



SCANTLINGS

NEWSLETTER OF THE TIMBER FRAMERS GUILD
NUMBER 202

AUGUST 2016



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Newsletter of the Timber Framers Guild
Number 202 AUGUST 2016

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Founded 1985

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Scantlings, the member newsletter of the Timber Framers Guild, is published in January, February, April, May, July, August, October, and November. Next deadline: **September 1**.

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VMI volunteers setting a post. Full story on page 15.
Cover photo credit: Lawton Clites

THE VIEW FROM HERE

JEFF ARVIN

I've been looking at numbers. It's not necessarily my favorite thing to do unless they are telling a story I like. Here's one of those stories.

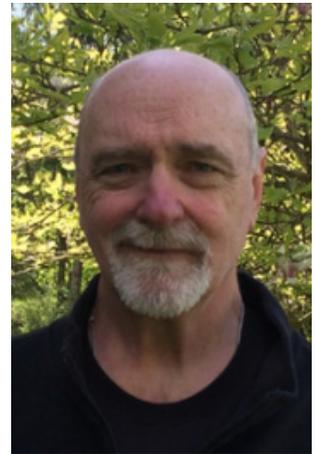
Looking into the wayback machine, I found some interesting figures. For example, in 1985, 200 people showed up at the inaugural Guild conference, so let's say the initial TFG member count was 200. By 1995, membership had tripled and grew rapidly from there to 1,000 in 1998. That's a 5X growth in thirteen years. If only my retirement account would do so well! Membership continued to grow until 2003, and maintained the peak of 1,800 through 2007.

I don't need to remind you what happened in 2008. The drop off in that year was not so bad really—only about 150 members, but by 2013 we were down to 1,200. The decline continued into 2014 and 2015 when membership hovered between 900 and 1,000.

As of this writing, however, I'm delighted to tell you that the TFG is back to nearly 1,200 members, and the numbers are climbing steadily. Check out this message we recently received from Rusty Partridge. He writes, "I want to say thanks for the letter inviting me to join again. I admit that with all the changes and upheaval in the Guild, I questioned the value of my membership, eventually letting it lapse. I am happy to say that I would like to once again become part of the Guild and that I hope that this new team and energy can help guide the group to a more purposeful future. It was the Guild, after all, that was one of the things that originally forged my interest in the craft."

Right on, Rusty! Thank you. Thanks to all renewing members, to the members that stuck with us through the dark times, and to that group of directors who grabbed ahold of the ship in distress, and with deep faith in the value of our community, made the monumental effort to bring the Guild back from the brink. We now have the opportunity to pursue the "more purposeful future" Rusty mentions.

Of course, rebuilding the Guild is a work in progress. We're not there yet. Individual memberships are a huge part of our support, but we also need the support of companies to achieve our potential. To this end, we recently re-envisioned company memberships and now offer revised benefits and an especially affordable rate for small companies. In this issue, TFG Past-President, Jonathan Orpin makes an eloquent appeal for the value of joining TFG Companies. "Here's the real bottom



See The view from here, page 3

Join us in Schuylerville

There is still time to register for our Community Building Project phase 2 in Schuylerville, New York. September 5-15 with the hand raising on the 14th and 15th. Register at <http://www.tfguild.org/events/schuylerville-timber-frame-fabrication-and-hand-raising2>

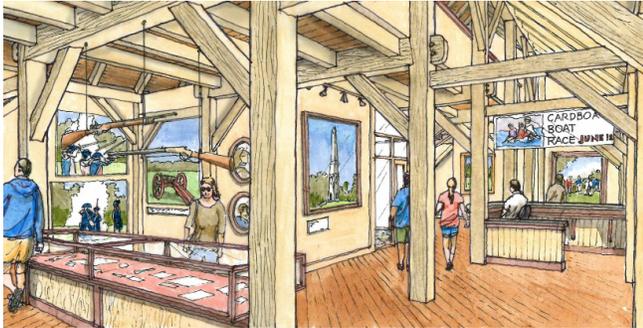


Image Credit: Saratoga Associates

TFG slide show 2016

As the New York conference draws near, it's time for folks to start thinking about one of the Guild's favorite traditions, the slideshow! Through your images we are inspired, instructed, and sometimes amused. We meet new people and are reacquainted with friends. Above all, we think about the work that we do as a community of timber framers. Please consider sharing your work.

General guidelines

- Presenters may show up to 10 images of recent timber framing work.
- No commercial logos are permitted.
- Images must be of work in which you have actively or directly participated. The only exception to this rule is for images of historic joinery (100 years or older) for purposes of documentation and subsequent submission to the TTRAG archive.
- You must be present to talk about your images.

Preparation

- Images may be of one project or of several, but all must involve timber framing.
- Label disks and drives clearly with your name, phone number, or e-mail.
- Do not include other files on disks or drives you submit.

The view from here, from page 1

line," he says. "A healthy, vibrant Guild spins off more benefits to companies than can be listed in a pamphlet including great press on community building projects, interested and inspired young people who feel confident in our future, and more people talking about timber framing than ever before."

