

Estes Park or bust

THE 18TH Western Conference agenda is set, and soon you should receive your conference registration flyer in the mail. (You can also register online.) The conference will be held at the historic Stanley Hotel in Estes Park, Colorado, April 15–18.

Prior to the main event that begins on Friday, we will host four pre-conference workshops on Thursday. This is an opportunity to hone your skills in an all-day intensive session with a small group of participants and expert instructors. Curtis Milton will lead a **Compound Roof Practicum**, which will use a variety of techniques to develop the drawings for the hip roof components of the Guild's April timber framing workshop in Texas. The Timber Frame Business Council (TFBC) will give a **Job Costing with QuickBooks** class to teach you to how to handle your estimating and office chores. Ed Shure and Takayuki Kida will demonstrate **Tuning Japanese Planes**, showing how to flatten and fit blades in off-the-shelf plane bodies and making planes for specialized applications. This workshop promises a real-world application: not how to make a super-expensive Japanese plane perfect, but rather how to make a low-end one work like the best. Patti Southard from the Environmental Home Center in Seattle, along with the TFBC, is holding **Building a Sustainable Business Model**, a day-long workshop with a series of leaders in our industry to show how they are putting sustainability into practice on a daily level, both in their working environment and in their product.

The **Basic Track** will have a strong presence at the conference with seminars all three days for those new to the craft. It will include **Site and Shop Safety** with Gordon Macdonald, **Sharpening** with Leon Buckwalter, **Square Rule Layout** with Rudy Christian (double session), **Wood Behavior** with Dave Burnett, **Why Braces Matter** with Curtis Milton, **Basic Beam Sizing** with Dick Schmidt, and **Raising and Rigging** with Tim Chauvin.

The **Natural Building Track**, ably coordinated by Chris Dancey, will feature innovative builders from the Southwest, including: Steven Kanipe (Chief Building Official for the City of Aspen) with **Permit by the Book—Talking Alternatives with City Hall**, Robert

See Estes Park, page 4

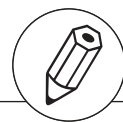


photo courtesy the Stanley Hotel

INSIDE

Letters	2
Erratum	2
TTRAG conference schedule	3
Two special events.	4
Lodging at the Stanley	4
Apprenticeship curriculum development continues.	5
Athens, Texas: sign up while you can!	5
2004 summer workshop series	6
Summer workshops registration form.	8

Welcome, new Board members!	9
Bainbridge Island memorial: possible Guild project?	10
From the Business Council desk: visioning, walking the walk	12
Timber frame workshops flourish at Palomar	14
Notices.	17
Events	18
Rottweil: hard work that's fun!	20



Russell Colbath field report, or how I got happy through the Guild

I hesitated to write this letter at all since it seems so self-centered, personal, and, well, woo-woo. But I really do want to share with all of you what the Guild and its members have meant to me.

I got to attend the Russell Colbath rendezvous this year. I hesitantly emailed Joel before going, to ask about qualifications for registering as a professional. I've worked the past eight years as a stick builder and before that built furniture and cabinets. But still, this was a *timber frame*! His reply, while partly tangible, was (unsurprising to any who know Joel) to look deep in my heart. Okay, I've done a little timber framing, been to three workshops, a couple conferences, thought about it, dreamed about it, pretended to be a timber framer, tried to make friends with timber framers, et cetera, but still . . .

I went as a professional, but I was glad there was no way to tell onsite who came as what. I figured if I turned out to be just awful, I could offer to retroactively pay the Guild the \$150 student fee. I'm pretty sure the word for my state of mind then is sheepish. But as a type A personality, I wasn't there long at all before I jumped into the middle of tasks I thought I could do.

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Curtis Milton, treasurer

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Brenda Baker, Laura Brown, Leon Buckwalter, Tim Chauvin, Rick Collins, Grigg Mullen.

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Ken Rower, director of publications

Susan Witter, *Scantlings* editor

Scantlings is the member newsletter of the Timber Framers Guild. It is published eight times yearly. Deadline is generally the 10th of the month before an issue comes out (though it often shifts).

Next deadline: March 10.

Please address contributions or information to:

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Bellingham, WA 98225, phone and fax 360-647-0310,
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Printed on recycled paper.

Oddly enough, I kept finding them—even after we quit moving timber with the forklift.

The part of the story that really matters is what I got to find out through all that. I am good at what I do. People like me. My jokes are funny. I found a place I belonged. I discovered, more profoundly than I have ever experienced it, *my* community. So real was the impact of my sense of belonging that after I got home I told my therapist (really) that I felt like I'd "arrived," and oh, by the way, I wouldn't be needing to see him anymore. And I was right. My happiness hasn't faded away. I'm actually not crazy or weird; it just took me almost 28 years to fully discover and believe in my right livelihood. And I am delighted to report that I have never in my life enjoyed just being alive the way I am now.

