

# TFG Board elections

**Your vote counts!** Voting is open to members from September 25 to October 25.

## What do board members do?

Board members are expected to:

- Attend and prepare well for monthly board and committee calls, submit documents in a timely manner and read the pre-reads before the calls and participate actively on all calls, with a positive attitude, eye toward consensus, and good sense of humor.
- Share their experience and ideas during board and committee meetings – particularly those ideas and questions that represent their Guild “community.”
- Chair a committee or working group at some point within their 3-year term and sit on one or two others.

- Bring forward at least one key initiative, leading it to a successful conclusion. This could be an event, project, publication, fundraising drive, or some other initiative.
- Work to institutionalize best practices; be familiar with Guild bylaws and policies; and help their fellow board members to know, understand, and follow the best practices based on the bylaws and policies, building a culture of excellence on the board and one of continuous improvement.

Please take the time to read the candidate statements thoroughly, and please vote! Elections are often very close; your vote assuredly counts. For more information about the elections process, contact Nominating Committee Chair Sandy Bennett at [sandy@brtw.com](mailto:sandy@brtw.com).

## Candidate statements

### Will Denton

Will Denton started timber framing after coursework with James Mitchell in log and timberwork at the Island School of Building Arts. After his stint in British Columbia, he went on to schooling at the American College of the Building Arts (ACBA) under Bruno Sutter. Will got a Bachelor's of Applied Sciences with a major in timber framing. After graduating in the inaugural class of ACBA in 2009 (best year to find a job in the building industry) he moved up and down the east coast as a timber framer. During this time, he became a journeyworker in the Guild's Apprenticeship Training Program (ATP). He is an active member of the ATP, routinely attending trainings and workshops. Will has spent the last five years working at Trillium Dell, where he holds the position of Lead Site Manager. This position includes responsibilities from bidding/estimating and workforce management to leading a raising (depending on the day).



Since Will joined the Timber Framers Guild he has been an active member with the Guild's Community Building Workshops. He tries to attend at least one project a year and manage or instruct when possible. He will be the workshop manager for the 16-sided roundhouse in Alabama this fall. If elected to the board, Will would like to focus on how education within the Guild is run. The interaction of the acquisition of Heartwood and the ATP is going to be critical moving forward.

Contact Will: [will@trilliumdell.com](mailto:will@trilliumdell.com) or 703-505-6845.

### Neil Godden

I am grateful for the experience, opportunities, and friendships made through the Timber Framers Guild and would be honored to serve on the Guild's Board to have an opportunity to give back to such an inspiring organization.

I received my Civil Engineering degree from the University at Buffalo in 1996. Shortly after graduating, I attended a timber frame workshop led by Jack Sobon, and instantly knew that timber framing was the path for me. Following the workshop, I worked with Jack for three years learning the traditional methods of timber framing, and have been in love with all aspects of the craft ever since.

Learning the trade and building timber frames locally led me to start my company, Godden Timber Frames and Homebuilders. In 2000, my wife Danielle and I bought land in the foothills of the Berkshires in western Massachusetts. I logged our property with oxen, hewed and sawed timber on site, cut the timber frame, and built our house using primarily hand tools. Timber framing has been a significant part of my life for all of my adult years.

I really enjoy sharing my knowledge and techniques for this time-tested craft. I enjoy teaching and have had the opportunity to teach in a variety of places over the past few decades. I have been a visiting instructor at the Heartwood School since 2005, teaching the cruck framing course with Jack Sobon. I taught at the Rocky Mountain Workshops in Colorado. I was fortunate to have the chance to be an instructor in a Guild project near my hometown on Long Island – the Seaport and Eco-Center project in 2006. In 2016-17, I was the Project Manager for the Timber Framers Guild project in Schuylerville, New York, in which various workshops were held, culminating in an extraordinary community building event. This was an amazing opportunity for me. I truly enjoyed working side-by-side so many timber framers – both novice and highly experienced. This October, I will once again be joining the Guild as an instructor for the Sunrise Mill hand tool workshop in Pennsylvania.

