



SCANTLINGS

NEWSLETTER OF THE TIMBER FRAMERS GUILD

NUMBER 203

OCTOBER 2016



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Number 203 October 2016

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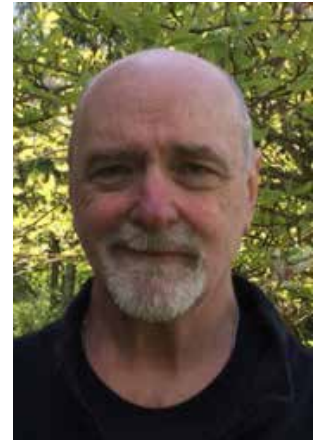
Scantlings, the member newsletter of the Timber Framers Guild, is published in January, February, April, May, July, August, October, and November. **Next deadline: October 15.**

On the cover: wood falls away: the result of Neil Godden's demo of a French snap, a time-saving technique when removing a lot of wood from a straight-grained timber. The L-shaped block at bottom has just fallen away after Neil hit it with one blow of the mallet. Photo Tom Haanen.

THE VIEW FROM HERE

JEFF ARVIN

Have I mentioned before that traveling on behalf of the Timber Framers Guild is a pleasure? Would it sound like bragging if I said last month's travel to Schuylerville, New York, for TFG's most recent community building project and then on up the road to Saratoga for our 31st Annual Conference was extra sweet?



In Schuylerville, TFG superhero Megan Starr and I connected with Neil Godden, Dave Bowman, and six other Guild instructors who were working with 30–60 volunteers cutting timbers destined to become the frame for the new Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitors Center. It was Megan's first time working timbers, and she took to it like a thirsty timber framer takes to a cold beer. She's hooked. (Oy vey, there goes another life down the crooked path.) Watching Megan and others dig in reminded me, yet again, of the passion inspired by working big wood for good purposes.

We witnessed Neil making a 22-in. anchor beam tenon using a handsaw, an axe, a slick, and a plane. That skillful demonstration, impressively, took less than 15 minutes per side. Later, Neil demonstrated a "French snap," a clever labor saving technique for breaking (yes, breaking!) the end of a timber so that it completes the end cut and roughs out half of a tenon. Smart work. Check out a YouTube video of Neil doing the snap (search Timber Framers Guild channel). Passion, intelligence, and skill. In combination, these very powerful attributes are among my favorite things about the timber frame community: I see these traits displayed in abundance.

A few days later, at the opening of the TFG conference, I was delighted to report to those gathered at the members' meeting that the Guild is in good shape. The last two years, 2014 and 2015, were financially positive, and 2016 will follow suit. Looking forward in 2017, we can expect continuation of this good trend. This news means that we can move forward confidently with building an operational reserve (so we can weather the next stormy time) and develop new programs and activities for our members. When asked what those programs and services should be, several members present very clearly expressed the desire for "more connection" with other TFG-like organizations in France and Great Britain, as well with other traditional crafts. Others encouraged continued outreach, not just through vocational programs, but to kids as young as early elementary

school. In all suggestions there was an underlying spirit of generosity and curiosity: two more of my favorite characteristics evident in this crowd.

It's a good thing we embody the qualities I've identified here, because the task of creating truly good buildings requires all those and more. We are skilled in crafted structures, but at this conference I learned more about well-designed and well-constructed building envelopes; appropriate mechanical systems that create resource-efficient, healthful, and comfortable indoor environments; and the growing importance a knowledge of building science plays for a person with their hands on tools at the site.

On top of all that is the need to truly integrate the knowledge of many disciplines from site planning to space planning, from timber framing to the very last finish nail—or maybe more appropriately, the last tube of sealant. It is a big, worthy task. I look forward to working with you as we rise to that challenge and continue to build our extraordinary organization in the coming years.

Top right: Hills near Schuylerville, from the breakfast hall at Christ the King Retreat Center, where volunteers and instructors stayed during the project. Photo Neil Godden. **Right:** The hotel grounds are a lovely spot to mingle. Axe throwing in the background. Photo Allison Aurand.



Upcoming election cycle

MICHAEL CUBA

The TFG board of directors is now back in its regular annual election cycle after last year's unusual two elections. This was due to the merger of the TFBC and bylaw requirements.

Each year, we elect four of the 12 seats of the board for a three-year term. At the end of 2016, we thank two departing board members, Al Wallace and Gabel Holder, for their immense contributions of time and dedication to the TFG. Two incumbents, Steve Lawrence and Stephen Morrison, are seeking re-election.

It is my pleasure to serve as the chair of the Nominations committee this year. Our committee's five members represent each of the Guild's constituencies. Randy Churchill is a past president of the board, as is Jonathan Orpin, who also represents the TFBC. Curtis Milton is offering guidance on behalf of the ATP and emerging Professional Development Programing initiative. Jim DeStefano will represent the interests of the TFEC. I will represent the interests of TTRAG.

As evidenced by our success and tenacity as an organization, our members have a great deal of wisdom and talent to offer. Our task as a committee is to submit a slate of qualified candidates to the board for approval prior to the elections. We will identify attributes that

complement the strengths of the current board and offer up a slate of nominees who will maintain balance and cohesion.

