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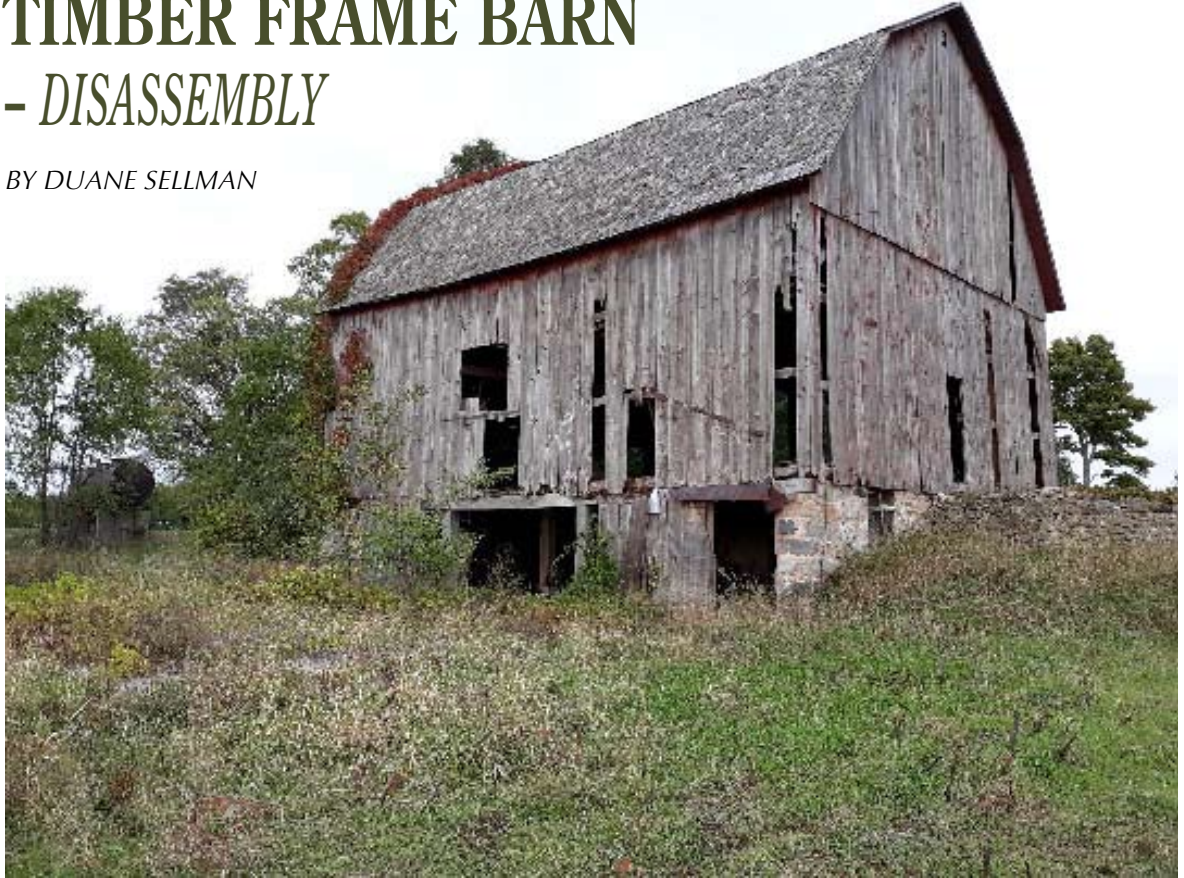
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## Mark Your Calendar:

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

## 100 YEAR OLD TIMBER FRAME BARN - DISASSEMBLY

BY DUANE SELLMAN



I recently helped with the disassembly of a 100 year old timber frame barn approximately 30' x 40'. The owner wanted to salvage the timbers and possibly some siding boards to use when he builds a winery on the same property near Travers City, Michigan.

He rented a 40' telescoping forklift with an 8' man basket. Gary and Jonas were in the man basket with crowbars and I operated the forklift. (There are some advantages of being the "old man" on the crew.) The siding was vertical rough sawn 1" boards up to 20" wide, 12 footers mostly.

After all the siding boards were pried off, we took the man basket off. Using the forks as giant pry bars, I started at the soffit and moved the forks up the roof prying the roof boards up off the 2x6 rafters. The remaining roof shakes were pretty thin. Gary thought these were the original wood shakes. This allowed sections of the roof boards to come off together. Once on the ground, we salvaged the 2x6x10 rafters and put the boards and shingles in the burn pile – BIG burn pile.