A more purposeful future. I really like the sound of that, even if I don't know exactly what it looks like. Of course, it's really up to you, the members of the Timber Framers Guild to complete the vision. We have a lot of work to do, but you know what? It's good work.

Keep in touch.

- Number images using two-digit file names to preserve your intended image order: **do** '01.jpg' **don't** '1.jpg'
- No more than 10 images will be accepted. Additional images will be omitted from the show.

Submission

- Members may submit digital images prior to the conference (see instructions below) or at the conference on a thumb drive or CD or DVD.
- If you submit images at the conference, bring them to the registration desk as early as possible, and no later than noon on Friday.
- The upload option is new this year. We urge you to give it a try!

Presentation

- You will narrate your images.
- Images display in the order that they are received.
- Time limits for presentations will be enforced this year. The time allotted for each presentation will be determined by the total time allotted for the slide show divided by the number of submissions.
- Watch for your name in the group list on the screen and be sure to be in the front of the room before it is your turn to present.

Photo uploads:

1. Members login to your account: <https://www.tfguild.org/login>
2. Click on "Conference Event Photo Upload"
3. Upload each of the photos you wish to include (JPG, GIF, and PNG formats are allowed). Users will be able to add a caption (optional) and specify sequence.

*Photo upload function will be available
July 19 - September 1.*

Erratum

In the July Scantlings article *TFG/TFEC sponsored research project in development*, we neglected to note that the dowel testing for TFG/TFEC sponsored research project is being handled by Dan Hindman of Virginia Tech. We regret the error.

See TFEC, page 4



To the editor

Jeff Arvin wrote in *Scantlings 201* (Director's Corner) that "Way back in 1992, Ken Rower. . . started *Scantlings* so that TFG's Executive Director at the time would have a way to communicate Guild news more frequently to members." It's true that I started *Scantlings* for the Guild's first executive director, Jim Young, as a more frequent line of communication to the membership than through our quarterly journal *Timber Framing*, but that was in 1991.

In 1992 at the Guelph, Ontario, conference, Susan Witter stepped forward at a directors' meeting to offer to edit and produce *Scantlings* as a full-fledged newsletter, eight times a year in the months when *TF* was not published. Over the years she then made it what it is, publishing news of Guild events and introducing departments such as *Ecologic* and *Apprentice Log*, as well as regularly carrying notices, a calendar and letters. Color layouts arrived eventually, and for a period *Scantlings* enjoyed the inventive graphics contributions of assistant editors Patricia Chambers and Marnie Jones. At times, *Scantlings* reached 24 pages of news, features and announcements, with advertisements

of interest to Guild members spread throughout the publication. While the quarterly journal published articles on timber frame history, design, engineering, technology and business, *Scantlings* provided reports on the work and accomplishments of the Guild and its members. Today, with an agile internet able to broadcast timely information and announcements without the delays of print, *Scantlings'* role for Guild members and administration alike will adapt.

Maureen's giving farewell space in the last issue to *Accacia* as retiring *Scantlings* editor was a kind gesture, likewise Jeff's thanks at the end of his column, but Susan's 25 years of steady work leading to recent appointments deserve to be acknowledged.

Ken Rower
Newbury, Vermont
July 8, 2016

Ken Rower was for many years the Guild's Director of Publications and continues to produce Timber Framing.

A new vision of community support and industry growth

Last October, in Idaho, something was in the air. Those who could make the Coeur d'Alene conference could feel it. Those who went on the bike ride, or attended the feature length movie about the Polish synagogue project, or talked with old friends and new acquaintances in between seminars experienced it. After a few tumultuous years, the Guild roared back, just in time to celebrate its 30th birthday.

Indeed, for over 30 years the Timber Framers Guild has been instrumental in creating an industry where people can make a living doing what they love; and gorgeous, energy efficient houses, and amazing timber work have been the result. It's a team thing, with companies long supporting the Guild's efforts, and then benefitting from the great energy, press, design and engineering research, and skilled craftsmen who populate this organization. As an owner myself, I am bold enough to wonder aloud if there even would be a viable timber framing industry if the Guild had not existed.

With this in mind, we are offering Timber Framers Guild company memberships for the first time in over twenty years. When you join TFG Companies there are four different levels available based on each company's appropriate financial activity.

With the backing of TFG Companies, the Guild is working every day to create a better business climate for

Timber Frame Companies. We have expanded the traditional Guild focus to include:

- Active outreach to architects, engineers, general contractors and building owners, the specifiers and end-users who make buying decisions
- Creating an educated and informed general public
- Developing web content that will bring prospective buyers to tfguild.org
- Regular and on-going publicity about Guild events and Guild companies
- A further strengthened, and professionally solid, Community Building Program
- Providing valuable SEO data to member companies
- Additional education in business basics
- Enhanced TFG publications
- A wider array of professional training opportunities for hands-on timber framers developed with an eye to accessibility and affordability.



See A new vision, page 5

A new vision, from page 4

Yes, there are quite a few benefits that come with the membership, and these can be found in more detail at <http://www.tfguild.org/downloads/TFG-Company-Member-benefits.pdf>

The entry level cost cost for a company is absolutely a no-brainer. A good return for the money. But here's the real bottom line: a healthy, vibrant Guild spins off more benefits to companies than can be listed in a pamphlet including great press on Community Building Projects, interested and inspired young people who feel confident in our future, and more people talking about timber framing than ever before!

