



SCANTLINGS

NEWSLETTER OF THE TIMBER FRAMERS GUILD
NUMBER 119 JANUARY 2006

20th Western Conference: better than ever!

WE HAVE a very full schedule of terrific events for our 20th Western Conference—everything from an axe-throwing contest to a talent show, and an impressive lineup of pre-conference workshops as well. To top it all, the event will be at the beautiful Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Resort in Parksville, British Columbia, on Vancouver Island. The conference runs April 20–23.

On Thursday, April 20, we will host five pre-conference workshops:

- Gordon Macdonald and Steve Lawrence will run a crane and rigging training session.
- Patti Southard will lead Design for Deconstruction: Cradle to Cradle Design Principles for Buildings.
- Mike Laine and James Wiester will teach a Japanese carpentry workshop, including sharpening with waterstones and plane tuning.

- The newly formed Timber Frame Engineering Council (TFEC) will host a workshop for engineers featuring joinery and SIPS research and performance, computer analysis, and the roles and responsibilities of timber structural engineers.
- The Timber Frame Business Council (TFBC) will reprise their Speaker's Bureau to help people learn how to spread the word about our craft.

Besides the workshops, Thursday will offer opportunities for self-guided tours in the area, including trips to Cathedral Grove (old growth), OurEcoVillage (natural building techniques), Alf Butterfield's TF Sawmill, and the University of British Columbia's Center for Advanced Wood Processing along with Forintek's research facility in Vancouver. (Some of you may remember the remarkable presentations of Les Josza on wood at previ-

See Tigh-Na-Mara, page 4

The Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Resort as seen from the warmest beach in British Columbia and perhaps the entire Pacific Northwest. Bring your bathing suit!

photo Tigh-Na-Mara Resort





TFEC rocks!

I believe that development of the Timber Frame Engineering Council is one of the best ideas to come along to the Guild in a long time. Working with Dave Connolly on my timber frame in the mountains of Colorado has been both great and an excellent learning experience. I would encourage everyone building a timber frame to work with a qualified engineer, since the cost of the engineering is such a small part of the overall cost and engineering so critical to the final outcome. I am seeing so many frames going up here in Colorado without engineering that it's hard to believe, especially in an area with

high winds and heavy snow loads. The county engineering requirements are based entirely on altitude and do not take into consideration historic winds or snow load. Too bad! I'm afraid there will come a time when the owners will wish that they had paid that tiny percentage of the cost to have their frames engineered.

Congratulations on yet another element of the Guild that ranks right up there with Business Council, apprenticeships, and all of the other great things the Guild has accomplished in the areas of education, expansion, and professionalism. Keep up the great work.

Bob Croach

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Off the beaten path: an epiphany

Men, you probably have one of these. I truly hope so. And I hope you continue to have a good healthy one for a long, long time to come. Just a month ago I had a surgeon remove mine. I'm talking about the prostate gland.

Until I was diagnosed with cancer of the prostate this summer, I really didn't know much about this walnut-sized gland. Since then I've learned a few things, and I hope this letter will pass along some of the ones I have found useful. But let's back up a little.

From time to time my father sends me articles from various publications. Recently he mailed me a men's health guide from *U.S. News & World Report*: "Survival Skills: Smart behavior and new ways to beat five killers—heart disease, cancer, accidents, stroke, and lung illness—will help guys live longer." A couple of items in particular got my attention.

"There is a growing awareness that men don't take very good care of their bodies and minds. Indeed, they are killing themselves by ignoring their medical needs and acting in destructive ways that simply make their health problems much, much worse. Of course, women can be self-destructive,

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too, but the strong consensus among healthcare providers is that it's men, far and away, who are taking the most health risks."

"Men view their bodies as machines, not things in need of caring, one psychologist says."

I can think of lots of times when that fit for me. One writer has suggested testosterone as part of the issue. This amazing "drug" that has helped us survive for eons also has its dark side. Accidents seem to be associated with it. Men have nearly twice as many harmful and life-threatening accidents as women, making unintentional injuries the third-leading cause of male death (No. 1 for males aged 1-44). The No. 1 overall cause of male death is, of course, heart disease, and No. 2 is cancer. All the experts say the same thing; smoking, diet, exercise, and lifestyle are the main factors that impact our health.

Here is a brief introduction to some information about prostate cancer.

For men, prostate cancer is the most common cancer, except for skin cancer. The prevalence of prostate cancer increases with age, so that the incidence nearly doubles every 10 years after the age of 40. The risk is about 10 percent for men in their 50s, increasing to 70 percent for those in their 80s. However, in most older men prostate cancer does not grow, and many men die of other causes before prostate cancer is discovered.

Prostate cancer is 66 percent more common and twice as likely to be fatal in African-American men than in Caucasian men in the U. S.

Men at risk should have a screening for prostate cancer every year beginning at age 50. In high-risk groups, screening should begin at age 40.

Some prostate cancers spread very slowly, especially in older men. However, some are aggressive and tend to move out of the prostate and into other parts of the body. (This is the type of cancer I had.)

What causes prostate cancer? Studies indicate that diet is one factor (beef and high-fat dairy products in particular). Conversely, a low-fat diet rich in fruits and vegetables may help decrease the risk. Such foods include soy (tofu and soy milk), cooked tomatoes, green tea, red grapes, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, peas, watermelon, rosemary, garlic, and citrus.

Check your diet and how you deal with stress. Do the research. Get an annual checkup. Pay attention to changes in your body. A phrase I like is, "The facts are always friendly." Because when you know what the facts truly are, you are the best informed you can be, and can make the best possible choices. And the earlier you get the facts, the more options you have.

Best wishes!

Tom Hahney
360/354-5840

[Tom's complete message is on the Guild website at www.tfguild.org/news/hahneyletter.html.]

Election results

Incumbents have another go

WITH 609 ballots cast (just under one-third of the membership) for the board of directors election, the results are in. Laura Brown, Leon Buckwalter, and Curtis Milton are our continuing directors. Thanks to them and all those who consented to run, and thanks to you for voting.

With all directors and staff, we plan to meet February 17-18, in Manchester, N.H. Look for an updated listing of directors and their Guild roles in the April *Scantlings*.

Timber Framers Guild

Brenda Baker, president
Leon Buckwalter, vice president
Curtis Milton, treasurer
Gordon Macdonald, clerk
Al Anderson, Laura Brown, Rudy Christian,
Rick Collins, and Grigg Mullen, directors at large

Will Beemer, Joel McCarty, executive directors
Ken Rower, director of publications
Susan Witter, *Scantlings* editor

Scantlings is the member newsletter of the Timber Framers Guild. It is published eight times yearly. Deadline is generally the 10th of the month before an issue comes out (though it often shifts).

Next deadline: January 10.

Please address contributions or information to:
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Tigh-Na-Mara, from page 1

ous conferences; Forintek is his home base, and wait 'til you see his office!) There is much to see in the area, and some of you may be able to tour on Sunday before you head home. Just be sure to leave plenty of time.

The main conference will feature four tracks.

The **Design and Engineering** track includes an Engineer's Round Table and presentations by Jim DeStefano, Ben Brungraber (keyed beams), Jesse Kendall, and Joe Miller. Joern Wingender will lead a participatory exploration of how the design process evolves during a project. Andrea Warchaizer will give her fascinating presentation on photogrammetry, which uses computer software to translate photographs into your CAD program.