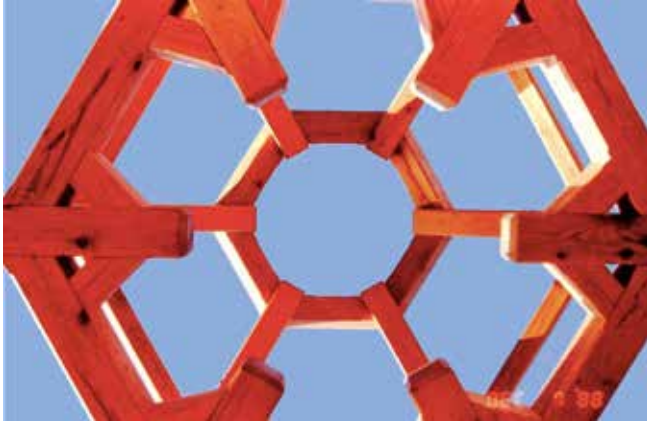
We plan to announce this year's candidates before the end of November in order to allow for a full 30-day voting period and to have the newly elected directors ready to begin their duties in January, 2017. The first 2015 election, in summer, had a great number of qualified candidates and far fewer seats to fill. The merger of the TFG and TFBC, and the election of nine out of 12 directors, symbolized a new beginning. The late fall election, in contrast, had five candidates for four seats. This year we hope to offer a slate of nominees that achieves a balance between offering choices for your votes and valuing the efforts of those who volunteer to run for the board.

In addition to the board-approved slate, provisions are made in our bylaws (article VII, section 3) for independent nominations from any Guild member in good standing. Find the bylaws at <https://www.tfguild.org/myaccount/guild-reports> on our web site. If you have questions about the upcoming election process, please feel free to reach me at michael@transomhpc.com.

Many thanks.



Embrace and rebuttal: toward a healthy discourse on design and engineering



Interesting load bearing: looking up past the compression ring through the tension ring.

On Sunday morning at the Saratoga conference, I was drawn, at 8 a.m., to a talk by my friends Ben Brungraber and Mack Magee entitled “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.” In so doing, I marveled at how crazy we conference coordinators were to schedule such an early session. I remembered, though, our discussion about the many great topics we were determined to fit into the weekend, and indeed I had five (!) good choices in my morning-after-the-auction haze from which to choose. At the same time I was grateful for those presenters willing to take that time frame. Thank you all.

Ben and Mack are pre-eminent timber-frame-focused engineers. We’ve worked with them as well as other independent consulting engineers for years, early on deciding that for the timber framing industry to continue to mature and become a mainstream building technique acknowledging and even celebrating quality engineering that followed the National Design Specs (NDS) and related engineering codes made good sense.

In addition, over the years we’ve enjoyed the creative input and exceptional problem-solving capacities of our various professional-engineer partners. Our own design and engineering group brings something to the table; our PE partners bring something; it works.

So it was a bit of a surprise to wake up Sunday morning to what seemed, for the majority of the session, to be a pretty harsh takedown of the creative design process. I had to check the program to see if the session subtitle might be “Those Idiot Architects.” I say this with trepidation, knowing that my reaction will be a minority one.

Most seemed to enjoy themselves and I’m good with that. There is validity to pushing back against some designs and designers. At the same time, the creative process should be celebrated, architects should push our

edges, and engineers (and timber frame crafters) should be part of the team to make it happen, with joy.

The creative process requires patience and courage. At one point, Ben made a quiet reference to a project I designed in 1988. (Quickly, it was a 46-ft. clearspan hexagon of green oak that transferred the massive tension loading in the central ring to compression blocks within the ring. I was still in the wood-only, non-metal stage of my development, much like other timber framers at that time.) The solution turned out to be interesting enough, and “changed my way of thinking about wood joinery,” Ben stated kindly. Coincidentally, I was at that home last week. It still stands.

Two young timber framers gamely handed up some examples of work for dissection. Both protested loudly that they tried to talk the client into something else. My question is, why? Yes, it’s valid to be part of the conversation, perhaps expressing concerns, variances from standard practice, even aesthetic differences. But embarrassment and remorse? Gosh, I hope not. A long conversation regarding load path ensued, as though the only valid load path is a straight uninterrupted line. My co-workers and I debriefed afterwards and thought that the project in question was a whimsical, creative use of timber. One of heavy timber’s opportunities rests in its ability to transfer loads through quality joinery with the support of thoughtful engineering solutions. I offer no apologies.

In Sunday morning’s atmosphere, I wonder if I would have had the courage to offer my creative if a bit crazy solution to that hexagon problem. I wonder if it would have been accepted by the engineer of record.

I suggest that we remember our roles and appreciate our brethren in architecture with a lot more excitement. I know Ben and Mack typically do just that, and I appreciate their largesse in allowing me to use my reaction to their seminar as a beginning to a more useful dialogue. I welcome the strengthening of the engineering support that we’ve seen and that I’ve embraced for years. I simply don’t want the timber framing industry to be remembered for walking up to our equivalent of Jackson Pollock with a set of French scribe tools in our outstretched hands and a condescending wink in our eyes.

Jonathan Orpin
New Energy Works Timberframers
TFG board member and past president

[Jonathan, Ben, and Mack have discussed this letter and its intent prior to publication. All three feel it is a valid area of conversation in our community and welcome your further comments.]

Welcome Allison

JEFF ARVIN

Allison Aurand joined the Timber Framers Guild as its new communications director in July, hitting the ground running with conference prep in full swing.

Allison has worked in the non-profit, government, and private sectors, primarily on policy and programs related to agriculture, business, and planning. She comes to us with experience in advocacy and communications at the state and local levels, having cut her teeth on a statewide farmland preservation and economic development initiative in Virginia that passed the legislature unanimously, twice. While there, Allison also worked on local and state agricultural issues throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, including succession and next generation planning. After moving home to Washington State, she was director of a local farmland preservation program, where she branded and raised the program's profile to household name status while also working on planning and economic development issues as an advocate for the agricultural community.