To reach our potential, companies are needed. We're asking for the support of every company out there that earns some or all of its revenue from timber framing. In this way, we can be sure that the Guild will remain and grow in its relevance, its dynamism, and even its fun for the next 30 years. In doing so, we can guarantee a great return for each company, year after year.

Call me anytime. I'm helping out with company memberships right now, and as an owner myself, I can chat further and deeper about how we're all better by teaming up as Guild members. There are a few other company owners working on this as well, but we could use more. I can be reached at 585-737-4013, or jonathan@newenergyworks.com. Alternatively, call Jeff Arvin, our Executive Director who has decades of small business experience as a timber framer. We're psyched to have you join. Thanks in advance, for your help.

To Join TFG Companies, go to <http://www.tfguild.org/join-tfg-companies>.

Jonathan Orpin
Past President, TFG
Founder and President, New Energy Works
Timberframers

In memoriam

We were sad to learn that Leonard Lee passed away last month. Leonard was the founder of Lee Valley Tools, the company which produced one of the earliest generations of modern timber framing chisels. TFG member Tedd Benson, who sent us the notice, recalled meeting Leonard. Tedd reports, "Back in 1982, I told Leonard there weren't good TF chisels available in North America, which was definitely true at the time. Leonard jumped in and vowed to fix that, and the result was this chisel. I can't remember helping a whole lot, but he gave me co-designer credit nevertheless. Good man, good legacy!"

- Jeff Arvin



Inscription on Tedd's Chisel: *To Tedd Benson, co-designer of this chisel, with thanks Lee Valley Tools, Christmas 1983*



Founder's Chapel on Ansley Golf Club, Atlanta, GA. Engineered for MoreSun Custom Woodworking, Inc.

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Bringing a Modern Perspective to an ancient craft, Fire Tower specializes in timber structures and related systems.

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Timber Framers Guild 2016 Conference - check back for additions/changes over time

Date

Sept 14, 2016
Wednesday

Breakfast

TFG Community Building Project - Schuylerville Raising

Sept 15, 2016
Thursday

Breakfast - Preconference Workshop Attendees Only

7:00 - 8:30

Steve Dewey
Safe Rigging Practices - Sponsored by Apprentice Training Program & The Crosby Group

Andy Shapiro
Envelope and Mechanical Design and Implementation for the High Performance Timber Frame Home."

TFEC Wood Species Identification Workshop: Level 1 - Tom Nehil & Rick Collins

Tour of Historical Structures in the Adirondacks
Kim Balfour

Business Boot Camp
Duke Kuehn
Strategic Planning - Vision, Mission, Goals

8:30 - 5:00
Breakfast, Lunch & Breaks included

Dinner - on your own

TFEC Members Meeting

5:00-7:00
7:00 - 9:00

Sept 16, 2016
Friday

Skills for Timber Framers

Building Science

Design & Engineering

Historic & Preservation

Business

7:00 - 8:30

Will Beemer
Where Roofs Collide - the Graphic Solution

Andy Shapiro
Mechanical Systems for High Performance Timber Frames

In development

Cynthia Falk
Barns in the Empire State

Duke Kuehn
Creating a High Performance Organizational Culture

8:30 - 9:00

Welcome & Opening Comments

9:00 - 10:00

Will Beemer
Where Roofs Collide, cont'd

Andy Shapiro
Moisture, Management, Design in Timber Frames

In development

Jan Lewandoski
Chinese Timber Framing

Duke Kuehn
Culture (cont.)

10:00 - 10:30

Break - Bookstore & Trade Show Open

Curtis Milton
When Roofs Collide - the Mathematical Solution

Net-Zero Timber Frames
High Energy Performance Homes - Case Studies

In development

John Stevens
Dutch Vernacular Architecture

Tips & tricks for presenting to architects or other professionals

12:00 - 1:00

Lunch

Curtis Milton
When Roofs Collide - the Mathematical Solution

Al Cobb
Cross Laminated Timbers

In development

Ben Brungraber & Michael Cuba - Engineering for Preservation Joinery. When bad things happen to good structures

AI Wallace - SEO & Marketing Your Sized Company

2:00 - 3:00

3:00 - 3:30

Featured Speaker - Rudy Christian - The Timber Temples of Mandalay

Break - Bookstore & Trade Show Open

TFG Trade Fair Happy Hour

Dinner

3:30 - 5:00

5:00 - 6:30

6:00 - 7:30

7:30 - 10:00

TFG Slideshow

TFG Slideshow

Sept 17, 2016
Saturday

Skills for Timberframers

Building Science

Design & Engineering

Historic & Preservation

Business

Breakfast																																																																																																										
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These stories are written by Guild members based on topics provided by TFG. This month's theme is teachers. We hope you enjoy these submissions as much as we do. We'd love for you to join us in sharing your stories, see page 9 to find out how to participate.