What I now begin to see is that the Timber Framers Guild, for me, isn't really about timber. It's about people. The power of a craft to attract people of similar spirit is spellbinding, magical, invigorating, and nearly unbelievable.

I'm now trying to share with my employees and family how right and how powerful it is to do what you love. We're changing our business strategy to find work that we love to do. (It isn't that hard.) We have mountains of stuff to learn. We've already been helped. It will probably happen again. Life is beautiful.

I must send special thanks to Higgs, Darryl, Norm, Joel, Curtis, Chris, English Barbara, Luc, the Georgia Boys, Susan, Birch, Anise, Tim, Charlene, Tom, Allen, and everyone else who was there, for being who you are. Bright, spiritual, caring, way-outside-the-box people.

On the more tangible side, I'm eager for any opportunities that might arise as an itinerant timber framer. If you'd like more concrete evaluations of my skills, please consider a visit with any or all of the following Guild members. (They're *real* professionals!) Higgs Murphy, Chris Gunn, Tim Whitehouse. I worked beside them. For character references, call Susan Norlander. (I dated her daughter. She should know.)

Thank you and God bless to all.

Adrian Jones
ajfwk@aol.com, 970-690-4994

Erratum

On the TTRAG registration form on page 5 of the January *Scantlings*, the rate for a full conference single room Guild member (second line of numbers) should be \$475, not \$425 as printed. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused you.

TTRAG conference schedule

Here's the schedule for the upcoming Traditional Timberframe Research and Advisory Group, March 19–21, in Durham, N.H. The early registration deadline is February 15. To register, you can use the form in the last *Scantlings*, register on the Guild website (www.tfguild.org), or call the office (413-623-9926). Also, check out the rideboard (www.tfguild.org/rideboard) to find or share a ride to the conference.

Friday

11 am	Optional informal tour at Sanborn Mills Farm.
2 pm	Conference registration opens at the New England Center (NEC)
6–7:15 pm	Dinner
7:15–8 pm	Richard Candee: Early Joiners in the Portsmouth Area
8–9 pm	Rod Bishop & Victor Wright: Flashing and Roofing
9–10:30 pm	Tad Baker: Archaeology-Architecture at the Chadbourne Site (1643–1690)

Saturday

7–8 am	Breakfast
8–9:30 am	Jim Garvin: Timber Yards of Great Bay
9:30–10 am	Steve Card: Intro to Timber Grading
10:15 am	Board bus for Woodward Mill tour
10:30–12	Tour Woodward Lumber Mill and Barn; Timber Grading continues there
Noon	Board bus for Portsmouth tour; box lunches provided
12:30–5:30 pm	Tour Portsmouth and Strawberry Banke
5:30 pm	Board bus back to NEC
6–7:15 pm	Dinner
7:15–8:30 pm	Arron Sturgis & John Butler: Barn Assessment and Archival Recording
8:30–10:30 pm	Slide Show

Sunday

7–8 am	Breakfast
8–9:30 am	Jan Lewandoski: Yin Yu Tang
9:30–10 am	Break
10–11:30 am	Richard Harris: The English Barn
11:30 am	Lunch, conference ends

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Estes Park, from page 1

Laporte on **Construction without Destruction**, Kari Bremer with **Ancient Wisdom for the 21st Century**, and Todd Swanson (president of the Southwest Natural Builders Guild), Debbie Hindman (Associates III Interior Design), and Paula Baker-Laporte, AIA, on **Building for Health Naturally**. The track will wrap up on Saturday afternoon with a **Forum** of these experts answering your questions on topics from sustainability to green building.

Other local heroes will treat us to a glimpse of historical timber framing on the Front Range of the Rockies. Tom Keohan, historical architect for the National Park Service in Denver, will demonstrate **Documenting Historic Structures**, and wood scientist Ron Anthony will show us how digital radiography and resistance drilling can help us investigate the **Hidden Details of Timber Structures**. Chris Koziol and Merrill Kaufmann from Colorado State U. will present **Timber Framing and Place**, a view of the history of timber framing in the Rockies and the emerging chapter concerning forest health, small diameter wood, and sustainable local economies. In a session entitled **ED²: Fruit of a Trans-continental Partnership**, Ed Shure and Ed Levin will show us examples of their challenging and unique design-build work. Building scientist Steve Andrews will speak on **The Big Energy Picture** as it relates to SIPS and why we need to care more and sooner about the way we build. Al Wallace will present **Rehabilitating Traditional Western Log Structures**. Wrapping up our list of local presenters will be Andrea Arduine, a

physical therapist from Boulder who will demonstrate **Movement on the Job**.

