

Salem: good organization breeds success

I WENT to Salem with the intention of practicing and learning more about compound roofing. Well, it happened. I ended up working with a few others on the jack rafters, a simple repetitive task made challenging by the fact that we used datum lines to get a precise layout. However, the learning that is still with me and that I want to share in this article has little to do with wood, angles, and the pavilion's technical achievement. To my surprise, what I am left with is a larger sense of the importance of organization, communication, and (to risk a cliché in today's business world) leadership. Well-run businesses have good leaders; there are many books on that topic. I know that none of what I have to say here will add to that. Still, I want to tell you why I can't separate the Salem Rendezvous' success from the people there and what they taught me.

Can there be leadership without egos and a chain of command? Well, if there was a hierarchy in Salem, it was not apparent. Our fearless leaders took their turns without fussing or stumbling over any other area of concern. The focus, as Curtis said early on, was to build the thing and go home. Period. It sounded short and dry, egoless, I would say. It surprised me because I came for me and my own learning. Over a period of a few days, my personal goals quickly dissipated and were transformed into a larger picture than I had anticipated: building safely as a team, learning to see my part as a contribution to the whole, and letting go of measuring how much I learned.

The Salem workshop was my first rendezvous, and it showed me that our Guild is not about individual celebration but instead cooperation and teaching through community projects.

If there was no one leader, there was strong organization to guide a group of 45 males and a handful of

See Salem, page 4.



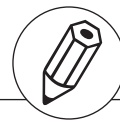
photos Denis Bue

An international team: Don Rigby (England) in charge of the crane and its operator, Gabel Holder (Georgia) untying one chain, and Gene Wixson (Oregon) and Barbara Czocho (England) moving in to check the valley for fit into the ridge.

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Comments on Scantlings

The basic premise of this message is that we members of the Timber Framers Guild jointly share a pursuit of excellence and exhibited professionalism thereby. We don't live in a perfect world but we should have the wisdom to recognize those things which we can change. Those of you who know me recognize that my pursuit of excellence is always in search of the better good.

The timeliness of announcements and such in *Scantlings* still suffers. It is fixable.

Today (31 May 2005) in the mail, Sharon and I received two thank-you letters from the Allenstown Meeting House gathering of 21 May. We also received our May-June issue of *Scantlings* in the same mail. Why then, is the Allenstown piece on page 5 written in future tense?

On pages 26 and 27, these events are also overcome by the clock: the aforementioned Allenstown Meeting House, Historic Deerfield, Rocky Mountain workshops.

Please, no excuses. Future time announcements should exceed the mailing date plus five days minimum. There are a select few who depend on *Scantlings* for date sensitive information, as they do not visit the TFG website.

Further misinformation (which rarely happens) is on page 19. The structure in the background and behind the beam cart is *not* Kenmore (Kenmore house is four or so miles away on the other side of the river in Fredericksburg) and not George W's boyhood home either. The building is the Ferry Farm admin headquarters and mini-museum. The Ferry Farm *site* was G.W.'s boyhood home. One of the goals of the organization is to replicate the farmhouse when the funds become available.

Kudos to Joel for interrupting his surgery to participate; that's dedication. Matt Webster, our host, did a remarkable job too.

Overall, *Scantlings* is an outstanding piece of work. It would be so very nice to get timely information therein.

Emmett Greenleaf

[Emmett—Thanks for expressing your useful feedback so positively. For the most part, we will strive to better adhere to a reasonable time frame in event announcements. For a few longer-term events, however, we may leave the listing in if the end date is still in the future and people are welcome after the start date.—Ed.]

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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: July 20.

Please address contributions or information to:
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Bellingham, WA 98225, phone and fax 360-647-0310,
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A timber frame experience

From May 31 to June 7, a group of dedicated participants gathered to learn elementary traditional timber framing in a course offered through Harford (Maryland) Community College's Building Preservation and Restoration program and taught by timber framer Glen James (Craftwright, Inc.), a Guild member. Maryland State Parks, Friends of Jerusalem Mill, and the Preservation Trades Network also collaborated. The goal was to re-construct the timber frame structure of the original wheelwright shop at Jerusalem Mill, now the headquarters of the Gunpowder Falls State Park in Kingsville, Maryland, by using traditional hand tools and methodology.

Students and volunteers began their week-long project by planning out joinery on roughsawn white oak timbers. Each participant spent hours sharpening chisels. Chips flew through the air and wooden mallets created a rhythmic music that resonated throughout Jerusalem Mill. The group weathered the hot temperatures, long days, and some thunder showers with continued smiles.

Thanks to Friends of Jerusalem Mill volunteers, each day began with a group breakfast, socializing, and a feeling of togetherness. Throughout the days, teams helped each other handsaw the ends of the beams, bore holes with brace and bit, and plan out further joinery. The shaving horse really got a workout, as 72 wooden pegs

were shaved to size! By the end of the week, timbers were completed and carried over one by one to the raising location. "Blood, sweat, and tears!" exclaimed instructor Glen James, and he was right. But when the first wall was raised by ropes and pike poles, the blood, sweat, and tears were followed by shouts of joy and applause. The onlookers were in awe and, as one student commented, "This was a spiritual experience." Days of hard work ended with a timber frame experience that no one will ever forget. Thank you to all who took part.

Rhonda L. Deeg

For more information, reach Rhonda L. Deeg at 410-836-4000 or rdeeg@harford.edu.

See your plan in print

WE'VE RECEIVED some fine submissions to the *Timber Frame Plan Book* we're developing, but we need more! They should be modest, manageable projects. Drawings should include frame plans, elevations, joinery details, and a materials list.

