

LEADING OFF

From the World of Forestry

BY PETE WILLIAMS

CLASSIC CABIN

Miles Jenness of Vermont Heavy Timber takes a break after demonstrating how to hew a 19-inch spruce log for building a log cabin.

The log will be part of the restoration of the Stevensville (Vt.) Cabin seen in the background of the photo near the Mt. Mansfield State Forest in the northern part of the Green Mountain State. The cabin (www.stevensville-cabin.org) was built in the 1830s at a time when Stevensville was a thriving logging community. The structure was built of hand-hewn timbers, presumably harvested from the immediate surroundings. The ends of the logs were notched, and the nails used were square in cross section. Chinking between the logs was twigs, clay and animal hair.

Local resident Sara Lourie, a conservation biologist who also teaches music and owns a bagel shop, purchased the two-story cabin and 17 ½ surrounding acres in 2016 and had the building dismantled, piece by piece, and inventoried. From there she will see what can be repaired and what will be replaced with new materials.

Neighbors donated six spruce logs from a harvest on their property and a local forester located another 18 more. The cabin was dismantled in August with the pieces taken to Vermont Heavy Timber. Lourie hopes to have the cabin reassembled next summer and use it for educational purposes. More than 10,000 people walk or drive past the cabin each year on the way to the popular Nebraska Notch trailhead.

“I’ve always been fascinated by history and building,” Lourie said. “When I heard that this cabin, probably the oldest unrestored cabin from that era in Vermont, was going to be torn down, I knew I couldn’t let that happen.”

