Dec. 13, 2018.

Pre-dental student Shay Merritte loves "the overall Ohioness of it."

That may be, but we imagine peckish students across the globe could debate how unique midnight bacon is to Ohio State.

Be a part of Braxton-Bragg's
VIPER NATION

Viper® NATION

Join, and get access to *exclusive* offers and important product updates

Enrolling is easy!

1. ***Just simply text the word VIPER*** to the number 31996
2. ***Respond YES*** when asked if you would like to enroll
3. ***Fill out the info*** in the link provided

– Or Enroll via the Web –

1. ***Go to the link:*** https://slkt.io/oQ1
2. ***Fill out the info*** in the field provided
3. ***Check YES*** in the bottom box

Get a free Viper Nation T-shirt when you join!

Tambien disponible en espanol
Visite el link: https://slkt.io/uCJ

NACIÓN Viper®

Braxton-Bragg
Better Service • Better Value

Call 1-800-575-4401 or Order Online www.braxton-bragg.com

Leapin' Lizards!? No, Lemurs.

A pet lemur surprised and possibly menaced a Florida Highway Patrol trooper when it crawled from a trailer being pulled by a pickup truck that had been stopped for driving erratically and hitting other cars.

Dashcam video shows the lemur peeking out of the trailer before hopping to the ground and leaping around the trooper who was talking to the driver along Interstate 4 in Sanford, Florida one Saturday night.

The video shows the trooper doing a double-take as the lemur runs around and stands on its hind legs.

Twenty-seven-year-old driver Shane Taylor warned troopers that the lemur named Miko "bites." Taylor was arrested on several charges including DUI.

State wildlife officers took custody of the lemur and other exotic animals including a tortoise, a goat, a parrot and a wallaby.

Jail records don't list a lawyer for Taylor, or for the rolling menagerie.

"Be fit for more than the thing you are now doing. Let everyone know that you have a reserve in yourself; that you have more power than you are now using. If you are not too large for the place you occupy, you are too small for it."
– Chester A. Arthur

Laser Products Industries (LPI) Announces Corporate Rebranding and Launch of ClearCut CNC Measuring System

Laser Products Industries has announced plans to roll out an extensive rebranding initiative, including new logo and website, over the next 60 days. The company will now be known by its initials, LPI.

The rebranding reflects the evolution of the company and its vision for the future, while still paying homage to its roots, as the new logo embodies. The initiative provides a platform for LPI to expand beyond its core strength of laser measuring and digital templating systems.

"Our LT-2D3D [Laser Templator] will continue to be the mainstay of our company, but we want to also provide comprehensive and integrated solutions for all aspects of business, starting with the stone industry," said Rich Katzmann, president of LPI. "We are excited to launch our first new product under the LPI brand that will be an invaluable tool for countertop fabricators – ClearCut."

ClearCut is a high-resolution optical tool measuring system that quickly calibrates entire tool sets directly on the CNC machine. While regular calibration can help extend tool life on all CNC routers and improve the quality of finished edges, the ClearCut goes beyond that by measuring tools within the actual spindle of the CNC.

"There's more to just wear on the tools that fabricators need to identify," said Erik Louis, executive vice president of engineering and operations for LPI. "The way tools sit in the spindle, as well as the spindle itself, are also critical factors in proper calibration. With ClearCut measuring and calibrating directly on the machine, it will identify issues related to the tool, spindle or both."

As more fabricators across the world make significant investments in CNC machines to keep up with demand, LPI plans to work with companies to maximize their investments through ClearCut. "For companies that invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in a CNC router, we want to help them optimize their usage," said Kevin Yeh, sales and marketing director for LPI. "ClearCut can help get the most out of their CNC in order to produce precise and pristine edges, as well as reduce the need for hand polishing."

ClearCut calibrates entire tool sets directly on the CNC machine.

ClearCut features a high-resolution digital microscope with Tiffen lens filter and eight LED lighting modules that are integrated into a fully enclosed metal housing, which is easily portable. A 10-inch tablet preloaded with the user-friendly ClearCut software, which communicates with the unit through built-in Wi-Fi, is included in the package.

LPI showcased the ClearCut technology at The International Surface Expo in Las Vegas, as well as its new corporate rebrand. The company also plans to launch a new stone fabricator program in 2019, along with additional products and services through 2019 and beyond.

"2019 is shaping up to be a fun and exciting year for our company with the unveiling of LPI, debut of ClearCut, and celebrating the company's 25th anniversary," adds Katzmann.

For more information on the LPI rebrand, as well as ClearCut, including scheduling a no-obligation demo and training, please visit www.laserproductsus.com.

© MARK ANDERSON. www.andertoons.com

"I'm not ready for a relationship right now, but I'd be happy to add you to my queue."