I can think of many different teachers that I liked, but very few where their lessons come back to me when needed. In fact, I can think of more lessons I don't follow because of the life lived by that particular teacher... who was following their own lessons. I guess that, in and of itself, is still teaching. Any innovation must first start with imitation, or at least with an understanding of the "why" behind the lesson. Phrases from certain people come back to me at the oddest times. Some of these men I knew well, and one of them I've never met, but I know that anybody reading this will know of whom I speak. For the sake of brevity, let's limit this to three phrases that still serve me well.

"If you're ever in a plane and the plane is going down, forget the parachute and grab a garden hose or an electric cord. That son of a gun will get hung up on something and save your life!"

Spoken to me by my fire captain 24 years ago while we were trying to unwrap the garden hose to water the lawn at the fire station. The message: often the things that frustrate us the most, will in turn be the very things that save our life.

"If you wait for the last minute to do something, it only takes a minute."

Spoken to me by a contemporary in the building trades. The message: The demands on builders' time can be overwhelming. If I divide my day up into different segments and don't focus on the whole picture at one time, my stress levels go down, and it becomes easier to focus on the task of the moment.

"Everybody has a plan until they get hit."

Spoken by Mike Tyson before a title fight. Okay...I don't know Mike Tyson at all, but I use this quote all the time to temper life. Good-to-go clients who bail once the final numbers come in...they just got hit. New employees that talk a good game until they work a 14-hour day in the sun...they just got hit. Etc., etc.

Those things I can recall at the perfect moment to keep me sane, safe, or relatively unstained...are the marks of 'good' teachers.

John Van Bruggen

Clydesdale Frames Co.

Over three decades ago, as a young timber framer, I became enamored of photos I'd seen of a Shinto shrine in Japan. In my memory, it was an extraordinarily expressive structure. Round columns supported square beams. The steeply pitched gable rafters bypassed each

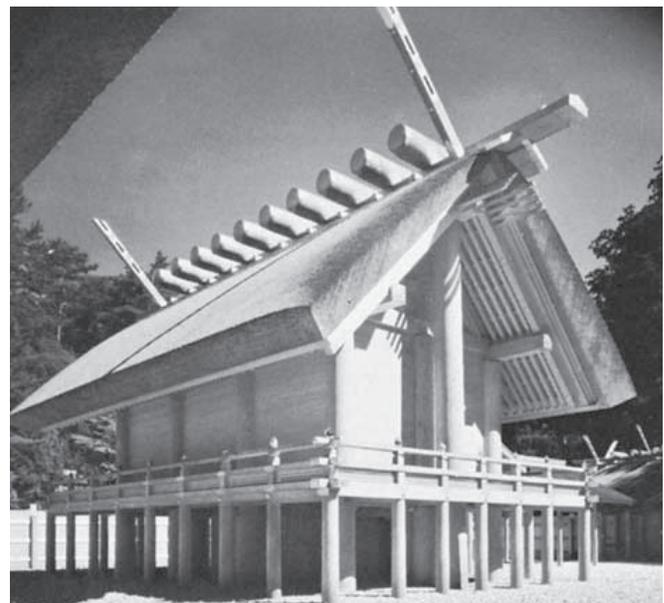
other and ran skyward. A thick thatched roof was held in place by an elaborate, exposed wooden ridge cap that in turn appeared to be anchored by a series of gracefully shaped cylindrical pieces, perhaps twelve inches or more in diameter, the ends slightly tapered and rounded. They were laid perpendicular to the ridge at, say, three feet on center. It was not a large building, certainly not on the grand scale of a temple, and while it was simple in form, it seemed to me that all elements of the structure were splendidly exaggerated. I learned that this building, a granary, was the center piece of the Ise Jingu Grand Shrine. I was shocked to learn, however, that the building was torn down and rebuilt every twenty years.

"What's up with that?" I was not just surprised, I was offended, knowing, as I did, that timber frames were built for the long run; that this craft I had whole-heartedly embraced is founded upon the assumption that our buildings last forever! Why would they tear this beautiful artifact down?

I pondered this conundrum for several months and then told my tale to a now forgotten colleague (not that the person is forgotten, I just can't remember who it was!). My friend observed that at the twenty-year interval, a carpenter could participate as an apprentice, as a journeyman and as a master. And it dawned on me. The ritual of reconstruction taught succeeding generations not only the skills and techniques required of this intricate structure but also how to teach those skills and techniques. It's not the artifact that needs preservation; it's the artisan—a powerful lesson that has remained with me years later.

Teachers show up in all kinds of ways. I hope I'm paying attention when they do.

Buck Keriou



Ise Jingu Grand Shrine



I've had many teachers over the years. I've still got plenty to learn. Everyone I've worked with has taught me a thing or two. Clients, helpers, suppliers, business partners, subs... and many more.

But the one who made the greatest impression was one of the first I met when introduced to the craft. Andy Shrake of East Dennis, Massachusetts hired me on as a helper in the early '80s and he let me stick around a few years. He did not run me off immediately after stupid mistakes, as was his typical style. Or maybe in my stubbornness or stupidity, I couldn't take the hint. Maybe he kept me around for entertainment purposes. Though hinting was not Andy's style, he'd let you know. Right now. It's my way or the highway. He was not the easiest guy to work with, but a finer person I've yet to meet.