In her time working for Skagit County (Wash.), she also crafted legislation for a Washington State farmland preservation program and served as its sole lobbyist, successfully passing it with near-unanimous support. Allison has since worked as a consultant for both the private and public sectors, and she is currently the vice president and communications director of her local League of Women



Voters. Allison grew up working in a successful small business and has owned a couple herself, including a grass-fed beef operation, which she is in the process of transitioning to a young couple just getting started. She and her husband have two small sons, numerous pets, and way too many horses. We welcome her to the TFG family—feel free to reach her in the office or by email at allison@tfguild.org.

From the Saratoga conference

Reports are still coming in on the 2016 TFG Annual Conference in Saratoga. We will publish further reports in the next issue of Scantlings. In this issue, please enjoy the tidbits here including this impression of Kevin Ireton's conference-ending featured talk.



Allison Aurand

Jim Derby's scale model of an English threshing barn.



Allison Aurand

Checking in. From right, volunteers Rose Harris, Hannah Sutherland, and TFG executive assistant Megan Starr welcome participants at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs.

Thanks to our auction donors!

Once again for 2016 conference, Guild members and supporters were surpassingly generous with their auction donations. We thank all those whose items ended up in the silent auction, the 50/50 raffle, and the live auction. We couldn't do it without you.







Donors to silent auction

Kathy Anderson (Journey Designs); Jennifer Anthony (x2); Apprentice Training Program; Allison Aurand; Brenda Baker; Ted & Christine Benson (x2); Mark Bersen (x2); Carpenters Fellowship UK; Rudy Christian; Bo Foard (x2); Garland Mill Timberframes; Ellen Gibson; Neil Godden; Terry Groth (Whiteman Lumber); Robert Hughes; Bill Keir; Curtis Milton (x2); The Mullens (x2); Murus Company; Tom Nehil; Jonathan Orpin (x2); PanelWrights; Laura Saeger (x2); Ian Stewart; Summer Beam Books (x7); Tucker Hardware; Joe Turco (NE Timber Framers); Al Wallace; Jennifer Young & Pam Remchuk.

Donors to live auction

Al & Kathy Anderson—Pink tricycle and wagon.
Jeff Arvin—Mortise Master corner chisel.
Michele Beemer—Harvest basket.
Will Beemer—Model of 3-bay English house, and one of the wheat barn at Cressing Temple, both made by the late Ted Traill, TFG member.
Mark Belton—2-day tour and hosting in Canterbury & Christchurch, New Zealand—two sets.
Building Alternatives—Aberlour A'Bunadh cask strength whiskey.
Rudy Christian—Stanley No. 78 bull nose rabbit plane with fence & depth stop.
Delson Lumber—Glenlivet single malt scotch, aged 15 yrs.
Dietrichs—Marking tool.
Fraserwood—Lagavulin Islay single malt scotch, aged 16 yrs.
Gideon Putnam—Gideon Putnam gift certificate; 1 night at Gideon Putnam, deluxe room for 2.
Heritage Natural Finishes—Gift certificate (\$150); 5 gallon bucket of any finish, shipped anywhere in the U.S.

Phil Kneisley—Sharpton diamond lapping plate.
Lancaster Co Timber Frames—Stiletto hammer with interchangeable heads; Stiletto hammer with extra handle.
Mack Magee—Labrot & Graham Woodford Reserve Distiller's Select Kentucky straight bourbon whiskey.
Adam Miller—Framed full-sized print of *épure* for *guitarde* model featured in TIMBER FRAMING 121, by Adam; overshot wall hanging.
Gordon Miller—Layout square.
Accacia Mullen—Handmade bag.
Mullen family—Grigg's timber cart; pair of sawhorses.
Mullens, Smiths, Barry-Recs, and Mitchells—Bob & Baldy's hot sauce.
MyTiCon—Schild winery white Riesling, 200-yr-old German winery, not available commercially; Schild winery Dornfelder, 200-yr-old German winery, not available commercially.
New Energy Works—N.Y. Finger Lakes long weekend getaway in a timber frame beauty right on Cayuga Lake; Portland experience: 2 nights at a 5-star AirBnB studio in Portland, Oregon, plus numerous extras.
Oakwrights/Bill Keir—5-night stay for 2 in the Oakwrights 5-star show home, set in the idyllic Herefordshire village of Kenchester.
Jonathan Orpin—3 bottles of Oregon Big Table Farm Pinot Noir ("One of the 10 Best"—*NY Times*).
Pioneer Millworks—Finger Lakes gift basket.
SIPschool—SIP lifting plates.
Marking tool.
TimberFrame HQ—Layout square.
Timbertools—Doublecut auger ¾-in. bit; traditional framing chisels and bench chisels (variety of sizes).
Timberwolf Tools—Wood Owl tri-cut augers, 18 x ¾-in. and 18 x 1-in.; Makita KP-312 planer (planes up to 12½-in. wide).



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Our conferences are a monumental undertaking, and without the support of sponsors, we could not offer the depth and breadth of programming our members enjoy. We extend our warmest thanks to this year's conference sponsors for their support and partnership:

Marvin Windows – lead conference sponsor

Timber Home Living – speaker sponsor: Kevin Ireton

Foard Panel – TFG benefit auction beverage sponsor

Timberlinx – speaker sponsor: William Logan

Montana Reclaimed Lumber Company – speaker sponsor: Rudy Christian

Barr Specialty Tools – TFG trade show mixer sponsor

Goodfellow, Inc – axe throwing finals sponsor

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TFG Apprentice Training Program – bookstore sponsor



Allison Aurand

At the trade show, a Marvin Windows rep shows Marvin's integrated roller shades made from the same wood as the window itself. Bo Foard, left, says "they're gorgeous and quite practical." Marvin Windows was the lead conference sponsor.

