

(Opposite page)  
Bill and Wende  
Logan-Young in their  
home overlooking  
Canandaigua Lake.  
Their palatial wine  
cellar has archways  
framed with original  
wood case ends  
—a shrine to bottles  
shared over the  
years.



**World travelers and world-renowned achievers  
are at home in their private paradise.**



# Young at heart

Story by **Marci Diehl**  
Photos by **Kate Melton**

**Bill Young is a man who takes life into his arms and embraces it fully and deeply.** And just in case life doesn't stick around long, he has already hosted his own wake, complete with 150 friends, food and two live bands. Make that: his First Annual Wake.

Call him "Youngie": all his friends around the globe do. He and his wife, radiologist Dr. Wendie Logan-Young, have created an inviting slice of heaven on 15 acres overlooking Canandaigua Lake for friends and family to enjoy. After all, why wait for an afterlife when you can create a paradise here on Earth?

Their home is as welcoming as they come. The couple's sociable, snuffling English bulldogs and ancient black Lab greet visitors first, all wiggles and warmth. Then Young appears, wearing his trademark fly-fishing cap like a crown. He is, in fact, fly-fishing royalty—so expert and famous that he has a fishing fly named after him. (the "Bill Young" fly, of course).

At his side is Logan-Young, once described by a writer as "a mixture of earthy technologist and aristocratic lover of nature, fossil hunting and invigorating hikes in the wood—Henry David Thoreau-meets-Bill Gates." Her physical resemblance to Katherine Hepburn in *On Golden Pond* is striking, but the movie comparison ends there: The Youngs are vital, unpretentious and full of good cheer.









(Clockwise, from top left) Herbs and plants from the Youngs' gardens hang in their kitchen area, which houses a stove they bought in Paris. Their office building includes a greenhouse. Bill Young, guiding us through his gardens in the fall, couldn't resist a peach from one of his trees. Memorabilia from Young's days as a star on the University of Pennsylvania football team hang on his walls. Their dogs seem to enjoy the pastoral property as much as their masters do.



## housetour

Not even major adversity has changed that. Young is a recent Stage-4 cancer survivor, yet he and Logan-Young—the renowned expert in breast cancer diagnosis and founder of what is now Elizabeth Wende Breast Care, LLC—are matter-of-fact about it. Young freely announces: “I’m a short-timer.” Then he plunges ahead to show off the home and vast gardens they’ve created over the past 25 years.

Their timberframe house, office building with greenhouse, and seven acres of gardens are perched on a west hill above the lake, with their property extending down to the lakeshore. Beyond the lawns, flower beds, rock gardens, vegetable garden and large pond, eight acres of land fall away to form the lower “cliff”—a steep drop of vegetation—where tiny fossils, deposited some 350 million years ago, fall out of the shale soil. Some of them have found their way into the bead necklaces that Logan-Young creates and wears.

“She taught me everything I know about fossils,” says Young.

“And he taught me everything I know about birds and wine,” Logan-Young adds.

She had an excellent teacher. Young is a renowned wine collector who recently sent a selection of his collection to be sold by Zachys Wine Auctions. They included original wood cases of the world’s best Bordeaux, from Chateau Lafite Rothschild 1986 to Chateau Petrus 1989, plus seven full, original wood cases of La Tache from vintages 1982 and 1988 to 1990.

But fear not—dinner pairings will continue. Their 600-case wine cellar stretches 1,400 square feet (yes, larger than some houses), organized by region and equipped with a dumbwaiter to move shipments from garage to cellar. Down in that labyrinth, sweet remnants from his days as owner of Young Ideas Advertising remain. He still has crates of 130-year-old Hardy’s Perfection Cognac in Daum crystal decanters, left from the days when he gave them as Christmas gifts to clients. And Young is one of only three people in the world with a vertical of five-liter bottles of Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon in every year from 1979 to the present.

The couple met after each was divorced more than 25 years ago, brought together by a love of good wine and gardening. They had four children apiece and now share 17 grandchildren—an even bigger passion that can complicate the others.

“I can’t drink a bottle of wine that sells for \$4,000,” says Logan-Young. “All I can think of is, ‘Granddaughter’s college tuition.’ ”

More guilt-free consumption comes by way of their organic vegetable garden and berry bushes, providing fresh seasonal vegetables and the ingredients for Logan-Young’s homemade preserves. Three compost piles in the woodland garden keep the soil rich. Wine played a part here, too. “I traded a guy three bottles for some horse manure,” Young says with a laugh.

Young still teaches fly-fishing in their large pond stocked with trout. “Bill took one look at the property and said, ‘We’re putting in a pond right there.’ ” Logan-Young says.

Art and nature mingle here. Along with bird and bat houses, there are Al Wilson I-beam sculptures and a sculpture of a cherub they commissioned while in France. The cherub shoots a fountain of water 30 feet into the pond.



Inside the house, a Wendell Castle sculpture, huge John Whalley graphite sketches of still life, and wooden figures they’ve collected from their world travels mingle with Young’s own paintings and photography. A portrait of the couple hangs in their family room—a gift from the legendary New Yorker cartoonist Al Hirshfield.

In the winter, large southeast-facing windows provide treetop views and abundant light for the living area and loft-style master bedroom. The kitchen is warmed by their Parisian La Cornue stove. Each January for many years, the couple has rented an apartment in Paris, where they shop their favorite markets, meet up with friends and take long walks.

But this is Bill Young, so he also does magic tricks for the shopkeepers and random strangers when they’re in Paris. And he cooks dinner, writes a yearly diary of their stay and, of course, uncorks good bottles of wine.

Other trips take them across the globe, from Iceland to Russia, Chile to Mongolia, to fly fish. His wife also goes ice-fishing all over the world with him, her favorite spot being Iceland. And wherever “Youngie” goes, he’s met by friends.

He’s also met with accolades. He was a football star in college, and his alma mater—the University of Pennsylvania—named him Man of the Year in 2011. In September, he and his son, Will, drove to Marblehead, Mass., for its 2012 Striped Bass Tournament. Gale-force winds and heavy swells kept several anglers from even venturing into the water. Not the Youngs. They braved the weather along with the town’s best fishermen and Bill Young, at 77 and an unknown in Marblehead, won first prize for the largest catch.

But naturally, the story doesn’t end there. Later he cooked the fish for a group of friends—accompanied by the perfect wine, of course. **C**





The wine cellar is a model of organization. (Opposite page) Young holds (carefully) a 130-year-old bottle of Hardy's Perfection Cognac. (Bottom left) His collection is one of only three in the world to contain a complete vertical of Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon, produced by Randy Dunn Vineyard in California.