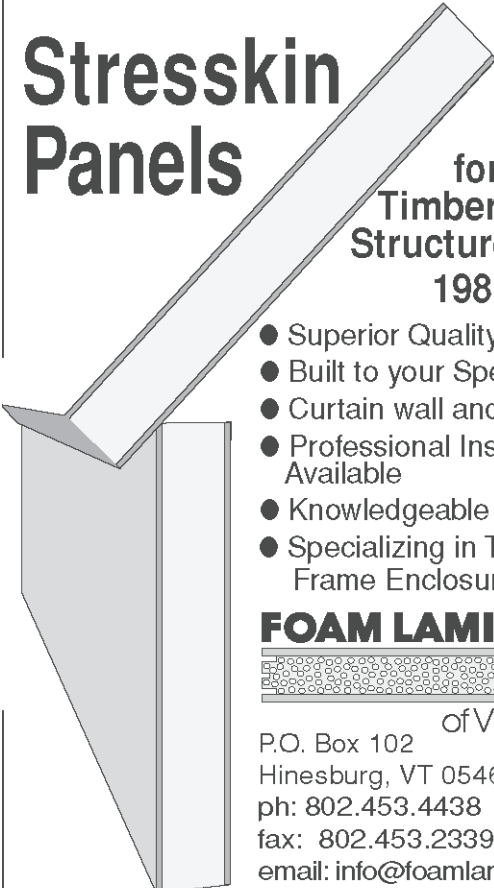
If you've got something that fits the bill, tell Andrew Warchaizer (springpt@sover.net, 603-835-2433) or Will Beemer (will@tfguild.org, 413-623-9926).

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Salem, from page 4

women. Many of us run our own businesses. We have had first-hand experience with the skills of leading crew, and we have done well, sometimes better than others. Personally, I was awed at the ease with which it all happened. So how did it come about? When the volunteer workforce arrived on Sunday evening, every detail that needed to be in place for the success of the adventure was taken care of, the supporting staff from Salem was ready, there was a plan to follow and lots to cover right away, and everyone was there, anxious and championing at the bit. In a way we (the volunteers) knew our part was to follow directions, and our leaders' part was to have them ready and to deliver them clearly. How do you do that with so many people who have not been involved and don't know each other yet? The list below is an attempt on my part to name the skills a good leading team uses to get the job done. More could be added, and the order does not reflect any priority.

Prepare. Every detail must have been studied, from the tool list to where to meet on the first day, and on and on. To spread the work efficiently, Steve Lawrence had a list of jobs to accomplish. He asked everyone where they would want to be and whether they were willing to lead a team. So we chose a task or part of the building and hoped that a natural fit was already installed. All the timber was on sawhorses, and a list was available to cross-reference what each team had to work with. Each timber was also labeled and numbered. I don't think there was any extra of the big stuff. Gutsy!

I won't mention the invisible staff of people who fed us and provided lodging and entertainment; someone did a great job there.

Be safe. Gordon Macdonald spent the first day with us on safety. In his words, nothing mattered more than to have us go home safe and sound. Not only did he say it; he lived it through the two weeks. We covered all aspects of accident prevention, from a full risk assessment of the job to what each one of us should contribute toward a safe environment. We were all to wear steel-toed boots and a hard hat when machines started to lift stuff.

Ladders were tied up, and harness was a must for all in the movable working platforms during raising.

In the end, I never saw anyone walking high up on timbers. A good example was set for all of us monkeys to see. By talking about safety daily, Gordon created an atmosphere of companionship *vis à vis* an aspect of the building process I have clearly avoided until now.

Invite help. As we chose where we would work, we took on some responsibility either as leaders or as helpers. During layout and cutting, errors were eliminated simply by relying on everyone's full attention and involvement. I never saw any of our leaders make a critical last minute checkup on our work. That really struck me because I expected someone would be doing that.

Instead, as was the case with the jack rafters, we were told to line them all up and see if any one looked different. I don't know how the other teams prevented errors; this worked for us. The accuracy needed for a successful raising was achieved through the skills we were taught,



Arwin Anthony, daughter of project engineer Jennifer Anthony and the youngest person at Salem. Confident, focused, coordinated, and interested. All she brought with her was a soccer ball. She got to carve the only personal initials that went on the building, and she stuck with it.

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the trust we were given, and indirectly by us all as we worked together toward a common goal.

We were given the power to make things right, along with the power to stop the whole show at raising time. Any one of us could prevent a catastrophe or simply say, "I don't think this is safe." It was clear that safety is a personal affair and not someone else's job.


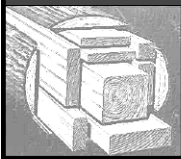
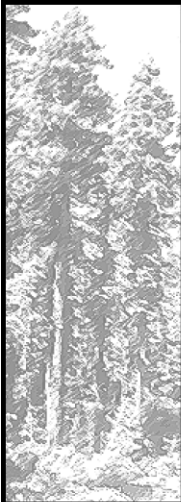
To prevent safety issues with OSHA, Gordon MacDonald had three of their officers come and talk to us. They were impressed with the risk assessment plan in place and we learned from them that their organization is on our side, and ready and available to give advice freely. Invite them to look at your job and ask for assistance.

Keep notes. The best way to keep track of all the small stuff that goes on with a large group is to carry at all times a small book and pencil and to write stuff as it comes up. This is an easy way to keep your mind free of the stress of knowing that there is something you are forgetting. Aren't you over 50 yet? Okay; I'm talking about myself again.

Teach skills. Throughout the workshop we were taught the techniques required for each task. For example, a few trainings were organized for the machinery operators. In the evenings we went over compound angles, scribing, rigging, and more safety. That way, no one had to enforce rules or methods during the day. We were well prepared for each upcoming task.