New Stone Showroom in the Works for Stone Interiors

Anyone in the New Orleans area who is planning a home renovation is in luck.

A space that may end up being Louisiana's largest stone showroom will be opening right on Airline Drive this spring.

Stone Interiors, a stone fabrication shop that specializes in granite, marble, quartz and quartzite, is opening a retail space that invites home owners, interior designers, and business owners to compare stone slabs, select sinks and faucets, and design their ideal countertop or vanity firsthand.

The space features a bright, modern design, and includes a large retail space dedicated to stone, tile, sinks and accessories. An additional 15,000 square feet of climate-controlled warehouse space will house the company's selection of over 200 stone slabs. State of the art robotic cutting and digital vein-matching technology will be at work in the production area of the warehouse, providing ultimate precision for all residential and commercial fabrication jobs.

Customers will be able to walk through a showroom kitchen display, and touch and feel a variety of stone slabs before the first cut is made. Industry professionals such as interior designers and builders will have dedicated meeting space to work with clients.

Stone Interiors fabricated and installed the countertops for the 2018 St. Jude Dream Home.

The new showroom on Airline Drive will include a large retail space for homeowners and interior designers.

Stone Interiors was founded over 20 years ago, and now includes 3 locations. Stone Interiors New Orleans is the only fabrication shop in the state to be fully accredited by the Natural Stone Institute.

The space will be located just past the MSY airport. Keep an eye out for updates on the grand opening event, and our interview in the March issue of the *SRG*.

Regent Under New Ownership

Continued from page 8

The acquisition of Regent Stone Products advances Pearlman Group's goal of building a leading scaled distribution platform focused on specialty contractors and fabricators.

"Pearlman's M&A engine continues to be a meaningful value driver," commented Clay Hunter, Managing Director at The Stephens Group. "The Pearlman management team has a long track record of identifying, acquiring and integrating complementary acquisitions, and we continue to be highly supportive of this component of their strategy as they seek to be the buyer of choice to specialty distributors serving the professional contractor market."

Pearlman Group continues to seek national and regional market leaders to add to its family of specialty distribution businesses.

Headquartered in Norcross, GA, Pearlman is a multi-channel developer and distributor of supplies, tools and equipment used in the fabrication and maintenance of hard surfaces for residential, commercial and industrial end-markets.

The Stephens Group is a private investment firm that partners with management teams to help build valuable businesses. The Stephens Group targets investments in industries across the U.S., including industrial and commercial products and services, specialty distribution, B2B food and consumer products, and technology infrastructure and tech-enabled services, as well as select opportunistic situations.

Dry House StoneWorks:
From Traditional Dry Laid to Veneer

Peter Marcucci
Photos Courtesy Dry House StoneWorks

Although Dry House StoneWorks officially started business in 2017, Mark Peachey's masonry experience actually goes back almost a decade, when he was strictly doing installation work as an employee, recalls Peachey.

"I started doing masonry work in 2010 while working for Sunrise Masonry. They were a small, local company based here in Belleville, Pennsylvania that installed natural and engineered stone. They were great teachers, but they really didn't want to grow, and I knew that if I wanted to keep busy doing stone work, I'd have to start my own company. I saw a need for natural veneer that was reasonably priced for this market, and bought a little saw to begin. Job after job, we would simply cut the stone that we needed and install it."

Helping Peachey during those early years was Rodney Yoder. Yoder, very young at the time, started his masonry apprenticeship with Peachey in 2011. "I was sixteen years old when Mark took me under his wing and showed me how to do things," recalled Yoder, "and we just grew this business together."

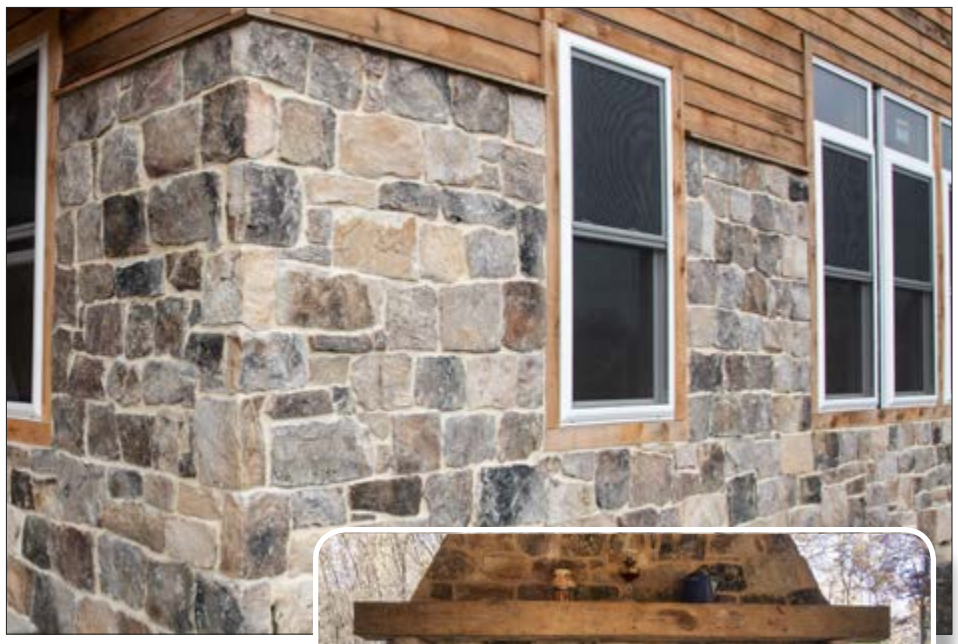
Strategically located in the center of Pennsylvania, Dry House Stone has grown from an installation-only company to a supplier of several styles of cut stone. Regularly installing within a 50-mile radius of Belleville, they do, however, go beyond that radius when marketing and selling their brand of cut stone throughout the state. They are not quarry owners, but do acquire all materials locally.

