

## In this issue:

- Using Slabs -p. 1
- Kay's Corner -p. 2
- Mini Split System -p. 4
- Expert Interview -p. 5
- Old Chaps -p. 6
- Conference Photos -p. 8
- Dovetail Tools -p. 10

2023 Annual Conference and AGM

April 28-29 2023 Grand Ely Lodge Ely, MN

## How to get the most out of your log slabs



*BY FRANK VANDERVEUR*

As I was remodeling my office, I was thinking about putting up some wainscoting on the walls, which would look nice and give the room a rustic look.

During this time, I was cleaning up my log yard and stumbled across a pile of log slabs that have been under cover for about 15 years..... They have been protected pretty good and the slabs were thick enough to mill a few boards out of them.

I decided to cut ¾" boards out of them with my Alaskan sawmill, because this sawmill leaves a nice rough sawn surface. First I needed to figure out how to keep this slab in place while I was cutting this board. I laid the slab in a shallow V-block and drilled a ¾" hole at the beginning of the board where I will be screwing a GRK flat head screw into the V-block. The ¾" hole is not drilled all the way through the board but just low enough so the chain won't hit the screw and the board is secured to the V-block. The V-blocks are secured to the work bench.

*slabs continued on page 3*

GREAT LAKES LOG CRAFTERS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE



I sincerely believe that over the years the GLLCA has been a benefit to many log home builders. Our conferences have always been directed at education for the new log home builders and the established builders (I don't want to call them the old builders) bring a lot of experience and wisdom to our conferences. They both (the new and the old) gain from attending our conferences.

This year we will be celebrating our 40th year in existence. Our conference is going to be held in Ely, Minnesota at the Grand Ely Lodge Resort and Event Center on April 28th and 29th, 2023. So plan on coming to help us celebrate!!! We are also planning on having a fundraiser building project the week before the conference. More information will be coming soon.

if you would like to send me a note saying how the GLLCA has benefited you and your business, I would like to read your notes at this year's 40th GLLCA conference.

Have a great day.  
Kay Sellman  
GLLCA Business Manager



**Great Lakes Log Crafters Association**

Nate Heim - President  
Duane Sellman- Treasurer  
Nate Demers- Director  
Aaron Hyman- Director  
Bob Kenel- Director, *past president*  
Frank Vanderveur- Director  
Dan Wait- Director  
Ron Heim, Darrell Jensen, Jerry Koski- Trustees  
Kay Sellman- Business Manager

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."

*slabs continued from page 1*

Back in the office room..... I installed 1x4 boards on the wall for sleepers, on which I will be attaching the vertical milled boards to, one strip installed close to the floor and one strip close to where the top of the wainscoting is going to be. Then I installed a rough sawn 2x4 close to the floor sitting on top of temporary shims so the flooring material can slide under the 2x4. On top of the 2x4 I installed the rough sawn boards vertically. The rough sawn boards were cut to 30 3/4" length for this wall. I was able to cut three boards out of an eight-footer. To get a square cut on either end of the board, I flipped the backside of the board up and snapped a centerline on it. Then I went to my miter saw with a light that shows you where the saw blade is going to cut and cut the board square to the centerline. If you don't have a light on your saw, you can also measure from the centerline to the fence on both ends of the board. I overlapped the vertical board every other one, (see pictures). On top of these vertical boards, I covered them with a 1 1/4" thick board exposing the live edge to the inside of the office. This board is about 4 1/2" wide, including the live edge. When you flip the board upside down, I cut a 2 1/2" wide groove, measured from the back of the board towards the front, and a 1/4" deep. I used my jointer to cut this groove. This portion will slide over the vertical boards to cover the top and creates a nice finished look.



# **MINI SPLIT SYSTEM**

BY DUANE SELLMAN

After 30 years, we installed an air conditioning system in our log home. We are looking forward to having an automatic system. An unexpected benefit is it's ability to supply heat for the house down to about 20°.

With our radiant hydronic heat system in the floor, we did not have heat ducts to distribute air conditioned air. For most of our 30 years, we have had a large window A/C unit sitting in the doorway to our loft balcony with a piece of plywood filling the opening above. This did a fair job of cooling the main floor of the house. The disadvantage was, having to go up a flight of stairs to turn it on and off as well as the noise of it running.

We finally decided we should invest in a mini split system. We have a 30,000 BTU unit mounted in the loft on the gable end wall above the balcony door. This blows the cold air toward the railing over the great room where the cool air naturally drops down. (Just like the old window unit did for 30 years which was a used unit when we first got it!) We also have two 9,000 BTU units located in the bedroom and the office. These two units were not really needed but will make for a more uniform temperature throughout the house.

We hired a HVAC contractor to design and install our system. It was way more complicated than I wanted to figure out. I thought it would be nice to have it done right the first time (for a change!). Unfortunately, that did not happen. The Mitsubishi salesman/technician told the contractor the units needed a 16/3 wire from the condenser outside to each unit inside. The HVAC contractor ran these control wires through the wall into the units and inside the plastic covers over the surface mounted line sets which carry the Freon into the units. So the electrician would not have to do that. One unit required a 2 9/16" hole to be drilled through the log wall. He was wrong. It needed a 14/2 wire. So the electrician had to run another wire when he was hooking things up.

