



SCANTLINGS

NEWSLETTER OF THE TIMBER FRAMERS GUILD
NUMBER 116 AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2005

20th Anniversary Conference update

IT WAS twenty years ago—well, June 14–16, 1985, to be exact—when the Guild held its first conference at Hancock Shaker Village in Massachusetts. We’ve made it through twenty years of turbulent growth, spreading projects, members, and knowledge of timber framing all over the world. We’ll commemorate this achievement at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Burlington, Vermont, on October 13–16.

Many of the presentations and special events were described in the last *Scantlings*, but here are some additions and updates.

Pre-conference events

There are three one-day workshops on Thursday, October 13. Wil Dancy and Tony Wall will lead a seminar on Dimensioning and Layout for Compound Joinery, where you’ll learn how to determine the proper sizes needed for complex roof members. We also have Let the Crane Take the Strain, with Gord Macdonald and Steve Lawrence, who did such a great job leading the Salem raising. They will have a brand-new 90-ton Linkbelt crane (generously loaned by Mike Classen) for use in demonstrating rolling lifts and transfer lifts, as well as other basic safety and rigging techniques. We’ve added Al Wallace to the pre-conference program, presenting Best



Chris Madigan

It’s hard to imagine these children leading the Guild. This group is actually the 1988–89 Board of Directors, so they’re three years older than the initial group. If you’ve got any photos from those first years, please bring them to the conference. Pictured are, from left, Jeff Arvin, Ed Levin, Tedd Benson, John Libby, Charles Landau, Bruce Gardner, Rudy Christian, and John Reed; and, sitting, Ben Brungraber.

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Practices for Completing a Timber Frame Home within Budget: proven solutions for comfort, safety, energy efficiency, and environmental stewardship. This one-day workshop will show you how to best integrate all of the systems primarily designed for stick-framing into your timber frame project. We also have the Shelburne Farms and Museum Tour on Thursday; don't miss it if you didn't go last time. Finally, the TFBC will again offer their Speakers Bureau Training, which has already successfully placed graduates in gigs promoting timber framing to outside groups.

More speakers

Besides the many other excellent speakers described in the last issue, we have added Margot Larson to the Business track, where she will describe Tips and Techniques for Building a Great Sales Team. For a complete list, schedule, and description of all presentations and workshops, please visit the Conference page of the Guild website (www.tfguild.org), where you may also register.

Mementos

We are also looking for any photos or other memorabilia you may have from the first meeting in Hancock. Please bring them, or send them if you can't attend. I've got that first list of attendees I'll be displaying, along with the conference program, and we even have videos from the presentations we may show clips from. How young

we all look! You're also welcome to present any images in the slide show from TFG events from the first ten years. Note that the slide show will be at 3 pm Saturday afternoon this year, instead of in the evening.

Children's workshop

The Discovery Children's Workshop will be led by Todd Bissell, Chris Koehn, Joshua Stewart, and Kimberley Reagan. Adult volunteers are still needed, so please contact Chris at 920-528-8661 (fax 920-528-8671) or chris@koehn.com if you can help out. You can register kids to participate on your conference registration form.

Sponsors

We'd like to thank all of our conference sponsors who are helping make this event more affordable for us:

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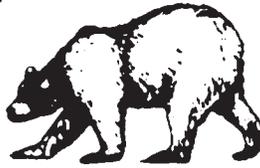


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Scantlings is the member newsletter of the Timber Framers Guild. It is published eight times yearly. Deadline is generally the 10th of the month before an issue comes out (though it often shifts).

Next deadline: September 10.

Please address contributions or information to:
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Logistics

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 www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=0412304816&key=374FB. You may also call 800-325-3535 or 802-865-6600; be sure to mention Timber Framers Guild to get the special rate of \$99 per night, single or double.

Your conference registration flyer should be arriving in your mailbox soon, if it hasn't already. Please register early (by September 10) to get the early registration discount and to be assured of getting a room at the hotel.

See you there!

—Will Beemer

Scholarships available for Eastern Conference

THERE ARE still some scholarships available for the upcoming Eastern Conference in Burlington. To apply, please see the guidelines for application at www.tfguild.org/scholarship.html. An application form is also available there.

—Will Beemer

Guild auctions: three ways to take part

THE TFG benefit auction is a major fundraiser for the year, made successful through our members' generous and creative contributions. The auction will be a three-tiered event: the live auction on Saturday night (sponsored by Paul Kessler—thanks, Paul!), and the silent auction and bag auction throughout the conference.

Watch for the auction registration form in the conference confirmation packet and plan to include your name and item in the auction catalog. Then, have a good time participating in the opportunities our auction threesome provides! There will undoubtedly be items of many types and to fit many budgets. Your happy bidding is a wonderful contribution to your Guild.

Questions? Please ask me (susan@tfguild.org or 603-835-2077). And thanks for your generosity.

