

THE HOT IRON SPARKLE

* Newsletter of the North Carolina ABANA *

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1st. Quarter 2010 – Jan/Feb/Mar



Jerry Darnell's Cruise Lamp

Demonstration Project at Rodger Barbour's Shop in Clayton

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Jimmy Alexander
Photo by: Hill Willis

A Message from Our President

PRESIDENT LETTER written by the 1st lady/acting president

I wanted to let the blacksmith group know what is going on with Jimmy. He has been a very sick man and spent 2 1/2 months at Duke with one month in ICU. He's been back to surgery a couple of times and they cleaned out the web of inflammation in his brain (left behind from the infection). He is at Select Specialty Hospital on the 6th floor of Durham Regional. He takes baby steps forward every day but it will be a long road for him. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

“FROM THE GROUND UP” the benefit that our artist friends held for Jimmy was totally mind blowing! Friday night about 150 of our friends came and then another 65 or so on Saturday...the love that was in the air was unbelievable! Thanks to those that stopped by I appreciate you coming. - **EDITOR'S NOTE: See page 17**

The chapter held our 4th quarter meeting at Roger Barbour's shop with Jerry Darnell demonstrating to a tentative crowd. Jerry's specialty is colonel ironwork and he thrilled the gang sharing his knowledge, he makes it look so easy! Thanks Jerry!

Nominations for vice president and secretary were held. Marty Lyon will remain our secretary with Garret Dunn becoming our new vice president. I would like to thank Steve for being our VP for many years and filling in for Jimmy this past year.

Our 1st quarter meeting will be the 7th annual meeting at Dean Curfman's shop in Morganton. We will meet on March 20 at 9:30 AM with Doug Merkel and Anderson Phillips demonstrating. Dean usually has vendors there and we'll have lunch catered by Firehouse Caterers. Hope to see you there (yes I'm going) it's always a great time!

Forge safely,
Cindy

Submissions to the HOT IRON SPARKLE can be made to:

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Pittsboro, NC 27312

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Dear Readers,

Without most of you knowing, we held NC ABANA officer nominations and elections at our fourth quarter chapter meeting at Rodger Barbour's shop. The whole process took about five minutes. My term as Secretary was up, and since I was willing to continue, I was just reelected by default. Since Steve Barringer was not interested in continuing as Vice-President, Cindy called for nominations. I had the inspired thought to nominate Garrett Dunn – and he was subsequently elected (again by default). So Garrett is our new Vice-President. I know Garrett is an excellent choice. He's energetic - a “get things done kind of guy”. He has offered Cindy and Jimmy help with the 2011 Madison Conference, and he wants to help solve chapter problems. One of those problems is lack of NC ABANA representation in large areas in our state. In the central and northern parts of western North Carolina there are no active NC ABANA Regional Groups. This is the area of the state with the most blacksmiths, and the area with many of the most talented blacksmiths. Every time I pick up ABANA's Anvil's Ring and see layouts of work done by North Carolina blacksmiths who are not members of NC ABANA I cringe. Without an active Regional Group in the areas where these people live we can not offer them much besides The Hot Iron Sparkle. Garrett wants to pursue this and see if we can add one or more active, functioning, Regional Groups in western North Carolina. We have such a great relationship with Paul Garrett and the John C Campbell Folk School, but, on the other hand, we have no contact with the Penland. I see this as an opportunity.

About the way we held elections in December: it definitely does not conform to our by-laws. But, no one else that I know of has expressed an interest in holding an office in NC ABANA. If Cindy knew of anyone, she certainly would not keep that information to herself. We all seem so content with the way things are run, that if anyone were to complain about these elections, I would be very very surprised. Another problem is that now all of the officers live within spittin' distance of each other in this large state.