Talk to each other. Simply said, a leader is a person who can use words to get others to do the work. In order to make that dialogue very easy, a few details must be in place. One is a morning pow-wow. Each task goes under review; team leaders get to say what they need and show the progress they've made. Priorities can be reassessed and the larger goal achieved on time. Team leaders or anyone can make suggestions, and everyone knows the whole picture. Also, on a project like this one that was spread over a large area, walkie-talkies make a lot of sense.

Rehearse what is complex. In furniture making, it's called dry assembly. Before gluing up a large assembly in my shop, I go through a complete rehearsal of the glue-up without applying the glue. I know all my clamps are lined up where I will need them, the wood parts are laid out clearly, and that, during the ten minutes I have to apply glue and assemble, the parts are within my reach. Same idea with big timber. When the time came for picking up the large hip rafter assembly (about 14,000 lbs.), we all had a good idea what to expect. We had reviewed the raising and its order, and thus we had limited the surprises and reduced the danger inherent with large groups and large weight overhead. All slings were hanging on a rack for easy selection. The sling's position was known, the placement of the crane was determined, and jobs were assigned clearly. Everyone else was



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out of the ring of business. The dance of the machines was somewhat choreographed, and a system of dialogue was known so that all involved worked safely together. It is that kind of planning that makes a stressful situation sane.

Stay calm. When all these conditions have been well managed, most everything is under control. There is no need to scream or speed up, because everyone is doing the right thing. During the raising there were at least two cranes lifting and three movable working platforms underneath, shifting around and making adjustments. There were many layers of machinery on top of each other and many layers of tasks getting accomplished. From a distance, it was similar to looking at an anthill through a powerful lens: everything on top of each other, yet everyone going at their task in order, and in the middle, Steve moving like a conductor (the tempo was *piano*, Italian for slow and calm), and out on the periphery, watchful Gordon and Curtis breathing easier. Where was Joel?

Make room for humor. When all is in place, humor can really flow. Not only can our Guild do these beautiful structures, we also know how to have a blast doing it. Humor came in all forms, tasteful and even more tasteful, but there was lots of it, in all accents and kinds of laughter. You should have been there.

In Salem, I got great pleasure from feeling safe and well taken care of, following good directions, and helping along the way. I saw very capable people passing the baton of leadership to the ones interested in taking on the challenges of the situation. There was room for everyone to learn, make mistakes, and learn from them. Those with more experience were secure enough to let others take on responsibilities. Egos were nonexistent, humor everywhere, and eggs plentiful for breakfast. (The eggs had nothing to do with the humor, I assure you.) And I got more than enough learning where I expected it the least. Now that I am home, it's up to me to use these skills and to make my business work the way I like it. My last words go to Joel Mc Carty: bravo! You make it look easy, fun, and natural.

—Denis Buet

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EVERY YEAR, like clockwork, after the new *Timber Frame Resource Guide* (published by the Timber Frame Business Council) comes out, we get calls from members wondering why they're not in it.

The *Resource Guide* is probably the least expensive way in existence to advertise your timber framing product or service and is very effective. But it *is* advertising; you pay a small fee to be listed. Listings are not automatically included with Guild membership. Those listed are reminded each year to renew, and a notice is placed in *Scantlings* near the end of the year asking for new submissions. If you miss that, you won't get in.

But you can get in anytime! The *Resource Guide* is regularly updated on the TFBC website, so those who join up now, even though it's halfway through the year, will get listed online and then automatically get their renewal notice for the print version later this year.

So don't delay. Each week we get calls from folks looking for a timber framer or a supplier, and we send them to the *Resource Guide* or refer them to the website. Reach the Timber Frame Business Council (TFBC) at 888-560-9251 or info@timberframe.org to get your listing.

—Will Beemer

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Eastern Conference: 20 years as a Guild

IN 1985, the Guild held its first conference at Hancock Shaker Village in Massachusetts. We'll celebrate the 20th anniversary of that event at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Burlington, Vt., October 13-16.

Pre-conference activities include tours of historic Shelburne Farm and the nearby Shelburne Museum, highlights of our 2002 conference here. Gordon MacDonald and Steve Lawrence will lead us through all-day certification workshops in rigging, crane use, and site safety, based on our new curriculum content. Wil Dancey and Tony Wall will teach a compound roof framing workshop.

Keynote speakers for the main conference starting on Friday include John Abrams, David Eisenberg, and Tom Hubka. John is the founder of South Mountain Company and the author of a new book, *The Company We Keep*. John will show how a craftsman addresses the challenges of a progressive small business in his keynote and then lead an informal breakout discussion on growth, legacy, community, and other issues.

David Eisenberg was a highlight of our 2005 western conference in Oregon. He directs the Development Cen-

ter for Appropriate Technology and is co-author of the *Straw Bale House Book*. His keynote will be titled Moving Toward Sustainable Building and Development, and he will also give us an update on straw-bale construction in a breakout session.

Tom Hubka is Professor of Architecture at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and award-winning author of *Resplendent Synagogue: Architecture and Worship in an Eighteenth-Century Polish Community* (subject of a breakout session) and *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England*, which he will discuss in his keynote address along with his most recent work.