An early lesson he taught me did not make much sense at the time. "This is not difficult," he'd say. "All you have to do is be smarter than the hammer." After reflection, I learned that the lesson is to know the tool's purpose: working within its capacity is the best use of a well-made tool.

Another lesson sank in pretty quickly. How to move heavy, awkward stuff smartly. The job was a windmill repair in Chatham. One part of this was to move a large sail shaft (a pine log about 30 ft. long x 20 in. diameter) from the ground to the front of the mill so eventually it could be lifted into position in the mill.

Andy assigned Tom and me to the task. "You two move this over there." He pointed to a spot about forty yards distant, turned, and left. Tom and I struggled for 45 minutes trying to roll, push, and pull this beast into position – accomplishing very little – when Andy finally blew. A few blue words rang in our ears and he told us to get out of the way.

Andy picked up a solid stick of pine about 8 ft. long and a couple of foot long 8 x 8 blocks. He set up some tall horses, a set of short horses, and he got to work. In minutes he had the shaft settled atop the horses by himself. He easily moved the shaft using the stick as a lever and the 8 x 8 blocks as a series of fulcrums lifting a few inches higher each lift, pivoting off the fulcrums, using gravity, balance, and pivot points. We then walked the shaft over into position 10 ft. at a time. One guy weighed down an end, pivoting off the horse, while the other moved the next horse to catch an end then repeat the process.

I'm spoiled these days with the reach fork, but I still prefer to move timbers atop horses by myself.

Andy gave me my first slick, making me promise to pass it along some day to someone I deemed worthy. As craftsman and master timber framer, Andy was a joy to behold. He did not teach so much as just be there. And if you paid attention in his presence, you were bound to learn many things.

Andy's lessons were born from years of experience, a sharp, intuitive insight, a solid respect for history, and

a special touch and connection to the materials used in building. Add to this base a heart as big as the nearby ocean – with all its fathoms of subtle undercurrents, rocky bottom terrain and hidden depths beneath the visible surface – and you have a glimpse of the man.

*Steven C Rundquist
Brewster Timber Frame Company*

Weren't these great stories? We know you all have stories too. Send us your 200-500(ish) word stories related to the topics below. We promise to help you edit if you are shy. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions at all. Send your submissions to info@tfguild.org

Here are the next topics and deadlines:

Topic	Deadline	Published
Craft	Sep. 1, 2016	Nov. 2016
Tools and tool boxes	Oct. 1, 2016	Jan. 2017
Students	Nov. 1, 2016	Feb. 2017
Tradition	Dec. 1, 2016	Apr. 2017
Last Time	Feb. 1, 2017	May. 2017
Value	Mar. 1, 2017	Jul. 2017

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FEATURED TFG MEMBER PROJECT

Discovery Dream Homes

The Facts

remodel/rennovation • Log bunkie
(affectionate Canadian term for sleeping
structure) 479 sf • sunroom 197 sf • porches
343 sf • car port 288 sf

Design Challenges

Update the 1970's cottage to rustic
contemporary style • open up views to the lake
• add timber porches, sunroom, and log guest
suite.

Timber Framing Statement

Timbers are eastern white pine • guest suite
roof line matches the main cottage • black
stain used on the exterior of the log walls and a
light white wash on the inside.

Notable Features

Log structure building was traditional, but
incorporated into a contemporary style of
home

The Team

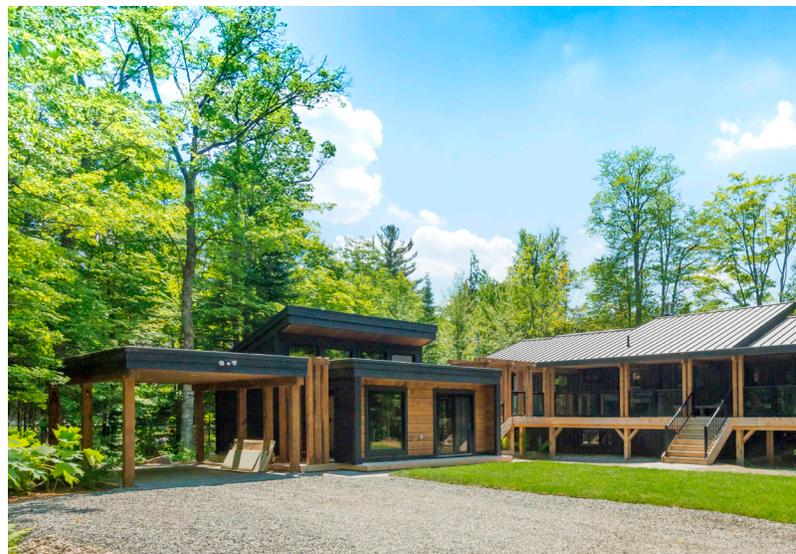
Timber/Log supplier: Discovery Dream
Homes

Design Team: Shawn Hunter, Nicole Sokol,
Discovery Dream Homes

Onsite Contractors: Mason Brothers
Construction (Guest Suite and timber raising)

Renovation to main building: Randy Blain
Construction

Deck Construction: Boys with Big Decks





Timberwolf Tools takes to the road

DAVID POWELL

For many years, our family dreamed of traveling around the US and visiting the National Parks and the dramatic mountains and canyons of the West. However, over the last six years, we were somewhat locked down, running the day to day operations of Timberwolf Tools and supporting our customer base. All that changed when we moved the day to day operations to our new facility in Chicago last summer, and my son Jeffrey Powell took over many of the details and logistics. It took a while to hire additional staff and train everyone. I am still deeply involved in supporting our staff and customers, and working closely with our vendors, but there is now more opportunity to step out of the offices and be “mobile” so my wife Joyce and son Andrew and I finally have some time to explore the world.