The **Natural Building** track presents Robert Laporte, Paula Baker Laporte, Craig Hillman, and Elke Cole. This track has become increasingly popular and is coordinated by Chris Dancey; Mike Flowers (College of the Rockies) will moderate Saturday's Natural Building Forum.

The **Business** track will include two presentations on marketing by Jerry Rouleau, Ross Grier on the creation of the Bellingham Bay Builders workers' cooperative, and a round table discussion by a number of business owners on the perils and rewards of running your own enterprise. Bruce Lindsay will show us how to handle complaints, gripes, and claims (and avoid them in the first place) when dealing with timber suppliers.

In the **Shop Practices** track, which will consist of outdoor, hands-on demonstrations, our own Rudy Christian will show various methods for repairing timbers, James Mitchell will demo his EPS/Acrylic modular infill wall system (an alternative to SIPs that exposes the frame on the inside and out), and John Boys (International Log Builders Association board member and author of *A Big Boys Book of Jigs*) will lead a session called Tech Talk and demonstrate his favorite jigs for round timber. John asks that others bring their favorite jigs and templates for timber framing.

Our featured speakers at the conference will include Rudy Christian, who will open with *A Place for Trades: Cultural Change in the 21st Century*. The Conference will conclude with Ross Laird, author of *Grain of Truth: The Ancient Lessons of Craft*, who will lead us through an

exploration of the creative and philosophical aspects of timber framing.

We also have some new special events at this conference, including a Year in Review session where the principal coordinators of the TFG's major projects in 2005 will discuss lessons learned and high points of this very successful slate of events. We will also screen the just-released *Kicking Horse Bridge* film, which chronicles the Guild's construction of the Burr truss covered bridge in Golden, B.C., in 2004. Steve Lawrence will coordinate the axe-throwing contest, an event he ran so brilliantly at recent U.K. Carpenters Fellowship meetings. We're also looking for some musicians in the membership to join a pick-up band for some evening entertainment. If you want to take part, or if you have any talents suitable for family viewing or listening, please tell me.

The Children's Discovery Workshop will debut at the Western Conference. We still need volunteers to help with this wonderful event, and please consider bringing the kids to participate.

And there will be our other regular events, such as the Trade Fair and Mixer, the Summerbeam Bookstore, the Slide Show, the Benefit Auction, the CNC Users Group meeting, and the TFG and TFBC membership meetings.

All this amid the Tigh-Na-Mara Resort, a collection of log buildings nestled among Arbutus and Douglas firs along the largest and warmest swimming beach in B.C. Parksville is on Vancouver Island's east coast, and you'll need to ferry or fly from the mainland to get there, so it is one of our more complicated venues. You'll find travel information and options on the Guild website and in your registration confirmation package. Various room types are available at the resort, ranging from "bachelor" (single room) units at \$99 CAN/night to suites with separate bedrooms for \$155 CAN/night. (Three to four people could share a suite.) Complete room descriptions are on the TFG website and will be in your registration flyer, which should arrive in late January. You may also check out the Resort's website at www.tigh-na-mara.com. You can reserve a room by calling 800/663-7373.

There will be more updates in the next issue of *Scantlings*, and we look forward to seeing you on the beach!
—Will Beemer

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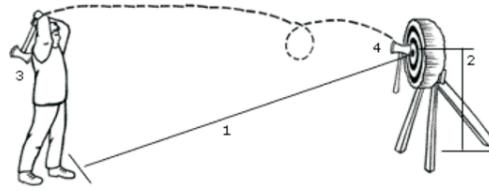
WE PLAN an axe-throwing event at the Western Conference in Parksville this year. Both a team and an individual competition event are planned along with some time for instruction and practice. So if you fancy flinging axes, you will need to buy an axe and start practicing.

There should be one or two axes available for the curious to try out with, and we hope that there may even be a prize for the winner of the individual competition. More information will be available soon on the TFG web site and later in the conference flyer, so watch for that. Meanwhile, for further information, ask me at steve@macdonaldandlawrence.ca.

You may want to peruse the axe throwing guidelines at right.

—Steve Lawrence

Axethrowing



Rules

The straight distance from the "Throwing Line" to the bull's eye on the target should be 20' (6.1 m).

The thrower may not overstep or cross the "Throwing Line" before the axe has hit or missed the target. Should be checked by a linesman.

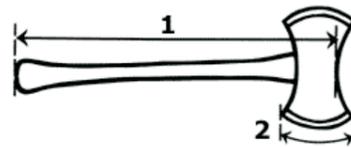
The "Fore-Bit" is the bit in the target direction in the moment when the thrower lets the double-bitted axe go.

Only the "Fore-Bit" of the double-bitted axe can score a hit on the target area &SHY; a condition is however that the bit sticks in the target. The "Fore-Bit" only needs to cut the outer edge of a line of the scoring area to win points of that higher scoring area. The "Back-Bit" is not allowed to brush against the target &SHY; if so the scoring will be 0 even if the "Fore-Bit" has hit the target at same time. Best score in minimum of three throws wins.

At competitions, targets for practice should be provided. Practicing throws at targets planned for competition means automatic disqualification. The standards for a **Double-Bitted Competition Axe** and the design for a Competition Target are shown below.

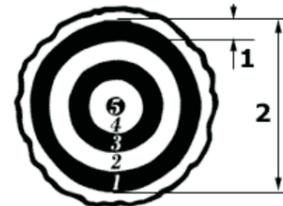
- 1: 20' (6,1 m)
- 2: 60" (1,5 m)
- 3a | 3b: "Fore-Bit" sticks in target

information courtesy Gransfors Bruks



Double-Bit Axe or Throwing Axe

- 1: Min. 24" (610 mm)
- 2: Max. 6" (152 mm)
- Weight: min 2 1/2 lb (1134 g, incl. handle)



Target

- 1: 4" (102 mm)
- 2: Ø = 36" (914 mm)

Workshops on panels and moisture management

FOARD PANEL and Benjamin Obydyke are hosting a free two-part educational session for architects and designers, Friday, March 3, at the Foard Panel facility in W. Chesterfield, N.H. The two parts are designing for insulated panels and moisture management.

Designing for insulated panels (three hours) includes: basic panel technology, designing for all applications, maximizing energy efficiency, and best practices. This session will be taught by Foard Panel employees Paul Malko and Jonas Crofter.

Moisture management for sidewall construction (one hour) includes recognizing how moisture infiltrates the building skin through sidewall conditions, understanding the implications of water infiltration, and deciding how to employ rainscreen principles for various cladding systems. This presentation will be offered by Ned Trautman and is worth one Continuing Ed. Credit.

For more information and to make reservations, reach me, lisa@foardpanel.com, 802-257-0781.

—Lisa Ford

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David Eisenberg presentations now available online

David Eisenberg of the Development Center for Appropriate Technology (DCAT) was a featured speaker at both our Eastern and Western Conferences in 2005. His presentations *The Big Picture: Moving Towards Sustainable Building and Development*, and *Straw-Bale Update* are now available for free at www.dcat.net/timberframe/TFG-Eisenberg_Keynote.pdf and www.dcat.net/timberframe/TFG_Strawbale_Update.pdf.

We have been eagerly awaiting these PDF archives of his excellent presentations, and David apologizes for

the delay in getting them up on the DCAT website. Please note: the URL is different from the one he gave out at the conferences.

To order the DVD, you can also check out the DCAT store on their site. They plan to expand, offering more videos, books, and so on.

