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## Preventable Log Home Rot

by Frank Vanderveur



As I was removing rotted log material from a log home, I realized that one of the reasons for the rot was a short roof that was dumping water on the logs and deck (Pic. # 1). The gutters were installed about one year ago. As I was working on this side under the roof overhang, water was dripping from both ends of the gutter. This was during the time that the temps in February were around 40 degrees F. and all the snow on the roof was melting. Whoever installed the gutters didn't seal the ends off with caulk or silicone, causing the water to run between the seam of the gutter and end cap (Pic. #2). All this water ran down on the logs to the deck.

*continued on page 3*

**Pic. #1**



### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As we roll into another construction season....I am reminded quite often of the log craftsman that have come before us and really put the log construction industry on a platform of quality. We need to continue to make those personal connections, embrace quality over quantity and continue to improve the product we are providing. There is no better place to see these in action then our GLLCA Annual conference in Land O Lakes, WI at the end of April. It will be a jam packed wknd of fellowship, information and public relations. I hope to see all old and New faces:) Get registered, so we can properly account for everyone:)

Nate Heim, GLLCA President

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### 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."

Pic. #2



*prevention continued from page 1*

In this same corner of the log home that I was working on, the owner reported there was water on the bedroom floor next to the sliding door. By looking up I noticed that the exterior lights were mounted against the log, creating a gap between the log and the top of the light fixture where water can run into (Pic. # 3). This picture shows the light fixture where I applied some caulk for a temporary fix. This water followed the electrical wires all the way down to the floor where it exited onto the floor. To properly mount this light fixture to prevent water infiltration, the area on the log which the light fixture is attached to needs to be cut, sanded flat, and plumb. Then a mounting block (like a 2x6) should be attached to the log which will receive the light fixture (Pic. # 4). All of these parts should then be sealed and caulked.

Frank Vanderveur

Pic. #3



Pic. #4



# THE PALLET SHED

BY DUANE SELLMAN

Last summer, I constructed a shed with no cash outlay. It was turned into a garage for my Kubota L-2501 tractor. I have been described as a “pack rat” or “hoarder”, but I think of myself as a “conservationist”. Our country is way too wasteful. There is so much that goes into the landfill that should be reused for something.

My neighbor asked me if I had a use for some big heavy duty pallets ? They had been used to ship some big machinery to a machinery show and back. These machines pack products into cases, palletize the cases and shrink wrap the pallets for shipping. This company builds these machines. They had 9 pallets that measured about 8' x 26'. The top was entirely out of 2 x 8's spiked onto stringers consisting of twenty-four 2 x 4's on edge spiked together. Twelve on each edge and 5 in the middle. There were also 1/2" lag bolts anchoring the ends of the 2 x 8's for the first 8 or 10 feet where the forklift 10' extensions would be applying stress as the pallet was lifted.

I hauled about 3 pallets home on my 20' car hauler trailer. To cut them off at 18' or 20', I used my chainsaw and then the battery sawzall after making contact with the spikes. I dulled 2 chains and drained a couple batteries on my Makita sawzall. Next time I better bring an extension cord and the corded sawzall.

When I got home, I used my rough terrain Pettibone 7-1/2 ton crane to lift and position the pallets. The site work involved cutting brush, making fire wood out of one punky oak log that was in inventory about 15 years – too long, and moving 2 piles of assorted treasurers. The first 20' pallet sits on the ground with a slight slope so any water on the floor will run off instead of puddling. My electric impact driver made short work of removing the 4" and 6" lag bolts as the protruding heads and washers would have been inconvenient to trip over. The 2<sup>nd</sup> pallet was positioned for a wall while hanging from the crane using a 5'x8' pallet standing on end as a brace to keep it vertical and perpendicular to the floor. The 3<sup>rd</sup> pallet for the opposite wall was braced from the 2<sup>nd</sup> pallet with dimensional lumber or slabs from my sawmill. I used a 12' pallet to extend the 20' floor to 32'. To complete the walls to 32', I stood 8' pallets on end to support the 4 x 6 top plate temporarily hanging from the crane's skyhook. Lots of diagonal bracing with 3 service doors and an 8' door on one end and the walls were completed.

