



Timber Framers Guild Regional Meeting: North Central Gathering

Updated May 23, 2015

July 10-12, 2015

North House Folk School

www.northhouse.org

888-387-9762

Timbers to tenons, posts to purlins, pegs to pizza (wood-fired, that is)! Plans for the 2015 North-Central Regional Timber Framers Guild Meeting are coming together. We hope you can join us. The 2015 TF Gathering will be filled to overflowing with all things timber framing – seminars, storytelling, pre-gathering course offerings and abundant woodchips.

ABOUT THE GATHERING

North House Folk School is honored and excited to host the 2015 North-Central Regional Meeting in collaboration with the Timber Framers Guild. Our campus' five timbered classroom buildings include two historic warehouses built in the 1930's by the CCC. Over 100 timber frames have been built at North House as part of [our timber framing curriculum](#) since the school's inception in 1997.

The Gathering is open to anyone with an interest in timber framing. A modest registration fee (\$55 early bird, \$65 regular) will cover participation in all Friday-Sunday activities (including three meals). Separate registration is required for the pre-Gathering courses.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

Open House Gathering & Timber Frame Tour: 6-9 pm

We'll kick things off in northern fashion with an opportunity to see old friends & meet new ones. At 7pm, Peter Henrikson, lead timber frame instructor at North House, will lead a tour of the buildings that have been built by students on campus. We'll enjoy pints from Grand Marais's latest microbrewery, Voyageur Brewing.

SATURDAY, JULY 11

Speaker Series kick-off: 9:00 am

All sessions are open to registered participants and will be about one hour in length.

8:30 Coffee & Introductions

9:00 Energy Efficient Building & Renewables with John Bergstrom

10:00 Rebuilding the Gwozdzic Synagogue: An International TFG Project with Gerald David

11:00 An Advance on Mitered-type Joinery with Robert W. Chambers

12:00 Lunch provided

1:00 TBA

2:00-5:00 Hands-On Demonstrations: timber carving, blacksmithing, hewing, log joinery

Wood-fired Pizza Bake: 5:30 pm

There's nothing like handmade pizza cooked in a wood-fired oven. We'll provide tasty dough, sauce and one (really!) hot oven. Roll up your sleeves and get ready to roll your own: you won't want to miss it. Bring a topping of your choice to share: we'll create quite a smorgasbord of options.



Evening Slide Show Series: 7:00 pm

Been doing something interesting? Bring your jump drive and share your work with the group. We'll have a laptop and projector ready to go. Everyone is invited to share up to 10 slides and a few stories in this informal setting. Sign-up in the office earlier in the day, just to keep things (slightly) organized. Please bring your pictures on a jump drive that will work in a PC.

SUNDAY, JULY 12

Brunch and Keynote Speaker Jeff Arvin, TFG Director: 10:00 am

We'll wrap up the weekend with brunch and conversation. We will be joined by Jeff Arvin, the new executive director of the Timber Framers Guild. A native Hoosier and former educator, Jeff honed his timber framing skills at Riverbend Timber Framing, in Blissfield, Mich., in the shop and then teaching and managing workshops before starting and running Cascade Joinery in Bellingham, WA for 20 years. He was an early member of the Guild board and served as president for two years of his board tenure. Jeff will discuss the current focus of the Guild and future plans.

SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES

9:00 am Energy Efficient Building & Renewables with John Bergstrom

Building in cold climates requires careful planning and consideration of the latest options and well as the tried-and-true methods for heating and energy efficiency. John Bergstrom, founder and co-owner of Energy Plus, a fireplace and stove store pursuing energy efficient heating in Duluth, will lead a discussion of renewable energy sources and cold climate energy efficient building can be integrated with timber frames. John has over 35 years of experience heating cold climate houses with renewables and is the co-owner of the company *Conservation Technologies* which has been installing solar systems and does energy efficient building consulting.