Axe throwing winner: Robert Hughes

ALLISON AURAND



Allison Aurand

First-time conference participant and first-time axe thrower Robert Hughes prepares to win the axe throwing competition.

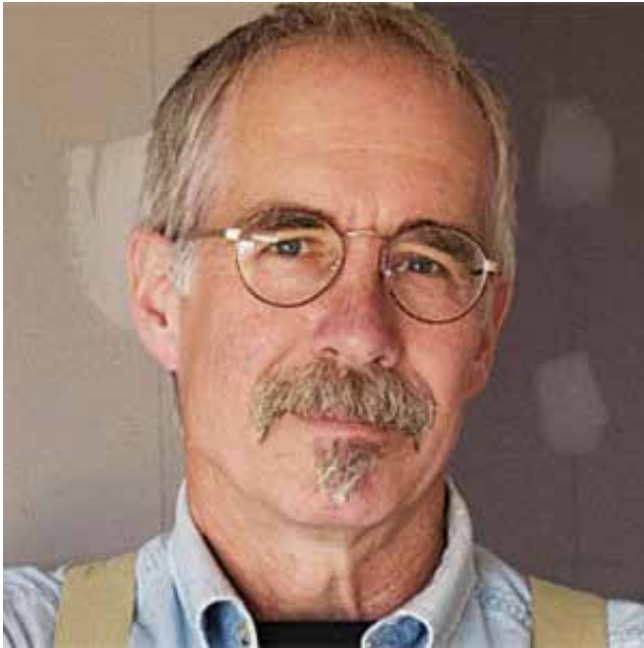
This was Robert's first time as a TFG conference speaker, and his first time ever throwing an axe. He is a science teacher and a swimming coach, with 26 years of experience teaching and mentoring students. During his career, he developed an environmental science course based entirely on the Finger Lakes Bioregion of New York, along with a ground-breaking timber framing STEM course. He operates Big Beam Timber Frames in upstate New York and specializes in unique small-scale

timber structures. An avid hiker, he designed a timber-framed lean-to that has become the go-to approach on the Finger Lakes Trail and parts of the North Country National Scenic Trail.

Robert is an Adirondack 46er, NYS Outdoorsman Hall of Fame member, recipient of the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry Sol Feinstein Environmental Award, and organizer of yearly wilderness leadership experiences for students.

Kevin Ireton: Ethical craftsmanship in the age of climate change

JEFF ARVIN



Stop me if you've heard this one. There was an English major who became a carpenter . . .

Oh, you've heard it. Okay, so have you heard about the carpenter who became editor of one of the most influential home construction publications in North America?

Kevin Ireton, the conference closing speaker, is just that guy. Upon graduating from the University of Kentucky, where he studied under esteemed writer, poet, and thinker Wendell Berry, Kevin took an abrupt turn and began swinging a hammer. Then, after 10 years in the trenches, he took a job with *Fine Homebuilding*, at which point, he says, "My odd career choice began to look like a well-executed plan." He practiced a different craft there for 23 years, 17 as chief editor.

Then, Kevin experienced a dark epiphany: the homes he'd been building and writing about for his entire adult life, despite being beautifully designed and crafted, were, in his new vision, still too big, too dependent on fossil fuels and cheap energy, and constructed of materials transported great distances. He saw our houses as cancer cells and penned an essay on the topic for publication in the magazine. His boss, the publisher, rejected it outright, calling it "a remorseless, humorless, unbending screed." (Kevin had to look up screed.) Kevin resigned shortly afterward, has since spent considerable time in close examination of causes and fixes, and has begun to define a new vision of craft: a new definition of fine homebuilding.

His journey began with historical analysis. Kevin observed that up until about the Civil War, building a

sustainable house was pretty easy. Houses were built of natural, local materials—wood, stone, sod, or dirt. They were heated with wood or coal and lighted by firelight and candles. Even if these houses were (considerably) less comfortable than we expect today, they were, by many criteria, sustainable. However, as timber framers know well, as soon as industrial materials (sawn, small-dimension lumber and manufactured nails) combined with rail transport, timber framing and log building fell by the wayside, and within a few decades, Sears was shipping complete house packages across the country.

The evolution to cancerous homes was, in Kevin's opinion, further hastened by three game changers: electricity, air conditioning, and insulation. Electricity was notable for several reasons, not least because it could be distributed through a grid of wires, reaching consumers in a seemingly safe and simple manner, and who could argue with the convenience of flipping a switch for light or power?

Of course, electricity was not reserved for lighting. A source of apparently relatively cheap, "clean," invisible energy, electricity powered hundreds of devices—among perhaps the most evil (my words, here) is air conditioning. As it took hold, first in the South and Southwest, then spreading throughout the U.S., housing styles changed tremendously in response. Porches disappeared. Operable windows, large, shade-producing overhangs, high ceilings, cross-ventilating designs, and attic fans soon followed: we lost some of the best features of domestic architecture. In liberation from constraints of natural features such as shade trees and prevailing winds to provide cooling, builders no longer considered them and could level building sites. (Learning this pissed me off. I have spent years working on a theory that automobiles are the source of all our social ills. Now, I have to give AC co-chief-villain status. It's even possible to believe AC turned people indoors, away from each other.)

Up until about the Civil War, building a sustainable house was pretty easy.

Insulation came next, and with it the beginnings of "building science." Who knew that a simple thing like adding insulation and tightening up the envelope could cause so much trouble? But then, as we move past the age of cheap energy, the stakes rise and drive us to face the need to build much better buildings—buildings that satisfy our demands for health comfort and reduce environmental costs at the same time.