All materials are cut to size from either blocks or slabs from two distinct varieties, and then made into five different profiles. At anytime, their stone yard retains 20,000 square feet of installation-ready material for their walk-in clients, dealers or other masonry companies. According to Peachey, there is always a wide array of products in stock, and never any waiting time.

The company's 5,000 square foot building sits on two and a half acres, and houses a Cee-Jay brand saw and splitter. Clients wanting installation service consist mostly of contractors, explained Peachey. "Because we are installers, we have a lot of contractors that like our service. They prefer natural stone, and they don't just want to buy just a pallet; they'd like it installed. So say we have a contractor that's building a custom home. They'll send that client over to us and we'll show them around, show them what we can do and they'll pick out their stone. Clients come in with an idea, and many times we help them out with the design. We'll also go off of their architect's blue prints if they have them. Sometimes, I'll educate our customers on dry stack walls or explain to them about the venting system that we use on our veneer wall installations so the wood doesn't rot out."

To further whet clients' appetites and build enthusiasm, Dry House StoneWorks additionally offers walk-ins a showroom that includes 360 square feet of stone samples depicting the different styles and varieties. All are natural stone, none are engineered or man-made.

Please turn to page 38



Top and Center:
Traditional Ashlar laid stone and batten construction for a combination community medical clinic and children's special needs clinic. Dry House StoneWorks uses Tuscarora Mountain stone, harvested from their very own grounds. This helps them have total control - including a competitive price – from start to finish.

Inset and bottom Left:
Outdoor Kitchen and entertainment area with an over-size fireplace also showcases their ashlar fieldstone construction.

TERMINATOR DIAMOND PRODUCTS INC.

Terminator Force Bridge Saw Blades

25mm!

- 25mm Position Diamond Technology
- Fast efficient cutting & uncompromising longevity
- Ideal for both high & low HP saws
- Will cut Granite & Engineered Stone

These are blades built for today's competitive stone market.

Terminator Xtreme S2 Bridge Saw Blades

25mm!

- Free cutting nature of the blade results in a low spindle amp draw
- Increasing longevity of the saw spindle
- Wet use only
- Works on high & low HP saws
- Great for Granite & Engineered Stone

Terminator Sonic Edge 3 Bridge Saw Blades

25mm!

- 25mm segments
- Wet use
- Will cut Granite and Engineered Stone
- Made in Korea

The Xtreme S2 blades are equipped with the newly developed 25mm position diamond segments and have 20mm segments. These blades offer a superior cutting performance on a wide range of materials.

BB Better Service ◆ Better Value

Call 1-800-575-4401 or Order Online www.braxton-bragg.com

Dry House StoneWorks

Continued from page 36

According to Peachy, the market for his products is good but price driven. “The market for natural stone is huge in this area, but you’ve got to keep your prices competitive, and must have the installers to perform the work. Everybody loves the real thing, and natural veneer stone is actually new in this area. All types of exterior and especially fireplaces are hot items. Our work is acquired strictly through word of mouth. We’ve been in business for quite a while, but if there’s a contractor that we don’t know, we’ll stop in, say hi, and tell them what we do. So between that and word of mouth, the word gets out, and if you do good work, word spreads fast.”

Success is Measured in the Details

Notable projects as of late include a local dry stack wall terrace that is 550 feet long and took 30 dump truck loads of stone (see photo at right.) There’s also the Morton Clinic in Belleville, where they installed over 2,000 square feet of veneer on the building’s exterior (also see photo). According to Peachey, they love designing special projects, and only when needed will use Laura’s Landscape Design to help out with the details. Walls, stone steps and veneers are the company’s bread and butter.

