

For Immediate Release

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Homebuilding as Sustainability, History, and ART: Heartwood School at the Berkshires Arts Festival

Great Barrington, Massachusetts (May 14, 2010) As part of its commitment to providing all new educational and engaging experiences, the Berkshires Arts Festival (Jul 2-4, 2010) will host The Heartwood School of Washington, Massachusetts, demonstrating traditional timber framing techniques and displaying models of historic frames from around the world.

Their skilled artisans will assemble and raise a timber house frame on the grounds of Ski Butternut, using mortise and tenon joinery cut with hand tools. Apprentice timber framers will explain the use of various antique and unusual tools to layout and cut joinery. Heartwood Director, Will Beemer, will be on hand to answer questions about timber framing, a centuries-old craft that is undergoing a revival, and is an integral part of historic architecture in New England.

Detailed models of historic timber frames, such as massive tithe barns from Europe, will also be on display as art works for viewing, to help educate the public about this beautiful and sustainable craft.

Heartwood School was founded in the Berkshires in 1978 with the simple goal of teaching the techniques to build an energy efficient home. Since then they have expanded their courses to include a wide array of sustainable homebuilding crafts.

The Heartwood School will make an exciting and welcome addition to the Arts Festival, which draws thousands each July 4th weekend to see world class artists and artisans from around the country, representing some of the highest quality handmade works of ceramics, painting, jewelry, glass, wood, mixed media, sculpture, fashion and photography in the U.S.

www.berkshiresartsfestival.com

www.heartwoodschool.com