*pictures on page 3*



GLLCA members,

The snow is melting and spring has begun to show its signs. Though I typically embrace winter and partake of all its wonder, even I was getting ready for a change in season. The loads of snow and the stretches of sub-zero temperatures are things that I welcome and say, 'Bring it on!' and this winter was a good old-fashioned one.

I found a few moments out of a busy schedule to seek adventure and enjoy the snow through xc-skiing, snowshoeing, and winter camping. One of my drives and brief snowshoe adventures took me to the Eli Wirtanen Pioneer Farm (see back page) in Saint Louis County. The historic compound lets you feel like you're stepping back in time onto an old Finnish pioneer homestead. When I visited, however, the farm was sleeping deeply under a lot of snow. Incidentally, I found out that a number of years ago some restoration work had been done on the farm by GLLCA member Edmunds & Company.

I also got up to Ely to see another historic log compound sleeping in the snow, but starting to awaken with energy to restore it. See a few pictures of the Halfway Ranger Station on page 11. I also made another brief stop at the historic Chippewa National Forest Headquarters in Cass Lake, another log treasure of Minnesota.

At the 2019 conference, we will hear more about the Halfway Ranger Station, as well as another presentation about the Joyce Estates, another log compound of history in Minnesota. Come hear the stories, and get out there exploring to see what old examples of craftsmanship we can share!

We'll see you at the Forest History Center on April 12 & 13 (or if you are coming into town early, I hope to see you at Klockow Brewing Company the evening preceding)!

-John Schroeder  
President, GLLCA

### Great Lakes Log Crafters Association

John Schroeder - President  
Duane Sellman- Treasurer  
Mike and Deb Hansen- Director  
Nathan Heim- Director  
Hank Petit- Director  
Frank Vanderveur- Director  
Mark Webber- Director  
Donovan Dums- Past President  
Ron Heim, Jerry Koski- Trustees  
Kay Sellman- Business Manager

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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."



*'dissassembly' continued from page 1*



*continued on page 4*



*'dissassembly' continued from page 3*



Once we had the frame mostly stripped, we considered the condition of the rotten posts and beams and the limited time we had to do this, we decided to pull or push the frame down. This damaged some joints and members but this loss was acceptable considering the time we saved. To take it apart piece by piece would have scared me because some beams had extensive decay. One corner post was practically air borne. The barn's main floor had sagging log joists under it which had decay or breaks in them. It was questionable just walking on it.

The pictures (page 5) show mostly 6" x 8" and 8" x 8" beams 12' to 14' and the two main floor support beams 10"x10" with some serious curves. Some posts with some rotten bottoms slumped allowing the beam to sag over the years.

*continued on page 6*









*'dissassembly' continued from page 4*



**T**here were two dozen orchard ladders stored in the loft. The pivoting back legs of one ladder made a “giant scribe.” I had to take a picture to send to Aaron and Curtis back home.

**I**would have salvaged more if I would have had my truck and trailer. (I did save the lightning rods and braided copper cable to put on my house.) I hated to see a lot of it go to the burn pile but not room for it in the Expedition with 3 of us with tools and gear. The bobcat on trailer behind was filled to capacity with assorted tools and ladders.

**T**he peninsula into Lake Michigan north of Traverse City, Michigan is known for cherry, apple and grape growing. The orchards are continuous in the center of the peninsula. Lake homes are on the shores, of course. It was an interesting and educational week.

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# METAL CAPS ON EXTERIOR LOGS – GOOD OR WORTHLESS!

BY DUANE SELLMAN

I have always heard that metal caps on exposed logs would prevent the logs from decaying. I will agree they may delay the decay process a few years, but it will not correct a poor design in my mind.

This summer I was asked to shorten some log member ends which had decayed. This scribe-fit log home in White Bear Lake, Minnesota had been built 20-30 years ago. They had put copper flashing caps on the hip and valley logs which extended beyond the drip line 8" to 12". The caps shed water off the flats cut on the log members so it runs off onto the rounded side of the logs. With proper finish on the log, the water is not absorbed into the log until it reaches a check – be it big or small. How many of our logs have no checks? Many people like the looks of the logs extending beyond the drip line, but all I see is a poor design inviting decay.

With this house, I got by shortening most of the log members but one had wicked moisture back under the roof. That one needed a 14" long log screwed and glued on to replace the rotted end.

Ideally, I like to cut log ridge and purlins back 6" behind the drip line to minimize getting wet.

Loft joists left long for a balcony should be avoided. Build a deck or a balcony with green treated wood or with borated pressure treated wood.

In conclusion, log homes should have no logs extended beyond the drip line thereby eliminating the need for metal caps.