Our popular Natural Building Track will return with all new presentations, including (along with David Eisenberg's talk):

- Applying Building Science to Straw Light Clay Wall Construction, with **Joshua Thornton**
- Hemp Comes Out of the Closet, with NBT Coordinator **Chris Dancey** and **Gabriel Gauthier**

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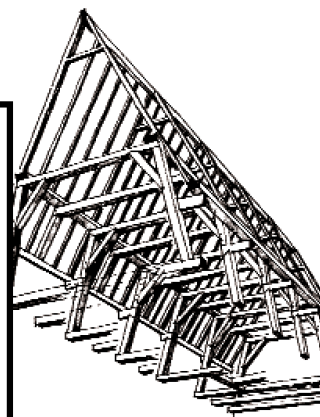
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- A Model for Natural Building Education, with **Chris Magwood**, about using actual natural building projects as part of a course curriculum
- Natural Building Details – a Collection for Timber Framers, with **Mike Beganyi**, Chris' NBT assistant
- The Natural Building Forum, where you'll have a chance to ask questions of all these experts

Other 90-minute breakout presentations tentatively include **Anders Frøstrup** of Norway presenting on several topics, including craft (history, education, craftsmanship) vs. production and the art and craft of drawing; **Jack Witherington** on shop practices to maximize efficiency; **Andrea Warchaizer** on three-dimensional architectural visualization and photogrammetry; **Paul Malko** on best practices for working with structural insulated panels; **Matt Phillips** on crane setup and safety; **Wil Dancey** and **Tony Wall** on roof design, production, and construction; **Jerry Rouleau** with a Business Track concentrating on consumer trends, advertising, and public relations; and an extensive Engineering Track for both beginners and experienced designers with topics ranging from general engineering considerations to a detailed review of member design and joinery design (**Tom Nehil**), plus research in the capacity of pegged mortise and tenon joints (**Joe Miller**) and **Ben Brungraber** and **Anders Frøstrup** on the secrets of keyed beams.

In addition to our excellent lineup of speakers, we're planning a number of special events. These include a Friday night dance with the Cajun-Zydeco band Planet Zydeco (see ad, page 8), sponsored by long-time Guild supporters Bensonwood Homes and Dreaming Creek Timber Frame Homes. We will also have ongoing screenings of a number of new videos, including *Stone Rising*, the work of legendary New England stonemason Dan Snow. **Josh Jackson** will lead a scribing exhibition in the Trade Fair area, where we anticipate other ongoing Basic Track demos. We are also seeking volunteers to assist with a Children's Workshop, such a remarkable event at the last Eastern Conference. The Children's Discovery Workshop will return for the third straight year, and we are seeking volunteers to assist at this remarkable event.

We will also continue with our regular conference features, such as the Summerbeam Bookstore (sponsored by Duluth Timber), the Slide Show (scheduled for Saturday afternoon this year instead of the evening), our Benefit Auction on Saturday night (sponsored by Paul Kessler), the Trade Fair (including the Friday mixer), and the annual Membership Meeting.

We thank all the sponsors mentioned above; we're also grateful to the following for their contributions to help make the Conference more affordable for all of you:

- Major Sponsor: HSB-CAD (\$5000 sponsorship)
- Trade Show Sponsors: Winter Panel, Timberwolf Tools, and Clarks Fork Timber (\$2000 each)
- Contributing Sponsor: *Timber Home Living* (\$1000)

The Sheraton Burlington Hotel is less than a mile from the Burlington (Vt.) airport, making the free shuttle quick and easy for those flying in. For details on the hotel and convenient online booking of your reservation, go to <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=0412304816&key=374FB>. You may also call 802-865-6600; be sure to mention Timber Framers Guild to get the special rate of \$99 per night, single or double.

This conference will be a month earlier than our last trip to Burlington, so we can look forward to sharing some fall color instead of a blizzard. See you there!

—Will Beemer

Are you a kid at heart?

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP instructors are needed for the Eastern Conference. Following the roaring success of this event at last year's conference, we are in need of interested folks who can take shifts with the kids to build another great climbing wall. You'll earn the undying admiration of the kids and gratitude of us all. Please call Chris Koehn, 920-528-8661, or email him at timberguides@koehn.com. Thanks!

—Will Beemer

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Changing landscapes

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES go hand in hand with good building techniques and an ecological mindset.

What is the measure of sustainable buildings? I believe it is, in part, building structures that outlast the natural resources that produced them. It may also include constructing them so that they have *functional adaptive reuse*. In many cases, the demise of structures seems related to their inability to be modified for a future landscape. Fitting a building style to a particular climate is critical for its staying power as well. Too often, good, well-built buildings fail because of improper foundations and poor roofing materials.

The Selman pavilion, a recent TFG project in Angola, Indiana, has been an attempt to meet these measures (longevity, functional adaptive reuse, climate suitability, good roof, and good foundation). The TFG chose white oak harvested from a managed forest in Illinois. Of the 15 million acres of timber land in Illinois today, not enough of the non-industrial, privately-owned land is sustainably managed. With only 12 district foresters and a government that will not value natural resources, Illinois (and the Midwest in general) is desperately in need of ecological evangelists and building projects to show how value can be enhanced locally. Most of the trees harvested for the Selman pavilion were 90 to 200 years old. We put in place a proper foundation (piers three ft. above grade) and 100-year, recyclable roofing material (steel). The overall design lends itself well to adaptive reuse for generations to come.

Even though the heavy timber building business is a small fraction of the construction industry in the U.S., our impact can be large. (My observations here are limited to the U.S., which, in my opinion, lags significantly behind the rest of the industrial countries in putting ecological practices into place.) If any construction sector is

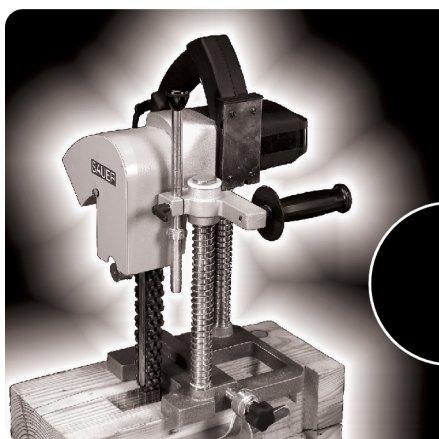
going to set an example for future generations, it will be ours. This will hold true if we look for an enlightened philosophy of resource use in our clients and if we support our geographic region by working locally and using local materials and labor.

