

# Serene Scene

May 2022

## **Meet Josh Himme**

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## **PebbleTec: Natural Pool Finsihes**

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**Meet Josh Himme**  
**FORE! | Just Sold**  
**Vendor Profile: PebbleTec**

# Meet Josh

**“There is no luck...  
there’s only preparation meets opportunity.”**



**Sales Manager, Josh Himme**

## **Learn from the best to master your craft, you’ll gain experience immediately, and from the right people, who can steer you to success.**

If you ask pool designer Josh Himme what luck means, he’ll tell you there’s no such thing. There’s only preparation meets opportunity. If Josh’s motto sounds familiar to the design and construction community, then his sweat equity is paying off big time with beautiful custom-made pools dotting the Pittsburgh landscape.

“I got into the industry as more of a fluke than a plan. In 2013, my brother introduced me to my job

with Professional Pool Services,” says Himme. While doing pool construction, Josh did attend college part-time and did well, but decided that designing pools was more satisfying than any lecture. The delight of seeing clients and their families creating memories in their backyard pools profoundly changed the trajectory of his career. While working up the ranks at Professional Pool Services, Josh was introduced to many professionals who shared his passion.

“About three years into the job, I developed a close working relationship with Jeff Blunkosky. At the time Professional Pools Service was one of PSW’s trade partners and I was in constant contact with Jeff. Over time, the partnership separated due to both businesses going in different directions. Jeff had some very ambitious goals and was on a direction that was inline with my own goals, leading to an eventual career opportunity. Jeff provided me with the school of hard knocks business knowledge outside of design and construction. It’s been four years

and I haven’t looked back.” Since Josh has led the pool design services at PSW, the pool-related deliverables and sales have increased dramatically. “Over the past four years, my responsibilities have expanded and I have since shed the majority of my previous tactical role.” Others in the industry have noticed too. In 2021, Josh was named as one of 30 Under 40 in the Pool Industry by Pool Pro Magazine.

Josh enjoys educating clients about the construction process. “There’s a lot to consider when building an custom inground pool. It’s not just about aesthetics, it’s also about function. Pools are a living and breathing entity. Swimming pools require hydraulic plans, lighting plans, electrical, drainage, and plumbing schematics. The pool is the centerpiece, but there are other aspects in design that also make it that centerpiece. What dictates shape, size, and configuration, is how your family will best utilize it. Pools are an investment, but it is the type of investment that costs you

money and time. A good designer takes those things into consideration.

It takes a lot of collaboration between skilled trade partners before the client enjoys their first dip. When speaking with Josh, it becomes apparent that the pools of today are a vast difference from pools a generation ago. Today’s modern pools are statement pieces, status symbols, and built for multi-use. The pools today employ smart technology and resemble resorts. They are used actively during the day with kids splashing down waterslides and jumping off the built-in boulders. At night, they set the stage for a relaxing atmosphere with scuppers and light displays that change colors over cascading waterfalls. Landscaping and hardscaping are built around the pools to frame the backyard with lush greenery.

Outside of work, Josh is heavily involved with competitively racing ATVs. “After a productive work week, there is nothing better than turning

your brain off and surrounding yourself with good people, and going to a race.” You can also see Josh from time to time working at a local music venue. “I’m a people person and have always had a passion for live music.”

This well-rounded pool enthusiast certainly has the blueprint for success. Whether it’s putting together a bid package engaging in live music or racing ATVs, Josh juggles all his interests and hobbies with ease.

“Advice I would give to anyone interested in pursuing the trade industry would be to listen to your gut. There is nothing greater than hands on experience and first-hand knowledge that can prepare you for the next steps of your career. And finally, find a knowledgeable mentor. Learn from the best to master your craft, you’ll gain experience immediately, and from the right people, who can steer you to success.”

# Fore!

# Fore!

# Just Sold

PSW staff enjoyed an afternoon of team building at Top Golf, who has reimagined the driving range by offering something for everyone. It was also 'Take Your Child to Work Day,' so the younger Blunkosky's enjoyed honing their golf skills.

Staff enjoyed the appetizers and microbrews. Our Project Administrator/ Intake Specialist, Shelly Hankins proved she was "Queen of the Billiards," and remains undefeated.