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## To The GLLCA Members:

Yeah!!! It is time for the Great Lakes Log Crafters Annual General Meeting and Conference. I hope that all of you say this is the year that I am going to attend the GLLCA conference. This Association's purpose is to bring education and information about log building to each and every one of you. I have always heard from the attendees that our conferences are informative and educational. This conference is an opportunity for all of you to get together to talk about your techniques and to help solve some of your questions you might have about log building.

Attached is the Schedule and Registration Form. Fill it out and return it to me as soon as possible. We need a count for food.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Kay Sellman

GLLCA Business Manager

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# WINDOW REPLACEMENT IN LOG HOMES DUE TO ROT

BY FRANK VANDERVEUR

Just about every year, I have been in situations that I need to replace windows in log homes. Most of the

time it is because the logs surrounding the window are rotting, and then come to find out that the whole frame of the window is in need of replacement, too. Most of the time, it is the log below the window that is rotted the worst, because that is where most of the water is trapped.



What are the most common causes why logs around the windows are rotting?

**1** -Water infiltrates around the window trim.

Water that infiltrates around window trims is mainly caused by poor caulking jobs between the log and trim board and window and trim board, and/or where the top trim board and side trim board meet in a 45 degree angle. Water is waiting to get in between the gap of the trim board and will run inside.

**2** -Checks in logs that run towards the window and are not caulked.

Checks running toward the window need to be caulked and backer rod installed behind the caulk.

**3** -Poor caulking job or lack of maintenance of the caulk.

Settling of the logs can cause a poor caulking job to fail due to overstretching.

**4** -No flashing on top of the window and poor sealing of the nailing fins.

Install metal flashing above the window. Install pan flashing under the window. There are very good products in the marketplace that will do an excellent job. (pic.#3) Silicone needs to be installed between the buck board and nailing fin to create an air tight seal. Do not install silicone behind the bottom nailing fin. Leave this open so moisture can escape if needed. Cover the nailing fin and buck board with flashing tape and trim board. Finish it with caulk around the perimeter of the trim boards. (pic.#4)

**5** -No buck boards installed.

The worst cases I have seen are windows that are installed without buck boards. (pic.# 1) I had a situation where the carpenter cut a flat area of appr. 2" wide next to the window opening on which the nailing fin was fastened to.(pic.#2) What will happen over time is that these milled logs, all of the same size, were shrinking. If each of these logs shrink 1/8" and you have 8 logs within this window opening, then the top log next to the window will come down about 1", taking the fastened nailing fin with it. This nailing fin will separate from the window and create a gap where water can enter.....

It is very important to install buck boards, and they must be installed plumb and level. This buck board can be attached to an angle iron or a 2x6 that slides in a groove in the log wall. Make sure you install sill sealer between the buck board and log wall to prevent air infiltration.

It is very helpful to have enough roof over hang above your windows instead of having them exposed to the weather elements. Installing windows in log homes correctly will save you time and money in the long run. Windows are not cheap, especially if you have to do re-install them later.

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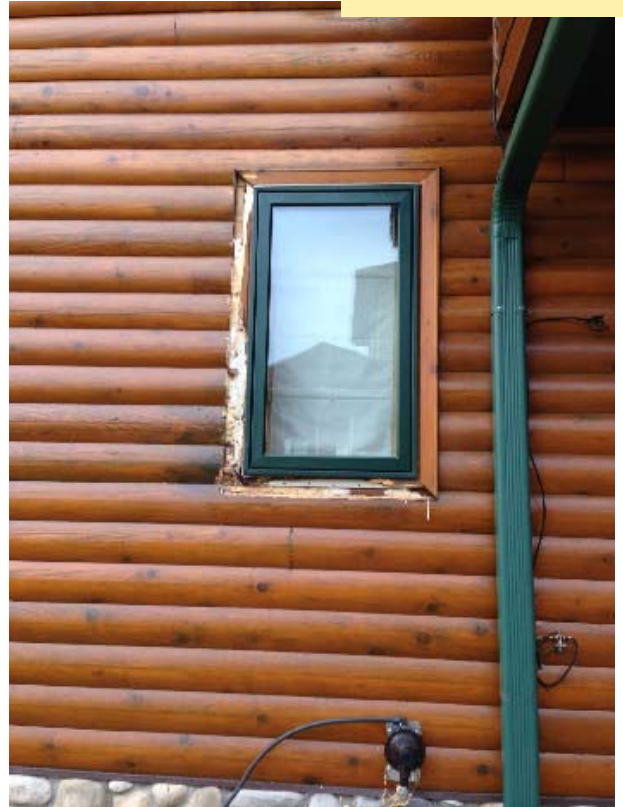


## window replacement

Pic. #1 Separator Nailing Fin



Pic. #2 Flat Cut Area



Pic. #4 Trim Board



Pic. #3 Pan Flashing



# Climate Change – Net Zero – Socialism

By Hank Petit

This topic is somewhat political and not directly related to Log Home Building so I must apologize up front for using this format to make a point that may not be “politically” correct.

