



Press Contacts:

David Donohue
Griffin York & Krause
603-625-5713
ddonohue@griffinyorkkrause.com

Mark Tardif
Assoc. Dir. of College Communications, Unity College
207-948-3131 ext. 292
mtardif@unity.edu

**Innovative Builder, Tedd Benson, Receives Honorary
Doctorate from America's Environmental College**

Citation by Unity President, Mitch Thomashow

- www.bensonwood.com -

Unity, ME – Tedd Benson/ Honorary Doctorate

Tedd Benson is a dreamer and a visionary. But he's also practical, hands-on, hard-working, and disciplined. He's a person of extraordinary wisdom and remarkable common sense.



When Tedd was in his early twenties he had an insight that was to become his life work. He realized that there was something wrong with home construction in America. It lacked durability, craft, and legacy. Tedd understood that to create a sustainable society you must build sustainable homes. So he researched approaches to home building that linked beauty and craft, ecology and wise resource use, simplicity and elegance. He was interested in discovering an approach to building that took the best of the “old ways” (buildings that last for centuries) with the technologies of the present. He found it in the construction process known as timberframe building.

Tedd Benson is almost single-handedly responsible for the revival of timber frame building in North America. In 1974 he founded Benson Woodworking Company. Since then, his company has built over 700 timberframe structures. His work and that of his company has been featured on This Old House, Good Morning America, and the Today Show. His work has been described in publications ranging from Architectural Digest to Builder Magazine to the New York Times.

Currently, Tedd is deeply engaged in trying to change the future of his company so it can bring a vision of sustainability to the future of housing. He understands that the housing industry must change so it is both responsive to the consumer and responsive to the earth. He is working on a whole new approach to house design that incorporates the principles of sustainability, modular design and durability. It is fitting that his company is building The Unity House on the campus of Unity College. We are honored to be included in this vision.

Unity College presents Tedd Benson an honorary Doctorate of Environmental Studies, for his exemplary understanding, knowledge, and application of sustainable home building, and his vision in linking ecology, craft, homebuilding and life.