After everything was hooked up, in September, we were out of the A/C season. This unit has an "inverter" so it can also supply heat to the house until the outside air temperature is about 20°. This heated our house from September 15th to November 1st which was good because I did not want sparks from my wood boiler flying around with the drought and dry leaves. Since we are used to having warm floors, the mini split left us with cold feet!! The ceiling fan was blowing the heat down but the floor and the basement were much cooler than when the floor was supplying the heat. Since our wood boiler is our primary, this is fine. If we are out of town, cooler floors won't matter.

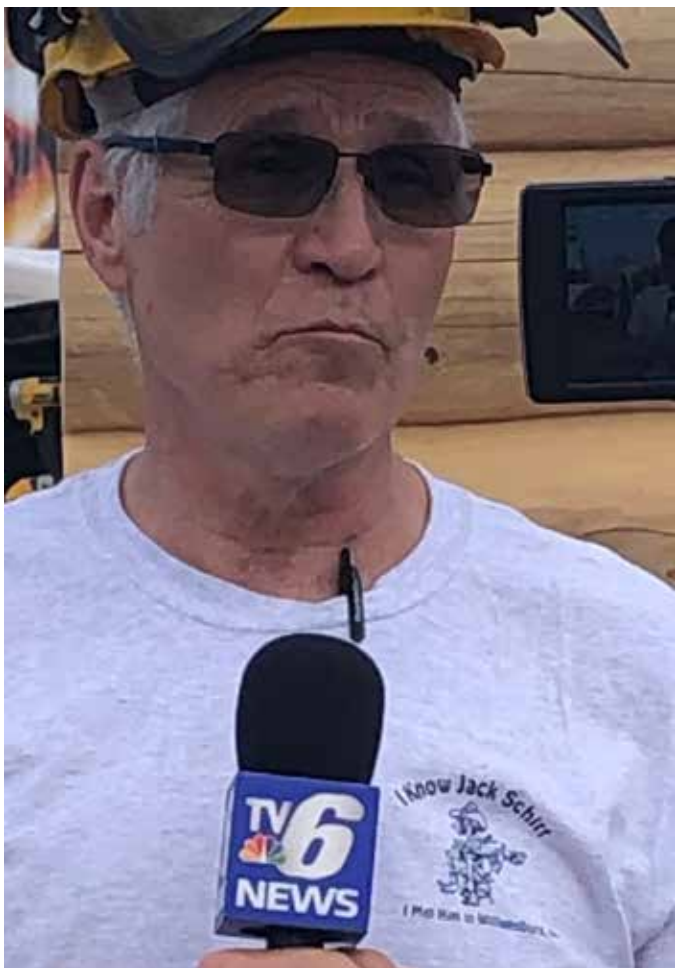
I applied to Connexus Energy for a \$300 rebate for installing this new equipment. They called me and informed me that since my backup electric boiler was on a "load management" (dual fuel) radio controlled program, this new equipment had to be hooked up to this same radio controlled meter. This is a good thing since the electric rate is approximately half of the normal rate. The drawback is they can shut my heat off up to 400 hours in a season, probably not consecutively. With the thermal mass of a log house this won't be a problem.

This system cost about \$13,000 for the equipment and installation. Then another \$1,700 for the electrician to run the #6 wire from the service panel to the condenser and then come back to install a contactor in the #6 supply wires which is controlled by the radio signal from the power company.

This is basically an air source heat pump. The efficiency is about \$1 with the mini split system which supplies as much heat as \$3 with electric resistance heating as it is moving heat not producing heat.

My system is really overkill. I could have gotten by with a system half this size and cost. In retrospect I should have installed a system 15 years ago when I first heard of mini splits. But it was too much money, I thought, now looking back, I'm sure it would have saved me a bunch of money. At that time, it may not have had the heat capability. At any rate, we are pleased with our system and look forward to many years of use.

## ***GLLCA EXPERT INTERVIEW***



At our 2022 annual conference, Duane Sellman answered some of the reporter's questions about log building for the Channel 6 News. Some of our members thought it should be noted what great caliber of esteemed experts we have represented in this organization.





## What to do with Old Chainsaw Chaps

*BY FRANK VANDERVEUR*

So you have worn your chainsaw safety chaps working with chainsaws or other high-powered tools like the 9" sander or the 14" circular saw. They wear down and are damaged by accidentally hitting the chaps with a chain and such, resulting in exposure of the Kevlar cords inside the pants. Now it's time to replace the chaps...

After looking at my worn-out chaps hanging in my shed for more than a decade, thinking someday I might find use for them, I came up with an idea. My wife and I were looking for a way to easily carry firewood into our house, as we needed to carry firewood from the outside firewood log shelter to the fireplace and didn't want to carry a heavy load each time. We were researching firewood canvas log-totes.