While producing approximately 15,000 square feet of veneer stone per month is the norm, the Dry House StoneWorks’ crews install approximately 2,500 square feet per month. These crews total twelve men of varied experience, with four-man crews being the average size, said Peachey. “My brother, Ben Peachey, on the installation end is a very good mason. He is a Dry Stone Walling Association (DSWA) level-2 certified mason. Additionally, two of our other installers are DSWA level-1 certified. All of our men are very hard working, very skilled, and if they do something, it is done right.”

Please turn to page 39

This traditional dry laid wall project includes a running wall, terraces and stairs. According to Peachy, it took 30 dump truck loads of stone.

4″ Straight-Edge Flat Edge Inline Polishing Wheels

Abrasive Technology 4″ Straight-Edge Diamond Polishing Wheels are designed for polishing straight edges using “C-frame” automatic machinery. The discs have been engineered to eliminate workpiece end scratches and polish flat edges with a premium finish and quick, high-quality results. The system includes six steps from calibrating to final buff. It is suited for edges measuring 3/4 inch or thicker and will provide a high gloss finish on granite.

abrasive technology, inc.®

- Designed specifically for polishing flat edges
- Used on C-Frame machinery
- Snail lock mounted for easy access
- Use on granite and marble
- Polish and yield better finish with faster results, eliminating workpiece end scratches
- For edges 3/4″ wide or wider
- 4″ diameter size

Call one of our knowledgeable sales staff to learn more about the Braxton-Bragg advantage!

BEST Brands!
BEST Guarantee!

Braxton-Bragg®
Better Service • Better Value

BEST Service!
BEST Rates!

www.braxton-bragg.com

800-575-4401

Dry House StoneWorks

Continued from page 38

So what makes Dry House StoneWorks different? “I would say that what makes us better than the guy down the road is that we can design the work, then design the veneers and supply them or install them. This really gives us a hands-on feel for what we are doing, and helps to keep our veneers high quality and user friendly. If we are doing the installation, it is little tricks like this that help to make our installations look great. It’s very important that they look like full bed-depth stone when installed, and not just little pieces of veneer. It really makes a difference. Our veneers are designed by us out in the field, and then coming back to the shop to make them the way we want them. This is what makes our products special.”

An ability to do both dry laid and veneer projects, done with uncompromising quality, is the best advertising possible, says Peachy.

Options and Opportunities

“It’s been a long hard road getting here,” continued Peachey. “We’ve done everything from scratch. These days, what we are really trying to do is to maximize our efficiency from cutting to installation, and build a company that can run without me and Rodney. This means building a system and a structure, so that when we go away, it will run itself. We also want to book-out our work load more, so there is a consistent work flow as well as a good work environment, and we can grow with the demand as work increases. As far as becoming quarry owners, we’ll see what the future holds. That is something that is a little far into the future for us, and not what we are looking to do right now. We are, however, looking at a new splitter as well as conveyors to facilitate production.”

Yoder: “We are always looking at new ways to do things more efficiently. As far as more employees, not at the moment, but we will hire as the demand for our work and products increase, and we cannot keep up. We have been setting up dealers for our products, and will continue to explore new markets for future expansion.”

For more information visit www.dryhouseStoneWorks.blogspot.com.

This traditional, new home construction features natural stone thin veneer by Dry House StoneWorks. Peachy: “It’s very important that they look like full bed-depth stone when installed, and not just little pieces of veneer.”

Chemorset

Quart Part A and Part B

Two-component epoxy gel setting at ambient temperature. High modulus of elasticity. Moisture insensitive. Used on stone in the monument industry.

Call one of our knowledgeable sales staff to learn more about the Braxton-Bragg advantage!

BB Better Service ◆ Better Value

Call 1-800-575-4401 or Order Online
www.braxton-bragg.com

PRSRT-STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
KNOXVILLE, TN
PERMIT #255

Slippery Rock Gazette
4100 Appalachian Way
Knoxville, TN 37918

NEW!

Fab King CNC Fabricates for You!

Easy To Use

The Fab King CNC is designed to allow the operator to fabricate without extensive CAD/CAM knowledge. Once the sinks or shapes are saved into the computer, the operator only has to start the process using a mouse click on the laptop and won't have to generate tool paths and pod locations.

MADE IN THE USA

RYE Corp

RYE Corp has created one of the easiest to use CNC machines in the stone industry using the most durable equipment available.

Call Braxton-Bragg to order yours!

- Single phase electrical motor
- Servo motor operation (Not stepper motors)
- Servos can be disengaged to allow for manual operation
- One pass sink cutout using 15mm CNC finger bit
- Dust-free operation
- 1 year manufactures warranty on mechanical and electrical
- Rugged construction
- Made in the USA

Braxton-Bragg
Better Service • Better Value

Call 1-800-575-4401 or Order Online www.braxton-bragg.com