For the roof, I used 3 standard weight pallets measuring 5'x12'. This gave me a foot overhang on the high side (6" higher than low side) and 3' on the low side for a little more roof only storage area. Now diagonal bracing could be added between the roof and walls to improve the structural integrity. To complete the roof to 32', I used rough sawn 2 x 6 rafters I salvaged from a log house in Jackson, Minnesota which Nate Heim had built. They had been the temporary bracing for the roof structure. On top of the rafters, I had 1" thick strapping of pine or maple (some with live edge) to screw the 13' white pole barn tin. I ran out of 13' tin so I used some odds and ends for the last few pieces. This tin had come out of a tin can manufacturing plant which was being decommissioned in St. Paul, Minnesota. My high school buddy, (yeah, yeah we go way back – the Class of 1970!), had gotten these from a friend to put walls on his deer stand we made out of a u-haul moving box measuring 5'x8' and 7' high mounted on an old single snowmobile trailer. While hauling the tin home, we also scored about 8 sheets of 3/4" plywood from their discard pile. Those are expected to be the floor when I build my next shed using up some yard barn frames I BOUGHT from Stock Lumber's clearance pile at \$7.00 per frame probably 25 years ago. I currently have 3 yard barn sheds from that purchase with pole barn tin I BOUGHT from Menards @ \$.50/l.f.

All these pallets have spacing to let the wind blow through. To stop the wind, I put on either ¼” plywood or old billboard tarps which had cracks making them no longer water proof. Eventually I will cover the tarps with something. So far 5 sheets of rusty corrugated tin on 1 end.

The 8’ door on the west end is a ¼” plywood panel with a 1x4 frame from a shipping container which a printing machine had been shipped in. This closes against a 32” service door. The 2 doors close off the 8’ opening.

One other stabilizing force is two 5” oak trees I cut off to allow the 3’ overhang. Two of the pallets are screwed to the top of the tall stumps to give rigidity to the structure. Needless to say, this is not a forever structure. With no foundation and using the material on hand, there was no cash outlay for this pallet shed. I am 74 years old so I am confident it will outlast me!

My 5’x8’ pallet to temporarily brace the first wall is now permanent. It now helps support a shelf and countertop.

This company has pallets to dispose of often enough that they have a semi-trailer at one of their loading docks continually. When it is full, they pay someone \$600 to haul them away. They get ground up into mulch or fuel pellets. But now they have a source (me) to haul them away for free!

I may try disassembling a pallet for the 2x8’s but that sounds like a lot work!

This article makes me sound like a “scavenger” or scrounger.” Although I can’t disagree with that description, the terms “conservationist” or “environmentalist” has a higher class sound to it. I know you all think of me as “high class.”

As I proofread this article, I am enjoying my morning coffee and watching up to 2 dozen gold finches and assorted chick-a-dees, juncos, nuthatches, downy and hairy woodpeckers and red-bellied woodpeckers (the ones with a grey belly and red on top of the head. Whoever named it “red-bellied” was a little mixed up). Those little buggers go through \$40.00 worth of sunflower hearts about every 3 weeks. Life as a “conservationist” is GREAT!

Have a great day.



# Well, What if We Tried This..?

By KC Brockel, WeatherWize, GLLCA Board Member

## A Realization

My first big realization after joining the GLLCA left me feeling under the gun: “We had better learn all we can from these older guys before the tricks of the trade are lost with those who’ve been holding on to them. And if we don’t, that knowledge could be lost forever.” And though I will never turn my nose at an opportunity to learn from those more experienced than I in this field of log crafting, I have since changed my stance that the only way to learn is from the horse’s mouth.

## Crafting Excellence

I have watched myself and those around me constantly improve our abilities and technical approaches to logwork over the past few years. I have learned so many different processes and tricks, and though much of it stemmed from this community, it continues to flourish without the help of outside knowledge. Trial and error on the job and bouncing ideas off each other help us determine the most effective way of doing things. We’re looking for the best results with the least amount of effort required. By we, I mean the young bucks.

## There’s Always Got to Be a Better Way

Within my crews I have seen many different approaches to face log and corner replacements, we’ve found different tools to muscle around heavy logs one may have overlooked, we’ve tried different jigs to rip ever-straighter logs on site, and we’re constantly improving our log selection skills to save time reshaping logs. All these things are in an attempt to make life easier and inch the final product closer to perfection. Nearly all of these improvements, nearly every single one came from one young buck saying to another, “Well, what if we tried this?”

## The Passion Drives Our Progression

None of this is to say we don’t appreciate the wisdom of those who’ve spent years in the industry, because we most certainly appreciate all of you. What I have learned is, our passion for logwork drives our progression to better our processes by whatever means we see fit. All this is to say: there’s hope for us young bucks to carry on this tradition. Both by the old-fashioned ways, and also by ways that best fit the modern era and the tools we have at our disposal. We are using our heads to be resourceful, just like those who came before us, using the very same old-fashioned concepts. And for us, that constant progression keeps the passion alive.

# 2026 GLLCA Spring Conference

By Mary Wait

The Great Lakes Log Crafters Association (GLLCA) will host its 2026 Spring Conference on April 24–25, bringing together log builders, suppliers, and industry professionals for two days of education, demonstrations, and networking.