We have such an opportunity (an imperative?) to be more than a cog in the wheel of the construction process by, for example, turning down work when it doesn't meet our own standards. At the very least, we need to work hard to promote positive ecological attitudes.

If we can't build buildings that outlast the resources used for them, then why build them? Building structures with poorly-thought-out foundations or roof materials (like asphalt shingles) that will last only one-tenth of the life of the structure is a waste of everyone's time and energy.

In a recent trip to Switzerland, we had the pleasure of visiting a building museum in Ballenburg. Wood structures there date from the 1300s. We would always hope, as carpenters, to aspire to such longevity in the buildings we create. Certainly, building design for our climate is different from Switzerland's; we can't just cut and paste that building. In our Midwest climate, the humidity ranges from 12 to 100 percent, temperatures range from -30 to 115°F, the growing season is about four months, and weather includes 45 in. of annual rainfall as well as tornadoes, earthquakes, lightning storms, driving rain, and sunshine. Our buildings must withstand all this.

Eliminating shipping long distances when possible, whether from forest to mill, mill to workshop, or workshop to site, is a goal we should have. We can strive to ship appropriate products to appropriate destinations and not turn a blind eye for the sake of the sale. Further, it is our responsibility to ask the tough questions of our clients, such as: if I build this for you, how do you plan



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on maintaining it? We need to consider longevity in the projects we take on; we shouldn't take work on just because we think it's cool.

The construction process itself also needs careful thought. Construction waste contributes hugely to landfills in the U.S. Much of the residential construction in the U.S. is geared toward no-maintenance and low-maintenance structures. To change the building industry, we must defeat this logic. Having restored hundreds of structures, we see clearly that buildings that last the longest took more labor to produce and enjoyed sensible, regular maintenance.

No matter the scale of your operation, you can accept the responsibility to build sustainably. Part of this certainly should be building workshops and manufacturing facilities that model the resource view you are selling. Living in a time and place that has seen more than its share of economic transformation and the resulting turbulence, from an increase in industrial agriculture to the decline of big manufacturing, we have had a close-up view of the throes that businesses endure and their impact on the local environment.

Wal-Mart is a regrettable case in point. Out here in the Midwest, a common Wal-Mart practice is to place a "small" (still gargantuan at about 43,000 sq. ft.) test store in a location. If, as they hope, competitors die off and the store prospers, they abandon that building and build a megastore easily twice that size right in front of it. If that store doesn't fly, they simply abandon it. Whichever strategy they choose, the community is saddled with a giant building that is not technically a brownfield (contaminated, polluting, or toxic), but

might as well be when considering its lack of ability to use it again. The abandoned stores are highly impractical to convert, rent, heat, or cool. These structures get an F on the adaptive reuse report card.

We know that carrying sustainable building into the current mainstream cultural and economic environment of the U.S. is difficult. The need for work can also cause us to take jobs with less-than-optimal ecological considerations. Inroads are more easily (and maybe more appropriately) made in our own life choices. For us it starts with sheep as lawn mowers.

So what about sheep? That's our latest experiment: an effort to cut down on lawn mower pollution. Right now we have three Suffolk ewes and one Dorset ewe. This is new for us, so we're still learning. The more we handle them, the easier it is. While they mostly enjoy grazing alfalfa and grass, we do supplement their feed with all-stock pellets and alfalfa and grass flakes. Three of the sheep are fenced in, because we want them to "mow" around the timbers in a certain area. We had no zoning issues; the area is already zoned for agriculture. As time goes on, we'll no doubt learn more about using sheep as lawn mowers.

Sustainability is not just about organic food, salvaged timber, alternative energy, or insulation value. It is about our attitude toward life, our impact on the world, and, most important, how we preserve the earth for the next millennium. It's never too late to rethink our lifestyle decisions.

—Rick and Laura Collins



photo Harmony Huntington

Board of directors, day 161

I'VE MANAGED to fool them all so far! It's been almost six months since I took up my post on the Guild's board of directors, and my colleagues still don't seem to suspect that I have absolutely no idea what I'm doing!

I thought I should explain what kind of trouble I've been getting into for the months since you elected me to the board. That's right . . . YOU are partly responsible for this, people (and I'll never forget it!).

It's certainly been a steep learning curve. Boy, there oughta be a handbook or something. Getting up to speed with the inner workings of the board has been a bit like trying to climb a ladder while wearing boxing gloves and roller skates, but I think I'm slowly figuring it out. Fortunately my fellow board members have been hugely patient and very generous with their time. It's actually a pretty exciting time to be involved because there are all sorts of good things afoot right now. I know it's not always easy for you to see what's going on behind the scenes, so you'll just have to trust me on this; or you could come along to one of our membership meetings (a fine opportunity to heap praise or throw vegetables upon us depending upon the topic of discussion).

What I see happening in the Guild right now that's so exciting is a kind of maturity or coming of age. There's a genuine dedication to making our organization and the services that it provides more professional and responsible. The coolest step in this process has been the revival of various volunteer committees that consider different aspects of the organization's operations (education, projects, publications, etc.) and then make specific recommendations to the board. The committees are there to challenge the board and make sure that it follows best practice in its decisions, and this in turn enables the board to make informed policy decisions and get things done much quicker.