Currently, I am a member of the Guild's Community Building Committee. I do really enjoy the camaraderie and shared inspiration that is a part of the Guild's community building opportunities. I participated in my first class at Heartwood in 1997 and have taken and taught many classes there since then. I have experienced the "heart" of Heartwood School and know firsthand how valuable this school will be for the Guild. I hold the Heartwood School near and dear, and I am interested in supporting the successful transition of the Heartwood School to the Guild in the coming months.

What strikes me most is the knowledge, dedication, commitment, and teamwork that Guild members are always willing to bring to the workshops and events. I am honored to be nominated to run for the Guild's board. I would like to support the Guild's mission to continue to positively inspire new generations in the art of timber framing while maintaining the level of Guild magic that we have all grown accustomed to. I believe that successful community building projects, additional hands-on opportunities, and accessible education/

outreach could further awareness about the Timber Framers Guild and timber framing. I think the Guild's acquisition of the Heartwood School is a step in the right direction.

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### Christian Gudmand

Like many of us I did not start in timber framing. I went to college in Massachusetts for mechanical engineering and spent four years setting myself up for a career in that field. It's a career



based on numbers and problem solving, and design and analysis. After some college internships I began working at a contract engineering company. What drew me to the company was its hands-on style. Engineers didn't just sit in a cubicle but were able to build and assemble – to really do something in the shop. It never felt like enough though. There was no satisfaction or passion behind what I did, it was just work.

My grandfathers on both sides were passionate about design and craftsmanship. Either through architecture or woodworking, they loved it. My father finds joy in turning bowls and other treasures on his lathe. Craftsmanship and wood is in my blood, but these folks didn't pursue it professionally. That genetic love of creating is what gets me in my basement to build furniture and gifts. It occurred to me that your job is what you spend most of your adult life doing, so if you don't love it, why do it?

That is why I took a timber framing job at Hardwick Post and Beam in August 2014. I started working on the bench hand cutting all kinds of different timber frames and loved every minute of it. I actually got to wear Carhartts to work!

Through an unforeseen turn of events, at least unforeseen to me, I was asked to run the company as the then-manager was planning to move on to his next adventure. As someone who had been timber framing for about a year, I made the reckless decision to begin running the company in August of 2015. That is what I have been doing ever since. Joining this company in 2014 showed me another passion in my life: timber framing. Everything about it thrills me. Crafting, installation, design, the business side, clients, all of it.

I have spent the past four years voraciously learning everything I can about running a business. Sometimes because I would choose to learn it, sometimes because circumstance would force me to. Either way I have loved learning about all aspects of the industry. The Guild has



been instrumental in that process. I found a group so willing to share and help that I instantly fell in love with it.

I am excited to continue running this company for as long as I can and to continue learning everything I can. I want to bring this passion and excitement to the Guild. I am currently serving on the Companies Committee working on ways to bring more benefits to the different businesses that make up the Guild. I have also been working on creating a peer-to-peer networking system that allows different companies to help each other grow and learn. I am excited for the opportunity to participate in the Guild even more as a board member.

As I look around the Guild, there are incredibly talented business leaders and craftsman everywhere. I have substantially less experience than most it seems. What I lack in experience I make up for in drive and passion. I want to help companies succeed in this demanding industry. I want companies to be profitable, busy, and safe. Everything from craft beer to craft who-knows-what, there is a focus on high-quality craft products. That is our specialty.

And if it's worth doing, it's worth doing right.

Contact Chrisian:

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413-477-6430.

# Chris Kates

My name is Chris Kates and I am running for an upcoming board of directors seat. I have been involved in the timber framing industry for over 18 years. Since I was 16, I knew that I wanted to become a carpenter. Little did I know that I would find that passion evolve into timber framing.