This year's conference will be held at the Northern Waters Resort and Conference center located in Watersmeet MI. Friday's program begins with an opening presentation from John Boyes of Nicola Log Works. Attendees will then enjoy a Stihl chainsaw demonstration led by Danny Deetz of Stihl, followed by Jesse Woods of Lake Country Log and Cedar, who will present "Wood Treating with Boodge," sharing advancements and updates in techniques for protecting and maintaining log structures.

Afternoon sessions will focus on technical and industry issues. Joe Miller of Fire Tower Engineering will discuss important engineering topics related to log construction, while Greg Baas will address current trends and challenges in building technology, including issues commonly encountered during log home inspections. The day concludes with a Tool Talk and Round Table Discussion featuring the Milwaukee Tool trailer with live demonstrations of the newest Milwaukee tools. Supper and the always-popular GLLCA Auction will round out the day's events.

Saturday will begin with the GLLCA Annual General Meeting, led by President Nate Heim. Educational sessions will include Nate Demers, who will present "Leveraging Business Tools and Scaling Experience," focusing on strategies for growing a successful building business. Cameron Wait, Matt Delgado, and Ben Dorn will share highlights and insights from the Mass Timber Conference, discussing developments in timber construction.

After lunch, Perry Camodeca Sr. and Perry Camodeca Jr. of Midwest Certified Insurance Agency will discuss ever-changing insurance issues and trends affecting log builders. Nate Heim will also present "Maximizing Your Knowledge and Craft into Passive Income – Log AirBNB Construction," exploring opportunities for builders to expand into short-term rental projects. The conference will conclude with a presentation by Joe Hovel on land conservation, exploring the economic, environmental, social, and intrinsic benefits of conserving forest land. His session will be followed by an optional field trip to Wildcat Falls Community Forest, located about 8 miles northwest of the conference venue. Participants will take a short but vigorous hike of less than a mile to the falls—an area known for its unique natural beauty and significance. While the presentation will discuss the broader benefits of conservation, the field trip will offer attendees a chance to experience the intrinsic value of this special landscape firsthand.

The 2026 GLLCA Spring Conference continues to provide a valuable opportunity for members to learn from industry experts, share ideas, and strengthen connections within the log building community.



## Heim Log Homes gives trees lost in Bemidji storm a second life

While it's been estimated that approximately 9 million trees were lost in the June 21 storm that swept through Bemidji, thanks to Heim Log Homes, 122 of those trees are living on.

*by Annalise Braught*

*Reprinted with permission from Bemidji Pioneer Press*

Kendra Heim and her husband, Nate, own and operate the Kelliher-based log home company, which started in 1980 and specializes in restoring and building handcrafted log homes all over the country. Due to the Heim family's deep ties to the area, along with Kendra running Heim Realty in Bemidji, the morning after the storm hit, they started receiving dozens of calls from folks with downed trees — primarily red and white pines — they thought could be worth salvaging.



“Right away, Nate went and got his loader truck and crane, with our big focus being on helping people get these trees off their roofs,” Kendra recalled. “My father-in-law came up that very next morning after the storm and we kind of made it a team effort. Altogether, we took anywhere from 45 to 55 trees just off roofs.”

*continued on page 10*



## a second life



After building a relationship with the city years ago by constructing the pavilions at both Diamond Point and Cameron Parks, the Heims also received a call from city workers about collecting trees from the parks following the storm.

Diamond Point was hit especially hard, leaving a now-sparse landscape after it was hit badly by a storm in July 2024, and a majority of the remaining large trees were toppled during the storm this year.

“We had probably about three big loader trucks full of logs just from Diamond Point that we salvaged, a lot of red and white pine,” Kendra said.

She explained that the majority of the white pine from Diamond Point is being used for timbers, tongue-and-groove, accents and log home features, while the red pine has been used for constructing log homes due to the wood’s increased structural integrity.

“We’ve already used some of the logs in a build on a home for a couple in Wisconsin that was just finished,” she added. “We also used some of the white pine from Diamond Point for log accents in a family cabin being built up on Red Lake. And a lot of the other logs are already claimed for future builds, so it’s really nice that we can repurpose them.”



This isn't the first time the family has collected logs from the community, Kendra said, as they went through something similar after a bad storm hit the area in 2016.

"We weren't doing it for money, we just wanted to help," Kendra said. "I know we took a lot of trees off of state troopers', law enforcement and teachers' houses. Not that it was our criteria, but we met and helped a lot of nice people. We were able to tarp up some people's roofs to make sure they were weatherproof. Since, of course, it had to rain the next day."

The couple lives north of town near Buena Vista, around the area where the storm died out, so they were lucky to only have one tree down in their own yard, allowing them to give all of their focus to others who were severely impacted without a moment's hesitation.