Other presenters include Mike and Sandy Kones of Centennial Timber Frames with **From Print to Pegs**, Chris Koehn with a summary of his three weeks in Germany as a student at the **Gewerbe-Akademie** in Rottweil, and Guild President Rudy Christian on the **Malabar Farm (Ohio) Working Barn** project.

In partnership with the International Log Builders Association we are bringing **Petr Ruzicka** from the Czech Republic. He is a consummate craftsman, an articulate historian, and preeminent among experts in medieval carpentry. He will demonstrate hewing and cutting joints with only an axe (he's fast!), and he will also show us some remarkable projects from his homeland, from arbors to medieval bridge derricks. Although he is articulate, it's not in English, so if you know anyone who can translate from Czech and wants to come to the conference, please tell us. (We have some leads, but we'd rather hire someone from within the TFG ranks.)

Sunday, April 18, is Holocaust Remembrance Day, and, led by Al Wallace and friends, we will present an update on the status of the Annihilated Heritage—Zabludow Project and synagogue reconstruction in Poland.

John Miller will run the inaugural session of the Hundegger Users Forum, a problem-solving session to encourage the sharing of information and experiences in a moderated format. A Hundegger representative will no doubt be there as well.

Details on other conference highlights, including the Wood ID Challenge, Real Time Problem Solving, Trade Fair, Project Expo, Slide Show, and Book Fair will be in the flyer you receive shortly. Thanks to Coloradans Al Wallace, Peter Haney, and Ed Shure and also Chris Dancey from Ontario for helping put together an outstanding program.

Please join us!

—Will Beemer

Two special conference events

The Guild Benefit Auction is a major fundraiser of the year, made successful through our members' generous and creative contributions of goods, services, and other items. Watch for the auction registration form in the conference flyer; plan to include your name and item in the auction catalog. You may donate to the auction whether or not you attend the conference.

The Project Expo gives timber framers the opportunity to show a recent project of which they are proud. You are encouraged to vote for a favorite project, which will receive the People's Choice Award. Entries are usually presented on display boards, but other forms of display are welcome. Watch for the Project Expo entry form in your confirmation packet, including information on how to reserve a piece of foam core so that you are not juggling that with your airline luggage.

Please, if you have any questions about either of these events, ask me, at susan@tfguild.org or 603-835-2077.

—Susan Norlander

Lodging at the Stanley

FOR THIS conference you need to reserve your rooms separately from conference registration. To reserve a room (\$99/night, double or single occupancy), call the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park at 800-976-1377. Let them know you're with the Timber Framers Guild. You won't want to miss out on a stay in this wonderfully grand hotel, and the Stanley will be releasing rooms shortly. So call soon.

Apprenticeship curriculum development continues

OVER THE past year our efforts on the educational front have been to develop timber framing curriculum and the materials to support it, rather than establishing any apprenticeship training at one particular venue. We continue to encourage emerging programs, such as at the School of the Building Arts in Charleston, S.C., and we have sent a group of 13 to the Gewerbe-Akademie in Germany. (See page 20; they should be returning about the time you read this.) The apprentices at the Heartwood School will be more involved in Guild projects this year, and we've had a few Guild members start the process of trading places with *compagnons* in France.

The Board and Executive Directors feel that, at present, our resources are best put towards publications, getting assembled and in print some of the diverse expertise evident in the Guild. This endeavor is showing some dividends already. Some of our curriculum has been standardized enough that we are now able to have different instructors teaching the same course. This includes the Design, Raising and Rigging, and Compound Joinery courses. Student manuals, visual materials, and teacher handbooks are not far down the line. These packages will then be available for institutions who want to establish a training program.

Because various instructors can be trained and are available to teach the courses, the courses are also mobile. A timber framing shop can host a workshop and bring in an instructor who has the dates open. We already have scheduled some in-house workshops for February.

In order to prioritize the next round of curriculum to be developed, there has been a two-part survey which those of you with email and internet access have been invited to participate in. In the second part (which was just completed), participants were asked

to rank various skill competencies in relation to when they should be first introduced and when a competent timber framer should be considered competent. As one might expect, skills like shop and site safety, tool use and maintenance, and basic joinery skills are at the top of the list for the basic level. Based on these results, these topics will probably get priority for curriculum development. It's equally revealing to see what the 152 respondents to the survey felt were unnecessary to be introduced at any level.

To view the results of the survey, go to www.surveymonkey.com/Report.asp?U=30209933793. Thanks to all who participated.

As we continue to develop these priorities, Gordon Macdonald has proposed completing work on the apprenticeship competency profiles, which will tackle the 100 or so competencies identified already. This will include outlining the learning tasks (what to learn), the content (what materials, techniques and tools to use to teach the learning tasks), and the performance outcomes (how to evaluate the successful attainment of the competency). Given Gordon's work at establishing the apprenticeship program at Carpenter Oak and Woodland's Scotland Yard, we

Athens, Texas: sign up while you can!