## old chaps

I laid the chaps flat on a table, cut all the straps off until I ended up with two separate single chaps. Then I cut a 6"-8" slot in the top and one in the bottom of the chap, perpendicular to the length of the chap. The slots are just wide enough to slide your hands through. The chaps can easily hold 4 to 5 average size split firewood pieces, up to a length of 20", without overloading yourself on weight. I recommend washing and drying the chaps first to clean off all residue. This GLLCA patent is still pending.



How many **worn-out, old chaps** are there in the log home industry? We finally found a use for them!

# 2022 AGM





In May of 2022 GLLCA met in Ontonagon, MI, for the annual conference and general meeting, to wish Jerry and Linda Koski a happy retirement, and tour their log yard. 2023 conference will be in Ely, MN.



# GLLCA

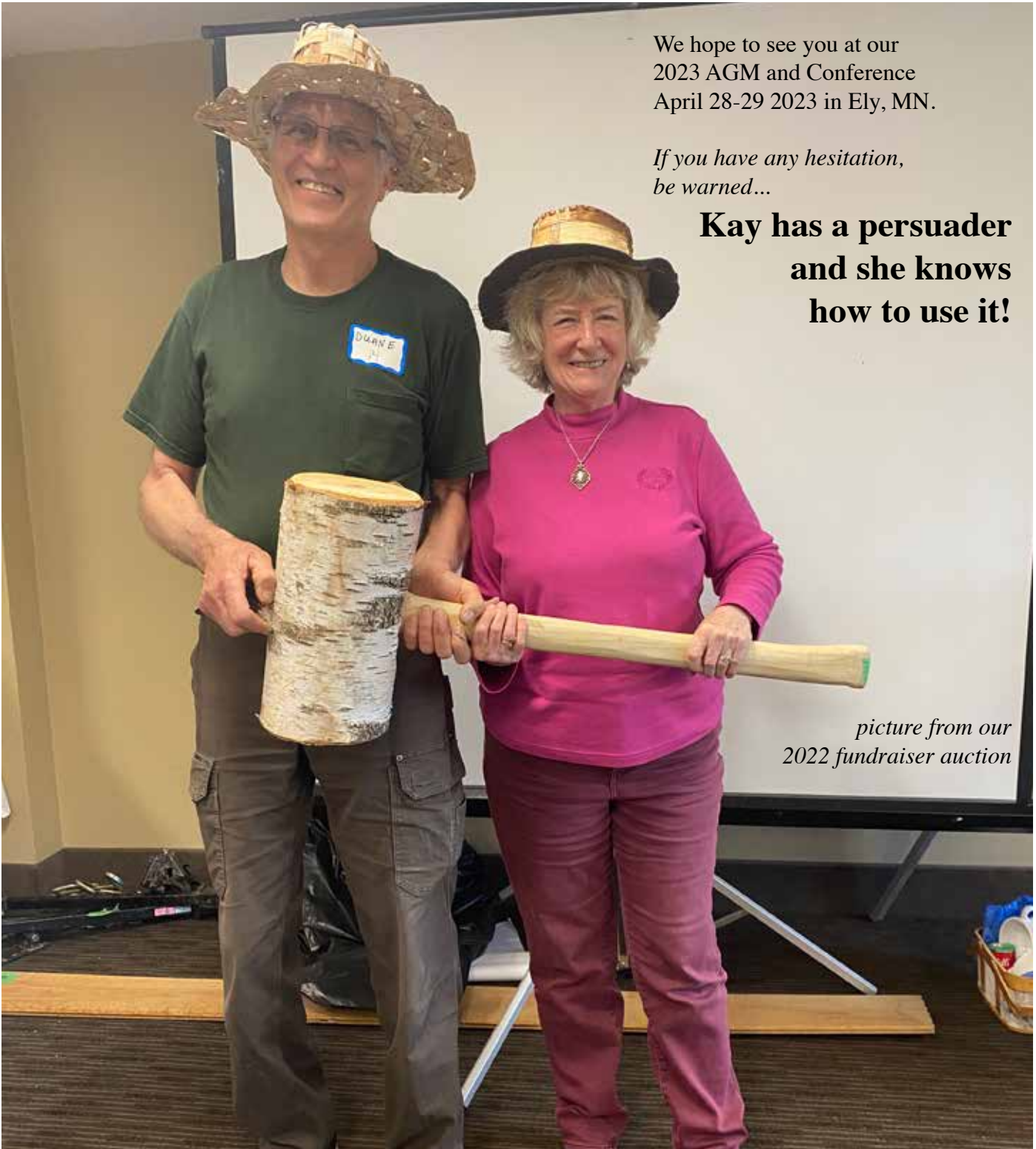
Great Lakes Log Crafters Association



We hope to see you at our  
2023 AGM and Conference  
April 28-29 2023 in Ely, MN.

*If you have any hesitation,  
be warned...*

**Kay has a persuader  
and she knows  
how to use it!**



*picture from our  
2022 fundraiser auction*