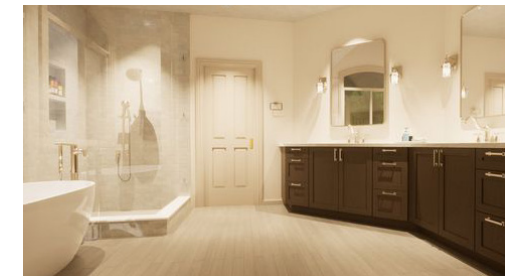
The event was also a great way to welcome our newest Designer Yousef Hassoud. Welcome to the team Yousef! We know your future designs will be an ace in the hole for our clients. Special thanks to Shelly and PSW Team Captain, Jeff Blunkosky, for making all the arrangements.



Exterior Project in Shadyside, PA



Interior Project in Gibsonia, PA



# PebbleTec

**Pebble Technology**  
INTERNATIONAL



## Conversation with Scott Mayuski

PSW recently caught up with PebbleTec Northeast Regional Manager, Scott Mayuski. He is working with Pittsburgh home builders to provide an artisan selection of unique aggregates for custom made pool liners. The finishes look and feel so natural, you'll think you're swimming in your own private watering hole.

### Where are your products sourced?

Since 1987, PebbleTec is the leading manufacturer of aggregates in the

pool industry. We go through a painstaking process of sourcing material all over the world, including New Zealand, Australia, Chile, Asia and here in the U.S. Once we get them into our facility, we screen and blend our aggregates together to create the unique colors.

### What is the PebbleTec advantage?

Our name brand speaks for itself. Many people ask for a PebbleTec finish, and competitors will try to match, but they are never able to

match our quality and reliability. Our process is unmatched in the industry. We screen, polish, and process the materials so they don't fade. We work with only authorized applicators who are trained in our specific products and tools.

### Why do you only work with authorized applicators?

We want to make sure that pool coating comes out the same way at every location. There are certain standards that must be met to achieve that perfect match at every location,

whether it's Pittsburgh, Florida or Texas. Without having those standards, you don't have a PebbleTec finish.

### How are PebbleTec finishes made?

Once the materials are sourced, we place those stones together based on the colors that you would see in our brochures. After the product is mixed, we use our pigments and proprietary products to create a matrix. The materials get bagged and shipped to the homeowner and are installed in a turnkey fashion. The entire process takes two days.

### What would a PSW client want to know about the PebbleTec finishes?

Our applicators work with PSW to educate the client on which finishes work best for their pool. The size of the finish matters. You cannot have larger stones and smaller stones together because the compaction rate would be different. Plus, the finished product lasts for up to 25 years.

### What are the current trends with inground pools?

The projects are getting larger and more custom designed. As Josh Himme from PSW knows, today pools incorporate vanishing edges, benches, love seats, and tanning shelves. There are grottos, waterfalls, lazy rivers around residential homes now that

you used to see only in a resort-like setting. Fire and water features are also gaining in popularity. PebbleTec has a line of fire, glass, and water elements, including fire bowls, copper and stone fire pits that produce a dramatic backdrop for social gatherings.

### What are PebbleTec's three pillars?

The three pillars of PebbleTec are beauty, durability, and reliable installation. PebbleTec is known for some of the most beautiful pools in the world, because we carefully source, repeatedly screen and expertly design our aggregate to ensure the maximum consistency and beauty of our PebbleTec finishes. We never compromise on quality.

PebbleTec pool finishes are made to last with an investment and superior stone quality and consistency as

well as fade resistant pigments. High quality materials, installation techniques and ongoing dedication with customer support both with PebbleTec knowledge and PSW craftsmanship ensures that these pools will last for years to come.

### Tell us about the PebbleTec Warranty

PebbleTec has an industry leading warranty. We only work with reliable builders like PSW who provide a quality that is unmatched in pool design. We offer a comprehensive warranty on PebbleTec materials while our applicators provide a matching warranty on installation and workmanship. There's a dedicated page on the PebbleTec website where homeowners can visit to register their product so they are guaranteed to enjoy their pool experience for many years.



Scott Mayuski visits PSW offices with Rob Fultz from Poolside Plastering, PSW Sales Manager, Josh Himme, and PSW Project Coordinator, Kayla Sinopoli.

