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## EVENTS CALENDAR

### BUILDING WITH SPIRIT!

**A Regional Natural Building Colloquium June 25 - July 2, 2005 — Thunder Mountain Retreat Center, Bath, NY**

Join us as we gather with the foremost builders, architects, designers and cutting-edge presenters to explore new and traditional building systems through exciting workshops, demonstrations and seminars, including slate roof installation. Registration: Adults \$650 (18+), Youth \$275 (5-17); \$300 deposit due with application. Visa/MC accepted.

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### INTERNATIONAL PRESERVATION TRADES WORKSHOPS — 2005

**Belmont Tech. College, St. Clairsville OH, Oct. 7-9, 2005**

Includes slate roofing and related trades workshops. Contact the Preservation Trades Network, P.O. Box 10236, Rockville, MD 20849-0236; Ph: 301-315-8345; Web: [PTN.org](http://PTN.org); Email: [info@ptn.org](mailto:info@ptn.org).

### INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR THE ROOFING TRADE 53RD CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION

\* World Championship for Roof Building \*

**Capetown International Convention Center**  
**Capetown, South Africa • November 15-19, 2005**

Contact Natalie Smit at SBS Conferences; Tel: + 27 21 914 2888; Fax: +27 21 914 2890; E-mail: [Natalie@sbs.co.za](mailto:Natalie@sbs.co.za)  
[www.sbs.co.za/ifd2005/](http://www.sbs.co.za/ifd2005/)

## TIPS AND BEEFS

**Tip:** Here's a great tip — send in your best slate roofing tip to us at *Traditional Roofing* and win a prize! The best tip we receive before the next TR issue goes to print will **win a Gilbert and Becker traditional slater's hammer worth a hundred bucks!** Send your tip to Traditional Roofing, PO Box 607, Grove City, PA 16127 or email it to us at [editor@traditionalroofing.com](mailto:editor@traditionalroofing.com).

**Beef:** Complain, complain, complain. Sometimes that's what we have to do. Take for example the information posted at [roofingpeople.com](http://roofingpeople.com) about slate roofs: "*Disadvantages of slate roof systems: slate can be very heavy; very expensive; the colors are limited; requires frequent maintenance; hard to walk on; relies on underlayment which usually fails before the slate.*" Almost all of this is simple repetition of standard misconceptions about slate roofing. Of course slate *can* be heavy — it's stone. The thicker it is, the heavier it is. But at standard thickness, virtually any roof can be covered with slate. Slate roofs are expensive? That depends on how you look at it. They may be more expensive than cheap roofs to install initially, but they last so long that the cost is spread out over a century or two, making them arguably the least expensive roof money can buy. The colors are limited? What are you buying, shoes or a roof? Requires frequent maintenance? Contractors work on old slate roofs that no one has touched in thirty years. Then, with a little maintenance, the roofs are good for additional decades. In that thirty-year time, most other roofs have been completely replaced — maybe twice. Hard to walk on? They should be. The best slate roofs are too steep to walk on. Slate roofs are not floors, are not meant to be walked on and should not be walked on. Relies on underlayment? Fact is, slate roofs require *no* underlayment. Ceramic tile roofs rely on underlayment — slate roofs do not. You can read more about underlayment and about Bigfoot walking on slate roofs in the article *Top 10 Slate Roof Installation Mistakes* in this TR issue. ■

## NATIONAL SLATE ASSOCIATION

**P.O. Box 172, Poultney, Vermont 05764**  
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Dedicated to promoting excellence in slate roofing practices through the development and dissemination of technical information, standards and educational resources on the materials and methods used in the manufacture, design and construction of slate roofs and associated flashing systems.

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