Founded in 1991 as a non-profit organization, DCAT draws on extensive experience in traditional and alternative building and development, providing strategic support for the shift to sustainable building practices. —Will Beemer

Call for presenters for Roanoke

THE GUILD'S 22nd Eastern Conference will be at the historic Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Virginia, Nov. 9–12. It's not too early to begin thinking about presenting if you want to share your expertise, knowledge, and success. You'll also increase your visibility as a leader in the timber framing universe.

If you'd like to demonstrate, speak, or lead a workshop, please tell us. By the time you get the next (February–March) *Scantlings*, we will have our new formal Speaker's Guidelines and Call for Presentations on the Guild website or through the office. —Will Beemer

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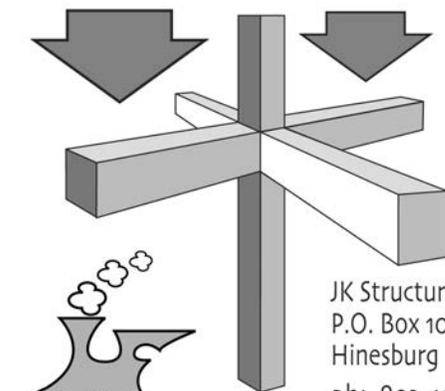
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Curriculum becomes interactive

Now that the official comment period on the TFG training curriculum has passed (though the outlines are still downloadable at www.tfguild.org/members/curriculum.html), we are moving on to the next phase.

The Boards of Directors of both the Guild and the Timber Frame Business Council (TFBC) have decided to develop three curriculum modules in this order: #1 Safe Work Practices; #7 Trade Sciences; and #8 Trade Practices. It was also decided to develop these modules in an interactive format, using video clips, animation, and interactivity to make the training more interesting and easier to administer. This training could then occur online at the TFG website or via a CD-ROM.

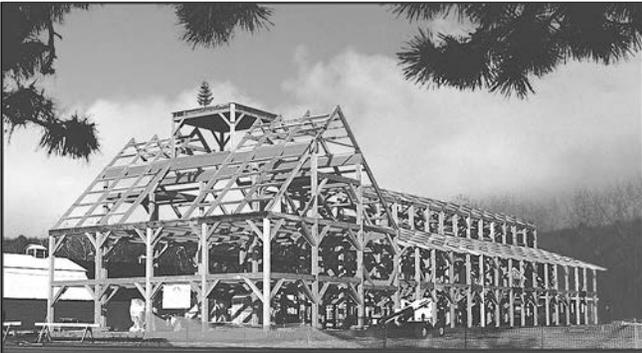
If you look at the curriculum outlines in their current state, you'll see that there are three parts to each lesson: the Learning Tasks (*what* will be taught; the objectives), the Content (*how* it will be taught; the material to be presented to teach the skill), and the Goals (the *tests or assessments* to make sure the student has retained the skill). Our next mission is to collect the material for each content point in the Safe Work Practices modules. Much of this information is already in the public domain through the Occupational Health and Safety Administration and other sources; we'll have to develop some ourselves. Once our content is collected, with supporting texts, im-

ages, and graphics, we will take it to a professional multimedia developer to begin packaging it.

We are looking for assistance from anyone who would like to volunteer or work on a subcontract basis to assist in the development of the Safe Work Practices module. A qualified person should have good Internet and computer skills and be familiar with workplace safety programs. Our goal is to develop an attractive and useful tool for timber framing shops to use for safety training, which can also be used as a model for developing future modules.

Interactive training is, by necessity, concise, and it can only touch on the essential content points. It must be backed up by on-the-job experience and textual reference materials. We anticipate these packages will include supplemental sample documents contributed by timber framing companies, bibliographies, and lists of resources to support the content. A Course Manager's Kit would include additional exercises and materials that a trainer would come into your shop and present to a group.

For samples of the type of multimedia training we are proposing, please visit these existing sites: www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/scaffolding/index.html and www.free-training.com.
—Will Beemer



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Borah School timber frame project

Winter puts the freeze on, but hope springs eternal

LAST SEPTEMBER, about 20 of my architectural and structural drafting students at Borah High School in Boise, Idaho, began work on a 10 x 10-ft. gazebo. One senior, Leigh Killingbeck, was versed in the language of timber framing, having spent the previous year designing the gazebo. For the remainder of the class, students ranging in age from 15 to 18, timber framing (not to mention basic carpentry) was a new experience. Work has been progressing steadily since early September, with students able to work about two hours a day, four to five days of the week.

This idea began when I saw a newspaper article about a Guild-supported timber framed pavilion being built at the Idaho State Historical Museum as part of the Lewis and Clark voyage of discovery bicentennial. I have worked in homebuilding for 15 years but have always wanted to learn more about timber framing, so I volunteered a couple of days on the job. It was here that I met Joel McCarty and learned about the Guild. The pavilion project spurred me to look into building a timber frame with my advanced design students. Making the important connection for students between designing and building, while at the same time providing valuable craft

experience, seemed like an idea others might be interested in funding. So I spent the next school year teaching my architectural and structural design classes about timber framing and writing grants to fund a gazebo project.

During the 2004–05 school year, my students, principally Leigh, designed and built a scale model gazebo with help from an Idaho Governor's Innovative Grant award for teachers. Near the end of the school year, we were awarded \$2500 from the Boise Schools Education Foundation and \$1000 from the Borah High School Key Club (a Kiwanis affiliate). Great news! We could build the gazebo!

We spent the summer ordering the timber (Payette River Lumber Co. of Garden Valley provided some beautiful, straight Douglas fir), tools (Barr Tools is located just up the road in McCall), and foundation stones. The Building Contractors Association of S.W. Idaho has also provided a lot of help, mostly with fencing to guard the wood and keep curious teens out.

When school began, we started in. The students have been learning more than just how to cut and chisel: they are experiencing the value of teamwork, communication, and delayed gratification. It took a while for them to re-

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Spencer Oldemeyer laying out a tenon.



Patrick Johnson saws a dovetail.



Nate Howe working that drill.



Setting our foundation stones.

alize that the work they're doing on a particular joint would, in the end, be a part of a much larger whole, but they have come to appreciate the entire process.

The project is a 10 x 10-ft. gazebo, with 4 ft. 10-in x 10-in. posts, two hammer beam trusses, two king post trusses, 6 x 8-in. crown beams, 24-in. sandstone foundation blocks, 1 x 6 roof sheathing, and cedar shingles. It is being built on the school campus, in a conifer-shaded glen, as a gift for the school.



The Borah High architecture class with our first hammerbeam truss.

We feel a sense of pride and satisfaction each day the group works on the project. We plan a raising and dedication when the frame is complete. Winter, however, has a grip on the scheduling, so the original Christmas break completion estimate has been pushed back to Spring Break. I extend thanks to Joel and the Guild for their encouragement and support.

To find out more, please ask me at 208/322-3855 or scott.larson@boiseschools.org.
—Scott Larson



photos Scott Larson

Drew McCurdy cleans out a mortise.



Jake Tanner cutting a shouldered mortise.

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Full moon over Suriname



photos Steve Morrison

A full moon shines through Bent 4.