First off I am an Environmentalist (not a Preservationist), there is a difference. I also always thought I was a liberal, now I am embarrassed to admit that I supported the lying, deceit, and bias which that narrative involves. Please stay with me now I did not mean to insult you that is my personal opinion. I have worked outdoors my whole life, be it in construction or logging. We have dealt directly with environmental issues on a day to day basis and through zoning, being proactive in organizations such as the ILBA, Wi. Professional Loggers Association, and GLLCA to help with codes, laws, and important issues as they arise. A lot of these rules and regulations revolve around government control. In construction there were wetland rules for water quality and in logging there was clearcutting. Over time a lot of rules have been made to “control” land use even on private lands. It is sometimes scary to see how the bureaucrats manipulate us and the media to gain this control. Most of these rules are good and protect the environment but they require a bigger government and that is not always a good thing. As big government gains control we lose FREEDOM.

Now in the USA we have the “Green New Deal” supposedly pertaining to “Climate Change” and the environment. While many who have supported this plan say it may be radical but it is getting the conversation started. I would say NO! This conversation was started back in the “60’s”. We have made a load of changes to control carbon emissions from fossil fuels. We went to unleaded gas, catalytic converters, low sulfur fuels, and better mileage vehicles to name a few. On the home front we went to more insulation, better sealants, low E glass, thermo pane glass, high efficiency furnaces to name a few more. In Industry the EPA monitors emissions for air and water quality. So I believe we have made some good headway on human environmental contamination.

There are also natural contamination sources that we cannot control such as volcano eruptions and methane leakage from swamps, lakes, and rotting wood. So yes there is climate change but it is not all manmade. That being said we should not give up on recycling and trying to do things better. Shutting down the Log Home Industry because of an R-Value issue is not going to help.

I believe the big push for climate change is the ruling class pushing a progressive agenda to globalize the economy. By taking control to make the changes they say we need to correct the environment we will be saved and in the process we will lose our FREEDOM. Like freedom to build a Log Home. I cannot say I have all the answers but I do know the progressives are not smarter than everyone else because They Cannot Control MOTHER NATURE! Even though they say they can! That is why we must be vigilant to make sure socialism does not take control. Log Building is innovative and socialism squashes innovation. We must maintain the freedoms granted to us by our forefathers and the Constitution for our children and grandchildren.

The GREEN NEW DEAL also planning the changing housing to conform to more environmentally friendly and efficient building systems. Nice conversation starter, thank you AOC, but I believe we are already dealing with this problem. We as a Log Home Industry are struggling to prove we are worthy. Worthy to what?

Worthy to What? That brings me to the core of this article. We are trying to prove an efficiency value for wood per inch. Once we prove that is the bar going to be raised? This is almost like the “rabbit hole” I wrote about in my last article. Regardless of that we need to be careful within our organization that we do not spend more than our fair share. At this time we have spent more than just about everyone else, to fund this effort, for an organization of 26 members. That being said I believe we need to support the efforts of all that are working for the betterment of our industry. As a member of the board of directors I would suggest we will need to monitor donations to the Log Builder Leadership Alliance (ABLA) to see that other organizations and grants are coming in as budgeted.



# Halfway Ranger Station Open House

*By John Schroeder*

In February, I took my little family on a day trip to Ely. If you were at the 2018 GLLCA Conference, or are attending the 2019 GLLCA Conference, you will be familiar with the work of Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps. The group is based out of Duluth and trains young adults in the trades by hiring local restoration experts to lead them on projects to preserve historic structures.

The Halfway Ranger Station is a compound built by the CCC in the 1930's, but has since been more or less abandoned and left in disrepair. The log buildings were slated for demolition, but Northern Bedrock has proposed a solution to restore and preserve the buildings while using the compound for some of their own training and activities.

As a public viewing opportunity, the Corps hosted an open house of the Ranger Station. Thus, it seemed like a good excuse for a winter drive farther north. My co-worker is also interested in history and wood structures and history, and so he and his wife also made a drive up to Ely that day. Upon arrival, I saw some more familiar faces- Duane and Kay Sellman were there, as well.