One very good piece of news is we now have a new Regional Group east of the Raleigh area. The B.O.L.T.S. have been meeting together for some time and now have the opportunity to expand by including NC ABANA members and potential members who live in the eastern part of our state. This is good for them and good for NC ABANA as now many of our members will have a place to go to meet other smiths and see demonstrations. See page 7 of this issue for a very entertaining account, by Amos Tucker, of the B.O.L.T.s.

We do have a Regional Group in Wilmington, the Southeastern Blacksmiths. They currently, are not active. The two guys who run this group are struggling to keep their business going in this economy so their priorities have to be honored. I talked to Ben Kastner and he really wants to have the opportunity to get back to holding meetings. I sure hope things turn around for them because we certainly need a group in that part of the state.

Last thing to talk about is Jimmy and Cindy. I'm sure you all know, by now, about Jimmy's medical condition. Some of his friends threw a benefit for the Alexanders, in Durham, to help them out with their increased financial burdens. Please see page 17 for an account of that endeavor. The chapter is going to help, also, by holding a Super Iron-In-The-Hat at Dean's on March 20. Proceeds will go to Jimmy and Cindy rather than going into the scholarship fund which, presently, is well funded. See page 5. I've run out of room – more next time.

Happy Reading and Good Blacksmithing,

Martin Lyon, Editor

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There is no Secretary's Report for this quarter

Respectively Submitted,

Martin Lyon, Secretary NC ABANA

Regional Group Meetings

Triad Area Blacksmiths – Marshall Swarington

The Triad Area Blacksmiths started the fourth quarter of 2009 with a ten-day run of the Dixie Classic Fair. It was a great time for our members and visiting blacksmiths from other areas. We held five other meetings during the quarter.

The Tuesday night meetings were lead by George Manuel. George stressed the need to be safe while working with the forge. As always, we had new people join us from invitation extended at the fair. George demonstrated a lot of the basics for our new friends. He finished the meetings with some twist. Some of the new people have returned many times.

Our Saturday meetings have been open forges. Members were busy working on a couple of projects. Most of them were to prove to their wives that they were at the meetings. We have a couple of young visitors hammering away at the Saturday meetings. I guess we need to call them members now.

Attendance has been very good at the Tuesday and Saturday meetings. Both are averaging better than 12 people per meeting. Not a bad average for the holidays and deer hunting season.

Our March Saturday meeting will be held at Larry Crews shop. Lunch will be provided.

Southern Foothills Blacksmiths – Randy Calhoun

The Southern Foothills Blacksmiths met Sunday December 13, 2009 at Steve Barringer's shop in Mooresville, NC. Ben Andrews demonstrated a stamping technique he had developed that uses the power hammer to smash wires, fashioned into an eye pleasing design, into a hot steel square. They make excellent coasters and were intended to be given as Christmas presents.



Ray Clontz came with, Gordon James, a visiting bladesmith from Alaska. Gordon demonstrated blade forging, grinding, and heat treatment for a young member interested in knifemaking. Our numbers are growing as at the Southern Foothills meetings to almost double what we had a



year ago. The group has several beginners of all ages. This is, of course, great news. We also need to give a big welcome to our newest member Matt Balent. Matt is a smith from Michigan, who just moved to the Charlotte area. All in all, it was a very successful meeting and a great time. We would like to thanks Steve for opening up his excellent shop to us once again.