During this centennial year of the founding of our National Parks, we decided to take off from the Maine Mahosuc mountains to visit Parks in the Western Rocky Mountains. My side kick/co-pilot Andrew and I began the journey together, with everyone’s favorite timber framing and cabinet/furniture making tools strategically arranged in the back of our Suburban. We were packed to the gills with tools and a few clothes. First we traveled out to Chicago for additional hands-on tool training with our new employees, and then we began to visit customers in WI, MN, ND, MT, ID, UT, WY, OH and CT. We were warmly received by so many customers, and it was just wonderful to finally connect faces with voices and personalities.

We had the pleasure of demonstrating the following tools: ARUNDA 80N dovetail system, Mafell ZSX-400 chain beam saw, Z5Ec portable band saw, LS-103Ec/FG-150/SG-230 chain and slot mortisers, LO-65Ec router, KSS-300 and KSS-400 cross-cutting systems, DD-40P Duo-doweller, P1cc jig saw, MT-55cc track saw, and the new MF-26cc multi-tool/notcher. There is nothing quite like letting customers use these tools at their own location and with their own wood, and seeing the look on their faces when they realize just how amazing the tools are in person. We made plenty of sawdust, learned quite a lot from our customers, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of meeting so many fine craftspeople and seeing their very cool shops. There is so much personality and creativity that goes into timber framing and cabinet/furniture making, and the people behind these fine crafts are very brilliant and interesting. We were so impressed every day, and were honored to share time with them.

The trip was not all about work since we did have this National Park dream to fulfill. After two weeks visiting customers, Andrew and I picked up Joyce in Salt Lake City and drove up Little Cottonwood Canyon to see Alta and Snowbird Ski Areas on a gorgeous blue sky day. We

checked out Robert Redford’s Sundance area, as well, and found it to be a really peaceful place to relax and soak up nature. Next, we made our way to Bryce Canyon in Southern Utah, and what a spectacular place it is. I captured amazing photos of the hoodoo rock formations during sunrise, sunset, and hiking down into the canyon. We opened Bryce’s season with a last minute reservation, staying in one of the log cabins built in the early 1920s. The curving roof shingle patterns made them look like Hobbit houses.

From there, we headed to Arches National Park, where we could walk around the humongous red rock



Hobbit Houses in Bryce Canyon



Cabin in Arches formations, and then Moab, the capital of ATV and 4-wheeler adventures in southern Utah.

We headed north again, stopping at more Salt Lake customers, and finally to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, continuing on to see the Grand Teton range and lakes, which are truly majestic. Not too far from there, we entered Yellowstone Park by the west gate, on a road winding along a river. Many herds of bison were the main attraction, as they walked on and near the roads, seemingly oblivious to us all. The subterranean volcanic action has created colorful areas of naturally occurring

bubbling hot tubs, steaming small geysers, and colorful paint pots rocky landscapes. We were fortunate again to get a last minute reservation at the Old Faithful Inn, and we marveled at the open five story timber/log framed interior of intricate curving wood, imagining what it would have been like back in the good old days. It is so hard to believe that craftsmen could build such a complex building in the middle of the harsh winters of 1903, without all of the electric, hydraulic and fuel powered tools/machines/vehicles we have today.

Watching Old Faithful go off was pretty cool. We



The Old Faithful Inn

sighted elk, fox, swans and geese, deer, a kestrel and maybe a bald eagle, as well, but no grizzly bear or timber wolves. Then, it was back to Montana again to see Glacier Park.

Thus ended the National Park part of the trip and it was time to head back East. We managed some interesting customer visits in Ohio on the way back, ending our trip in Maine after logging 8,600 miles. We are not ones who want to consume natural resources or fuel, but every once in awhile, a trip like this is important and leaves lasting and warm memories.

I learned a lot about Western timber framing from all these gifted craftsmen, and even enjoyed repairing a few tools along the way. Some of the things I noticed in Western timber framing that are different from New England style include:

- the use of extremely large timbers that are “reclaimed lumber”
- roof trusses are more common, rather than fully integrated timber frames
- more frequent use of steel rods and plates for snow load and seismic reasons.
- lower pitch roofs, with longer overhangs

If we missed you on this trip due to the logistics or schedule not working out, we apologize and hope to meet you in the future. We are grateful for all of your hospitality, and the interest you’ve shown in the products we sell and support!

