Spring 2009 Volume 3 Issue 1

Sourcing Local Oak for Trusses Reduces Carbon Footprint

One of our winter projects, pictured left and right, was to fabricate four white oak king post trusses for a new home in a nearby lake community. As consumers become more aware of the benefits of sourcing local goods, we are pleased to provide our clients with locally sourced hardwoods. The carbon footprint, defined by Wikipedia as "the total set of greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by an individual, organization, event or product," can be reduced by utilizing raw materials available in our region. Transforming local oak normally slated for firewood or pallet production into building materials reduces costs and fossil fuels used to transport products to their final destination.

Custom furniture by Trillium Dell Timberworks, (story p. 5).

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Aledo Illinois Barn Finds New Home Nearby

We receive numerous emails and calls throughout the year from people interested in selling or repairing barns. Occasionally we're asked to dismantle, repair, and re-erect a barn, as is the case with this 1860s era Eastern white pine barn. The 42' x 58' barn includes a threshing bay and was built in a style common to the mid-1800s, when the shift in agriculture from wheat production to livestock occurred.

Above: Close up of the boss pin against a starry sky

Though much of the frame was intact, it needed repair and was hauled to our shop where original pieces were salvaged or scarfed with new white pine. The re-erected barn will serve as a gathering place on a family farm. This timber frame barn is destined to provide shelter and space for many future generations.

Left: Timber frame barn on raising day

Prairie Players Civic Theater - A Collaborative Effort

Above: Installing tension rods

Employees of Trillium Dell Timberworks and volunteers from the Prairie Players Civic Theater and Knox College spent two winter Saturdays installing a truss in the theater building. Located in downtown Galesburg, Illinois, the theater building once served as a warehouse and is being converted to house a120-seat theater, along with storage and rehearsal space.

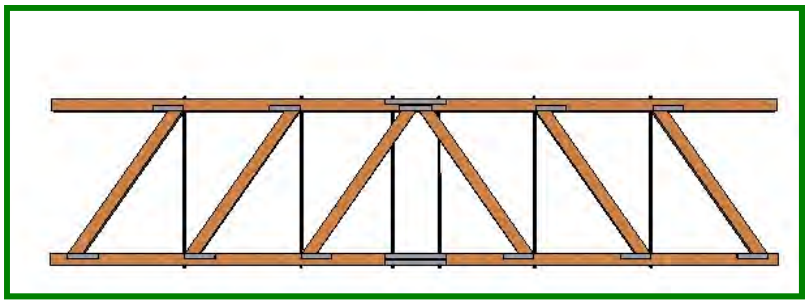
Above: Prairie Players volunteers secure the truss

The 47' southern yellow pine and white oak parallel chord truss was installed in order to support the roof and allow for the removal of three supporting posts below. We normally think of trusses as framing for roofs, where the top side of the truss (also known as top chord) is sloped to match the roof pitch, and the bottom side (bottom chord) is flat. While these are common, parallel chord trusses are a different type, where the top and bottom chords are parallel. These trusses are a great way to span long distances, as they are much more efficient on material use than a standard beam of equal capacity.
The new truss allows for more freedom in arranging the space for theatrical productions, readings, lectures, and other performances.

To learn more about the Prairie Players Civic Theater, visit prairieplayers.com

Below: Exterior view of Prairie Players Theater

Below: CAD drawing of the parallel chord truss



Featured Trillium Dell Timberworks Employee - Ryan Owens

Ryan Owens, with Trillium Dell since 2007, works as a timber framer on new and historic restoration projects. Known as "Speedwagon" around the shop, Ryan has recently worked on custom furniture orders (featured p. 5) and enjoys the attention to detail and level of craftsmanship required by these projects. Ryan attended the first Timber Framers Guild Rendezvous last summer, where he learned about the scribe method of timber framing and looks forward to future timber framing projects both locally and abroad.

Left: Ryan hews a log at the 2008 Knox County Scenic Drive

Trillium Dell in the News

Work Study Program at Trillium Dell

Trillium Dell Timberworks recently partnered with the Galesburg Area Vocational Center's (GAVC) Building Trades Program. Designed to provide students with real-life job experiences, the program places students with various construction companies in the community. Students spend several hours per week at our shop gaining valuable hands-on experience. Our shop foreman Brian Drobushevich has worked with several GAVC students this winter and reports that the breadth of exposure they receive in Trillium Dell's production shop is beyond their expectations. Brian notes, "We may be changing knives on the planer one day, and running trim the next."

"It's a good feeling knowing that we as a company are helping to expose the students to something they may not know existed. I hope when their time is done here that they realize that construction can encompass more than is typical with conventional construction."

