



2017 TFG
Conference

New Perspective on Scribed Log Timber Framing: The Moosilauke Ravine Lodge

Adam Miller & Ariel Schecter

*The Wooden House Company / Timber Homes Vermont
Newbury, VT / Montpelier, VT*

In 1938, the Moosilauke Ravine Lodge was built with great enthusiasm by the Dartmouth College Outdoor Club. After 75 years, the beloved log building was deemed beyond reasonable repair and in need of replacement. After providing consultation throughout the design process, the Wooden House Company was awarded the contract to fabricate the log timber frame for the new structure. Challenging the boundaries between timber framing and log building, the frame for the new 11,000 square foot Lodge features numerous innovative elements of structural joinery and approaches to fabrication.

This presentation will feature a slide show of the year long process from procuring logs in the woodlot to installation of the completed frame. Commentary and discussion will focus on the following topics:

- sourcing and preparation of materials
- round-to-round joinery with both vertical scribes up to 24" and an accurate system for horizontal bubble scribing
- full size layout on the scribing floor
- setup strategies and material handling for assemblies up to 10000 pounds and building a massive roof system upside down
- purpose designed connections to maximize the use of all wood joinery and minimize the need for steel reinforcement
- accommodating for shrinkage in large diameter log components
- working outside in all seasons and a winter raising on a mountain in New Hampshire

About the Speakers

Adam Miller

Active in timber framing for a dozen years, Adam Miller's professional interests have branched out from the square rule tradition of his native New England to include scribing, log building, and l'art du trait. Valuing the recovery, practice, and preservation of traditional craft knowledge, Mr. Miller enjoys teaching and writing. He has been an Instructor for the Guild's Community Building Program and his work has been featured in the journal Timber Framing. He is Lead Timber Framer at the Wooden House Company in Wells River, Vermont.

Ariel Schecter

Ariel Schecter has a background in structural engineering and sculpture, and became hooked on timber framing about five years back. He is grateful to have had a string of fantastic teachers, employers, and projects that have shaped his craft and passion. Mr. Schecter particularly enjoys physical processes like building with floor drawings, scribing, and developed drawing, cherishing opportunities to explore these old lineages of technique. Prior to joining the crew for the Moosilauke Ravine Lodge, he designed and executed his first full-size timber frame house, built entirely with plumb line scribes on local timbers, on a rural jobsite with only hand tools and no electricity.