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APPRENTICE LOG

ATP survey results

CURTIS MILTON

The Guild's Apprentice Training Committee (a volunteer group) continues to seek input beyond the opinion of the registered subscribers to the program. We surveyed business members in 2013 and in 2016, we pushed a series of questions to all TFG members.

Only 49 respondents completed this survey of the training materials and requisite skills needed to be a professional timber frame carpenter.

The information collected in this survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-JPKFQ6ST/>, but for those of you who would allow summarized generalizations please read on.

I have the following observations from the data.

In ranking qualities of a good timber framer, attitude and aptitude are the highest priority (with NO responses of "not a priority") followed by experience then education. There were significant percentages of "not a priority" regarding experience and education.

Eighty-seven percent of respondents believe previous carpentry/construction experience is an asset for new hires. This is in agreement with the 2013 survey. I believe combining these two results indicates that when hiring personnel, carpentry/construction experience is important but timber frame experience is not. This could also indicate specific training after hiring is a desirable strategy.

Employees are overwhelmingly encouraged and rewarded for pursuing continuing education, and our membership places a high value on professional credentials for timber frame carpenters.

Third party credentials are useful to all and a high priority to many, which leads to the conclusion that TFG should identify appropriate third party providers who produce training materials. Certifying third party timber frame workshops as recommended training would involve many levels of standardization, a topic the TFG industry has approached cautiously to date.

There is a healthy level of personal investment in continuing education including the TFG Conference. However, two-thirds of employers have a continuing education budget for employees and two-thirds of those employers do not find the TFG conference a worthy educational investment.

Respondents prioritized the skills of the timber frame carpenter in the following order: power tool use and maintenance, stationary power tool use and maintenance, plan reading, roof math, geometry, 3D vision, sharpening, accurate joinery, layout skills, knowledge of wood, material handling, communications, computer skills, and business management.

Fifty-five percent of respondents indicate a willingness

to buy training materials: 40% would budget \$100-\$300 and 22% would budget \$301-\$600. I believe this reinforces the concept that previous education for new hires is not a priority, but that ongoing training is a valuable strategy.

Using this survey data as the only guidance for the future of any training program is not a good idea since the sample size is so small. That being said, here are some of my conclusions:

- ATP should identify or build training materials because members believe these materials have value.
- ATP should identify third party vendors who deliver certificate level training. (Many of these credentials are or will be required by law.)
- The TFG conference is not seen as a good continuing education investment. If the credentials identified in the survey were made available at a TFG conference, this sentiment might change. A regional gathering could be a more accessible model of delivery.

The Apprentice Training Program was registered with the Department of Labor in 2009. Since then we have hosted annual training sessions with specific topics and assessments that were captured for future use. We have recruited developers and presenters to prepare and deliver training materials at TFG conferences. We have reinforced the use of existing and new training materials at Guild community building projects.

The Apprentice Training Committee (ATC) has accumulated funds (a portion of ATP annual registration fees) to fulfill one of the goals of the registered and subscribing members of the ATP: developing or identifying training materials. We believe the TFG general membership will benefit from this investment.

Currently, there is a small TFG working group that is exploring the funding and organization of an industry wide Professional Development Program (PDP). Logically, the ATP will become one incremental part of broader initiative offering a range of educational opportunities.

Conceptually, the PDP (with the help of the ATC, the ATP and others) will guide staff, content providers, and valuable volunteers toward our collective future. An as yet undefined but paid staff position is mandatory to accomplish current and future goals.

If you would like to help shape this future there are specific tasks to be accomplished, some are shovel ready to borrow a phrase.

If you view the results of the survey differently, please speak up.

Questions, comments and criticisms willingly accepted. You can contact me at 603-387-6770 or atc@tfguild.org.

VMI framers cut, raise two frames, Mullen's celebrate 20 years of projects

ACCACIA MULLEN

During the first weekend in April, Grigg and Cindy Mullen welcomed dozens of students, timber framers, and volunteers from around the United States and Canada for another hand tool workshop. Between Friday, April 1, and Tuesday, April 5, they cut and raised a 16x24 ft. cruck frame cabin and a 14x14 ft. shed for a ship's saw. The cabin frame will be auctioned in November to benefit Project Horizon, the domestic and dating violence prevention program in Lexington, VA. First raised at the Mullen shop during the workshop, the saw shed frame has since been moved and raised in its permanent home at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, MD.



Photo: Lawton Clites

The workshop took place during the spring field training exercises (FTX) for the Virginia Military Institute (VMI). Thirty-five VMI Cadets participated. A group of students from the American College of the Building Arts in Charleston, SC traveled to Virginia for the workshop (some having been to Lexington for the 2015 FTX project). At its largest on Saturday, the group consisted of 116 volunteers. This is the 33rd community building service project orchestrated by Grigg and Cindy, and 20th anniversary of the first FTX project, a trebuchet in 1997.

Timber for the project was once again donated by Blue Ridge Lumber in Fishersville, VA., with the cherry cruck blades coming from Kris Kavanaugh. Many of the volunteers camped on site (through some snow, wind, and cold temperatures) or were placed with local host families. Meals were hosted by Project Horizon staff and volunteers, and were provided by local churches and civic groups. Grigg Mullen III made ice cream with his diesel-powered ice cream churn on Saturday night, accompanied by music from a local old-time jam group. Cindy and Grigg were presented with a book of photos and memories from their 20 years of projects.