"We were really lucky, and so I said to Nate, 'We have to go help, just think about all of these people that are getting knocks on their doors from tree companies saying, well, for \$6,000, I can clean up your trees.' "

And she knew they couldn't charge for their assistance.

"Some people don't have the means to run a chainsaw. They don't have thousands of dollars to remove a necessary tree going through their living room, or fix a big hole that's causing water damage in their kitchen," Kendra added. "So I knew we needed to go help, but we couldn't charge people to do this."

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## a second life

*second life continued from page 11*

In the midst of their efforts, Kendra said they heard many stories of tree companies coming from outside the area attempting to charge people thousands just for basic tree removal.

“If somebody had to pay \$3,000 to remove a tree from their roof — like some of these costs were astronomical — they can’t pay their mortgage the next few months. And that’s just so defeating for so many people,” Kendra said. “So we definitely tried to do our part in helping and in trying to mitigate that issue.”

While the service was simply a neighborly act of kindness for the Heims, it was also a way to help repurpose the logs and give the lost trees a second life.

“We didn’t necessarily need the logs, but it allowed us to get them out of people’s way who didn’t need them,” she added. “And we can repurpose the logs, and it feels good to be able to salvage and reuse them.”

As many have shared since the storm, Kendra was pleasantly surprised at the humanity she and her family witnessed in those first several days as the community worked to recover from the devastation.



“It was really great to see the community come together and how people were raking each other’s yards and just pitching in to do whatever was needed,” she left off. “And what was pretty awesome was in 72 hours, you could really see how much was done and it was really nice to see people come together and get things cleaned up.”

*By Annalise Braught*

*Annalise is the editor and a photographer at the Bemidji Pioneer. She is a Mass Communication graduate from Bemidji State University and has a Supervisory Management degree from Northwest Technical College. Her favorite pastime is exploring the great outdoors and capturing its natural beauty on camera. Contact Annalise at (218) 333-9796 or [abraught@bemidjipioneer.com](mailto:abraught@bemidjipioneer.com).*

# GLLCA 2026 Conference Schedule

## Friday, April 24, 2026

Time	Topic	NAME
8:00-9:00	REGISTRATION	
9:00-10:00	Tentative	John Boyes/ GLLA presenter
10:00-11:00	Stihl Chainsaw Demo	Danny Deetz (Stihl) ??
11:00--12:00	Wood Treating With Boodge	Jesse Woods Lake Country Log and Cedar
12:00-1:00	LUNCH	
1:00-2:00	Engineering Topics	Joe Miller- Fire Tower Engineering
2:00-3:00	Trends/changes in building tech tions	Greg Baas- Log Home Issues with Inspec-
3:00-3:15	BREAK	
3:15-6:00	Tool Talk/ Round Table Discussion	Milwaukee tool trailer/TOOL TALK
6:00-7:00	SUPPER	
7:00-???	AUCTION	

## Saturday April 25, 2026

Time	Topic	NAME
8:00-10:00	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Nate Heim, President GLLCA
10:00-10:15	BREAK	
10:15-11:15	Leveraging Business Tools/	GLLCA presenter- Nate Demers
11:15-12:00	Mass Timber Conference	Cameron Wait, Matt Delgado, Ben Dorn
12:00-1:00	LUNCH	
1:00-2:00	Insurance issues for Log Builders	Midwest Certified Insurance Agency
2:00-3:00	Log Air BNB Construction."	GLLCA presenter- Nate Heim
3:00-3:15	BREAK	
3:15-6:00	Land Conservation/Wildcat Falls	JOE HOVEL
6:00-7:00	SUPPER	
7:00-???	Slide Show	

# GLLCA

Great Lakes Log Crafters Association

The poster features a composite image. On the left, a log mill is shown cutting a log, with a craftsman in a plaid shirt and cap using a chainsaw. On the right, a large log cabin is situated in a forest. The text is overlaid on this background.

## GREAT LAKES LOG CRAFTERS CONFERENCE 2026 APRIL 24-25, 2026

**TOPICS INCLUDE:**

- Using CNC/Robotics in Log & Timber Construction - John Boyes
- Stihl Chainsaw & Powertools Demo - Danny Deetz
- Wood Preservation With Boodge - Jesse Woods
- Log Span & Load Calculations - Joe Miller
- Building Codes & Inspection Issues - Greg Baas
- Milwaukee Tools "Tool Trailer" - Dan Davies
- Leveraging Business Tools - Nate Demers
- 2026 Mass Timber Update - Frontier Builders, Inc.
- Insurance Issues for Log Builders - Perry Camodeca Sr. & Jr.
- Log Air BNB Construction - Nate Heim
- Land Conservation & Field Trip to Wildcat Falls - Joe Hovel

**REGISTER NOW!  
GLLCA.ORG**