THIS CERTAINLY isn't the first time that a crew of hardworking timber framers from the Guild has worked late into the night to raise a frame, but on November 15, things were going exactly according to plan! By 9 pm our crew was gathered around the cheery flames of a bonfire to celebrate the raising of Bent 14. We were well fed and enjoying the cool night air (the temperature had plummeted to a chilly 80 degrees); it might have been getting late but the party was just getting started. A full moon was rising from the river mists, and the jungle all around us was alive with the chirping, buzzing sounds of countless insects, frogs, and other critters. The indefatigable Ralleigh Boys were setting up their drums and doing a sound-check with an impromptu microphone made

from a 1-in. peg. We decided that, for this last big lift, Chuck Hutchinson's kids Omar and Bryan would man the winches along with some help from their dad (Chuck is our client's agent in Suriname) and the architect Annie Phillips. A hand-raising in the equatorial jungle under the light of a full moon, and to the accompaniment of live music . . . how cool is that?

For three weeks in November our band of 16 Guild folk, representing four different nations, traveled first to Paramaribo, Suriname's capital, and then a further 120 miles up the piranha-infested Coppername River to reach a remote building site in the Central Suriname Nature Reserve. These four million acres of jungle real estate form a part of the largest and least-inhabited piece of

rainforest left on the planet, but despite being inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 2000, the future of this place is by no means certain. Pressure to extract more and more of Suriname's natural resources such as timber, bauxite, gold, and oil pose a very real threat to the future of this place and the Maroon people who live here. Our partner for the project was the American non-governmental organization Conservation International, which hopes that the building we raised will serve as the centerpiece to their eco-tourism venture in the district, bringing cash into the local economy and proving that Suriname is

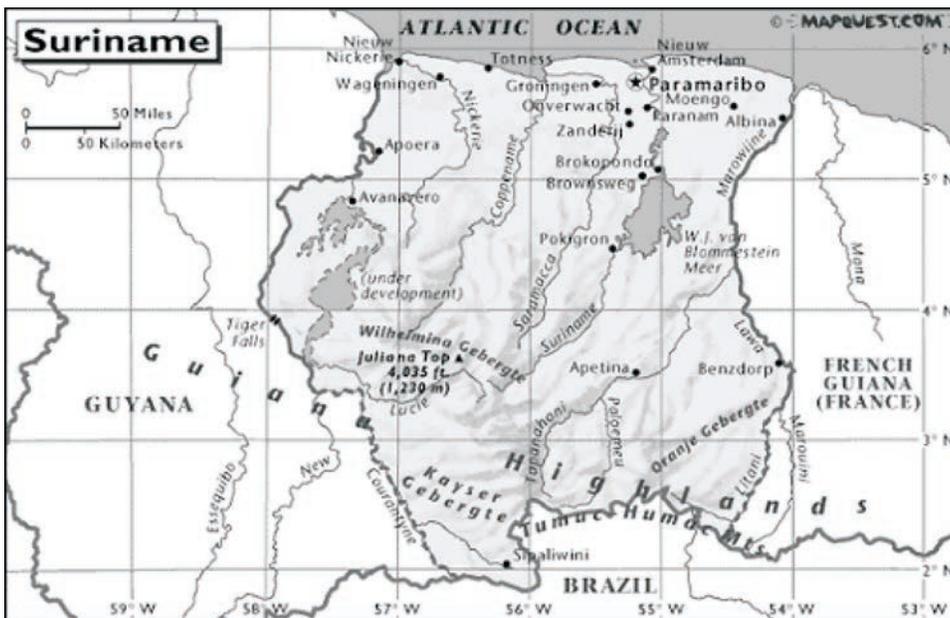


image from Mapquest, www.mapquest.com



From left, Lisa, Jack, James, Neville, Andrew, and Gene en route to the building site.



Lisa and Jack lead a group in a lift of some very heavy timbers!

capable of generating a steady income from its forests without chopping them down.

The 140-ft. long, three-story frame that we raised consists of 657 individual elements, representing 26,000 board-feet of Kopi, Brownheart, and Purpleheart lumber and weighing more than 140,800 lbs. This is heavy stuff, with some timbers weighing more than 3000 lbs. apiece! Each member of the frame and all of our equipment was transported to site by dugout canoe and then lifted ashore with the help of a highline cable that was designed by our leadership team (with some expert help from our friend Grigg Mullen) and then erected at site by Guild member William “Troll” McCook prior to our arrival.

The frame had to be assembled and raised entirely by hand, so our team calculated and rigged each lift with great care. Then, to gain access to the upper parts of the frame, our crew installed more than 15,000 lineal ft. of tongued and grooved Greenheart decking. There was a limited amount of lifting gear available on site, and with single lifts of more than 13,000 lbs, there was absolutely no room for guesswork. It’s amazing what can be done with three Tirfor winches, a couple of snatch blocks, and a site-made A-frame, but the real secret was remembering to bring Derwyn Hanney! He was unstoppable when it came to the hard work of cranking the Tirfor winch in the heat.

The frame was designed by Andrea Warchaizer of Springpoint Design, and the joinery was cut in Paramaribo by Guild members Donna Williams, Adrienne Walker, and Bob Smith with help from four local carpenters led by Jarrel Henne.

In broad terms, the frame went together exceptionally well: the joinery was precisely cut and the locally made pegs were superb. Despite a bewildering number of obstacles and the obvious logistical complexity of erecting a frame so far from home, our team managed to complete the frame within budget and a day ahead of schedule for a topping-out ceremony on November 25—Suriname’s Independence Day.

There were some peculiar challenges for us in this exotic location: learning to check our mortises for slumbering tarantulas, for example! However, the greatest challenge was definitely the heat, and with temperatures rising to 40°C (104°F) during the afternoon we had to watch one another very carefully indeed for signs of dehydration. It sure didn’t take long for us to lose our inhibitions about bathing in the river, despite having to share it with the local piranhas, electric eels, anacondas, sting-rays, and various other slithery things that call it their home. In fact, some of our crew are rumored to have made various midnight skinny-dipping excursions with the near-mythical Monkey Girls from up river!

But don't just take it from me when I say that this was a tremendously successful event; here's what the architect Annie Phillips had to say:

"As you know, there were many bumps along the road to getting the frame up for the visitors center in Raleighvallen. The result is so magnificent, however, I think that anyone involved should be nothing but proud! I was so impressed with every member of the team who worked on the project. The high level of planning, expertise, ingenuity, and forbearance maintained throughout was amazing. Not to mention the ability of all to work their butts off, in good humor, in the tropical heat and humidity.

And the frame is unbelievably beautiful. May it endure for generations to come. Thank you!"

Our leadership team consisted of veteran timber framers Rick Collins, Steve Lawrence, Gord Macdonald, and John Miller, supported by instructor-in-training Adrienne Walker. Our fine, hardworking crew consisted of Neville Bodsworth, James Chitty, Jimmy DeSantis, Oscar Emmanuel, Derwyn Hanney, Lisa Helmer, SueEllen Lawton, Steve Morrison, Andrew Preston, Jack Witherington, and Gene Wixson.

A very special thank you to Trillium Dell Timberworks, Dreaming Creek Timber Frame Homes, Blue Ridge Timberwrights, and Riverbend Timber Framing which supported our project with donations of cash and equipment!
—Gord Macdonald

For more stunning photos of this amazing Guild event, check out these websites:

www.tfguild.org/suriname/ and
homepage.mac.com/steve_morrison/PhotoAlbum5.html



John and Rick ponder the task of loading the second of our aircraft on the homeward journey.



The finished frame is three stories tall and more than 140 ft. long!