Kevin cited the example of Carter Scott (Transformations, Inc.), a Massachusetts builder who

taught himself to build zero-energy buildings. Starting with one house, Carter progressed to building zero-energy developments, and now builds buildings that require little or no energy to operate (and in fact generate enough energy through renewable sources to power a car as well). Kevin admits that these houses may employ such details as drywall returns instead of window trim, and it's not a coincidence that Carter works in Massachusetts, a state with policies that generously reward energy conservation and renewables—but nevertheless, we know how to do it!

A tight building envelope is WAY more important than tight miters or tight tenons.

Now comes the hard part. What can we do with this knowledge to effect change? In closing, Kevin offered a reflection on what he, as a remodeling contractor, can do to move his practice toward higher goals. He admitted that he has no definitive answers, but suggested that we have run out of time and have no option but to do better. It may be an uncomfortable task, facing our inadequacy, but Wendell Berry comes to the rescue. He says, “It may be that when we no longer know what to do we have come to our real work and that when we no longer know which way to go we have begun our real journey.” We all need to wrestle with the question, “What do we do?”

We all work in context—we have obligations to uphold, families to feed, customers to honor—but if we believe in the importance of better buildings, we can work to influence our customers, in big ways and small to demand better performance from their homes. When we market our companies, we can use that influence to change expectations of performance. Says Kevin, “We need to redefine craftsmanship . . . to include the details of energy efficiency because we now know that a tight building envelope is WAY more important than tight miters or tight tenons. We have to venerate that work and respect accordingly the people who take it on.” And we have to keep learning.

Kevin finished with one more comment from Wendell Berry, from an essay he wrote about where to draw lines in our lives between what we will and won't do. Quoting Kevin now, “He [Berry] always found it easy to avoid television and computers, but admits that he uses a truck and a chainsaw.

He concludes the essay by conjuring the image of a man he knows who, in the age of chainsaws, still cut all of his firewood with a handsaw and an axe. ‘He is a saner and healthier man than I am,’ says Berry, ‘and I shall let his memory trouble my thoughts.’ Kevin’s words will trouble mine.



Michael Cuba

Charlie Blend and Nikki make riven pins in Schuylerville.



Jonathan Orpin

Tom Nehil helps Dick Schmidt and Tim Krahn understand wood species in the Wood Identification pre-conference workshop.

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Schuylerville: TFG in action

NEIL GODDEN & MICHAEL CUBA

Here is a two-pronged look at the TFG 2016 community building project that took place in Schuylerville, 20 miles east of and a few weeks before our annual conference. Neil Godden served as project manager; Michael Cuba, a Guild director, served as a volunteer.

What Neil saw

Dedicated volunteers came from near and far to support the TFGuild and participate in the Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitors Center community building project. New and old Guild participants from Arizona, Ohio, California, Massachusetts, Vermont, British Columbia, Quebec, and Denmark joined in to make this workshop a success. Participants from all over New York State signed on to be part of the community building event in their home state—even some folks from the Big Apple sharpened their chisels in anticipation. Most days, we had about 45 volunteers. Experience levels ranged from true novices to well-oiled timber frame pros, all looking to gain an opportunity to share in the mission of community building and eager to get to work on the main frame of the Gateway Visitors Center. (Phase one, the walk out level, was completed as a smaller scale TFGuild community building project in the grueling summer heat, just a few weeks earlier.)

The Guild leadership team was well prepared. They had spent many hours in the months before the event collaborating to make this workshop an important one for the TFGuild, the Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership, and everyone who came to participate. The leadership team was led by me, Neil Godden, of Massachusetts. The eight instructors were a diverse group of highly experienced timber framers: Will Beemer, Dave Bowman, and Jeremy Topitzer from



Dave Bowman

Massachusetts; Shannon McIntyre, Seth Kelly, and Evan Taubes of Vermont; Tom Haanen from Oklahoma; and Michael Jones from New York.

On Monday morning, many of us gathered at the Fort Hardy worksite in Schuylerville. The leadership team was ready to get started, and we were met by some volunteers who were eager to get the worksite set up for the busy days ahead. After setup was complete, the group trickled over to the Christ the King Spiritual Life Center for check-in. This was going to be home for the next 10 days of the workshop. The Spiritual Life Center, in the neighboring town of Greenwich, is nestled among the hills and dales of beautiful Washington County. The beauty of the grounds made it an easy place for our hardworking team to relax and unwind together in the off hours. Volunteers and instructors were billeted in two bunk-style houses for the duration of the workshop. The breakfast and dinner meals were a short walk up the hill to the Welcome Center cafeteria. Food was good and plentiful, with seating indoors or outside under a covered porch facing a lovely view.

Over the remaining days, everything fell into place. The local community supported and fed us as we worked. The leadership team was focused on teaching layout and cutting techniques, answering questions, and giving demonstrations. For this workshop, participants had the opportunity to learn and use traditional hand tools as well as power tools for all joinery. Demonstrations were provided periodically throughout the workshop. Will Beemer instructed the group on



Part of the project T-shirt image, and a look at the N.Y. Canal waterway system that the visitors center supports. Blue lines indicate all of the linked waterways. Design developed by Rich Rossignol; consultation from Mack Magee.



