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## Mark Your Calendar:

2019 GLLCA  
Annual Conference  
Forest History Center  
**April 12 & 13**  
Grand Rapids, MN



*by Frank Vanderveur*

### Incorrect design:

Roof overhangs are not wide enough on the eaves. We recommend a minimum of 3 1/2' – 4'.

Roof overhangs are not long enough on the gable ends. We recommend 5'-6'.

When wooden decks are built directly next to the logs in combination with poor roof overhangs, it creates rain water back splashing to the log wall, which eventually creates rot.

A balcony built on top of protruding loft logs must have proper flashing where the protruding log meets the wall and in between the top of the protruding logs and the decking boards.

### Poor craftsmanship:

Not using the correct sized logs, for example, too small diameter loft logs.

Not building to the log building standards/preferences and using unqualified workers to do the job.

Install doors and windows with enough settling space above them. Use the correct gasket between the logs and the window.

*continued on page 3*



## President's Corner

By John Schroeder

**T**he 2019 GLLCA conference will be in my hometown, and I'm truly looking forward to it. If I'm not mistaken, the last time the GLLCA conference was in Grand Rapids, MN, may have been the one I barely remember in the 1990's.

**W**ith a bit of serendipity, we are sponsoring an acoustic duo 'Lost Forty,' playing lumberjack music and the event happens to be the Thursday night before our conference begins. Check them out at [www.thelostforty.com](http://www.thelostforty.com). I invite everyone to come early and stay late, because there is much to do in the area, and we can't fit into the conference schedule. Some highlights include the Lost Forty (the band's namesake) where you can hike among an old growth pine

forest missed by the 1900's clearcut loggers. The Joyce Estates is another fun destination for those who are ambitious to hike to the remains of a 1920's remote log resort of the rich and famous. I might also mention there is a relatively new Klockow Brewing Company in town, that is worth a stop for refreshment.

**I** am particularly excited for our conference location. We are meeting at the Forest History Center, where a recreated 1900 logging camp takes you back in time to the heyday of logging. The site has a village of rustic log structures nestled in the woods where I hope you can find some time to take some leisurely walks that take you through the surrounding woodlands and explore the unique site.

**T**he dates for the conference have bounced around in past years, but as our summers are short and weekends are valuable, we moved the 2019 conference up to a mid-April date. We hope this will open up the calendar for more of our members to attend and share in this great, annual event of education and camaraderie.

**O**ne final note, you'll notice this newsletter is rather short, and most of the length in the last edition comprised heavily of reprinted articles from past issues. GLLCA exists to promote excellence in the handcrafted edition, and one way we do this is by sharing ideas, techniques, opinions and other concepts that can enrich our craft and carry it forward. These articles come from our members, and so I'd like to encourage you all to submit articles, sketches, or photos to strengthen the value of this publication.

### Great Lakes Log Crafters Association

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Great Lakes Log Crafters Association

24355 Esquire Blvd.  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
website: [www.gllca.org](http://www.gllca.org)  
email: [info@gllca.org](mailto:info@gllca.org) phone: 612-590-7133

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."

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## Location of building:

Location of the building is important to eliminate a lot of maintenance and upkeep.

Consider exposure of the building to weather elements.

Constructing a log building (any building) on top of a hill will give the building a daily exposure to the weather on all sides of the building. Driving rain can get in any size opening.

The sun will ruin your finish in a shorter time than when the logs are protected by the shade of the trees which block or filter the sun.

Building too close to the ground will result in rot of the sill logs due to water splashing back and weeds rubbing against the logs.

Two-story buildings are more exposed to weather.

## Building not finished when occupants move in:

Log corners and trim work, especially around the windows and doors, should be caulked. Seals and flashing need to be installed between decks and the log walls. When the logs are dry enough, a follow up of the correct prep work and staining is necessary.

## Poor or no maintenance:

Yearly checking for failure of caulk and stain is necessary. Apply a maintenance coat on the logs when needed, especially sun-exposed sides. Check for caulking of upward-facing checking in logs. Make sure the gutters are cleaned yearly. Clogged gutters and elbows can cause water to run over into your log corners and cause rot.

## Quality of logs used:

How long have logs been laying outside without cover before they are used for construction?

Was there already rot in the logs when harvested? What kind of log species are used? What is the moisture content of the logs? Are they green or dry logs?

Are the logs harvested in the winter or summer? Are the logs right handed or left handed spiral grain? Are the logs straight or banana logs? What is the size of the growth rings? Make sure you select the right size logs for the project that you are working on.

## Conclusion:

All of the above causes of rot can be prevented when we start with the correct design done by somebody who knows log buildings and built by a builder that uses the preferable log building practices. After the log building is built, follow up with the correct preparation work before applying the right stain and caulk. Do a yearly checkup to see how stain, caulk and flashing are holding up.

I have worked on log buildings that are between 10 years and more than 100 years old and are still standing. Doing your research first and following a consistent maintenance schedule will prevent a lot of disappointments.



# 2018 TFG Gathering and GLLCA Conference Review

By John Schroeder

In April of 2018, I attended a Timber Framers Guild regional gathering at the North House Folk School in Grand Marais, MN. I went up early with a local friend who's a contractor friend and interested in getting more into timberframing. We tented out on Devil's Track Lake, but with snow on the ground and ice on the lake, it seemed like winter camping in April. It was a demonstration-packed weekend with over 100 craftsmen in attendance. It was great to hear the excitement for building with timbers and keeping traditional craft alive. There was a handful of other GLLCA members also in attendance.

In May, of course, we all joined together at the annual GLLCA conference. At Cove Point Resort on the North Shore of Lake Superior, the location was nice with a warming sun to offset the cool breeze off the lake. As usual, the weekend was full of log demonstrations, technical lectures, and great camaraderie. Charis Babcock gave a great presentation on the pros and cons of the different kinds of log finishes: deep penetrating vs shallow penetrating vs surface. Duane Sellman demonstrated scribing and cutting a lock notch. Derek Brekke demonstrated glass blasting for surface restoration, and attendees were given a chance to try blasting. Rhea from Northern Bedrock Corps shared their work in historic log building preservation. Mike Senty demonstrated energy efficiency optimization for log. Frank Vanderveur presented on log restoration. Deane Hillbrand demonstrated post and beam techniques and how to scribe and cut joinery on round and irregular logs. Bob Kenel updated the group on collaboration with other associations through the LBLA.

The event was filled with other presentations, demonstrations, and socializing, and it was another good gathering to perpetuate the craft of log building.

The 2019 GLLCA Annual Conference will be at the Forest History Center in Grand Rapids, MN. FHC is a part of the MN Historical Society, and features a recreation 1900 logging camp, woodland trails, and the visitor center where we will be meeting.

We look forward to another successful gathering of log and timber crafters and enthusiasts.

Mark your calendar for April 12 & 13, 2019, and stay tuned for updates!





# GLLCA

Great Lakes Log Crafters Association

*'Promoting Excellence  
in the  
Handcrafted Tradition'*

[www.gllca.org](http://www.gllca.org)

[info@gllca.org](mailto:info@gllca.org)

Winter 2018/19 Newsletter



Forest History Center, Grand Rapids, MN  
April 2019 GLLCA Conference Destination