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Masters of the Building Arts Festival in March

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF THE BUILDING ARTS (ACoBA) will host the Masters of the Building Arts Festival March 24–26, on Marion Square in downtown Charleston, S.C. Master artisans from throughout the U.S. as well as students and faculty from ACoBA will showcase traditional building arts. The free public festival includes continuous demonstrations, an auction of period architecture playhouses produced by regional architects and builders, scale models on display from *Les Compagnons du Devoir*, a 600-year-old French building arts education program, and hands-on children's programs using traditional building arts. Explore the ways traditional skills are taught and learn about educational programs and careers in the building arts. For more, visit the school's website, www.buildingartscollege.us.

Welcome, lifetime members!

THESE FOLKS have decided to commit to lifetime membership: Al and Kathy Anderson, Andy Buck, Brendan Matthews, Steve Morrison, Mark Olson, John Palmer, Mark and Mary Ann Parkinson, David Pickhardt. Thanks, all of you!



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Staying warm at work in winter

HOW CAN we stay warm in below-freezing temps, ice, and snow? I'm glad to share what works for me, and I hope you can find a comfortable system for you.

My qualifications to address the topic include being a lifelong resident of northern states and being very active in winter as a skier, dog musher, logger, and timber framer. I am usually able to stay comfortable working in cold weather, down to -10°F, for a full day. Longer or colder than that and the challenge is compounded. There is a big difference between dressing fashionably for two ski runs (and then heading for lodge and cocoa) and outfitting so you can function and be productive all day on a job site.

The first hurdle to overcome is attitude. If you are convinced that you will be cold on a cold day, congratulations: you will be. Accept the challenge instead and remind yourself that it is better than riding a desk. With some common sense and the right gear, you can enjoy working in the best season of the year. (This discussion has nothing to do with rainy cold. On those days, catch up in the office instead of trying to work outside; it's just not worth it.)

After a positive mindset, there are two things to focus on. First, avoid generating sweat or getting the extremities wet. Second, keep all layers loose fitting and adjust your outfit for each activity of the day.

The real danger for me is always generating sweat. Once I'm sweaty on the lowest layer, it's tough to stay warm. Most people create problems by over-dressing or putting everything on before even going out. They sweat in the truck or house, and as soon as they go out sweaty, they will be cold.

Here is my winter work outfit, in order of application:

Silk or thermal long johns next to skin, turtle neck (no underwear).

Wool shirt.

Thick wool trousers w/ suspenders, over boot tops.

Polar fleece top(s).

Smartwool socks, not too thick.

Boots: Arctic Mukluks, insulated rubber, neoprene top.

Shell (big, long).

Fleece hat, not very thick.

Gloves: Kinco insulated leather.

Here's some commentary on each item. I'm not a big fan of thermals made of modern materials; they smell bad. Give me silk next to the skin every time. There's no substitute for a good wool shirt to wick up moisture and provide air pockets for insulation, but the fleece materials are some of the best additions to winter wear I've ever seen.

My big, heavy wool trousers are tried and true. Loggers 150 years ago swore by them, and I do too. They

shed snow and water and are loose fitting compared to insulated coveralls. They might cost a couple of hundred dollars, but I wear them every day for four to five months a year. With proper care, they'll last several years.

Smartwool brand socks, like the fleece, are a great modern addition to winter wear. In lieu of these, go with wool of some kind.

The Arctic model of Mukluk boot (\$100) is absolutely amazing. I'm not kidding. If you spend lots of time working in winter, find a store and buy two pairs today! They are lightweight, insulated rubber with neoprene tops over the calf. Even with slightly wet feet you'll stay warm. They don't have steel toes or shanks, and you need to watch for sharp points on site to avoid punctures. Be diligent about drying them out every night (pull out pads and wipe with towel) or switch pairs the next day. Worn every day, a pair should last you two years.

Gloves have been the most challenging piece for me. I've tried all types and combinations. Money doesn't buy performance here; in fact, more money usually means worse performance for the working person. I really like the Kinco type insulated leather glove for about \$25. Buy two pair each year. They have plenty of tough leather in all wear areas. Keep your wrists well covered but loose, and keep gloves as dry as possible. Change to a dry pair at break and lunch. Pay a lot of attention all day to keeping gloves as dry as possible: wipe off surfaces, etc.

For extra strenuous tasks, strip down first to avoid sweating: take off hat, remove gloves or shell, unzip fleece. When done with the tough job, wait until sweat burns off before replacing layers: rub sweat from head and hands before replacing hat and gloves. Open your clothes right up and let the steam roll away instead of trapping it inside.

A trick I learned skiing years ago is to get all your other clothes on, then chill feet by going out barefoot or walking on a cold floor. Dry feet (wipe off snow), put on

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socks and boots, and stay outside. (It works for me.) If you cover feet while warm and inside, you start sweating before even going out, and you'll be cold for the day. Another good trick is to change socks and dry out the inside of boots at break or lunch to get rid of the wetness. If you're away from the truck, carry spare socks in the sleeves of your jacket to put on at lunch. Wear light socks and light shoes in the truck to work; at the site, put on other layers, strip light socks/shoes and let feet get chilled/dry, and then change to good socks and boots just before starting work. I find that my feet then warm up to comfort and stay there without sweating.

I shower at night before bed. Somehow on mornings without a shower I seem to stay warmer.

Winter is my favorite season. Maybe my beard helps me cope and improves my attitude. I hope the hints here help you enjoy the season as well. Please email me (randychurchill@mac.com) with your own tips. Also, we northerners get blasted when we travel and would love some tips on handling the heat. So, if one of you who has conquered the heat gets inspired to enlighten us on that, we'd be most grateful.

—Randy Churchill

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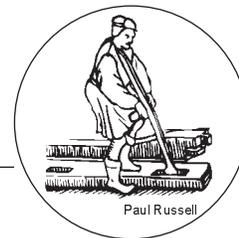
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EVENTS



Guild projects

In Allenstown, N.H.:

Allenstown Meeting House roof rebuilding Tentative, fall 2006.

In Bainbridge Is., Wash.:

Nidoto Nai Yoni Fall 2006 (tentative).

On Long Island:

LISEC boathouse Sep 20–30, Port Jefferson, N.Y.
(See page 24.)

Guild projects contact:

Joel C. McCarty, joel@tfguild.org, 603/835-2077.

Guild workshops

Guild workshops contact:

Will Beemer, will@tfguild.org, 413/623-9926.

Guild conferences

Western Conference 2006 Apr 20–24, Tigh-Na-Mara Lodge, Parksville (Vancouver Island), B.C. (see pages 1 ff.)

TTRAG 2006

May 12–14, Eastover Resort, Lenox, Mass.

Eastern Conference 2006

Nov 9–12, Hotel Roanoke, Va.

Western Conference 2007 Apr 12–15, 2007, Asilomar, Pacific Grove (near Monterey), Calif.

Eastern Conference 2007 Oct 18–21, 2007, Fairmont le Château Montebello, Montebello, Québec.

Other conferences

American College of the Building Arts

Masters of the Building Arts Mar 21–24. Charleston, S.C. (See page 13.) www.buildingartscollege.us, 877/283-5245.

U.K. Carpenters Fellowship

Frame 2006 Sep 8–10. www.carpentersfellowship.co.uk.

Tours

Hida Tool & Hardware

Kezurou-kai Tenth Anniversary March 16–25, Japan. (See page 20.) Yuka Johnson, 800/443-5523, hidatool@hidatool.com.