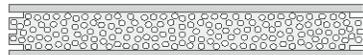
—Susan Norlander

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Northmoor Trust project: from Joel's

HERE WE are mid-span in our two-week event in Little Wittenham. The weekend warriors have all arrived (framers from around the U.K.—and France, Belgium, and Germany!—who could only come for a bit), swelling our numbers to 100. Chips are flying all over the site and real progress is being made. I am frequently asked if we are on schedule, and the answer is . . . sort of. Some bits are ahead of where we thought, and some behind; so on average, and if the weather continues to be as brilliant as it has been (though a little cooler would be okay), we should be good to go with the crane on Thursday. (For a complete record of the project, see the Guild website.)

As you look through the images that follow, remember that nearly all the participants in this event have come together without compensation in the service of a higher idea: the pleasure of honorable work, done well, in good company. It is really quite something to behold. Unlike most other job sites you have been on, there appears to be no cursing or skiving, no discernable hierarchy of haves and have-nots, no masters and apprentices, little chaos, and abundant good cheer. These are the best people I know, and we should all be grateful for their individual contributions to the success of this remarkable building project.

—Joel C. McCarty



photos Joel C. McCarty

Rainy day meeting of team leaders early on, in the tool lock up. It has been suggested that this job would be running better had this container been locked up immediately after this picture was snapped. From left, Donna Williams, Darryl Weiser, Bob Smith, frame designer Cameron Scott (standing), lifting engineer Grigg Mullen, Adrian Jones, Tim Whitehouse, and fabulous U.K. timber framer Barbara Czoch (aka “English Barbara” or “not Boston Barbara”).

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journal



Slacker American Timber Framing Tim Whitehouse (Rhode Island) naps in the shade whilst stalwart U.K. timber framers labor on in the blistering sun.



U.K. project leader Henry Russell and passenger Tansy sprint to apply the framing square to another timber, in unison.



Certified JCB driver from the U.S. Adrian Jones has faithfully and patiently moved every single bit of timber on this job, twice. And somehow managed to keep track of what goes where.

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Norman Guiver demonstrates deployment of graduated wedge to American framer Bob Smith, who remains skeptical.



Smiling American Whit Holder, all the way from Georgia ("Y'all think this is hot?"), calibrates the framer's most important weapon in the endless battle against the forces of ignorance and entropy: the framing square.

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Left to right, American timber framer Darryl Weiser channels ZZ Top for the amusement of United Kingdom Carpenters' Fellowship members Claire Walter and Justin Rose.



U.K. framer Steve Turner, left, discusses layout with Canadian framer Higgs Murphy.



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Project architect Darren Aspinall and companion Rachel Slater work through some tensions between the marquees. It's good to have the project architect on site at these events so that we can lay our hands on him as needed.



American Girl Timber Framer Donna (The Primo Donna) Williams from Virginia demonstrates the "chainsaw on a stick" Makita 1701B mortiscer, a highly favored power tool for making those slots in timbers. U.K. framers are slack-jawed in amazement.



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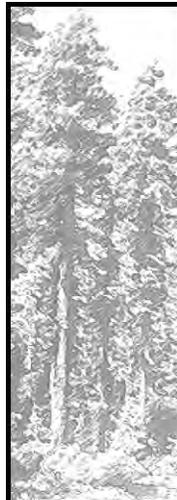
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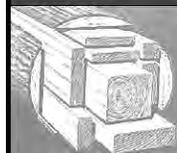


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TFG Japanese workshop moves East

CHRIS HALL will be leading a ten-day workshop in Japanese carpentry this fall at Heartwood in western Massachusetts, with a following two-week course slated for spring. The goal of these two courses is to introduce the Japanese approach to compound joinery through the construction of a simplified small *shob-rob*, or bell tower.

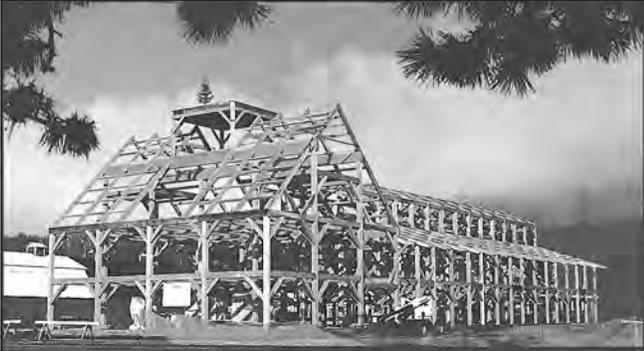
In this first session, students will learn the basics: sharpening of chisels and planes with waterstones, setup and tuning of the Japanese hand plane, and plenty of application through the layout and cutting of some typical Japanese timber joints. The basics of the Japanese layout method, *kiku-jutsu*, will be introduced and applied. Students will see how to do the cuts for a hopper (or to use a \$5 word, infundibular form) as well as the cuts required to construct a fully joined, splayed-leg sawhorse with backed legs. The applications for this method are numerous, two immediate examples being steeples and towers. In this course, we will apply these methods to building the supporting structure for a half-scale Japanese bell tower, from ground to wall plate. In the fol-

low-up course next spring, we will put a hipped roof on this structure.