Because I'm particularly interested in training and education issues, I've gravitated towards the projects and education committee stuff, where we've recently been putting our energy into:

- Getting Professional Development Workshops (like Angola) up and running
- Vetting potential projects for '05 and '06
- Changing the way we estimate Guild projects and working up detailed budgets for these events well ahead of time
- Creating new guidelines for hiring project managers of Guild events
- Revising the *Projects Handbook*
- Creating a health and safety policy for the Guild
- Developing a set of templates to ensure that Guild projects are planned in the safest and most effective way
- Reviewing Will's and Joel's job descriptions
- Developing the content of our Apprenticeship Curriculum

In addition to serving as your only Canadian director eh, I'm also your Clerk . . . I know, I know: what the heck is a clerk? I assumed that this exciting post would come with a set of ermine robes and awe-inspiring executive powers, a sort of secret-agent-clerk-guy! Well, that's how the idea was sold to me, anyway, but it turns out that I get to take the minutes of our meetings, so it's not very glamorous after all. But it does have one consolation: while everyone is busy debating the finer points of Guild management I can secretly "action" the executive directors with hundreds and hundreds of onerous tasks every time we hold a meeting and avoid having to do any of these things myself. Actually, I reckon the main part of the job is to be on hand to support our president

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Brenda, and ensure that everyone gets the information they need for our meetings.

But I'm a timber framer at heart, and a big highlight for me was working as an instructor at the Salem event earlier this year. That was fantastic. I learned how to drive all sorts of green machinery, got a nifty suntan, had my first decent Mexican food in 10 years, became buddies with the local OSHA inspectors, and I even became an honorary Holder Brother: how cool is that? (Of course, I had to dye my hair orange and learn to speak like I was chewing on possum innards, but that's a small price to pay . . . y'all.) I've also presented various workshops at our conferences, mostly harping about trying

not to kill ourselves when we're working on site. And then there's the email. Yikes, nobody told me about the squillions of emails that I would have to read just to stay on top of Guild doings.

There's been a lot to learn, but I'm having fun so far. I can't imagine a finer group of people to work for (that's you), and my colleagues on the board are top-notch folk and good friends. I want you to know that I'm totally available to listen to any concerns, aspirations, or just plain feedback that you have about your Guild. Make us work for you! Please feel free to call (250-743-3992) or write me (gordonmacdonald@shaw.ca). —Gord the Clerk

Conference coordinator chosen

GUILD MEMBER David Blackwell, of Castleton, Virginia, has been selected to take over much of the conference coordination now done by the Becket staff. David brings over 15 years of experience in the hospitality and catering industry and has worked with hotels and organizations holding conferences. He is also a timber framer, long-time Guild member, and inhabitant of a timber framed house. He will assist with programming, budgeting, promotion, and the myriad details that crop up at the event. With our conferences getting bigger and more extensive, his experience and help are clearly welcome. Thanks, David, and welcome!

—Will Beemer

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Japanese roof workshop moves East

CHRIS HALL led a two-week Japanese compound joinery workshop last November at his shop on Gabriola Island, B.C. (See the January 2005 *Scantlings*.) By all accounts, it was a wonderful course, and Chris left his students clamoring for more.

Well, here it is. Chris is moving to the East Coast this summer, and we are tentatively planning to hold a series of Guild workshops similar to the one last fall.

This time we plan on starting with more basic techniques, such as tool sharpening, use, and maintenance, and progressing through roof layout skills to more advanced techniques. In all, this series could last four weeks or more. We could offer it in stages throughout the year.

We are tentatively planning on holding the first of these courses in late October or November at the Heartwood School in Washington, Mass. Class size will be limited to 10–12 students. If you're interested in attending, please tell me (413-623-9926, will@tfguild.org), and we will be sure you get the information when it becomes available. Stay tuned to *Scantlings* and the TFG website for updates.

—Will Beemer



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New TFG chisel sheaths

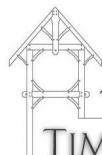
GUILD MEMBER Pete Moncada of Timber Framer's Supply has begun to produce 1½-in. and 2-in. chisel sheaths with the TFG logo branded on them. The sheaths are all ¼-in. stitched leather with steel rivet reinforcing and a durable hard plastic insert that doesn't affect the chisel edge. The inserts are not quite bullet-proof, but close!

The sheaths are \$10 each (plus shipping and handling) for either size, available now on the Guild webstore or by calling the Becket office. —Will Beemer



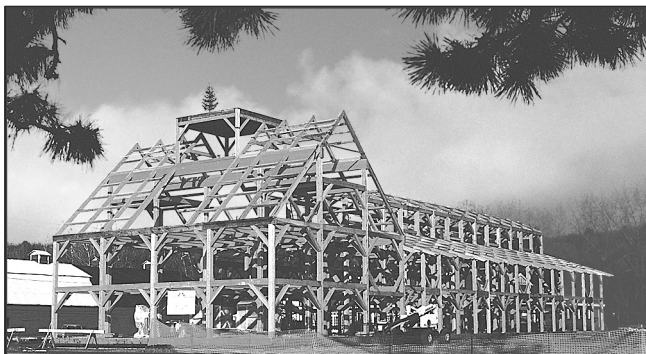
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Equipment for sale.

Chain mortiser: Protool CMP150 with 1½-in. chain, just resharpener; comes with Protool GMP145 Mortise guide frame for simple cutting of mortises; 220 Volt/2000 Watt motor. My wife and I purchased this mortiser to cut joinery for our own Eastern White pine and cherry frame which we raised last summer. It's time now to finish the house, buy bathroom fixtures, etc. \$2400 or best offer. David Bank, East Falmouth, Mass., phone 508-457-4585, email dbank@sea.edu. Thanks!