ENJOY some lovely weather and a well-run learning experience at the Texas Inland Fisheries Center April 25–May 1. More information about this Guild timber framing workshop (square rule with some compound joinery too) is in the January *Scantlings* and on the web.

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2004 summer workshop series

New instructors and an exciting new course highlight this year's workshops at Pingree Park, Colorado. Of course, we'll continue the extensive summer curriculum being offered at Heartwood in Massachusetts. Here's a rundown of the course offerings.

Square . . . scribe . . . cruck

new!

This two-week course is bound to be exhilarating. It runs August 22–September 4, Pingree Park.

Responding to requests for a longer workshop, we have combined the popular introductory square rule timber framing class with the more advanced techniques previously covered in the one-week scribing class. Featuring a cruck (large, naturally curved members forming an A-shape in the bent) and with a continuing emphasis on the use of hand tools, this unique two-week course is carefully designed to satisfy all backgrounds and skills levels, beginning to advanced. This workshop offers ample opportunities for individual and team assignments...and it's a great chance for our former students to further develop the skills they learned in previous classes.

Students will receive thorough instruction in the traditional methods of square rule layout and cutting, and they will apply and hone these skills as we build a three bent, 16-by-24-ft. cruck frame (see below). This workshop will also offer an introduction to the world of scribing. We'll explore three techniques in particular: the French scribe system, mitered joinery, and the use of bubble scribes to lay out and join members of strange geometries and wild shapes. Scribing involves directly transferring layout from one timber to another so that the resulting joinery reflects

the exact shapes of the mating pieces. Each system has advantages, and we will use all of these techniques as we join square to square, round to square, and round to round. Further, we'll incorporate live edge pieces (flattened on two sides only) into the cruck frame. Instructors will be Dave Carlon and Josh Jackson.

Timber framing (square rule)

Our one-week Timber framing (square rule) course will be offered at Heartwood twice this summer, June 14–18 and July 26–30.

Scribing

The one-week version of the Scribing workshop will be at Heartwood August 2–6.

Design and joinery decisions

John Mumaw leads this workshop at Pingree Park, September 12–17. It will also be offered at Heartwood, May 31–June 4, with Will Beemer and Tom Barfield.

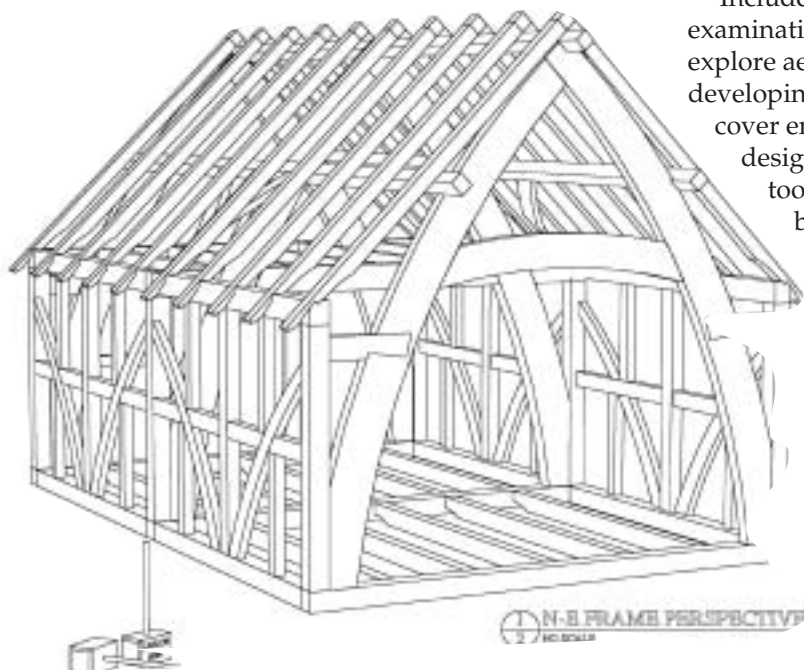
This course is an introduction to timber frame design. While it could be taken by anyone wanting a better understanding of timber frame design, it is especially meant for builders and timber framers. Emphasis will be on developing the information necessary for a small shop to cut a frame including sizing timbers and selecting joints.

Included will be a history of timber framing and an examination of various timber frame types. We will explore aesthetic and structural considerations in developing a timber frame design. The course will cover engineering basics for timber sizing and joint design. And finally we will practice using the tools necessary (sketching, drafting, and model building) for successful communication of the design to the client, other design and building professionals, and the shop.