I completed a degree in  
Construction Management  
from Southern Illinois

University in 2000. Somewhere in the midst of college, I picked up a book about timber framing and I knew I had to pursue it. I got my first timber framing job early in 2001 and immediately knew I had found my career. I joined the Guild in 2002 and attended my first conference shortly after. I participated in my first community building project as a volunteer in 2003. I quickly learned that this was an amazing group of people that were willing to share their knowledge and love of the craft. In 2010, I experienced my first teaching role on a Guild building project as a co-instructor. In 2012, I taught a hands-on pre-conference workshop on the techniques of French scribing. I was asked to become an instructor for Rocky Mountain Workshops in Fort Collins, Colorado, in 2016 and have been teaching there part-time ever since. I am currently working on

expanding the program to offer more timber framing workshops in the future. More recently, I instructed on the Guild's Lake Roesiger project in May 2019.

My work experience has taken me all over the country to timber frame, including North Carolina, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Colorado. I recently started my own timber framing and carpentry business, Tall Pine Woodworks, in 2016 in Ft Collins, Colorado, and am now part of a design and build cooperative, Elevated Design Build, where I manage timber frame operations.

When I am not timber framing, you can find me mountain biking and rock climbing in the high mountains of Colorado.

As a lifetime member of the Timber Framers Guild, I feel I can bring several things to the board. First, I can bring my 18 years of timber framing experience, especially with teaching and training, to help the Guilds' community building workshops as well as facilitate trainings for pre-conference workshops and apprenticeship trainings. Second, being a relatively new business owner, I feel I can bring a voice to the board advocating for new businesses and what we need from the Guild in order to help us succeed.

Third, I want to help a younger generation find their passion in timber framing, much like I did, and introduce them to all the benefits that the Guild has to offer.

I look forward to serving the Guild and giving back to it and its members after all the Guild has given me.

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970-988-1576.



Chris Koehn

I joined the Timber Framers Guild in the late 1980s, just in time to participate in the Habitat for Humanity project in Pennsylvania.

In the early 1980s while studying in England and working in Germany, I came to admire the ancient timber and stone structures that surrounded me. Trains were missed and classwork was neglected due to hours—and days—spent ogling barns and places of worship.

Upon graduating (University of Wisconsin 1984, Political Science, Public Admin, Policy Analysis) I pursued an advanced degree at night while working for a large commercial carpentry firm. After a few years an opportunity to work with a timber framer whose roots were in restoration carpentry presented itself and, fresh on the heels of my Habitat/TFG experience, my fate was sealed.

Over the years I've had the great fortune to wear



lots of hats within the timber framing universe. I've worked with companies that transitioned from hand-cut to automated operations with the advent of the Hundegger. I've worked with start-ups that are hyper-local, I've done historic restoration, and I've worked for myself in partnership with my wife Ruth, who is a very talented designer. In truth I've done as much general contracting as I have timber framing, and that balance has always felt right to me. Of late I've formed a partnership with a local design/build carpentry firm. We are doing fun and challenging stuff for good folks, including lots of traditional and contemporary timber work. While I'm sore every morning, I'm learning to enjoy it and as a fringe benefit my stock in Motrin is soaring.

The consistent theme throughout my career has been to identify how timber fits into the entire build program: what are the client's goals; what is the budget; how do we interface and harmonize with other elements of the build while being sensitive to the vernacular mores, weather, and materials that (should) drive the design and the build. These values were driven home most tangibly while traveling North America in a quasi-journeyman tour from 2004–2007, with family in tow. I met many TFG members during that time, learned lots, made lifetime friends, did some really interesting work, and saw firsthand how good – and bad – design and planning effect the success of a build.

Within the Guild, I've participated in, instructed for, and managed a number of TFG projects. I've presented at conferences and chaired the Community Building Projects Committee for several years. I'm a lifetime member. I believe in the tremendous value of TFG projects as an educational tool; as a fundraising mechanism; and as a PR opportunity. I have seen firsthand how projects can foster healthy communities – among the participants as well as within the host communities. These elements should be weighed individually and in aggregate when evaluating prospective TFG involvement. In January 2004 I had the opportunity to study in Germany with a group of mostly TFG carpenters at the Gewerbe Akademie Rottweil. Lessons learned and friendships made there have stuck with me and I'd love to see the TFG offer similar opportunities, particularly to young members.