Students are not required to be familiar with Japanese carpentry methods as a prerequisite. However, a grounding in the basics of the Pythagorean method and facility with a scientific calculator are essential. Please bring your tools sharp and ready to go. This course would present a good opportunity to learn to set up that new Japanese plane you may have been keeping in a box! You'll receive a suggested tool list when you register.

This course will be slightly more basic than the Guild workshop Chris led last November in British Columbia, but it will provide a common foundation for participants that will prepare them for the more complex exercises later. Class size is limited to ten. The ten-day course will be offered October 19–29, and tuition will be \$775 (includes lunch and materials). Registration information can be obtained by contacting the Becket office at 413-623-9926, or you can register on the TFG website.

—Will Beemer



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Trout fishing on the Tobyhanna

A conference auction prize

FOR US it started with an eight-hour flight into Dulles International Airport. By 3 pm on a damp Friday in early June, we sat in the hire car trying to get round Washington, hardly the cleverest of moves. Ten and a half hours later, we pulled into the Wawa (gas station-convenience store) at Blakeslee, Pa., having had to divert east on Route 22 then north on 33 to avoid a blocked turnpike tunnel. Yes, we had averaged just 21 miles per hour and, by the look on Jack Witherington's face, he had suffered more than we had.

"Anyone fancy fishing?" produced a relieved look that we had eventually made it, and "Follow me!" came the reply. Within 10 minutes we were in Jack's camper in the thousand-acre Dream Mile fishery on the Tobyhanna

River. Traveling companion Chris Pullen (consultant for the Wittenham Clumps Project) had foraged through his collection of single malts and packed an 18-year-old bottle of Old Poultry (Old Pulteney), which soon brought a smile to our host's face.

In the half-light, Chris and Jack were soon debating its merits like old pros: "very smooth and not too peaty" came one assessment as I drifted off (having done all the driving); and then it was morning. After a brief breakfast, I was first in the clear water just 20 yards from the camper. The Tobyhanna is a fly fisher's dream—good wading, well managed pools and runs, a variety of fish, and several experienced river keepers.

A small black nymph fly-tie fished down and across

soon bought a nice brown trout of around a pound, a couple of chub, and a 1¼-lb. brookie. With barbless hooks, the catch and release policy worked well, but while Jack was working on Chris's rusty technique, the sun rose higher and the fish got shyer. We moved down to the next pool where Chris had several takes but nothing came to the net until Jack appeared between us, cast a dry fly, and within no time had two fish to go with his grin.

The day ended with a fish for Chris, some perfectly cooked trout from the barbeque, a nice bottle of wine, and some very mature English cheddar. Heaven or what?

After the second decent night's sleep and with kit functioning well, we were in the wa-



Norm Guiver

Jack Witherington netting one as he plays the host.

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ter earlier although it was a good six inches lower. Sunday was hot, so the fish were going deeper. Moving upstream, Jack allocated me to the top of the pool, Chris to the bottom, and he fished between us. Jack and I worked the water for an hour without a take while Chris took three fish. Then it happened: Jack hooked the big one, a 3½-lb. brownie in perfect condition. We broke for lunch as Val (Jack's wife) and the boys arrived.

As the day went on and with little to show for it, I followed Jack's lead. Having seen a crane fly on the bank, I fished the dry fly imitation. Fishing slightly upstream and down some faster water, the fly was hit by a 1½-lb. rainbow so hard there was no need to strike, and in the fast water it was my best fish of the weekend. Three more soon followed before the fly was in tatters. We were now getting into the evening. The fishing became frantic with a classic evening rise: every fish in the river was on the surface and feeding on something that we could not imitate. The occasional fish came to the net, but by and large they won that round.

We were off to West Virginia the following day; we planned to fish just the Monday morning. The river is part of the outflow from a hydroelectric plant, and on Monday mornings they need a power boost, so predictably there was a lot more water in the river, which was a lot higher and faster than the previous two days. It was harder work and more difficult to wade, but fish still

came to the net. We packed up our kit after breakfast and left for more fishing in West Virginia with Darryl Weiser.

The 2004 Eastern Conference provided the Guild with a most generous auction prize of a weekend's fishing with Jack and Val Witherington, two perfect hosts. Nine months after the auction, it proved to be worth every penny; and, Jack, you had better believe we will be back.

