



Mike Beganyi

The Timber Framers Guild finds itself in a unique position as an educational organization—at a crossroads where history, craft, technology, and materials collide. The Guild has become a big tent that welcomes everyone to explore these collisions—members who are building their own home, companies that build dozens a year, scholars and engineers seeking to further understand the truth of our past and our future through dedicated research, workshop participants paring their first tenon, and seasoned pros sharing their skills and techniques at conferences. The inspiration, education, and friendships the TFG enables have become woven into many of our lives and much of our daily work.

I am running for the 2012 board of directors to help further carry the TFG's mission to members old and new. I'll list just a few items that I feel are important to maintaining a diverse and thriving organization, and

that I would work for should I be elected to serve.

I believe the TFG should continue to build on the apprenticeship program to create a vital, respected conduit for the passage of knowledge to future craftspeople. Our future lies with our children and their education. Creating a path for dedicated craftsmen and women is likely one of the hardest (and potentially most rewarding) jobs that the TFG can undertake.

As an arbiter of educational information, the Guild should leverage its projects and technical data online. The rich history and hard work of many of our members is a valuable asset that should be preserved, celebrated, and shared with a wide audience. Existing plans, techniques, videos, and historical data can be streamlined with the TFG's existing website and various presences in the ether. We need to temper our chisels and axes with iPads and websites. Our work is far too interesting not to share in the virtual world.

In addition to the larger East and West conferences, I think the TFG should develop a support structure for smaller regional conferences, meet-ups, outreach, and workshops. These facilitate sharing among locals and provide real-time, real-world networking that reinforce all the data, tradition, and inspiration that we've woven into our organization.

I've had a rewarding time as a member of the Guild, and I'd like to give a bit more—to work behind the scenes to further strengthen this wonderful group. Reach me to discuss design, SketchUp, long bicycle rides, or my vision of the TFG.

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