



The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2008 as the International Year of Planet Earth. Read more about IYPE and be sure to look for this logo on related 2008 NGWA events.

Water FUN FACTS

- Hippocrates, known as the father of medicine, directed people in Greece to boil and strain water before drinking it.
- The first United States water plant with filters was built in 1872 in Poughkeepsie, New York.
- There is the exact amount of water on Earth today as when the Earth was formed. Water is never totally consumed. It always recycles itself, in one form or another.

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The dual carrouseles on the T4W allow for a full 400 ft of drill depth, which is perfect for this suburban Philadelphia home.

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Residential Variety

BL Myers Bros of PA from Glenmoore, PA, does it all—all wells, including: residential, geothermal, monitoring, recovery, production, irrigation, and dewatering, as well as soil borings and probably any other type of well or hole you can think of. Their fleet, capable of auger, air rotary, mud, coring and direct push technologies, includes everything from small all-terrain rigs to the most current Atlas Copco T4W.

A recent visit to observe an afternoon of drilling with BL Myers' driller, Ron Barrage, and helper, Jason Good, found them doing two straightforward holes: a residential water well and a geothermal well. The customers they are working for, on the other hand, have very different philosophies of home construction.

The first site was a very beautiful — and huge — house for Bentley Homes. This home is under construction in a

million dollar sub-division in Malvern, PA, near Philadelphia. The once rolling hills and horse pastures have no rural water system, hence each home will require its own well.

Barrage likes the double carrousel of the T4W because it gives him 400 ft of well depth on board. In this part of the country, 400 ft will let him drill a good percentage of the wells required and their water truck carries more pipe, if necessary.

The new Bentley site's well reached a total depth of 375 ft with a flow of 20 gallons per minute (gpm), which is average for this neighborhood. The well just across the street put out 30 gpm at the 400 ft depth. Barrage says he likes to see at least five to ten gpm for a residence.

For a residential location, BL Myers sets 8-inch surface casing to bed rock, which in this case in 32 ft. From there



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Did You Know

Wash your car in the car wash rather than in your driveway. Car washes are connected to water treatment systems that can handle the oil and other contaminants that rinse off of your car. If you wash your car in the driveway, these chemicals run into storm sewers which may discharge directly into a stream. Storm sewers are not equipped with the treatment facilities to handle these pollutants.

the crew will continue to air drill with a 6-inch bit to total depth.

Barrage has been drilling for 2-1/2 years and said that with the T4W, he was able to begin drilling with little training. "Understanding the fundamentals of drilling and rigs, I was able to jump right on the rig and go to work," he says.

Quite different in comparison to the Bentley home, Gerald and Siri Hurst are building their retirement home. Jokingly, Siri calls it their "green AARP-friendly" home. After living in a two-story Tudor style home for years, the Hursts spent significant time researching their dream home. They wanted to go as green as possible, "without being silly," says Gerald. The home they found to remodel fit their lifestyle and budget, but 95% of the home that exists today was built from scratch. Other than a few external walls and a fireplace, the home is very modern and cozy. The Hursts found that remodeling allowed for easier permitting, as opposed to totally knocking the old structure down.

From recycled-bottle carpeting and bamboo and bio-resin materials for flooring to a modern geo-thermal heating and cooling system, the home incorporates as many green-friendly features as reasonable. "We looked at a roofing system made of rubber, too, but the payback wasn't there," said Gerald.

"I like that B.L. Myers Bros. came back with the change. It shows their expertise," says Gerald.

Originally, the Hursts thought geothermal would be too expensive but after working out the numbers, they saw the payback was possible. Gerald liked the fact that he could realize a return on the geothermal system in six to eight years, "This is, if oil prices stay where they are today," Gerald comments.

Gerald wants to talk about building green to anyone who will listen. "We are really committed to this," says Gerald. He thinks geo-thermal systems are the way of the future.

The engineer who designed their system specified two 600 ft wells, but BL Myers came back with the suggestion for three 400 ft wells. The home sits along a creek, and with the high water level and potential backpressure, the deeper holds might have caused the wells to be more expensive to drill. "I like that the driller came back with the change. It shows their expertise," says Gerald.

And expertise is what makes BL Myers Bros of PA the successful business that it is. With all the capabilities for drilling and using the right equipment, like the T4W, they will be in business for many years to come.

Reprinted from the *Deep Hole Driller*. February 2008.



← **The homeowners Gerald and Siri Hurst and the green, AARP-friendly home.**

→ **Ron Barrage and Jason Good take a moment for this photo.**