Frame for sale

Student-cut 16 x 24 queen post oak timber frame with a loft. Photos of this frame being cut are at www.grandoakstimmerframing.com/April2005.html. For more info, ask Scott Stevens, 731-642-2908, scott@grandoakstimmerframing.com.

Help wanted.

A London, Ontario, timber frame company is expanding and has immediate positions open in drafting, timber frame, and architectural design. You must be willing to relocate or commute within one year to the Mount Forest, Ont., area. We need a quick learner who works well under pressure, has a strong knowledge of construction and design, is AutoCAD or CADworks proficient, and can communicate effectively. Salary DOE. Please send your résumé to Pauline Jibb-Pacheco at pauline@pineridgetimberframe.com or fax 519-471-1165.

Help wanted.

Experienced timber framers needed, good wages, high energy, benefits. Join our team of outstanding craftsmen and build beautiful projects. We have positions for experienced timber framers. Check us out on the web at HarmonyExchange.com. Apply to rmueller@harmonyexchange.com, fax 828-264-4770, or call 828-264-2314 ex. 18.

Help wanted.

Northern Lights Timber Framing has an opening for an entry-level joiner. 80–90 percent of the job will be in our Minneapolis workshop. The remainder will be at job sites throughout the state which may require being away from home for 1–2 weeks, about 4 times a year, all expenses paid. You'll learn all about timber framing, from cutting the joinery to raising the frame. As the new guy in the shop, you'll get to spend some time with the broom as well!

Enthusiasm is far more important than experience. We want you to take great pride in your work: commitment to quality is mandatory. Call Clark at 612-791-2736, or email clarkb@northernlightstimmerframing.com.

Help wanted.

We are looking for talented individuals with knowledge of timber framing and CADworks to work full time in New Hampshire. Successful candidates will be intelligent and work well in a team, while having responsibility for design and framing decisions. Please contact Jonathan Vincent by email, jonathan@timberpeg.com, call 603-298-7720 ext.28, or fax résumé to 603-298-5425. For more information about our company, staff, and products, visit www.timberpeg.com.

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Job opportunity.

Duluth Timber Co., in Washington's beautiful Skagit Valley, is looking for one full time employee at its Edison location. Duties include lots of nail pulling and fork lift driving. Experience is not necessary, but showing up every day is. Full medical and dental insurance after 90 days. Live and work in beautiful Skagit County, close to the Cascade Mountains. and the San Juan Islands. Call Brandin at 360-766-625 email brandin@duluthtimber.com.

Lead, apprentice timber framers needed.

Two Dog Timberworks is looking for an experienced TF'er with at least 3 years full-time professional experience. Must be able to demonstrate experience with Western softwoods, layout on dimensional & organic material, cutting proficiency, machinery maintenance, job leadership, and strong raising know-how.

We are also looking for an apprentice TF'er. Must have general woodworking experience and a solid working knowledge of hand and power tools.

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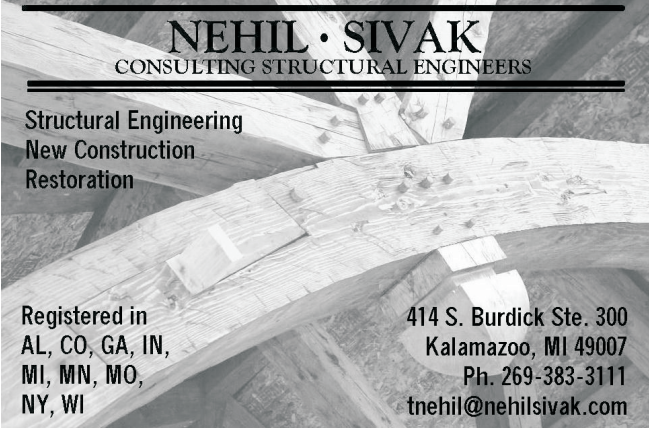
Mafell skew notch–tenon machine in factory wooden box, barely used, with all accessories. New \$4653; will sell for \$3500 OBO. Would also trade for Mafell band saw. Dave Sante in Rifle, Colorado, phone 970-989-0687 or 970-625-1029, email daveruthsante@directway.com.

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14 pair (28 total) hand hewn rafters 18 ft. long for 19th century barn restoration in Connecticut. No specific species, can pick up in New York and New England areas. Please call Greg Naylor, 860-485-3803, any time.



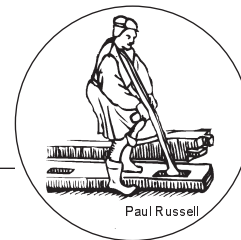
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EVENTS



Guild projects

In Allenstown, N.H. (tentative): Allenstown Meeting House roof framing. Fall 2005: roof rebuilding.

Near Abingdon, U.K., and with the Carpenters Fellowship: Northmoor Trust office. Rendezvous Jul 8–24.

In Bainbridge Is., Wash.: Nidoto Nai Yoni. Apr 24–30: workshop. May 1–7: rendezvous.

Guild projects contact:
Joel C. McCarty, joel@tfguild.org, 603-835-2077.

Found in Angola

AL WALLACE reports he has found a 6-ft. level in the wake of the Angola job. If you're missing your level, call (303-220-5494) or email (alwallace@covad.net) him to identify it.

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Guild conferences

Eastern Conference 2005. Oct 13–16, Burlington, Vt.

Western Conference 2006. Apr 20–24, Tigh-Na-Mara Lodge, Parksville (Vancouver Island), B.C.

TTRAG 2006. Eastover Resort, Lenox, Mass., May 12–14, 2006.

Eastern Conference 2006. Hotel Roanoke, Va., Nov 9–12, 2006.

