



2017 TFG  
Conference

# TFG Community Building Projects

*Jeff Arvin & Gerald David*  
*Timber Framers Guild*

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Community Building Projects (CBPs) are the sweet spot where all aspects of the TFG mission converge. We practice our craft, we teach our craft, and we promote our craft.

Since the first one in 1989, the Timber Framers Guild has completed nearly 80 projects where instructors, students and volunteers collaborated to create memorable timber frame structures. Our projects are in the US, Canada, Suriname, and Poland, and they include bridges, picnic shelters, market pavilions, school buildings, and museum pieces. Projects may be new construction or historical restoration. Guild members and volunteers provide the labor and in turn, receive new skills and knowledge about timber framing. The communities we partner with receive a beautiful, lasting structure with a story.

In this presentation we will take a look at how CBPs come to be, and how they are organized and managed.

## **About the Speakers**

### **Jeff Arvin**

Jeff Arvin is the Executive Director of the Timber Framers Guild. In his own words: “I first learned about timber framing in an article Ed Levin wrote for Fine Woodworking. It was 1978. I thought, “That’s for me.” A year later I stumbled onto books by Tedd Benson and Stewart Elliott. Still another year further down the road I was living in southeast Michigan and heard an electrician talking about wiring a house made of wooden beams with pegs. Finding it nearly impossible to believe that anything as cool as a timber frame house could be growing up in my back yard, I had to check it out. The very next day, after inspecting the frame, I found my way to Blissfield, Michigan, where I met Frank and Brenda Baker and Sandy Bennett, who were in the start-up years of Riverbend Timber Framing. Little did I know that was the start of what is now a 30-plus-year relationship with big wood and the community of people who design and craft it.

“My timber framing experience—as an employee and a business owner; as a hands-on craftsman and as founder and owner of Cascade Joinery; as a member and a director of the Guild and the Timber Frame Business Council—is long and deep. Now, as executive director, I am in awe of the skilled, big hearted, intelligent people who make up the timber frame community, and am inspired to build this extraordinary organization to better serve them.”

### **Gerald David**

Gerald David owns GFD Woodworking, LLC, a timber framing and restoration company that helps dedicated individuals preserve and enhance their homes. With a professional background steeped in tradition, Gerald has developed a keen sense and eye for the character of a building and its place.

Having lived in many countries and worked in many cultures, Gerald has both the experience and sensitivity that can reinvigorate any building and bring it back to past glory and make it work for modern needs. Preserving and adapting the built environment, and making it viable in a changing world spells conservation on many levels: historically, environmentally, and socially. By keeping and adapting our buildings we honor the generations that have made an effort before us and set an example for those to come.

Gerald believes that an inseparable part of working in the trades is the responsibility to educate the next generation. GFD Wood Working is committed to passing on knowledge both ‘on the job’ and in formalized courses.