



2018 TTRAG
Conference

Jan Lewandoski

Greensboro Bend, VT

Historic Timber Frames and Engineering

Timber frames have always been engineered, but in the past it was done by the framer himself or the architect. More recently building codes and the requirements of owners and funders have brought quantitative engineering analysis to bear on both new and old framing. The variable properties of a natural material like wood, the necessity of staggering joinery, the difficulties of modeling frames and testing them, and the tendency of most engineers to have seen or studied few timber frames all contribute to misunderstandings.

I frequently introduce myself as “a person hired to fight with engineers”, but I am actually friendly with a great many of them and believe I can help engineers, and the frames they are asked to analyze, have a less contentious and more fruitful conversation.

About the Speaker

Jan Lewandoski is timber framer and preservationist living in Northern Vermont. He and his crew specialize in the restoration of wooden bridges, church trusses and steeples and other historic heavy timber, and have done so for over 40 years. He devoted much of 5 years to the movement and restoration of a large Chinese house at a museum in this country, and has also worked in China, Russia and Canada. This summer he is building a queenpost truss bridge, rebuilding a barn roof system and a tall church steeple. Jan is the author of a great number of articles on framing, published in various journals but notably Timber Framing and co-author of the book *Historic American Roof Trusses* (2007).