Compound joinery

We'll offer a compound joinery course June 7–11 at Heartwood (Will Beemer, instructor) and September 5–10 at Pingree Park (Curtis Milton leads). We'll demonstrate laying out and cutting hip and valley systems using lofting, framing square, calculator, the Hawkendale angles, and visualization. Students will work in pairs to lay out and cut models which include a hip and jack rafter

system, a dormer valley and jack purlin



drawing Dave Carlon

This is the cruck you'll build during the Guild's new workshop.

system, and an irregular valley. Learning developed drawing techniques and the Hawkindale angles is one of the goals of this course, enabling students to simplify complicated carpentry problems through the use of this traditional drafting method. Please note that this is an advanced course and to get the most from it, we recommend (but don't require) that you have confidence and experience in timber framing or conventional roof framing. Prior knowledge of how to lay out a simple gable roof using math, lofting, or framing square will be helpful.

Knots, ropework, raising, and rigging

The trio of Grigg Mullen, Al Anderson, and Ted Haendel will lead this workshop July 19–23 at Heartwood. This is a great opportunity to learn the few but necessary knots (a dozen or so) and splices needed by the timber framer to safely lift heavy loads and tie off timbers for shipment. You'll practice them until you own them. The rigging of blocks and use of tackle will be demonstrated. We'll also show how to arrange, rig, and raise shear legs (A-frames) and maneuver a load with a jib-arm. We'll show various methods of guying the poles. Proper proportions and geometry will also be discussed. More maneuverable and versatile than shear legs, the gin pole requires more rope and guying points (anchors). You'll learn how to adjust the gin pole (called luffing) using various rope hitches and tackle. Finding lifting points and how to secure pieces and bents for raising will also be covered, as well as the safe use of slings, come-alongs, and scaffolding. Rigging, signals, and crane operation will be thoroughly demonstrated with a crane on site (with each student getting to direct a lift), and the relative benefits of various rope types and straps will be analyzed.

Converting trees to timber

New last year, this course filled up early and was enjoyed immensely. This year it will be at Heartwood (and nearby venues) August 9–13, and it will include sessions by Jack Sobon, Greg Wellott, Dave Bowman, Cows Lumber, and others. Learn to visually identify

the different species of hardwoods and softwoods, grade timbers for strength and appearance, and maintain a woodlot for future generations. We will demonstrate how to safely and efficiently cut trees and get them out of the woods. Special emphasis is on the safe and proper operation of the chainsaw. We'll demonstrate and practice turning round logs into square timbers (called conversion). This includes traditional hand tool techniques such as hewing, riving, and adzing. We will have the opportunity to work alongside a variety of sawmills: circular and bandsaw mills as well as portable chainsaw and bandsaw mills such as the Wood Mizer™.

The Heartwood School is in the town of Washington in the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts, while Pingree Park is Colorado State University's Mountain Campus at 9000 feet on the northern border of Rocky Mt. National Park, 1½ hours west of Ft. Collins. Will and Michele Beemer are the hosts at Heartwood, while Peter Haney of Rocky Mt. Workshops capably coordinates the Colorado workshops. Please visit the Guild website for more information on the venues, these courses, and ones that may be added during the year. You may register there or with the form on page 8. Tuition fees, discounts, and other information are also detailed.

—Will Beemer

Possible N.H. Guild project

AT PRESSTIME, Joel, Arron Sturgis, and The Friends of Pisgah are working on the details for a big barn project in New Hampshire.

This will have three components: a spring workshop on stabilization, marking and dismantling; a summer workshop on frame typology and repairs (including hewing); and, in the fall, moving and raising the barn to become part of the Visitor's Center at Pisgah State Park. Stay tuned, or ask Joel for details as they emerge.

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Timber Framers Guild Summer Workshops Registration

Tuition fees are \$25 additional for non-members unless otherwise noted. Return this form or a copy to TFG, PO Box 60, Becket, MA 01223, or fax with credit card info to 888-453-0879.
Fees for non-members are \$25 additional per registration (single or couple).

Choose your workshops

at Heartwood, Washington, Massachusetts

- ☐ **Timber Frame Design and Joinery Decisions.**
May 31–Jun 4, member cost \$525, couple \$975, includes lunch.
- ☐ **Compound Joinery.** Jun 7–11, member cost \$525, couple \$975, includes lunch.
- ☐ **Timber Framing.**
Jun 14–18, Jul 26–30 (circle one week), member cost \$525, couple \$975, includes lunch.
- ☐ **Knots, Ropework, Raising, and Rigging.**
Jul 19–23, member cost \$525, couple \$975, includes lunch
- ☐ **Scribing.** Aug 2–6, member cost \$525, couple \$975, includes lunch.
- ☐ **Converting Trees to Timber.** Aug 9–13, member cost \$525, couple \$975, includes lunch.

at Rocky Mountain Workshops, Pingree Park, Colorado

Room and board (3 meals, all you can eat, shared cabin accommodations) are \$39 extra per person per day. Pay directly to Pingree Park on check-in.