Above: GAVC student paints cupola for the Aledo barn (featured p. 1)

Left: GAVC student and Shop Foreman Brian Drobushevich trim out the barn cupola

Above: Wind turbine at Trillium Dell Farm

The Green Corner - Harnessing the Energy of Wind

At Trillium Dell we constantly strive to reduce our carbon footprint, from offering our clients locally sourced hardwoods and reclaimed materials to consciously shopping with neighborhood vendors for office and shop supplies. Our buildings are heated with a wood fired furnace and supplemented with a Clean Burn furnace; both allow us to turn our scrap material into heat, as well as recycle used oil. The newly installed turbine will generate enough electricity to power one building. Learn more about ReDriven wind turbines at www.redriven.net.

ReDriven Power Inc.

Antique Engine & Tractor Association to Raise a Frame with the Timber Framers Guild

Above: CAD rendering of the tractor club frame to be erected August '09

The Antique Engine & Tractor Association (AETA) of Geneso, Illinois and the Timber Framers Guild (www.tfguild.org) are hosting a timber frame raising event from August 12 to August 22, 2009. AETA will be using this structure to display antique equipment and host community events in the years to come. The frame is a 5 bay square rule white oak structure, with bays approximately 14 feet apart, and a finished size of 48' wide and 70' long. Trillium Dell Timberworks will be fabricating the timber frame and providing project management support. The Timber Framers Guild intends to integrate workshops on structural panel installation, raising and rigging techniques, forklift safety, scaffold erection, and project management. The public is encouraged to visit the job site during the event. Watch for more information on this timber frame raising in the coming months.

Maharishi University of Management Students Tour Trillium Dell Timberworks

A group of students from Maharishi University of Management (Fairfield, IA) arrived at Trillium Dell in a bus fueled by biodiesel produced at their school. Students are taking a Sustainable Woodworking class, taught by Doug Adams, Director of MUM's Fine Furniture Program. Questions, observations and comments were made as students toured the Trillium Dell facilities with owner Rick Collins. Doug Adams said of the trip, "Thank you for the wonderful visit, but more importantly, thank you for your dedication to helping to create a better environment for all and for the education to those who don't yet understand the serious need our planet has for a change."

Above: Students discuss furniture building methods

Wapsipinicon Mill, *above.*

Trillium Dell to Restore Wapsipinicon Mill

Restoration efforts have begun on a timber framed grist mill in Independence, Iowa. This six-story timber frame mill dates from 1875 and is owned by the Buchanan County Historical Society. Except for the first floor which was wiped out in the yearly spring floods, it is in incredible shape. We will be removing the first floor timbers with a highline and completely rebuilding all of the heavy framing and joist work. The timbers are all white pine and mostly 12"x12". The posts are all finished with a beautiful lambs tongue chamfer. For more information and pictures of the mill, please visit: www.buchanancountyhistory.com/mill.php.

Custom Furniture by Trillium Dell

In addition to our timber frame and restoration work, Trillium Dell crafts custom furniture, mantles, staircases and trim. We often create pieces that include an integration of several hardwood species, such as the coffee table pictured at right. Each piece has a hand rubbed finish. Contact us with your ideas and budget for your custom woodworking needs. We inventory over ten local hardwood species including reclaimed lumber.

Right Oak and walnut coffee table.

Timber Frame Open House - April 24, 2009

We invite you to our timber frame open house, to be held at the home of Alex and Debbie Moreno in Galesburg, Illinois. Tour this timber frame addition and talk with the homeowners and Trillium Dell staff. This six bedroom home features the stone and tile work of Moreno Tile and Stone, the Moreno family business. Come see how a timber frame addition can change the look of your home and marvel at the beautiful combination of timbers and stonework throughout the home. For directions and details on the open house, please call our office at (309) 289-7921 or e-mail us at info@trilliumdell.com.

Trillium Dell Offers Continuing Education Units

Need American Institute of Architects CEUs? Trillium Dell staff are registered through the Timber Frame Business Council (timberframe.org) to provide continuing education units for architects through the AIA's Continuing Education System. The presentation, "Introduction to Timber Framing," is designed to answer architects' questions about timber framing and how to incorporate timber framing into designs and plans. If your architecture firm would like to schedule a presentation please contact Justin at justin@trilliumdell.com or (309) 289-7921.

Upcoming 2009 Events with Trillium Dell Timberworks

Green Solutions Expo - April 22, Galesburg, IL. Hosted by Knox College, Trillium Dell Timberworks will exhibit at this regional educational fair.

Business Solutions Conference - April 23 - 24, Greenville, SC. As a sustaining company of the Timber Frame Business Council, Trillium Dell Timberworks supports this Timber Frame Business Council conference, find details at: www.timberframe.org/conferences.html.

Timber Frame Home Open House - April 24, Galesburg, IL. Read more on page 5 or contact our office at (309) 289-7921.

Historic Trades Fair - June 14 - 15, Madison, IN. Along with other historic craftspeople, Trillium Dell will demonstrate the craft of timber framing during Madison's Bicentennial celebration. See www.madisonbicentennial.com for details.

Timber Framers Guild Project - August 12 - 22, Geneseo, IL. TFG members will join with the Antique Engine & Tractor Association (AETA) to raise a timber frame barn. Read more on page 4 or contact our office at (309) 289-7921.