—Norm Guiver

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The end of wood

SINCE THE dawn of time, wood has been one of the most (if not *the* most) ubiquitous of materials used by man. It's quite possible that civilization, at least as we know it, would not have been possible without this quintessentially utilitarian material. Societies in some parts of the world have broken down when available wood has been exhausted. This same material, which appeared inexhaustible when Europeans came to the New World, has been used and abused to an alarming degree; the end of the supply seems almost to be in sight. It should be obvious to all that we must give serious thought to our future use and management of such a necessary resource. Yet even the official policy of the U.S. government often seems to ignore the fact that wood is certainly not in endless supply.

What can be done to assure the best use of the wood available today, and to guarantee that our children will have the greatest possible supply? For starters, we should limit our usage to the extent possible. Waste not, want not!

Wood may be put to another use after a building has reached the end of its life. Reclaimed timbers from an industrial building are a prime example. The additional labor and expense involved in harvesting the material, transporting and storing it, and preparing it for remanufacturing are a small price to pay for what is often extremely high-quality wood. Factor in that it would otherwise be burned, contributing to global warming, or dumped in already overcrowded landfills, and it becomes an even more attractive option. A barn frame might similarly be given new life, or nails pulled from those old 2 x 4s and 2 x 10s to avoid the use of wood from newly-cut trees.

Those of us with an interest in timber framing are dependent on a supply of wood of a different quality from that on which the average carpenter depends, unless we want to discard solid wood sticks in favor of products manufactured from wood waste and adhesives, or from petrochemicals. Whether wood will be available in the future depends greatly on decisions made by us and by our children.

One increasingly common practice in modern forestry is the harvesting of trees at an extremely young age. I saw a 2 x 4 in a local lumberyard with wane (the under-bark surface of the tree) on all four edges of the piece. That came from an unusually small tree!

Perhaps a lesson in tree growth is in order. We've all seen small trees with many branches close to the ground. A tree gains height not by adding on from the bottom but by adding on near the top, so those branches don't grow up and away from the area where we love to find clear, knot-free wood. Instead, as the crown of the tree grows and the lower branches lose their access to sunlight, they die off and are covered over by new knot-free layers of wood. As long as the tree remains healthy, longer growth means a larger percentage of the clear wood that's more useful for so many purposes. The larger tree, with its larger crown and root system for processing sunlight and minerals from the soil, is able to add more mass each year than a less-efficient, smaller tree. It's helpful, then, to resist the temptation for immediate profit from harvesting young trees, yet landowners are urged to do just that on a regular basis.

Before man interferes in growth patterns in a woodlot, "old-growth" conditions exist. A certain mix of species proves optimal for a given area and eventually becomes the primary or climax species. Since trees aren't harvested regularly, crowded conditions result in slower growth for all trees concerned, which isn't automatically a bad thing. The main reason old growth has desirable

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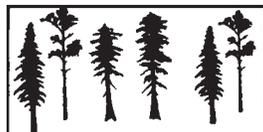
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connotations, at least among softwoods, is that this slow growth results in stronger, denser, more durable wood. It also produces wood with a different appearance from faster grown wood from a managed forest.

Careful management of a woodlot shows results in increased yields or higher quality material. Less desirable species can be culled or used for firewood, leaving less competition for the best trees. When trees are removed, care should be taken not to damage those trees that are left or to create soil damage that can lead to erosion or compaction of soil over roots. Skidding logs with horses is regaining favor because this method is gentler to remaining trees and to the soil. Finally, time between harvests, or rotation, can influence short- or long-term profitability.

I've heard it said that in Northeastern hardwood forests at this point in time, wood is growing faster than it is harvested. This may be true, largely because so much formerly cleared and farmed land has become unprofitable and is reverting to an earlier wooded state. The first generation of trees to spring up on such land is generally useless commercially, and in many cases a century or more will pass before the natural succession of species brings a more desirable crop to marketable age.

Particularly in Western forests, the landowner (often the U.S. Forest Service) has come under intense pressure

to harvest more and more trees to maintain employment in the industry and keep mills supplied. Taxpayer money (yours and mine) has been used to subsidize timber sales and create access to ever more remote forest areas, to the extent that the government actually loses more money the more it sells. Never considered dummies, the Japanese in particular have recognized an opportunity and bought up large quantities of the best material for both immediate and later use. Since wood kept under water is preserved, lakes and ponds have been built for storage purposes, and the Japanese have basically created a bank account, with the capital to be withdrawn when enough interest has been earned.

What then can each of us do to assure an adequate supply of wood into the future? To start, reduce our use, and reuse where possible. Much land that could support growth of trees is unused or underused, and trees could be planted and nurtured. If we remove trees or use a quantity of wood, we could decide to plant trees to replace what we've used. We should educate ourselves and our public officials to make wise decisions concerning forest resources. If we're stewards of a piece of land, think in the long term of the best use for the land. Above all, we should limit our use to no more than what is sustainable, so that our children won't curse us for indiscriminate spending of their inheritance.—*Leon Buckwalter*



photo Will Beemer

Boris Noël visited the Wemp Barn in New York State while on his April visit to the U.S. to teach at the Western Conference and at Heartwood. He was impressed (and dwarfed) by the anchor beams in the Dutch barn. You rarely find wood like this anymore.