Western Conference 2007. Asilomar, Monterey, Calif., Apr 12–15, 2007.

Eastern Conference 2007. Montebello, Québec, Oct 18–21, 2007.

Other conferences

International Log Builders Association

Summer Rendezvous. Jul 16–17, Fenshawe Pioneer Village, London, Ontario. www.logassociation.org.

U.K. Carpenters Fellowship

Frame 2005. Sep 2–4, Chiltern Open Air Museum, Newland Park, Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks. Norm Guiver, nguiver@btinternet.com, www.carpentersfellowship.co.uk.

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Hida Tool and Kezurou-Kai

Woodworking in Japan. Sep 15–26, Mt. Fuji area.
Yuka Johnson, Hida Tool, 800-443-551,
www.hidatool.com.

Other workshops

Centreville Settlement

Barn restoration (1849): half timber repair, stone masonry, nogging, archiving, and interiors.
Apr 16–Nov 12, every other Saturday, Manitowoc County, Wisc. 414-964-0319, www.centrevillesettlement.com.
College of the Rockies
Natural building school. Jul 4–22.
Timber frame program (12 weeks). Sep 26–Dec 16.
Timber frame program (12 weeks). Jan 9–Mar 31, '06.
Kimberley, B.C. kimberley@cotr.bc.ca,
www.cotr.bc.ca/kimberley, 250-427-7116.

North House Folk School

Build your own timber frame. Jul 18–28, Aug 1–10.
Basic yurt construction. July 23–27.
Basic timber framing. Sep 7–11.
Sustainable building design and practice. Sep 15–16.
Intro to cordwood construction methods. Sep 17–18.
Grand Marais, Minn. Peter Henrikson, 888-387-9762,
www.northhouse.org.

Heartwood

Timber framing with Dave Carlon and Josh Jackson.
Aug 8–12.
Converting trees to timbers. Jul 18–22.
Cruck framing with Jack Sobon. Jul 25–29.
Scribing with Dave Carlon, Josh Jackson. Aug 1–5.
Historic barn repair with Jack Sobon. Aug 15–19.
Washington, Mass. Will and Michele Beemer,
413-623-6677, info@heartwoodschool.com.

Rocky Mountain Workshops

Mastering the basics of square rule timber framing with Dave Carlon and Josh Jackson. Sep 11–17.
Compound joinery with Will Beemer and Curtis Milton. Sep 18–23.
Pingree Park, Colo. Peter Haney, 970-482-1366,
haneyrmw@frii.com, www.rockymountainworkshops.com.

Murray Timber Framing

Basic timber framing. Jul 25–29, Washington State.
Mark Olson, 206- 849-7164, www.murraytimber.com.

U.L. Carpenters Fellowship

Square rule workshop with Higgs Murphy. Jul 7–8.
SIPs, Jul 24–26. Abingdon, U.K. joel@tfguild.org.

International Log Builders Association

Log grading. Jul 15, Fenshawe Pioneer Village, London, Ont. www.logassociation.org.

Frontier Builders

Timber framing with Will Beemer. Sep 8–12, Land O'Lakes, Wisc. 715-547-6222.

Grand Oaks Academy of Timber Framing

Introduction to timber framing. Sep 10–17, Arcadia Valley, Missouri. Scott Stevens, 731-642-2908,
scott@grandoakstimmerframing.com.

Sobon-Carlon

Traditional Timber Framing with Jack Sobon and Dave Carlon. Sep 21–25, Hancock Shaker Village, Hancock, Mass. Jack Sobon, 413-684-3223, or Dave Carlon, 413-684-3612.

Bradwood

Timber Framing with Dave Carlon & Josh Jackson.
Oct 1–10, Ashland, Ohio. 330-635-2400,
dkern@bradwoodworkshop.com, www.bradwoodworkshop.com.

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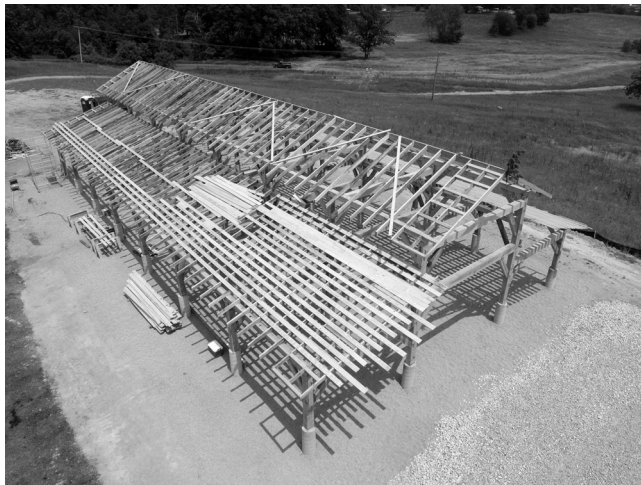
Angola in June

THIS BUILDING, the Selman Memorial Pavilion, to be managed by the Angola (Indiana) Parks and Rec Department, is huge and now the frame is complete. A good portion of this work was begun at our May Professional Development Workshop in Illinois, but there was still plenty to do. Here are some notable scenes from the project, which ended in great form.



Seth Leik with tenon checker: Kevin Brennan made some great mortise gauges that Seth deployed on all the posts.

Below, the completed frame. At 18,500 bf, it's enormous!



photos Joel C. McCarty

Heartwood apprentice Joe Roy in foreground, rapt with attention during the morning safety meeting.



Swiss-trained carpenter Simon Gnehm, here in the U.S. for a journeymanship with Trillium Dell, gang cuts a mass of common rafters with the ProTool skewnotcher. He was a huge help.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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