- ☐ **Square . . . Scriber . . . Cruck!** Aug 22–Sep 4, member cost \$1120, couple \$2165.
- ☐ **Compound Joinery.** Sep 5–10, member cost \$575, couple \$1075.
- ☐ **Timber Frame Design and Joinery Decisions.** Sep 12–17, member cost \$575, couple \$1075.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Company _____

Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Vegetarian? _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

Experience level (circle one)

in Timber framing:	Beginner	Advanced	
in General Construction:	Beginner	Advanced	
In Woodworking:	Beginner	Advanced	Guild member? ____Yes ____No

Fee summary

Workshop fees	\$ _____
<input type="radio"/> Guild membership fee or year 2004 renewal (\$75)	\$ _____
<input type="radio"/> Contribution to the Mark Brandt Scholarship Fund (\$10 minimum, please)	\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Method of payment (check one):

- ☐ check ☐ money order (make payable to Timber Framers Guild; US funds only, please)
- ☐ Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, AMEX or Discover only)

Card number _____

Name on card _____ Exp. date _____

Welcome, new Board members!

WITH 600 votes cast (a respectable turnout), we are pleased to announce the newest Board members: Brenda Baker, Rick Collins, and Grigg Mullen. Good luck on the journey you are about to undertake!

We thank all of the candidates for running. We also thank Sandy Bennett (with possibly the longest continuous tenure on the Board, a measure of both popularity and stamina), John MacFarland, and Chris Madigan for the countless hours of discussion, planning, and decision-making that you put in. May you all enjoy your "retirement!" Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

The face-to-face meeting of the Board of Directors will have just taken place (January 30–February 1, in Norwell, Mass.) when you read this. Look for a comprehensive listing, complete with roles, committee assignments, contact information, of Guild staff as well as a financial report, in the April issue of *Scantlings*.



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Bainbridge Island memorial

possible Guild project?

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"Those accused of a crime shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury and be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation."

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Despite these protections, on February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt, succumbing to the politics of fear, signed executive order 9066, over the objections of Attorney General Frances Biddle and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, who considered the order unconstitutional and unnecessary. The purpose of this order was to remove and incarcerate people of Japanese ancestry then living on the West Coast.

As a result, from March 1942 to September 1945, some 77,000 American citizens and 43,000 Japanese nationals were incarcerated—men, women, and children. The "test bed," the first place people were taken from, was the rural agricultural community of Bainbridge Island in Washington State.

Following the war, many internees returned to Bainbridge to pick up the pieces of their lives. The people returning experienced a full range of loss and kindnesses. Some had lost everything to indifference, intolerance, and profiteering, while others were able to hang on to some part of what they had before through the help of sympathetic neighbors and friends on the island. Of those who came back, some are still on the island and others are survived by family.

The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BIJAC) represents these people. BIJAC now plans a memorial to the internment experience. Federal funding is promised, and they are pursuing additional funding as well.

The project, *Nidoto Nai Yoni* or "Let it not happen again," will serve as a reminder of what can happen

when we see fit to abrogate the rights of any group within our society.

The memorial is in the early planning stages, but it will include an interpretive center of some size and ancillary structures: gates, a kiosk, and possibly a bridge. The largest structures are tentatively scheduled for late 2005 while the smaller projects may occur both before and after.

The primary guiding principle is that community members do not want the design to be entirely traditional Japanese. They see themselves as Japanese-Americans and would like that reflected in the design. However, it has been suggested to the community that some projects such as the kiosk or bridge could be more traditional and serve as an additional incentive to the Guild.

Overall there should be plenty of opportunity for rendezvous and workshops. Kevin Coker of Timbercraft is working with me on this. If you're interested in helping develop this as a Guild project, please let me know at jb@cascade-crest.com or 253-884-9349, tell Kevin, kc@timbercraft.com or 360-385-3051x 14.

—John Buday

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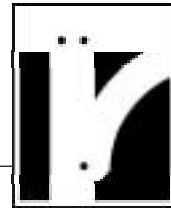
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Visioning: walking the walk

OVER THE course of the holidays I spent time in a health clinic in Missoula that impressed me so greatly that I had to write about it this month. It embodies everything I think a business can aspire to be, and is such an excellent example of what I often try to describe, without having the right words.

From the moment I walked in, I felt like I was in a friend's slightly cluttered but well-used, well-loved living room. It was comfortable and comforting. This being the holiday season, there was more than a little chocolate stacked here and there in invitingly open boxes. There were books and plants, a TV in the corner for kids, a computer, and a kid working away who obviously was very familiar with the surroundings and making himself completely at home.