PTN to host triple conference venue

International Preservation Trades Workshop (IPTW) 2005 will be held Oct. 7–9, in St. Clairsville, Ohio. The Preservation Trades Network (PTN) puts this conference on. If you've never attended an IPTW before, you might not know what to expect, so be prepared to have fun! Each session (lasting 90 minutes or two hours) will have about ten presenters displaying a specific aspect of their trade. These demonstrations will be located under tents on the campus of Ohio University–Eastern and in the classrooms of the Building Preservation Technology program at Belmont Technical College. Most will be run twice during the weekend; people are free to roam from demonstration to demonstration. Interaction between the presenter and watchers is not only encouraged; it is a mandatory part of what IPTW is about.

Roy Underhill, host of PBS's "The Woodwright's Shop" will deliver the keynote address this year. Underhill hosts, writes, and co-produces the show he created two decades ago. Roy spent 17 years with Colonial Williamsburg, first as a master housewright and eventually as Director of Interpretive Development. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a graduate degree from Duke University, where he studied colonial American technology. Roy was a featured speaker at a Guild

Eastern Conference in Troy, New York, and will certainly have tales to tell of his adventures since then.

ITES (October 5–6), the 2005 International Trades Education Symposium, will be the first of a series of yearly conferences designed to construct the framework for the development of a comprehensive preservation trades education program, develop a plan to improve recruitment and retainment of apprentices, and improve the perception of the trades in the mind of the public. The Guild has a strong voice in this effort, thanks to our apprenticeship curriculum work spearheaded by Guild director Will Beemer.

Some history: in June, 2002, a number of Guild and PTN members were among 85 invited participants from the U.S. and Scotland in the private, non-profit Quinque Foundation's International Preservation-Conservation Forum: Setting an Agenda for the 21st Century. The Quinque forum's purpose was to identify key measures in effecting positive change in historic preservation practice. Issues raised by TFG and PTN members included the history of trades education in North America and the perceived "invisibility" of the trades. The conference ended in general agreement that these issues required further examination, but no clear consensus emerged on how to proceed. Following the Quinque forum, PTN resolved to undertake a program of assessing the evolution and status of the trades in the years since the publication of the Whitehill Report (the document that first called for specialized historic preservation trades education in America). ITES 2005 will be the first in a series of conferences held in cooperation with the World Monuments Fund to address these issues.

The Stonework Symposium 2005 (October 7–9) is within walking distance of IPTW 2005. This is the fifth annual stonework symposium organized by the Stone Foundation. Informal meetings of the Rocknocker's Society will occur nightly.

A timber framed blacksmith shed rendezvous will also be a part of this multifaceted event. Beginning Monday, October 3, Guild members Glen James and Rudy Christian will lead several qualified instructors in teaching students from the American College of the Building Arts, Belmont Technical Institute, and several other trades education programs in a workshop to cut a much-needed blacksmith's shed for the Belmont program. You are invited to come join in the fun in a tuition-free rendezvous setting where you can lend a hand getting the job done and maybe learn a few new tricks while you're at it. Some primitive camping is available on site and limited no-hookup RV sites are available. For the amenity inclined there are also local campgrounds and hotels.

For more information and registration, you can visit the PTN website, www.PTN.org, or call the PTN office at 866-853-9335. Come and join us!

—Rudy Christian and PTN

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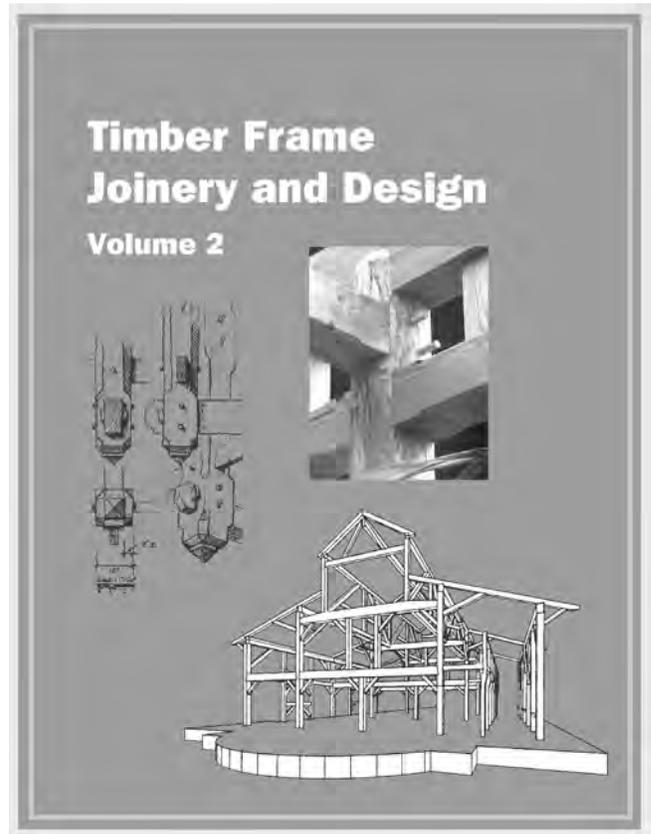
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BY THE time you read this, the sequel volume to the immensely popular *Timber Frame Joinery and Design Workbook*, also known as the Red Book, is expected to be available on the Guild website and through the office. (The cover of Volume 2 is green.)