10:00 am Rebuilding the Gwozdziec Synagogue: An International TFG Project with Gerald David

In May and June of 2011, Gerald David traveled with a group of 25 TFG professional volunteers to southeastern Poland, where they had signed up for 6 weeks of hand tool work to recreate the Gwozdziec Synagogue. Once there, they converted silver fir logs into timbers using saws and axes, then joining the timbers to frame the roof of the destroyed Gwozdziec synagogue. During the six weeks four groups of college students cycled through to learn the craft and execute the project. In January of 2013 a much smaller group returned to install this synagogue in the brand new Museum of the History of Polish Jews in downtown Warsaw. The challenge there was to fit together dried and twisted beams that had been stored in stacks for a year and a half. In addition, hand-painted colorful ceiling boards were installed, restoring the synagogue to its past glory.

11:00 am An Advance on Mitered-type Joinery with Robert W. Chambers

Log home builders have been using "mitered" log joinery for more than 20 years. Each log is placed one at a time into position over lines snapped onto a floor deck, and are then "lofted" up onto logs, and the edges of its joints are then marked. Lofting is a technique used for many centuries to build boats and other structures with complex three-dimensional shapes. Building mitered log trusses by this older lofted /mitered method has three substantial problems: One, Most log builders don't have a large, level, smooth, strong, flat deck to use for lofting the logs. Two, Mitered joints don't always look good—for example, the rafter-tail to tie-beam joint often needs a lot of drawknife work to make the edges of the joinery match each other. Three, the lofting method is slow because drawing the lofting lines on the deck is fussy, and the logs can only be marked (lofted) one log at a time -- definitely slow.



My new truss layout and construction method solves all three problems. My new method does not need a layout deck, and it does not use a full-size drawing of the truss. There is no lofting. All truss members can be laid-out and cut simultaneously, instead of one at a time. This speeds up production dramatically. And the joints do not need as much 'cleaning up' — they fit better first time -- and are much better in appearance than traditional mitered joinery. The new method also produces results that structural engineers want in joinery: Large, flat, hidden surfaces that transfer loads easily and safely, large resistance to withdrawal or separation of joints (resists uplift loads of high winds and seismic events), and an exterior (foot) angle that always bisects the included angle, for all roof slopes, which is critical for safe transfer of thrust to bottom chord.

1:00 pm TBA

SATURDAY DEMONSTRATIONS: 2-5PM

Multiple craftsmen will demonstrate a variety of skills. Observe techniques up close, get a chance to ask detailed questions and perhaps even try your hand.

Jock Holmen	Timber Carving
Tom Latane	Blacksmithing
Robert Chambers	Log Joinery
Craig Roost	Hewing

PRE-GATHERING HANDS-ON COURSEWORK

Participate in a hands-on, positive learning environment and register for an event course. Timber frame courses prior to the Gathering will range in length from one to five days. To review all of the currently scheduled North House courses in Calendar Format visit the July 2015 calendar. Registration required. Tuition and materials fees vary.

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| • German-Style Timber Framing - 5 days | July 6-10 |
| • Timber Carving Tutorial- 3 days | July 7-10 |
| • Knock, Knock: Norse Ring Handle Door Hardware - 3 days | July 8 |
| • Timber Frame Engineering: An Introduction - 1 day | July 9 |
| • Timber Frame Roof and Truss Engineering- 1 day | July 10 |
| • Sketching Up Your Timber Frame- 1 day | July 10 |
| • Advanced Mitered Log Joinery -1 day | July 10 |

North House Folk School is an independent educational nonprofit committed to enriching lives and building community by teaching traditional northern crafts in a student-centered learning environment that inspires the hands, the heart and the mind. During 2012, North House served more than 1,750 students through hands-on coursework and more than 13,000 people participated in North House's educational programs.

With 140 instructors and 350 plus courses, educational programming is offered throughout the year at North House Folk School. Call 218-387-9762 for a free course catalog or to register for courses. Additional information is available at www.northhouse.org.

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North House Folk School
P.O. Box 759 – 500 West Highway 61
Grand Marais, Minnesota 55604

218-387-9762
888-387-9762
www.northhouse.org
info@northhouse.org