Photo: Lawton Clites



Photo: Kelly Nye



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Below: Tumblebug fire salvage,
Willamette National Forest,
December 2012



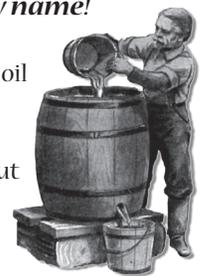
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Our Timbers

EVENTS



These listings are for Guild workshops and meetings, were submitted by Guild members, or announce other relevant events.
For more info on Guild events or to register for any TFG project, reach TFG at 360-746-6571 or info@tfguild.org

Guild tours and events

Schuylerville Community Building Project Phase 1: First Floor Walkout/Timberframe Aug 8, 2016 - Aug 12, 2016
Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitors' Center
Schuylerville, New York.
Guild Office, 360-746-6571
www.tfguild.org/events/schuylerville-first-floor-walkout

Schuylerville Community Building Project Phase 2: Timber Frame Fabrication and Hand Raising Sep 5, 2016 - Sep 15, 2016
Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitors' Center
Schuylerville, New York.
Guild Office, 360-746-6571
www.tfguild.org/events/schuylerville-timber-frame-fabrication-and-hand-raising2

2016 TFG Annual Conference Sep 16 - 18, 2016
Preconference Sep 15
Trade Show Sep 16 - 17
Gideon Putnam Hotel
Saratoga Springs, New York
Guild Office, 360-746-6571
www.tfguild.org/events/2016-tfg-annual-conference

other events

Rendezvous Workshop At The Great Tithe Barn Of Aclou
Aug 28, 2016 - Sep 3, 2016
info@carpentersfellowship.co.uk

Sobon-Carlon
Sep 21, 2016 - Sep 25, 2016
Traditional timber framing with Jack Sobon and Dave Carlon, Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield, Mass. \$620.
Dave Carlon, 318 Bates Rd, Windsor, MA 01270, tel. 413-684-3612, dcarlon01@aol.com
Jack Sobon, 613 Shaw Rd, Windsor, MA 01270, tel. 413-684-3223, jacksobon@verizon.net

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Shaver Lake, California in the central California Sierra Nevada mountains
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Notices are for one-time events and offers, and they run free to Guild members for two issues per year. The cost to non-Guild members is \$60 per notice per issue. A notice, whether free or paid, runs for a maximum of two issues. Notices are intended for onetime events and offers; appropriateness for inclusion is decided by the content manager.

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Brice Cochran
864-888-7156

info@timberframehq.com timberframehq.com/layout

help wanted

Experienced timber framer - MT

We are a small but extremely busy timber frame company that has been in business since 1994 in the beautiful Bitterroot Valley in Western Montana. We are seeking an experienced timber framer to join our crew. Compensation is dependent on experience.

406-363-0855

mgantt@timberbuilders.com timberbuilders.com

Experienced log & timber craftsman - ON

Laverty Log Homes & Timber Frames builds custom homes and structures with heavy timber and round logs (dovetail, Scandinavian scribe, and timber frame). We are looking for an experienced craftsman to join our team. Essential skills: Five years of experience working with traditional joinery in heavy timber (or equivalent European certified Zimmermeister). Chainsaw experience and skilled Mafell timber machine operation a must. Must be capable of working at heights and heavy lifting and be willing to travel out of town for installations. Job description also includes layout and reading digital or printed blueprints. Deitrichs 3D Cad experience (or equivalent) ideal. Sawmill operation skills and heavy equipment operation an asset. Wages are \$22/hr. (Canadian funds) and some piece work.

earl@lavertyloghomes.com lavertyloghomes.ca

Experienced joiners - TN

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Experienced framer - VT

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Designer - BC

We are currently seeking an experienced designer to join our small, specialized team. We are looking for an energetic, disciplined, and confident person with a good understanding of construction details and processes. Responsibilities: Collaborate in conceptual designs and charrette processes; create clear, accurate drawings and models within agreed timescales; liaise with project managers and supervisors to ensure that shop drawings are appropriate to the team that will build from them; contribute to pre-work briefings; supervise draftsman/technician; ensure that drawings are buildable and optimized for cost-effective construction. Min 5 years' experience. Well versed in the use of AutoCAD, Sketch Up, Office Suite, and rendering software.

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Field carpenter and shop manage -IL

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HSBCAD designer - BC

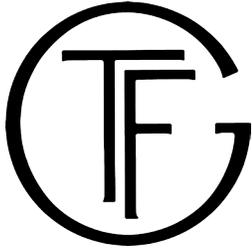
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September 16 – 18, 2016

Pre-conference: September 15

Main Conference: September 16-18

Trade Show September: 16-17

Community Building Project in Schuylerville NY

Phase 1 – first floor walkout/timberframe: August 8-12.

Phase 2 – timber frame fabrication - September 5-15

Community Hand Raising: September 14-15

Register online at www.TFGuild.org or call the Guild office.

We look forward to seeing you all there!