The second volume has 244 pages and includes nearly 60 articles from back issues of *Timber Framing* (as far back as *TF* 6!) especially chosen for their relevance to the reader who wants to explore design, engineering, layout, joinery, enclosure, and vernacular timber framing. There is no repetition between volume 1 and volume 2. Volume 2 also contains an annotated bibliography by our own Charlotte Cooper, author information, and an index.

Great care was taken to produce this book using the highest quality possible scanning and layout methods. It costs \$35.

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A new leader

From Scout: Our transition to a new executive director at the Business Council is going well and almost finished. The TFBC board selected Chad Delong from Colorado as our new ED, and he starts August 1. I'll be staying on part time to help him get a handle on the job and will remain available into the future to answer questions or help in whatever way I can.

The board made the decision to place non-profit management experience at the top of the priority list, reflecting a prevalent hiring philosophy in timber framing over the years: bring in a good person with enthusiasm and ability, and we'll teach them timber framing. In Chad we've got that exact mix—he's very capable, enthusiastic, and a quick learner, and knows how to make an organization like this one function well and meet its members' needs thoroughly.

A lot of my job will be to introduce him to timber framing and the TFBC community, which I'll be able to do on the ground as well as over the phone. Here in the

Bitterroot Valley we have several timber framing shops ranging from a very small operation through mid-sized production shops up to fairly large companies using CNC machines. I will take him on a tour of these shops and let him get a first-hand look at the systems used. I'll be reviewing projects we've completed, what we have under way, and the vision work we've done that helps set the course for other projects to come. John Miller and Jeff Arvin will be coming here in early August to discuss goals, priorities, and systems, and the entire board will meet with Chad at the Eastern conference in October.

I think we have a smooth process lined up for this transition, and I very much look forward to seeing what Chad's new energy brings to the industry.

All the office contact info will remain the same. Chad's direct email will be chad@timberframe.org. Please e-mail or call him sometime over the next couple of months, and let him know what you're thinking about things in the timber framing industry! I'll keep a for-



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warding address here, so you can continue to reach me at scout@timberframe.org.

From Chad: Changes in latitudes, changes in attitudes, nothing remains quite the same. That old crooner Jimmy Buffet knows what he's talking about. As I sit here at home in Denver in a sea of boxes, I am thinking a lot about all the changes my family and I will be experiencing as we prepare to head north to Hamilton and my new position as Executive Director of the Timber Frame Business Council. I've made many changes over the course of my career, but never have I felt such eager anticipation as I feel right now. I attribute my excitement to several things. First is the opportunity to learn about and contribute to this unique community. After meeting the Board of Directors and learning more about the Council, I truly feel that this organization has an exciting future. I look forward to all the challenges opportunity always brings. I'd like to give a very big "thank you" to Scout Wilkins, who has left me a strong organization and some challenging shoes to fill.

I have spent the majority of my career working for Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development organizations in New Mexico, Kansas, and Colorado. My primary role was to identify and solve the issues that challenge communities. I have worked with communities on issues such as transportation, education, legislative strategy, business recruitment and retention strategies, and overall strategic planning. I have developed an inclusive style and believe in using as many resources as possible to accomplish goals. After working on behalf of many different industries and communities, I look forward to focusing on the timber frame industry. I see a great story to tell and I plan on telling it.

In my new role, I will focus aggressively on growing the organization with the broad goal to provide greater return on investment for our members. I am a firm believer that every member should have the opportunity to

get involved in the organization and that they should see positive, quantifiable results in their businesses for their commitment of funding and time. I am committed to executing ideas conceived by people who care about this industry and will always look for ways to get more people involved in what we are doing. Our most valuable partnership is with the Guild, and I will work to strengthen our bonds for the betterment of both organizations.

And so I've made no progress on my boxes and am only partially successful in keeping Jackson (my two-year-old boy) and Sidney (my one-year-old girl) out of the bubble wrap and away from the scissors. My wife will be home soon and will be wondering why I haven't packed anything. For those of you who have either been five months pregnant or had a wife who was pregnant, you know I'll be in trouble if I don't start packing.