I introduced myself once at the desk, and the introduction was passed on ahead of me so everywhere I went, everyone already knew my name. There were a lot of people moving around, nurses, patients, staff, so there was little privacy, but somehow it was all fine. It

was all family already. The patients were friendly and joking together; the staff was completely present, emotionally as well as physically. On subsequent visits, they remembered who I was and took a personal interest in how I was doing.

As I try to nail down exactly what was so very different, the two specifics I come back to are (1) everyone knowing my name, and (2) the extra time each member of the staff took to be caring and compassionate, while still being efficient. And even more striking: what I felt was not from just one person, but from almost every single person in the place.

So, what does this have to do with timber framing?

Being in that situation gave new life to the term "visioning" for me. Clearly, there is a true leader in this organization with a vision she is carrying out. And her vision is clear. Without reading it anywhere, I can tell you that it is to provide top-notch health care in the most compassionate and caring way possible. I have invited her to sit down with me and talk about




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what she has done to create this atmosphere, so I hope to share some of what I find with you. For now, though, I'll start with where I would begin translating this vision to our industry. What if the vision is to build the best houses in the most compassionate and caring way possible? I believe there are a lot of timber framers working on a vision close to that.

I would start at the every beginning: the first time I walk in your door.

If I came into your workspace today, how or what would I feel? Would I feel welcomed, encouraged to ask questions? Would there be someone who would stop what they were doing and give me the time I need? In dealing with me, would your staff seem present, or preoccupied?

Do you have any way of making sure that the people in your company know clients' names? Imagine how gratifying it would be to visit a company that you've just paid many thousands of dollars to, and have most everyone know who you are. It's certainly an extra touch that will pay dividends throughout the project. (I admit this is the pot calling the kettle black—remembering names has always been one of my weak points—but I've gained a new appreciation for how much difference it can make, and I hereby commit to doing much better.)

Do you have a consistent and comfortable way of passing clients through your company—not just on a visit, but as their project moves through sales, design, and the shop? Do you introduce them to the new people they will be working with, and then check in to make sure they've made the transition well? When they arrive on site, do you introduce them and the crew, in a way that honors them as the owner and originator of the idea you're about to make real?

I think that at times we can all get caught up in the details of what we do. We can lose sight of how important the human connections really are. If this all seems a bit touchy-feely, think about the competitive edge it can give you. Beyond getting the job in the first place, perhaps even with a higher price, you'll likely be granted more latitude if you make mistakes, just on

the basis of how welcomed and supported you have made your clients feel. I believe that following this model will also help keep most employees happier over the long run as well, especially the caring kind of people who seem to be attracted to work in timber framing in the first place.

Most significant, I came away with a deepened appreciation for how much difference a well-visioned company makes in the eyes of a client. What the vision is, specifically, is not the question. Some companies, for example, might embrace the vision of high quality with lowest possible cost, seeing it as a greater service for their chosen clients. Whatever your vision, these same questions apply. Do you see your vision brought to life within your own company—or perhaps more to the point, do others see it? Could a client walking in your door name your vision? I have visited timber frame companies where I could, and others where it wasn't very clear. I hope it's one thing we're going to learn a lot about in Corpus Christi, and I will surely bring back some specific ideas from there.

I encourage you to take the time this new year to recognize and name your vision. Then take the many small steps required to infuse it throughout your organization.

—Nancy Wilkins

TFBC at Estes Park

THERE will be a TFBC members meeting at the Guild's Western Conference on Friday, 1–2:30 pm. Everyone, including non-TFBC members, is welcome to attend. Among other topics, Dick Schmidt will give an informal update of research and testing on timber frames being done at the University of Wyoming.



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Timber frame workshops flourish at Palomar

THE FIRST two weeks of January were perfect for yet another timber frame workshop at Palomar College near San Diego. While much of the U.S. struggled to survive the record cold temperatures of this winter, 43 happy students and five even happier instructors (not from California) enjoyed springlike weather at another workshop at the southern California campus. This workshop was a first for the program that has been nurtured and expanded by Guild member Chris Feddersohn for the last 18 years. The frames produced by previous workshops all reside on the Palomar campus; this frame, instead, will become the stage used for jazz concerts and other entertainment programs at the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum in Vista, California.

See Palomar, page 16



photo Laura Saeger

Carson Christian demonstrates trimming the shoulder of a lap joint.

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photo Diane Feddersohn

The entire group at Palomar, assembled mid-workshop. In front row are, l-r, instructors Carson Christian, Rudy Christian, Chris Feddersohn, Laura Saeger, student Jeremy Mendenhal, and instructors Tim Chauvin and Mark Witter.

