

GLLCA

Great Lakes Log Crafters Association

*'Promoting Excellence
in the
Handcrafted Tradition'*

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Fall 2017 Newsletter

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Mark Your Calendar:

2018 Conference
Cove Point Lodge
Beaver Bay, MN

April 26-29



2017 Conference in Seeley, WI

Site Visits, Lectures, Demonstrations, Lumberjack Games

The 2017 Annual Conference was held June 2-4 in Seeley, WI, a favorite location. Three years ago in 2014 was the previous conference held in Seeley, and at that time the Association had an educational build project. The fruit of that project was sold and this year the conference attendees got to visit the final site for the shell and meet its new owners, the Salisburys.

The shell is on its final foundation with a roof, doors, and window on. At the time of the tour, there was still finishing work to be done inside, but it was great to tour it and see the progress they had already made.

Like so many log homes, it was already accented with an Eastern Phoebe nesting on an exterior wall! See more pictures and summaries of our 2017 conference on page six!

DAMP PROOFING POSTS

by Ronn Hann

Normally, I have a welding shop flame cut donuts out of steel plate to act as shims and a moisture barrier between the concrete piers and the wooden post. I cast a vertical one inch threaded rod in the concrete or I have Hilti drilled a hole for the rod "post mortem".

I just happened to be in the fitness isle at my local Wally World and spotted bar bell weights by Gold Gym. These come in 6-12" diameters and about one inch thickness epoxy painted cast iron with a 1" diameter center hole. An added feature is the casting allows for air movement under the post. The cost is \$7.00 to \$15.00 per weight depending on diameter and weight.

I have several deck and porch posts to change due to rot in their lower extremities and will be test driving these "free weights".



Great Lakes Log Crafters Association

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The GLLCA is an organization of professional log builders and others interested in the art of handcrafting log structures. GLLCA exists for "PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN THE HANDCRAFTED TRADITION."

Staining Log Home

by Frank Vanderveur

It was time to replace the old stain product on our log home with something that would resist the UV rays better and last longer. We started using a stripping product recommended by the stain company that we were going to use on our log home. I hired a pressure washing company that used this product and then would use his mobile pressure washing unit to clean the logs. This company used hot water @ 250 degrees. In some places, like logs all the way under the roof overhang, the stripping product was used twice. This crew did an excellent job and were very precise, staying 1/8" away from the lateral grooves and notches. After four days of drying, they went over it with sandpaper to take the fuzz off the logs. Later I fine-tuned the cleaning of the logs with 60-grit sandpaper using the 5" orbital sander. Every inch of the logs was covered by this procedure. The fine sawdust residue was blown off using a gas-powered blower, followed by high-powered air pressure. Because this project was started in September, the days are getting shorter and the temperatures are dropping. Also, at the same time, the newly-seeded CRP land directly across the road from us which comprised of beautiful purple wild flowers started releasing their seeds.... small, white, fluffy, and by the millions. I call them thistles. They are the nemesis of my wife and me!

After the sanding and cleaning process, I applied Penetreat on the logs. After five days of drying, I started applying the first coat of this stain product. It took in a good amount of stain on the first coat, meaning that the wood pores were open to absorb the stain. A second coat was applied after three days or more just to give the first coat a chance to cure. (Remember, the temps are dropping.) It was challenging picking out the staining days, due to unusual amounts of rain for the month of September/October. Rain was either in the forecast before, during or after a prospective stain day, or the temperatures didn't warm up fast enough, or cooled down too early in the evening, to allow for

proper drying times. Another challenge was the direction of the wind, which would carry all the white fluffy seeds from across the road to our freshly stained, sticky logs, almost resembling blizzard conditions! Because I ran out of warm enough fall days, a third coat of stain will be applied as needed on the top half of the logs exposed to the sun next year spring.

The product that I used before did not hold up as good as expected due to the location of our log home and the harsh climate we have here. It probably will do well in areas with mild winters and summers with a lot of overcast days. This is just my opinion. The hot water pressure washer did an excellent job taking off the old stain and dirt. At the end of the day there was pulp laying on the ground, meaning the outer layer of the log was carefully removed without damaging the log fibers.