Outside the Guild I've become active in my adopted home community of the Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island. I served on the board and was president of the 90-student independent school our boys attended. During this time I learned lots about not-for-profit board work and how it differs from work in the private sector. I participated in a multi-day workshop put on by the Chamber of Commerce called "Boot Camp for Board Members" which I found invaluable in preparing me to be an effective board member. One of the takeaways that really affected my work going forward was offered by a seasoned presenter. He said: "Not-for-profit is a tax status. Not a business plan." I've also served on our local Advisory Planning

Commission, which advises local government on zoning and development issues. In my spare time I try to keep up with our sons Ansel and Rainer, who some of you may recall as participants in many kid's workshops at conferences. Rainer is 17 and finishing up High School. Ansel is now 22 and a professional ocean sailboat racer, currently based in Sydney, Australia. I enjoy riding his coat tails in the local racing fleet, where I'm simply known as "Ansel's dad."

Contact Chris: [chris@koehn.com](mailto:chris@koehn.com) or 250-732-6991.

### **Steve Lawrence**

I have been timber framing since 1990 and it has been a very rewarding career.

My involvement with the Timber Framers Guild has been almost as long and equally rewarding. Every time I dip a toe into the TFG pool I come out invigorated and refreshed in my passion for the craft and its people.

My craft experience is broad and I am as passionate about traditional timber framing as I am about modern heavy timber construction. I have been fortunate in my career to have experienced many different types of projects and our own company is active in heritage preservation, residential timber framing, commercial heavy timber construction, and plenty of jobs which are none of the above. The common thread in them all is a values-based approach to the use of heavy timber, which promotes the skills and value of craftspeople and their work, the use of the best building material on the planet, and the personal, environmental, and societal benefits that come with that approach.

I see the Guild as a family and I'm proud to be a member of it, and motivated to continue being an active part of it. The growth and development it has engendered in me and many others continues to be a source of inspiration and I am pleased to have the opportunity to give back to the family that has given me so much over the years.

Guild projects are close to my heart. I have gained so much from my own participation and experienced the "magic" that happens when a Guild project comes to town. It is one of the strongest and most tangible examples of the passion and generosity of spirit that Guild members bring to their work. The way that this rubs off on those who come into contact with it is truly remarkable. The "magic" is the elevation of people, and indeed whole communities from the ordinary to the extraordinary. There are wins on all sides and everywhere you look people are grinning like loons with the fulfillment that comes from contribution to community.

I joined the board of directors for the Guild in 2015 for a short 1-year term. In 2016 I became treasurer and was re-elected late that year for a 3-year term. I have



remained the treasurer since and am now running for a second 3-year term, after which I will have reached my term limit and will step off the board.

During my time as treasurer, I have tried to improve the standard of financial management of the Guild by introducing policy and process that support best practice for the Guild, and I hope I have achieved this in ways that will survive me. I have provided regular high-quality reporting to the board and membership on the Guild's financial position and believe this is a vital function of the treasurer. By ensuring the financial context is always present and accurate I hope to support good decision-making by the board and staff. During my next term I plan to transition out of the role with a smooth succession to a new treasurer. I hope to remain on the board to advise and support the Guild until the end of 2022.

My mission statement is very simple: Lead by Example.

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### **Autumn Peterson**

It has truly been a privilege to serve on our board for these last three years and I hope to continue to be of service for this next term to support the good work that's been accomplished by this great team. I have learned so much through this opportunity but most of all, have sincerely enjoyed the collaboration with a deeply dedicated, professional, and caring group of volunteers that continues to move the Guild forward in an inspiring way.