—Chad DeLong



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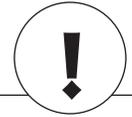
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Lead, apprentice timber framers needed.

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. We are a small, innovative company that strives to attract challenging projects all over the country. Join us in the beautiful northwest corner of Washington State and be part of a great team that loves what we do! Pay D.O.E., full benefit package, rewarding work. Reach Laurel or Pete Slisz at 360-366-5350, or email us at info@twodogtimberworks.com. Check out our work at www.twodogtimberworks.com.

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Suriname project: call for crew

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS are close to complete at press time, so we are actively looking for a small number of experienced team leaders and hand raising types with great credentials to join us in the jungle (alongside a similar number of local people) for three weeks, November 7–28. You will need to be able to work very long and very hot days with a small crew (12) in surpassingly beautiful but decidedly pre-industrial conditions on an island in the middle of a river in the middle of the rain-forest.

This will be a hand assembly and raising of a large, relatively simple building cut from tropical hardwoods so dense they will not float. Be prepared for hard work and exotic but primitive conditions far from home, with big bugs and snakes and stuff (in the surroundings, not on the menu), running water, a surprisingly good internet connection, AND an unforgettably fine experience in the company of other first-rate people.

We are also looking for a highly experienced and self-directed rigger to take on the fabrication and installation of a high line cross-river rig, ASAP. Some positions are modestly compensated; most are not. All travel, immunization, visa, room and board, and miscellaneous expenses are covered for all positions. If all goes as planned, the TFG will be able to commit to those selected for the team by August 30, giving you plenty of time to adjust other responsibilities.

—Joel C. McCarty



Heading up the Coppername River.

photos Joel C. McCarty

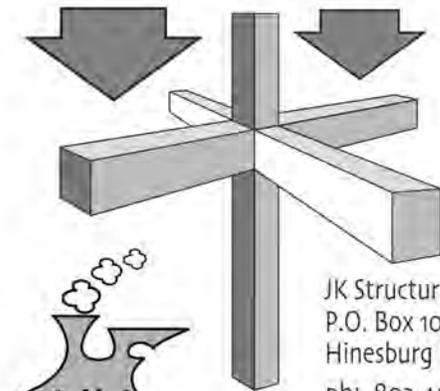


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Further work on the Zabłudow project

WE HAVE just come up for air. The Poland program was very exciting and full. There were 6 veterans from last year, and we also had Magda Prosincka travel with us. We documented a 17th-century Greek Orthodox vaulted log church in Hrebennie, on the Ukraine border. Rick and I stayed 10 days extra to deliver the work of documentation of the two churches from last year to the town of Narew and the Catholic and the Russian Orthodox priests. We met the high school students Ania and Magda from Bialystok when we traveled to Narew to take the drawings to the priests. They were very impressed and plan to show the work in an exhibit locally. In this region, we saw very beautiful churches which are totally log built with 40- to 50-ft.-high vaults.

[The Zabłudow Synagogue project is an international, multi-organizational effort to rebuild a synagogue in Poland based on drawings; all of the Polish synagogues were destroyed by the Nazis. For more information, see past issues of Scantlings and www.zabludow.com.—Ed.]

When we returned, Rick and I and Tom Hubka installed the Zabłudow model, the Gwozdziec exhibit, and the Annihilated Heritage exhibit at the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Mass. The exhibit now includes the half-scale replica of interior painting of the north ceiling of the Gwozdziec synagogue that our students completed this semester through Mass College of Art and Handhouse Studio. They painted on wooden pine boards using medieval methods to study and replicate a portion of the Gwozdziec ceiling, which was documented with many photographs and is the subject of Tom Hubka's book *Resplendent Synagogue*. Tom will be speaking on the book and the Gwozdziec synagogue at the Burlington Conference. This exhibit will be up at the Yiddish Book Center (www.yiddishbookcenter.org/+10273) until spring 2006, and Tom will be speaking there on September 25 along with Marc Epstein, who has written about Jewish medieval iconography.



photo Laura Brown

The Zabłudow Synagogue model, installed in the exhibits at the National Yiddish Book Center.

We are also going to arrange a workshop there to demonstrate log and timber hewing and possibly construct a part of the timber ceiling on September 11. Jim Kricker will demonstrate, while making a full-scale bracket from the Zabłudow synagogue using traditional methods. We're hoping that some local timber framers and students will join in. The Book Center is in a beautiful area, overlooking mountains and apple orchards. Rick and I will be inside the center to explain the exhibit to interested visitors.

The ceiling painting (see page 21) is 9 ft. wide and 11½ ft. tall and is on wood panels like the original would have been. It is tapered because it would have been a vault, but we have painted it flat as a first step, rather than reproducing the curve. (In the future, we will paint it onto a vaulted shape.) Handhouse has received a grant to integrate the studying and making of other portions of the painting into four high schools in the Boston area in the next year. There is lots of interest in these projects and this subject. Handhouse Studio is writing

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for a Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities grant as well, to bring the exhibit to two venues in the Boston area next year.