CLASSIFIEDS

Spar Log Peeler For Sale – Price Just Reduced

Works excellent for debarking green logs or finish peeling seasoned logs. Last chance to see operating as

It must be moved by fall 2017. \$15,000

Call 715-491-1687 or Check it out

@ ojibwa-loghomes.com/going out of business sale



House Logs Available

Red & White Pine

30' to 60' Lengths w/ 12"+ tips

Peeling & Kiln Drying Available

Call Sam Williams (715) 630-4135 for details

Cordwood Project



pictures by Stu Bridge via Bob Kenel

Stu Bridge build this shed in his back yard with leftover log ends and glass bottles. He built the shed as a practice building for perfecting some mortaring techniques in the cordwood/wootle walls, and also some stone work in the stem walls.



Next year he plans to build a larger cabin using what he learned on building the shed project. The little building has gotten a lot of attention because it is unique and very visible on his road.



On the shed he wanted to create larger timber corners because he finds them to be defining and solid-looking. They were another use for log leftovers he was glad he had available. All the vertical cordwood pieces at the corners next to the posts are the pine leftover from the 2014 building project.



The log ends have no finish on them so they can 'breathe' within the walls, but the posts themselves have multiple coats of Thompson's Waterseal because they are more exposed to the weather and ground.

The darker wood in the 'tree' side of the shed is cherry wood he used from two trees in the yard. They were failing, and although he was sad to see them go, he was happy to mill out a lot of plain lumber.

All the cord wood was air dried for two years before using, in order to get a consistent moisture content.



conference continued from page 1

To right the 2017 GLLCA attendees approach the erected cabin from the 2014 educational building project. The Salisburys opened their home for members to explore.



Besides touring the Salisburys' new cabin/home from the 2014 building project, the conference attendees also visited Donovan Dum's completed home.

The Association visited Donovan's dovetail home in its early stages during the 2014 conference, so it was interesting to come back and visit three years later.

In addition to touring the Dums home, attendees learned the ins and outs of energy efficiency audits on log homes with a demonstration by Mike Senty.

With a blower door test and thermal imaging, Mike showed how to calculate the air exchanges per hour, how to find any weaknesses of air infiltration points, and how to remedy for better energy efficiency.





Presenters lectured on topics such as saddle notches, invasive species, spray foam insulation, and log accents. There were hands-on demonstrations on sharpening and maintaining tools.



lumberjack games



It wasn't all education at the 2017 Conference. Speed chopping and hot saw demonstrations by a Lumberjack World Championship competitor, and everyone got in on our own lumberjack games: axe throwing and the caber toss (log throwing).



Q: How many log builders does it take to hang a target?

A: Seven.



President's Corner

There can be comfort with the familiar, nostalgia for returning home, and that was certainly the case with our 2017 Conference in Seeley. Sure, we were there at the Sawmill Saloon three years prior in 2014, which provided some great before-and-after bookended project site visits; but I am thinking back a few years more. I'm not sure what year it was, but it must have been the mid-90's. Not to betray my youth, but I was around middle-school age and not very involved or intuned with the conference activities, just chilling upstairs at the Sawmill Saloon and enjoying whatever distraction I had discovered. I always loved attending GLLCA conferences with my folks as a kid, even if I was just wandering off getting lost in the adjacent woods somewhere.

Fast-forward to 2017 and we were back at the Sawmill Saloon in Seeley for the Annual GLLCA Conference. This time my father had passed, but I had my 8-month-old son in tow. Tradition had continued, but roles had changed. As I write this, am searching for some lesson to be gained, some kind of metaphor, or a moral to the story to apply to log homes or our association. I'm coming up short. So maybe this is nothing more than some nostalgic musing triggered by a recent gathering, serving to fill some blank space in the newsletter. Maybe. Or maybe it's a reminder to myself and others that what we do is important. The 35 years of tradition we have continued with annual GLLCA gatherings, and the bigger pictures of centuries old tradition of building with logs and enjoying their natural comfort.

Whatever, if anything, is to be gained from this nostalgic musing, I just hope we can remember that what we do is important. Explore new things and new places, but keep the traditions alive and continue a legacy. Keep the legacy of log and timber structures building strong into the future. So we'll see you at the next conference! It's a 35-year-old tradition, but next year in a new location.

See you at Cove Point Lodge in Beaver Bay, MN, April 26-29, 2018!



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If a bullet is shot into a tree, how far does it go? About half-way. Some hunter missed, and later his bullet was found by the Dums while running timber on their sawmill at The Natural Log Home. What are the odds?