The iron work on the doors and the rock work on the fireplace were worth some marveling. There are log treasures such as these hidden all over the GLLCA region, many of them stemming back to 1930's CCC construction. I suggest visiting them when the opportunity arises, and doing our part to be sure they are preserved.



## GREAT LAKES LOG CRAFTERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES SATURDAY, May 19th, 2018

John Called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

John asked Kay to take roll call. The following were present at the meeting:

John Schroeder Hank Petit  
Chris Clay Frank Vanderveur  
Bob Kenel Deb Hansen  
Charis Babcock Stephen Sweeny  
Rhrea Harvey Duane & Kay Sellman  
Donovan Dums Mark Webber

John asked for changes to the agenda. There were none.

John also asked for communications to the members. John thanked Charis and Rhea for speaking to us at our conference and their contributions to support our auction. John also thanked everyone for attending and their contributions to the auction.

John asked for acceptance of Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting (Published in the 2018 Spring Newsletter). Bob Kenel made a motion to accept the 2017 Annual General Meeting Minutes. Duane Seconded. Motion passed.

Reports:

### Treasurer's Report and Financial Reports

1. Main Checking Account Balance as of 04-30-2018	\$	3,193.79
2. Petty Cash Checking Account Balance as of 04-30-2018		544.03
3 Savings Account Balance as of 04-30-2018		16,724.84
4. Certificate of Deposit #40593 Maturity Date 12-27-2019		10,600.08
5. Certificate of Deposit #01552 Maturity Date 03-22-2021		5,145.42

Deb made a motion to accept the treasurer's reports. Chris seconded. Motion passed.

There was discussion on changing the title of Line Item 8070 ICC International Code Council on the treasurer's report. Mark made a suggestion to use Code Development. Donovan made a motion to change it from 8070 – ICC International Code Council to 8070 - Code Development. Hank seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Continued discussion of the need for Directors and Officers Insurance and Event Insurance. Duane reported that he has contacted several insurance companies without success but has now contacted the Timber Framers' Guild to find out who their insurance is with. After speaking with an agent, she is looking for event coverage for us. He hopes to get a response soon. Frank reported that he is still waiting on a response from his insurance agent. Tabled for now and the Board will continue to follow up on this.

Bob Kenel had given an update on the Log Building Leadership Alliance (LBLA) during the conference stating that the Alliance is moving forward.



Donovan asked if the GLLCA could get a report on where the \$2,500 contribution that was sent to the LBLA was used for. Bob stated that there is no report showing where the \$2,500 from the GLLCA has been spent. Donovan made a motion to request a report from the LBLA showing usage of contributed funds. Report due by July. There was no second.

After discussion, Donovan amended his motion to read, request LBLA to produce an annual report and budget to provide to members. Deb seconded. Motion did not pass. There was a vote of 5 "Nay" and 3 "Yes".

After more discussion, Donovan made a motion to request LBLA to send GLLCA a 2018 Budget and Profit and Loss Statement. Chris seconded. Motion passed with 2 opposed. John will write a letter requesting the reports.

### New Business

#### Nominations:

Nominations for President were opened.

John was nominated. No other nominations were made.

John accepted the Presidency.

Nominations for 2 Directors for a 2 year term were opened.

Nominees were Bob Kenel, Frank Vanderveur, Steve Sweeny, and Mike & Deb Hansen.

Hank made a motion to close the nominations. Mark Seconded.

After a ballot vote was taken, Frank Vanderveur and Mike & Deb Hansen were elected.

Quorum Requirements when a director is unavailable due to military service.

Duane reported that Nate Heim, a current director, has been deployed to active duty. Duane wanted to consider the size of the board as being reduced from 8 to 7 and therefore there would only be 4 directors needed for a quorum.

Duane made a motion to consider the Board as 7 while a director is unavailable due to military service so only 4 directors would be required for a quorum. Hank seconded. Motion passed.

Date, time and location of next annual general meeting.

Discussion of dates for the 2019 conference. Available dates for the Sugar Lake Lodge were April 18, 19 & 20, 2019 (Easter weekend) and May 16, 17 & 18, 2019. These dates were not acceptable.

Bob made a motion to table setting the date and let the Board set the date within 60 days. Frank Seconded. Motion passed. Kay will check with Timber Lake Lodge for an available date in April other than Easter.

### Adjourn

Charis made a motion to adjourn. Chris Seconded. Meeting adjourned.

# GLLCA

*Great Lakes Log Crafters Association*



The Sauna  
One of several historic buildings  
at the Eli Wirtanen Pioneer Farm in St Louis County, MN.