Megan Starr

Clockwise from top: Bob Sellar works on a mortise. Dave Bowman (in glasses), shows, from left, Brahm Wilson, Bob Sellar, Trevor Anderson, Steven Carolan, and Tim Sheridan how to cut a bird's mouth rafter seat into a scarf joint. Hannah Sutherland cleans up a tenon.

sharpening, Dave Bowman discussed the intricacies of hand riven peg making, Tom Haanen explained adhesive anchor sealing, and I demonstrated the French snap and how to cut an anchor beam tenon using hand tools. Evening sessions rounded off the educational aspects of this workshop with a welcome to the project by Joe Finan and me; properties of wood by Jeremy Topitzer; restorations by Seth Kelley; a sharing of project photos by all willing participants; basic beam sizing, engineering, and dating old barns by Will Beemer; and New World Dutch barns by guest speaker Jack Sobon.

As with any Guild event, the time spent relaxing after a hard day's work is what bonds us the most. We had plenty of hang time in the evenings as we kicked back together in the common lounges, listened to homegrown tunes by the campfire, or toasted each other at the local cidery, Saratoga Apple. By the end, in true community fashion, we completed all of the layout and joinery for the 30 ft.-8-in. x 60-ft. 8-in. Dutch-barn future visitors center. Since the permanent site is not yet ready for the frame, some adjustments were made. The group happily assembled (and disassembled) Bent 3, the front porch truss, giving us a feel for the impeccable workshop joinery. Due to site work and foundation delays, the frame has been properly stored and put to rest for a long winter's nap.

Not knowing what to expect as a first-time Guild community building project manager, I can honestly say that I am grateful for the experience. The outpouring of support from Guild members, the timber framing knowledge that we all shared, and the camaraderie that makes the Guild what it is, came together to create a

truly amazing community experience for everyone.

Whether you are a novice or a pro, I hope that you will consider joining us in June 2017 for Schuylerville Phase 3: the raising!

What Michael saw

This summer, I spent a vacation making wood chips and sawdust at the TFG community building project in Schuylerville. Having read about TFG projects for years, I wanted to learn more about what has been an integral part of the Guild for over two decades.

Neil Godden





Dave Bowman

Adam Watters and Megan Starr marvel at what a calculator can do.

This was my first Guild project, and I can say that its effects on the community are a complex and nuanced expression of our values as an organization. As many of you know, a lot of planning and communication goes into the building of any new structure. In the case of the New York project, there were many state and local agencies coordinating with architects, engineers, and subcontractors. For most of us, this would be enough of a juggling act, but for the dedicated project leaders at the Guild, the structure is only part of the goal. The educational and community outreach aspects are equally important.

In the first phase of the project, I camped on the banks of the Hudson with about a dozen volunteers. Campfires were lit and stories were shared. In contrast to the relative intimacy of the first phase, the second part had well over 50 volunteers. I stayed with the instructors at a nearby retreat center, so I was able to observe just how much effort goes into planning these events. The work of the instructors did not end at the jobsite: there was a regular evening routine of debriefing to discuss strategies, interpret layout, and scratch heads.

The job site was something to see. A large parking lot nearby was converted into a tent city. This may have been the most unusual experience for me. For most of my career, I have only worked with one or two other people, a rhythm that many of us know well: a quiet worksite where little needs to be said, whether working together or zoned out by oneself. In Schuylerville, there were 40 people working and instructing at any given time.



Megan Starr

Michael Cuba on the boring machine

Over the course of ten days, I watched people make first cuts with saws and chisels and unravel the mysteries of hand planes and spoke shaves. Perhaps it's just something about wood, and our attraction to it, that creates such familiar rhythm. I observed a transition from individuals acquiring specific skills to a team of timber framers with great focus and determination.

It is easy to see how a group engaged like this creates community. The effect of their efforts on the people of Schuylerville and the surrounding towns might be a little less obvious, though. It goes far beyond the gratitude of those who are left with an enduring structure. Several local residents participated in the project, and many others visited regularly. I spoke with curious passersby about the Guild and the project. People are drawn in by what we do. It was clear that the Visitors Center means far more to them because of how it was built than it would if it were simply put out to bid. Our process is inclusive.

At the conclusion of the conference that followed the building project, the board of directors met for a strategic planning session. A phrase that came up when considering our strengths and assets was "Guild magic." It's a hard thing to quantify, but I know that I had just witnessed it in Schuylerville.

My congratulations go out to Neil Godden, who went over and above to make this an outstanding experience for all. Thanks to all who volunteered for their time and effort.

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Guild events

TFEC - TFG Timber grading training. Rescheduled to Fall of 2017.
360/746.6571

TFG National Conference May 19-22, Edgewater Hotel, Madison, WI. info@tfguild.org

other events

Heartwood School

Intro to SketchUp for timber framers Oct 24-26

Advanced SketchUpPro: layout Oct 27-28

Washington, Mass., info@heartwoodschool.com, 413/623.6677

Whippletree Timber Framing

Joinery Oct 29-30, Nov 26-27

Framing Nov 14-18

Otanabee-South Monaghan, Ontario, Canada.

<http://wpltree.ca/classes/>

Merle Adams: in memory

JEFF ARVIN AND SUSAN WITTER

Longtime Guild member Merle Adams passed away August 3 while waiting for a heart transplant after a massive heart attack.

Merle served as a director in the Guild; presented at several conferences, including on reclaimed wood and as half of Tick and Tack (modeled after the NPR Cartalk mechanics Click and Clack); led a 1995 workshop on the Big Timberworks campus; and was involved in the inaugural meeting of the Timber Frame Business Council. But his more profound role was that of visionary and thinker-outside-the-box. He wrote several articles for TIMBER FRAMING and contributed to the *Scantlings* EcoLogic column for several years, where his pieces were wide-ranging, unconventional, and often controversial. He was deeply interested in alternative building methods and materials, sustainability, and the overall perspective on building with reclaimed wood.

Merle is survived by much family and many friends, first among them his wife Tannis and son Seth.