Other workshops

College of the Rockies

Timber frame program (12 weeks) Jan 9–Mar 31. Kimberley, B.C. kimberley@cotr.bc.ca, www.cotr.bc.ca/kimberley, 250/427-7116.

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Heartwood

Japanese timber framing I (Chris Hall) May 1-12.
Timber frame design & joinery decisions May 15-19.
Compound joinery (Will Beemer) May 22-26.
Timber framing Jun 5-9, Jul 24-28.
Japanese timber framing II (Chris Hall) Jun 26-Jul 7
Converting trees to timber Jul 10-14.
Cruck framing (Jack Sobon) Jul 17-21.
Raising and rigging, site safety, knots and ropework (Grigg Mullen, Al Anderson) Jul 31-Aug 4
Scribing (Dave Carlon, Josh Jackson) Aug 28-Sep 1
All workshops in Washington, Mass. Will and Michele Beemer, www.heartwoodschool.com, 413/623-6677.

John C. Campbell Folk School

Timber framing with Charles Judd May 21-28, Brasstown, N.C. 800/365-5724, www.folkschool.org.

Rocky Mountain Workshops

Advanced log and timber frame engineering: modeling, joinery design, and detailing (Grigg Mullen, Jennifer Anthony) May 31-Jun 4.
Ropes, rigging, and raising, or managing tension to eliminate drama (Grigg Mullen and Al Anderson) Jun 6-10.
Mastering the basics of square rule timber framing (Dave Carlon, Josh Jackson) Aug 13-19.
Scribing (Mike Goldberg) Aug 20-26.
Compound joinery (instructor to be announced). Aug 27-Sep 1.
Timber frame design (Andrea Warchaizer, John Mumaw) Sep 10-15.
All workshops in Pingree Park, Colorado. Peter Haney, 970/482-1366, www.rockymountainworkshops.com.

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Golden Bridge notoriety

THE KICKING HORSE BRIDGE, a considerable Guild project completed in 2004, is December's featured project on the Canadian Wood Council's website. You can see it at www.cwc.ca. And they really do call the machine a Hundinger.

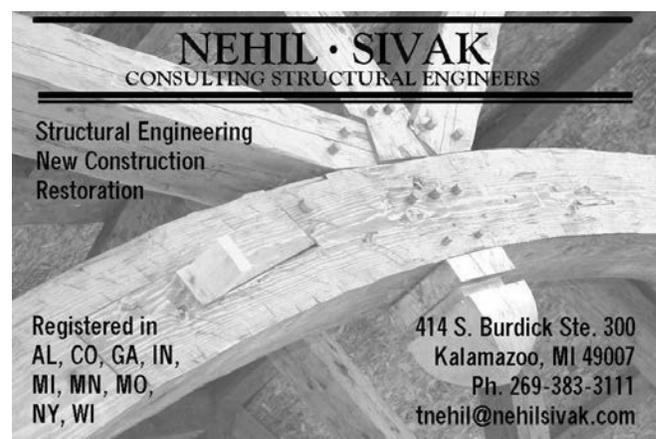
The bridge also was the subject of a documentary for British Columbia's Knowledge Network in early December. You can find out more about that at the Knowledge Network website:

<http://tvschedule.knowledgenetwork.ca/knsch/KNSeriesPage.jsp?seriesID=P53886&seriesTitle=thegoldenbridge>.



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Attract them, train them, retain them

ONE OF the really interesting projects that both the TFG and the TFBC having been working on is the training curriculum being put together by Will Beemer and his team. This is an extremely relevant project that will have a very positive effect on all of our members.

In my previous job as Director of Economic Development for Metro Denver, workforce issues were always high priority for companies. In fact, we did a survey of over 400 companies at the height of the recession in 2001 (when unemployment rates were at almost 7 percent), and we found that the top concern was the long-term workforce shortage. We were very surprised, as we were in the middle of massive layoffs and company closures. As we dug deeper, we found that regardless of industry, shortage of young, skilled labor was a national issue that concerned almost every industry. Most of the problem comes from simple demographics. The baby boom generation provided educated workers in ample numbers, but the following generations are producing fewer children. The average age of the U.S. workforce is getting older, and a real crisis is looming as the baby boomers are nearing retirement.

Education also plays a hand in this crisis. It is becoming more difficult and more expensive to attain a post-secondary education. This was evident when we talked to Lockheed Martin during our survey. Lockheed manufactures rockets, primary for space travel. The average age of their workforce was 55 years old! Their current workforce had come of age during the space race of

the 1950s and 1960s, when the exciting challenges of the space industry attracted the best and brightest engineers. Now, however, they are facing some trends that include fewer and fewer kids attaining engineering degrees; and those who do are more attracted to the computer industry. Lockheed is attempting to solve the problem by developing a program that educates and interests grade school kids in the space sciences.

So what has this got to do with timber framing? Over the long term, I contend that nothing will affect your growth and operation as a company as much as your ability to find young, skilled workers. That is why I am so excited about the training curriculum. It will be a valuable tool for all of you in the future. "Attract them, train them, retain them" should be a mantra for all of you. Kudos to Will and his team for all the good work they have done on this important project.—*Chad DeLong*

Layout and Shop Drawings

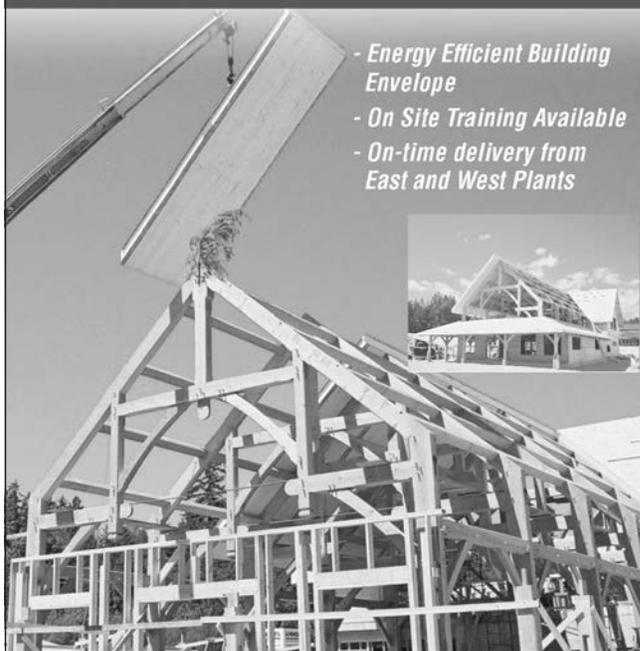
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Wood Awards 2005

British Guild members make a fine showing

AT WOOD AWARDS 2005 (Britain's premier award program for wood in buildings, seeking to recognize outstanding design, craftsmanship, and installation in joinery and structures), two British Guild members won acclaim.

McCurdy & Co. won the Structural Award and the Best Use of British Timber Award (in the Structural category) for the excellence of their work on a remarkable historic reconstruction project in Somerset, the Pilton Barn. This barn, one of four surviving monastic barns built by Glastonbury Abbey around 1300, was struck by

lightning in 1963; the whole roof, then thatched, was completely consumed by fire. McCurdy & Co. undertook the research and design of the roof replacement, a two-tiered raised base cruck in English oak that consists of large curved timbers rising up from pockets in the stone walls to join the collars in the roof. You can see more about this barn at www.mccurdyco.com/pilton.html.