We've certainly had our work cut out for us these last few years with many transitions, but I'm more excited than ever to be a part of what we are all creating here. Since my time on the BOD, I've worked towards reviving and building new bridges with other Guilds and associations that move in similar ways that we do. I have also been dedicated to finding new ways of engaging the younger generations. I've put a lot of effort into the KidsBuild program—creating a travelling tool kit; collecting projects that we can share with one another to execute in each of our home bases; and reaching out to the communities where we are running projects to offer an educational experience with wood and tools for the kids, not just at conferences. It's been a great success so far, and there are many Guild members contributing in big ways to help make that happen and I'd love to keep on moving those opportunities forward.

I've been the Communications Committee



chair for nearly two years and working to help keep our publications running smoothly, including nurturing the transition of the TF Journal to the new editors. I've served as Vice President of the BOD for a year which was an incredibly rich experience in learning about how all the nuts and bolts of the Guild have been working, and I see where we can make improvements. I have been a supporter of the Heartwood acquisition and hope to help in making that work well. Furthering education in timber framing is our mission and I want to support every opportunity to keep that tradition going strong and perhaps in new ways we haven't tried before.

I've also been working with the Companies Committee to help support our businesses. Like most of you, I am a maker first and foremost so running a business has been a whole new challenging ballgame and we can support each other as peers to learn and grow from each other. That involvement has been truly rewarding and I encourage your participation as well. If I don't know you yet, I hope to, my door is open and I'm inviting your conversations and hearing about your ideas and thoughts, please feel free to reach out to me anytime: [autumn@heritagenaturalfinishes.com](mailto:autumn@heritagenaturalfinishes.com).

### **Andrea Warchaizer**

It's been an honor, a challenge, and at times a slog to serve on the Board of Directors the past three years. If you will allow me, I'd like to continue.

I've been involved with timber framing and the Guild since 1990. After a three-year internship at Benson Woodworking, I started my own residential design practice. I've worked for the past 29 years as a residential/light commercial designer, with the bulk of my work focused on timber framed projects. Along the way I've tried to educate myself on best practices for high-performance building, and the basics of structural engineering. I strongly believe that the best buildings must strike a balance between firmness, commodity, and delight, with none of these being given short attention. I have intentionally kept my business small.

I was a member of the Guild's board of directors for two terms in the mid-1990s, serving two years as president. I participated in the search process that culminated in the hiring of two executive co-directors, organized a design retreat, facilitated a design charette with students at Virginia Military Institute and staff at Project Horizon, and taught numerous design workshops at conferences (as well as week-long workshops in timber frame home design at the Heartwood School and Rocky Mountain workshops). In fact, I've enjoyed teaching so much that I'm about



to enter my third year of part-time teaching at the local high school, teaching classes in architecture and pre- engineering. It's rewarding and exhausting in equal measure.

I have also sat on the board of NESEA (Northeast Sustainable Energy Association), and currently am a board member of VOPAR, a non-profit that works with students at the Manchester (New Hampshire) High School of Technology to build a house every year, with the proceeds funding scholarships for post-secondary training in the trades. I am thrilled that the Guild is working to acquire the Heartwood School, and excited for the potential this brings to expand our educational offerings both "on-campus" and throughout North America. One of the goals for the Guild as laid out by the Board of Directors this year is to create a clear path or "on-ramp" to entering the profession; I'd like us to work as well to create an organized professional development program for experienced timber framers. I'm looking forward to serving on the fledgling Education Committee.

I've been serving as Chief Governance Officer (aka, Clerk) the past two years, attempting to build on the work by previous board members to codify policies, clarify operations, and preserve institutional memory. I also serve on the Conference Committee and the Communications Committee.

I am an avid angler and a student of judo, both of which have taught me that careful practice, years of attentive study, and extended moments of patience can yield wonderful results...except for 80% of the time, when they do not. In this way, the practice, attention, and patience become an end in themselves.

As always, I was excited to see younger members and new members at the most recent conference and I want to make sure we listen and learn from those just entering our community. What I hope to bring to the board is my passion for the thoughtful work Guild members do along with my ability to listen, facilitate, and work toward consensus.

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