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Notices run free to Guild members for two issues per year; cost to non-Guild members is \$80 per notice per issue. Notices run for a maximum of two issues they are intended for onetime events and offers. Appropriateness for inclusion is decided by the content manager.

for sale

Timber frame layout square.

Framing square, try square, and protractor all in one. Increases accuracy, decreases layout time, and makes layout more enjoyable. Scale is 1/16-in. with laser etched markings for easy reading. Pivot off one corner of the base to get plumb cut angles, seat cut, and compound joinery angles. Flip it over for opposing angles. Peg layout is a snap. Offset base aids in reference edge layout: graduation slots every 1/2 in., notches on edges every 1/4 in.

Brice Cochran, www.timberframehq.com/layout

help wanted

Experienced designer.

Whetstone Designs, LLC, seeks a full time timber frame/architectural designer with at least 5 yrs. experience. Proficiency in AutoCad 2d and 3d, SketchUp, and MS Excel a plus. We are after someone with the desire to become a lynchpin in a positive and fun system-based design firm. Telecommuting encouraged. Competitive compensation, team environment, opportunities for growth.

For info and to apply, visit www.whetstonedesigns.com/designer/.

Experienced log and timber craftsman.

Laverty Log Homes & Timber Frames, in Baden, Ontario, Canada, builds custom homes and structures in logs and heavy timber (dovetail, Scandinavian scribe, timber frame). We are looking for an experienced craftsman. Essential: 5 yrs. experience with traditional joinery in heavy timber (or equivalent European certified Zimmermeister). Chainsaw experience. Skilled Mafell timber machine operation. Capable of working at heights. heavy lifting. Layout, reading digital or printed blueprints. Travel out of town for installations. Ideal: Deitrichs 3D Cad experience (or equivalent), sawmill operation skills, heavy equipment operation. Wages \$22/hr (Canadian). Some piecework.

Reach Earl: earl@lavertyloghomes.com.

Experienced timber framer-craftsman.

Techlam NZ, a manufacturer of structures with heavy laminated timber, seeks an experienced timber framer-craftsman to join (and ultimately lead) our detailing team. Required: experience working traditional joinery in heavy timber or equivalent certification. Chainsaw experience. Skilled Mafell timber machine operation. Laying out and reading digital or printed plans and blueprints. Assets: heavy sawmill and heavy equipment operation. Relocate to New Zealand.

Reach Brett Hamilton, brett@techlam.co.nz, +64 6 366 0316.

Experienced timber framer.

Small shop in New Gloucester, Maine could use another framer for the next few months. Starting ASAP. Good pay for good work. Must have own hand tools. Insurance and some power tools would be good.

Call Brian at 207/240.6304 or email brian@rulotimberworks.com.

Experienced timber framer.

Lancaster County Timber Frames in York, Pa., seeks a skilled timber framer with at least 3 yrs. experience in all aspects of the process: physical ability to handle timbers, skill to handle edged and hand-held power tools of all types with accuracy and speed. Work in our shop and on job sites erecting and enclosing timber frames. Overnight site work stays. Ability to work at heights is required. Long-term position, competitive pay and benefits. If interested and qualified, please send résumé and cover letter to tdiener@lancotf.com. Interview will include a visit to our facility.

Itinerant TF work.

Two TF barn projects in New York State. Dismantle, move, reassemble, raise a 34 x 48-ft. hay barn. Build, install new roof trusses into a 24 x 70-ft. hay barn and alter for recreation-residential. Probably running late Sep 2016–Mar/Apr 2017, SE NY, near Hudson Valley and CT. Fair market pay based on your abilities, production, tools, insurance, and attitude. I've been timber framing since 1974, Guild member since 1987. Camping, cabin, house share options. Interested? Know someone who might be?

Steve Miller, Frog Hollow PO Box 99, Waccabuc NY 10597, 914/763.3078.

Timber shop manager.

StructureCraft Builders Inc., works with clients globally to design and build exposed wood structures. We are looking for a timber shop manager—seasoned, quick-minded, outspoken, bright, and energetic, with a passion for the craft of carpentry, who excels at reading blueprints, shop drawing, review, layout, building templates and jigs, using hand and shop tools and overhead cranes, costing projects in a team environment, assuring safety from start to finish. Selective project travel. Ideal: a European education and 5+ yrs. experience in heavy timber fabrication and erection. Position calls for senior level skills, but credible less experienced candidates considered. Wages in Canadian funds.

Alex Bacot, VP & General Manager, info@structurecraft.com.

work wanted

Searching for joiner job.

I currently work as an architect in custom residential; looking for an opportunity to work as a timber framer and move into design-build timber framing. I have basic but non-professional timber framing experience. If you think I could be an asset to your company or if you could help direct me in the timber framing craft and business, I'd like to talk with you in detail.

Reach Seth, spanman64@yahoo.com or 720/454.8828.

OUR STORIES: THE FIRST TIME...

My brother Dave summoned me to take a look at the white oak timber he had spent the better part of a morning on. I set down our new 6-in. Makita planer that I was using to smooth and square a timber and walked over to take a look. Dave said, "That's a mortise. Is that what it's supposed to look like?" I replied, "I have no idea, Dave. I've never seen a mortise." That said, I returned to my planer and my timber with the ridge down the center.

Earlier, my wife Cyndy had bought me a book on timber framing. I found the subject fascinating, though I could not imagine using large timbers joined together like furniture to construct a home. Locating a timber supplier was daunting. Handling the weight of the timbers was daunting. Learning the techniques and skills was daunting. So with no one to warn us off of the attempt, I bought a pile of timbers, harnessed the boom pole to our small tractor, guessed at the hand tools we would need, placed an order for them, and jumped right in. I wasn't over-confident. I was simply blind to the enormity of the task ahead.