Carpenter Oak & Woodland received a Shortlist recognition (in the Commercial and Public Access category) for Highland's Maggie's Center, one of a burgeoning chain of support centers for people affected by cancer. This breathtaking upwardly-spiraling building, a metaphor for the way cells exchange information and grow, was designed by Page/Park and sponsored by architecture critic, patron, and designer Charles Jencks, who has become a producer of fine architecture for the public good. COWCo's Charley Brentnall has furnished us with a link to a *London Times* article about the building: www.hughpearman.com/articles5/maggies_highlan.html.

—Susan Witter



Left, the replaced roof on Pilton Barn.
photo McCurdy & Co. Ltd.



Right, the spiraling Highland's Maggie's Center.
photo courtesy Carpenter Oak & Woodland Co.

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A look at Kezurou-kai 2005 in Japan

“A Kezurist is a person who strives to achieve high skill in planing wood as thin, as wide, and as long as possible using a hand plane. The sense of wood’s touch is the Japanese culture. A Kezurist is a person who has the will and drive to pass the skill to the next person. A group of Kezurists is called Kezurou-Kai.”
—quote from a T-shirt

IN SEPTEMBER 2005, Guild members Chris and Diane Feddersohn, Russ Filbeck, and George Arai accompanied 16 other Palomar College instructors, students, and their spouses to Kezurou-Kai in Gotemba, Japan. The 12-day tour was organized by Hida Tool & Hardware in Berkeley, California.

It was an incredible woodworking journey through heavily forested central Japan. Temples, shrines, castles, hot springs, and gardens were fascinating, but the highlights for this group were visits to tool wholesalers, blacksmiths, carpenter shops, and the woodworking students at Agematsu Technology School. The tour ended at Kezurou-Kai 2005, a



A Japanese Kezurist planing three shavings at once!



photos Chris and Diane Feddersohn

Palomar College instructor and Guild member Chris Feddersohn making a laminated knife at Sanjo Blacksmith Hall.

celebration of fine woodworking tools, contests, knowledge, and cherished friendships. Over 600 participants enjoyed the event.

Kezurou-Kai is held twice a year in Japan, and it has also been held twice Stateside, at Palomar College (www.palomar.edu/woodworking) in North San Diego County.
—Diane Feddersohn

For a full set of tour photos in sumptuous color, visit the Guild website at www.tfguild.org/news/kezurou2005.html.

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First morning boat ride on the Kinugawa River.



Spear plane demonstration. Kezurou-Kai was well-attended by women this time.



Nikkozan Rinnoji Temple.



Wooden building at Zenko-ji, Nagano.

The next Japan tour is planned for March 16–25. So far, we know this: since this next year marks the tenth anniversary of Kezurou-Kai, it will be a special meeting. This year, participants will build a portable shrine in the city of Inuyama, in the middle of Honshu, the main island. Much in the spirit of the Guild Habitat frames, carpenters will make parts at home, bring them, and put them together at the conference.

Portable shines are for festivals and parades; people can either pull them or carry them. This one will be a pull shrine at half-scale (12 ft. tall), and it will have the traditional pull shrine feature of moving parts—you might push a button and a door will open and a dog will pop out—a sort of cuckoo-dog. The Kezurou-Kai members plan to donate the shrine to the city. (This is deeply appropriate—the name of the city means Dog Mountain, and this is the year of the dog!)

In addition to Kezurou-Kai, Hida Tool plans to tour Inuyama Castle. The tour will move to Takayama, where Hida is from. It's a very old, very well preserved mountain town. They'll also visit the city of Shirakawago, a world heritage site and city full of thatch-roofed houses. Other details are still being settled. There is room for about 30 on the tour. For more information, ask Yuka Johnson at Hida Tool & Hardware, 800/443-5512, hidatool@hidatool.com. —Susan Witter

NOTICES



POLICY: Notices are for one-time events and offers, and they run free to Guild members for two issues. The cost to non-Guild members (or to run a notice more than twice) is \$50 per notice per issue.

For Sale

Canadian timber frame operation.

Very successful and reputable going concern, established in 1980. Owner willing to remain. \$1M+/yr. in timber frame sales. Major showcase of top notch quality work. Waterfront-recreational-retirement high growth area. Prominent location on major highway 2 hrs. north of Toronto. In booming lake district and Canadian Shield lakes, streams, granite, fishing, home of the white pine. Fully set up offices and shop: mortisers, planers, band saws, fork lifts, on 10 acres of development property. Canadian Immigration solved with the investment. Nondisclosure agreement and deposit required for Due Diligence. Call Peter Brady or Linda Beachli, brokers, REMAX Haliburton Highlands Realty Ltd., 877/410-8897 or 705-457-1011.

Houses, equipment.

Guild member Josey Schultz (Haute Route Timber Frames) has been called to live abroad. Must sell both timber frame homes near Helena, Montana—one a 3-br, 2060 sf. home in a suburban setting on 1.67 acres with 1100 sf. shop, the other a 4-br 3000 sf. home (u-finish) in the mountains on 17 treed acres. This is your opportunity to live, work from home, and recreate in the West To view both listings, visit www.montanatimberframes.com.

For sale: New 164,000 BTU LP Gas Burnham Boiler with installation parts \$1000 obo. New UltimateAir Recoupaerator Whole House Air-to-Air exchanger \$1000 obo. hauteroute01@yahoo.com. For all items, call 406/449-0126. Thank you!

Pennsylvania bank barn.

Beautiful barn, 40 ft. 1 in. wide by 33 ft. deep, 4 bents with 3 bays. Package includes original floor joists and main carrying beam, granary, all timbers hand hewn oak with the exception of the following: forebay sill plate (new 6 x 6 rough sawn oak); south wall rafter plate (7 x 9 HH poplar with the outside face being 2 in.; some repair pieces; sawn hemlock rafters. Repairs completed, but timbers not yet power washed. Barn comes with a Pennsylvania engineer's seal. Please direct inquiries to John MacFarland, Tohickon Timber Frames, PO Box 45, Revere, PA 18953, tradtimber@aol.com.

Two barns, circa 1850.

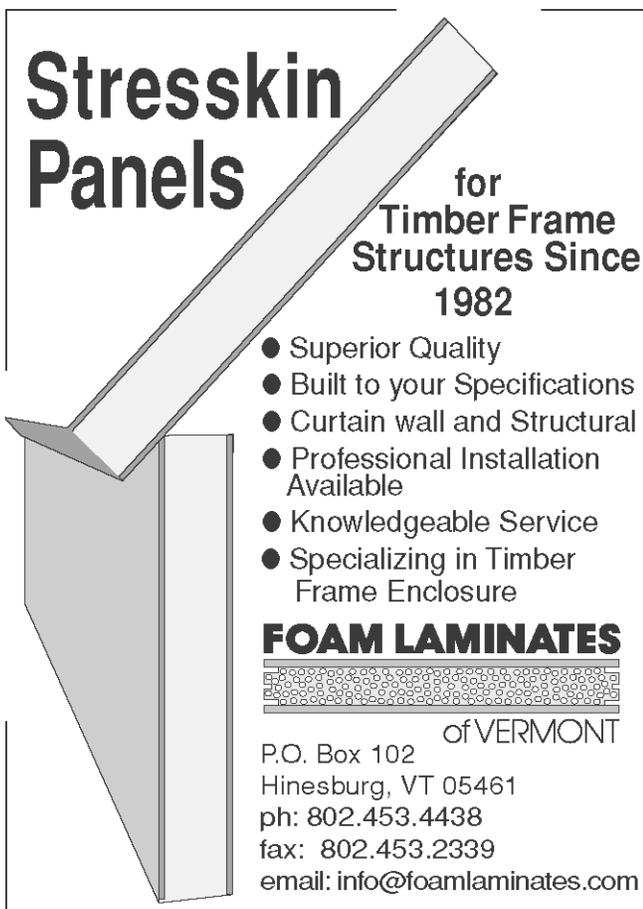
Still standing. Barn 1: 32 x 42 ft., 3 14-ft. bays, all hand-hewn Ottawa Valley white pine. Tie beams (32 ft.) and top plates (42 ft.) are continuous length 10x10s. Side wall posts are 14 ft. high 12 x 12s. There is a 4-ft. knee wall. Barn 2: 38½ ft. x 74 ft. with 3 14-ft. bays and 2 16-ft. bays, both sawn and hand hewn timbers with a mix of white pine, hemlock and ash. Please call Scott Kelly (Ontario) at 613/851-3893.