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Palomar, from page 15

The students were an interesting mix of retired folks and young kids aged 14 to 18.

The timber frame cut for this class was actually very similar to one cut at a previous Palomar class, now used for the sale of ware produced by the art department at the college. The frame was originally designed by Guild members Tim and Wynter Chauvin's company Red Suspenders Timber Frames of Nacogdoches, Texas. Guild member Ted Stearns, who had cut this same frame at a Texas Guild workshop, was so excited by its design he convinced Chris to use it for the workshop at Palomar, and when the Antique Steam Museum folks saw it, it was love at first site. (Sorry, I couldn't resist.) The frame's "gull wing" look and open footprint was perfect for the new stage. The material of choice was No.1 or better Douglas Fir, surfaced four sides.

Since the frame design originated at Red Suspenders, it was logical to invite Tim Chauvin to act as the instructor, but Tim's schedule wouldn't allow for a two-week commitment. So Chris called me to see if I would be available to fill in. January in California for residents of the Midwest is hard to resist, so I, my wife Laura, and my son Carson sacrificed subzero temperatures to fill in. As luck would have it, six of the

students at the workshop were home-schooled, as was Carson. The connection was instantaneous. Before the week of instruction was out, all the home schoolers were wearing official "Carson Christian Fan Club" T-shirts.

The second week of class was taken over by Tim Chauvin and Mark Witter (from The Cascade Joinery in Washington State and husband of *Scantlings* editor Susan Witter). It wasn't easy for us to make it to halftime and then leave, but it was obvious the A team had arrived and the students were in good hands.

Week one's classroom time quickly turned into hands-on timber framing, and the frame began to take shape as the anticipation of the raising grew. When raising day arrived the payoff was more than just the satisfaction of work well done, but the results of an effort that has seen the program at Palomar mature into a true example of timber frame project-based curriculum development that Chris is working hard to package and share with other educational programs.

For more information about the woodworking program and a day-by-day pictorial of the Antique Steam Museum stage workshop, visit www.palomar.edu/woodworking. —Rudy R. Christian

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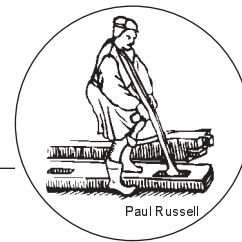
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Guild conferences

TTRAG Conference 2004. Mar 19–21, The New England Center, Durham, N.H. (See page 3.)

Western Conference 2004. Apr 15–18, Stanley Hotel, Estes Park, Colo. (See page 1.)

Eastern Conference 2004. Oct 28–31, Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, Pa.

Guild events on location

Virginia Military Institute, with the Guild, National Park Service, and School of the Building Arts

Spring field exercise: cannon carriages. Jan 29–Feb 1, Feb 27–29, Lexington, Va.; Apr 2–6, Fort Sumter, S.C. Grigg Mullen, 540-464-7331.

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On location in Brownfield, Maine:
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Introduction to timber framing. Apr 26–May 1, Mountain, Ontario (near Ottawa). Jason Gibson, 613-374-2488, jgibson@kos.net, or Dave Pajot, 613-258-1096, dpajot@aol.com. Followed by a straw bale workshop—ask us about it.

Traditional Timber Framing

French timber framing. May 3–22, Dax, France. Marc Guilhemjouan, www.traditionaltimberframe.com.

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At this writing, 13 of us are midway through our workshop. For more photos and details, see the Guild website.
—Chris Koehn



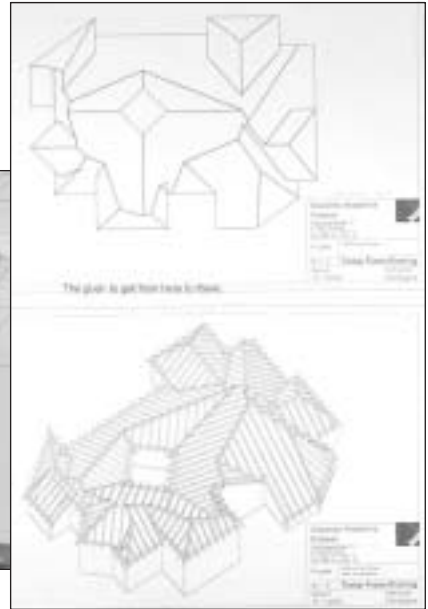
*Ken
Leuchtenmacher
hard at work.*

*Right, instructor
Filippo Campagna
flipping a hip.*

*Far right, our goal
is to get from the
top drawing to the
bottom one.*



photos Chris Koehn



*Tony Wall and Kurt (a local cabinet maker)
enjoying dinner and libations in Meersburg.*



*Archaeological site: village at the edge of the Bodensee with timber recon-
structions of the remains found from 2000 BC. Our roots may be here.*



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