Building that first timber frame took a long, long time—four months to build the frame, two weeks to raise it, and another eight months to finish the home. The investment in time, however, has proven to be the best investment I ever made. Recently our friend Brenda said to me, "Gone are the days when we make a split-second decision that alters the course of our entire lives." Yes, that's true, and maybe a little maturity is a good thing. But 30 years ago I did make just such a decision and I remain forever thankful for the rashness that has been followed by goodness.

Bruce Gardner

I asked my wife if she was nervous. She responded by waving her hand at me in the universal wife-to-husband language that means "Stop bothering me!" I chuckled and told her to enjoy the moment. To enjoy the shortness of breath; the butterflies in the stomach; the opportunity to witness a first time for our youngest son Bo.

He was going in to pitch.

Little League baseball can bring out pure emotion in kids, but especially in their parents, and my wife was as nervous as a long tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. Bo plays with pure joy. We could always see his smile through the face mask on autumn afternoons playing football. Bo doesn't like football; he loves football. He practices every day in the yard with his black lab. He figures if he can tackle the dog, running backs don't stand a chance, and the lab is a willing participant. All this to say, Bo is a football player. He moves like a football player. His movements in baseball, a game of fluid mechanics, were more blunt force than refined technique . . . and he was going in to pitch. All the parents were shouting encouragement as he took the mound. We were down by

three runs, two innings remaining.

Bo strikes out the first batter. The crowd is clapping; there are smiles and laughter all around.


Bo hits the next batter. I remember a song from many years ago and decide to sing a few bars: "Wild thing . . . you make my heart sing." The moms and dads sitting around me break out in laughter and join in: "Wild thing . . . you make everything, groovy." The tension broken, my arm sore from my wife slapping me, Bo goes on to strike out the next batter and gets the last batter to ground out. He walks off the mound like Nolan Ryan after his seventh no-hitter with a smile that could light up the whole town. Pure joy!

The walk down the aisle, the wait in the delivery room, the sharing of our faith, the first frame raising . . . live in the moment, enjoy the butterflies, taste the anticipation. Nothing takes my breath quite like it. There is nothing like a first time.

John Van Bruggen

These stories are written by Guild members on topics we provided. Please join us in sharing your stories. Here are the next Our Stories topics and deadlines.

Topic	Deadline	Published
Craft	Oct 15, 2016	Nov 2016
Tools & tool boxes	Nov 15, 2016	Jan 2017
Students	Dec 15, 2016	Feb 2017
Tradition	Feb 15, 2016	Apr 2017
Last time	Mar 15, 2017	May 2017
Value	May 15, 2017	Jul 2017



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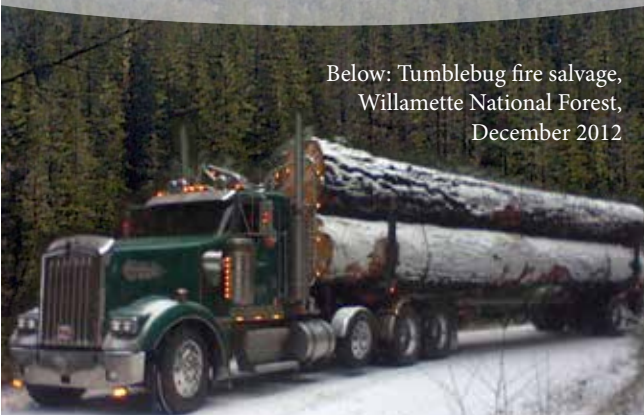
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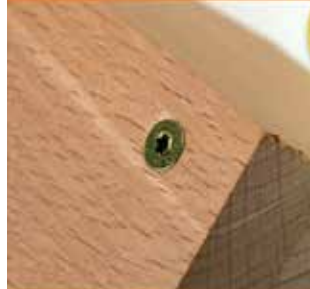


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MEMBER NEWS

Bruce Lindsay presents in Istanbul.

In March 2015, Bruce Lindsay spoke at the Symposium on Restoration and Conservation of Timber Structures 3, put on by Istanbul [Turkey] Metropolitan Municipality Department of Cultural Assets Conservation. He shared his take on cross-function team project management through the lens of Timber Framers Guild community building projects, especially the recent Pemberton Barn.

bruce.lindsay@shaw.ca

Al Wallace earns patent.

In August 2016, Al Wallace was issued a patent award from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, for the system design and controls for integrated radiant floor cooling and heating systems, with the option to optimize their use with geothermal heat pumps. This technology is suited for timber frame structures where the architect or client wants to eliminate exposed ductwork for air cooling, or the client demands absolute comfort and indoor air quality. Industry leaders estimate that about half of net-zero energy buildings will use radiant cooling to help them achieve the balance between energy consumption and renewable energy creation. The technology delivers passive radiant floor cooling at 50 times the efficiency of traditional air conditioning systems.

alwallace@energyhomes.org

Newest member of the Timberwolf Tools family.

Andrew William Powell was born June 11, 2016.

He was so excited to join the world that he arrived a month early, weighing about as much as a P1cc jigsaw and stretching out as long as a WoodOwl bit.

We named him after his very proud uncle (as well as a famous angler). It's been an emotional year for the Powell family because little Andrew is our first, and he was preceded by a miscarriage.

Blessings like these really put life in perspective: we are reminded every day to give thanks for what we have. Jeff and Kate Powell are the proud parents; David and Joyce Powell the proud grandparents; Andrew Powell the proud uncle. Jeff Powell and the Timberwolf Tools family.

www.timberwolftools.com