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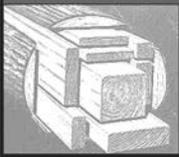
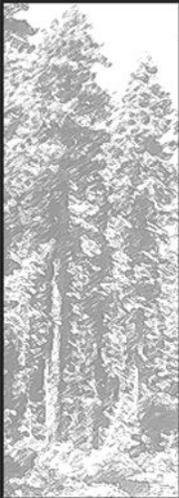
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Workshop frame.

Workshop frame for sale at a great price! 20 x 16-ft., 3-bent frame includes an 8 x 16-ft. attached shed roof addition with scribed tie beams and knee braces. Available August, 2006. For more details, please contact Peter Haney, workshop organizer, 970/482-1366, haneyrnmw@frii.com, www.rockymountainworkshops.com.

Help Wanted

Designers.

Expansion has created some openings in our design department, in drafting and architectural residential design. Must be proficient in AutoCAD or CADworks, have a strong knowledge of the Ontario Building Code (designer stamp a plus) & construction, possess great communication skills and be able to work well under pressure. Company re-locating to Mount Forest, Ont., in Spring, 2006. Salary DOE. Please send résumé to Pauline Jibb-Pacheco at 519/471-1165 or pauline@pinceridgetimberframe.com.

Lead timber framer.

Pacific Post & Beam has an opening for a lead timber framer. Live on the central coast of California and work in a custom square rule shop. Must read plans, lay out joinery, cut timbers and erect frames. Possible work on SIP enclosures. Travel within the state. Supervisory skills helpful. Must be a team player. Benefits. Reach Terry Turney, email mail@pacificpostbeam.com, fax 805/434-3571 or mail to 3450 La Cruz Way, Paso Robles, CA. 93446.

Part-time forest products sales manager.

Looking for entrepreneurial self-starter with knowledge of the lumber industry and sales experience to develop sales for progressive start-up business created to market wood from family woodlots in western Mass. Products are Forest Stewardship Council-certified and meet LEED building criteria. The successful candidate will develop the sales infrastructure including office systems, new accounts, credit analysis, outside sales, order processing, and collections. Product lines include flooring, hardwood and softwood lumber, timbers, and beams. Customer base spans architects, contractors, millworkers, and homeowners in western Mass. Compensation DOE; salary plus commission. Send letter of interest and résumé to Sales Position, Massachusetts Woodlands Cooperative, LLC, 1 Sugarloaf Street, South Deerfield, MA 01373.

Shop foreman/manager/job lead.

Two Dog Timberworks is looking for an experienced TFeR with at least 5 years full-time, professional experience to manage our shop. Organize shop flow, oversee our great crew, cut frames, and lead raisings. Must be able to demonstrate experience with Western softwoods, layout on dimensional & organic material, cutting proficiency, machinery maintenance, job leadership, and strong raising know-how. We are a smaller innovative company that strives to attract challenging projects all over the country. Join us in the beautiful NW corner of Washington State and be a part of a great team that loves what we do! Pay DOE, full benefit package, rewarding work. Contact Laurel or Pete Slisz at 360/366-5350 or email us at info@twodogtimberworks.com.



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Timber frame cutters and lead people wanted.

Trail Ridge Timber Frames is located in the beautiful foothills of northern Colorado. We are a growing company with a fun, progressive work environment. We are looking for motivated individuals with at least 1 year of timber framing experience—education in layout, cutting with power and hand tools, and raisings. Compound joinery, CAD knowledge, construction-carpentry background log and scribe work a plus. Must be a good problem solver, have a strong work ethic, and be a team player. Lead people must have the above skills plus experience in managing employees and projects and working with clients. Wages DOE. Please tell Kathy or Mark Miller, home office 970-203-9305 or shop 970-461-1523.

Timber framers wanted.

BT Timberworks (formerly Big Timberworks) is looking for a few good timber framers with the right stuff—positive attitude, industrious, teachable, and with a desire for a long-term relationship. Check our website at bttimberworks.com, then call Hudson at 406/763-4639 or email HUDSON@bttimberworks.com. Wages DOE. Excellent benefits including possible membership in BT Co-op.

Miscellaneous

Looking for tools.

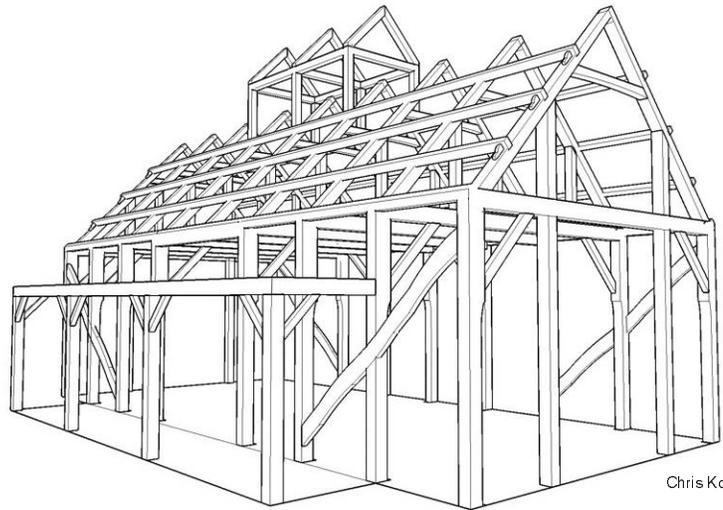
Centennial Timber Frames is looking for a Makita Chisel Mortiser and a Makita Stationary Router. Please reach Mike Konesh with any pertinent information. 406/755-8114, centennial@centurytel.net.

Boat shed project gets closer: call for instructors

THE LONG ISLAND SEAPORT AND ECO CENTER (LISEC) boat shed project, scheduled for September 20–30, 2006, is progressing. Preliminary frame design for the Bayles Boat Shed is nearly complete, and the puzzle pieces are falling into place for what promises to be an interesting event. Current discussions are focusing on designing for significant wind loads while sticking with some nifty historic joinery (as yet undesigned) and using a mixture of scribe and square rule layout.

Interested in playing along? We're looking for a few instructors and more volunteers. If you're interested, please tell the project committee at projects@tfguild.org or call me at 920/946-3906 as soon as possible. The deadline for submission of a statement of interest, for both experienced instructors and capable rookies, is March 1. Be sure your resume is on file. To check, you can call Sue Warden at the Guild office, 413/623-9926.

—Chris Koehn



Chris Koehn



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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