We are also writing for grants to integrate the project into local high school art, history, and architecture programs this fall as well as writing for a larger National Endowment for the Humanities grant this winter to make a

full-scale replica of the bimah (a raised platform with a reading desk for reading the Torah and other holy sources) through a Handhouse project.

The public response to the exhibit, the project, and the Zabudow project in general is quite amazing. But there is a lot of ground yet to cover. We just plod along and hope for the best. —*Laura Brown*



photo Laura Brown

A replica of the north ceiling of the Gwozdziec synagogue.



from *Resplendent Synagogue*, by Tom Hubka. Courtesy of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art
A photo of the original bimah in the Gwozdziec synagogue. The Torah reading table is at the top of the stairs. At the cornice of the bimah, slender wooden ribs spring from a richly carved wooden frieze to support a wooden lantern. Hebrew inscriptions are painted on the inside of the bimah. Note the built-in wooden benches around the base.

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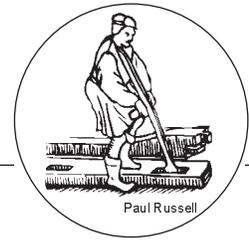
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EVENTS



Guild projects

In Suriname:

Visitor center. Nov 7–28, Central Suriname Nature Preserve. (See page 19.)

In Allenstown, N.H.: **Allenstown Meeting House roof framing.** Fall 2005: roof rebuilding.

In Bainbridge Is., Wash.: **Nidoto Nai Yoni.** Sep 12–18: workshop. Sep 17–25: rendezvous.

On Long Island:

LISEC boathouse. (See page 24.) May 17–27, 2006, Port Jefferson, N.Y.

Guild projects contact:

Joel C. McCarty, joel@tfguild.org, 603-835-2077.

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.

Guild workshops

In Becket, Mass.:

Japanese carpentry with Chris Hall. Oct 10–19.

Guild workshops contact:

Will Beemer, will@tfguild.org, 413-623-9926.

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Other conferences

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.

U. of British Columbia Timber Building Technology Group

International Wood Building Forum 2005. Sep 14–15, Vancouver, B.C. www.iwbvancouver.com.

Preservation Trades Network

International Preservation Trades Workshop (IPTW) 2005 (with other events). Oct 7–9, St. Clairsville, Ohio. www.ptn.org. (See page 14.)

Tours

Hida Tool and Kezurou-Kai

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

Heartwood

Timber framing with Dave Carlon and Josh Jackson. Aug 8–12.
Historic barn repair with Jack Sobon. Aug 15–19.

Washington, Mass. Will and Michele Beemer, 413-623-6677, info@heartwoodschoo.com.

North House Folk School

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.

Frontier Builders

Timber framing with Will Beemer. Sept 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. Oct 14–23, Paris, Tenn. Scott Stevens, 731-642-2908, scott@grandoakstimmerframing.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.

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.

College of the Rockies

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.

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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LISEC project coordinator sought

THE GUILD Project Committee and Board of Directors has approved a workshop for 2006 that involves building a boathouse for the Long Island Seaport and Ecological Center (LISEC) in Port Jefferson, New York. The 24 x 38-ft. timber frame will be built with volunteers from LISEC and the TFG in what was the largest shipbuilding port on Long Island in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. LISEC now has an extensive wooden boatbuilding program for children and adults, and their new home is part of the re-development of the historic waterfront.

The next step is to designate a project coordinator to help with the design and final contract negotiations between LISEC and the TFG; then we will be seeking three or four qualified instructors to lead the square-rule workshop to be held from May 17–27, 2006.

If you would like to coordinate this project or be an instructor (all are compensated positions), please tell Joel McCarty (joel@tfguild.org) or Will Beemer (will@tfguild.org). If you don't already have a résumé on file with the Guild office, please submit one. The project coordinator should be someone close enough to the project site for occasional site visits and a commitment to work closely with the client through completion. —Will Beemer



Guild members on the trail of John Wesley Powell. From left: Michele and Will Beemer, Christie and Brice Cochran, Rhonda and Steve Arthur, Peter Bull, and Ellen Gibson embarking on an 18-day raft trip down the Grand Canyon. Will had waited 12 years for his private permit to finally float to the top of the National Park Service's waiting list. His assessment of the trip: "tender feet and computer hands coming up against oars, ammo boxes, lava rocks and cacti. Had two rattlers in camp one night but picked them up from the right end, luckily. One raft flipped in the biggest rapid in the river (Lava Falls) and two folks had a scary swim. Good to be back with some trees. 100 degrees plus in the Canyon."

photo Will Beemer



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