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## Engine, tractor clubhouse to be built as new 'antique' building

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By **Claudia Loucks, correspondent@qconline.com**

GENESEO — The Antique Engine & Tractor Association has chosen Trillium Dell Timberworks to construct their new building on their new showgrounds north of Geneseo.

"We want it to appear as though it was built 100 years ago and be an example of construction that was used in that period," said Chuck Bos, AE&TA building committee chairman.

The group's new home will be built on a 40-acre site, which was donated by Bill and June Cole of Hillsdale, "for the purpose of providing a permanent location for its annual antique engine and tractor show, Mr. Bos said. This year's show, set for Sept. 18-20, will be at the group's current showgrounds, one-half mile northwest of Atkinson. Plans are for the 2010 show to be at the new location.

Rick Collins, founder of the Knoxville, Ill.-based Trillium Dell Timberworks, spoke Saturday at the AE&TA meeting to share information about timber frame construction. He said his company uses available Illinois resources for construction whenever possible, and said that 95 percent of the AE&TA clubhouse will be constructed of timber from Illinois forests.

He also believes in having the communities get involved in his building projects.

From Aug. 12 to Aug. 22, the Timber Framers Guild, in conjunction with Trillium Dell, will host a raising and panel installation event at the new site.

"We will be assembling and raising a very large timber framed barn made from local white oak, and destined to house the collection of the Antique Engine & Tractor Association," he said, adding he believes it is important to involve young people so they can grow up with "respect for the building."



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**Photo: Nick Loomis**

Rick Collins of Trillium Dell Timberworks shows off a construction project in Alpha, Ill., in this 2007 file photo.

"The clubhouse will be typical of that on a 19th century farm," he said. The main portion of the 48- by 70-foot building is designed to look like an old barn. Timbers are cut, ends or joinery are prepared and all components are test fit at the Trillium Dell shop and then disassembled before shipping.

According to Mr. Collins, the construction will be the same as many old barns in the Midwest. The interior of the main building and a drive under the porch on the front will have exposed timbers.

His goal is to build all of his projects using local resources. "We are able to take material that could have a very short use and use it for something that will last," he said. "Trillium Dell uses material that would otherwise be used for pallets or firewood."

Trillium Dell specializes in timber framing and historic restoration. He compared his calling to "an age-old craft that meets the modern era," and estimated he has rebuilt about 100 barns (or buildings) in the last 10 years.

"I don't take the buildings down unless I can put them back up and reuse the lumber," he said.

He said that even though the AE&TA barn will be built with new lumber, it will look as though it has been part of the Henry County countryside for many years.