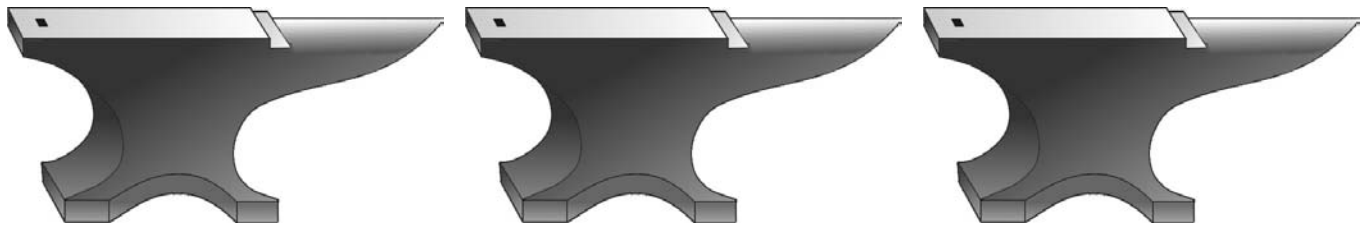
Brasstown Blacksmiths – Paul Garrett

The Brasstown Blacksmiths gathered at Butch Dey's new shop near Brasstown for our February meet. We had a good time and together, we made the last of the seven new forge tables for the Folk School's new forge building. It took up most of the afternoon, but we finished up and got it loaded in the truck.

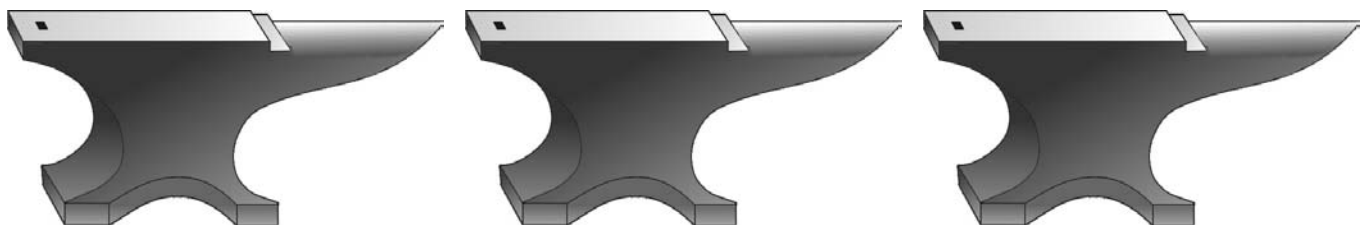
I also brought over several examples of the pickets that are arriving here for the new hand railing in the forge building for show and tell, and invited all attendees to do one if they chose as well.

Butch's new shop is a nice metal building in Hwy. 129 just south of the Georgia line, and right in the side of the highway. He is still getting it set up and ready for forging, and we look forward to having more meetings there. Butch does all sorts of fabrication, welding, forging, has a plasma cam machine that we got to play with again to make a part for the forge table.

The location of the next gathering is to be announced but will be on the 17th of April.
Happy forging.



Special event at the March 20 meeting at Dean Curfmann's shop!! We will be having an extra special fundraiser to benefit Cindy and Jimmy Alexander. As many of you are aware Jimmy has had a tough time these last few months and this is our chance to help him out. We will have an extra special *Iron In The Hat* with all proceeds in their Honor. Please dig deep and bring lots of those interesting things you have in the dark corners of your shop gathering dust - And be ready to take home plenty of cool stuff to take their place!!!!



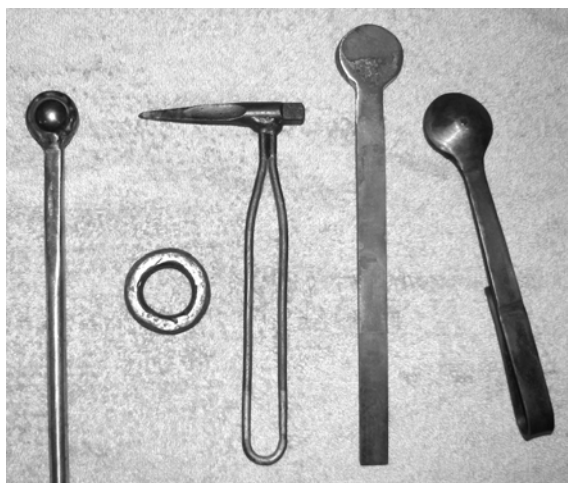
Triangle Blacksmiths Guild Meetings - Randy Stoltz

The Triangle Blacksmiths Guild met Saturday, February 6 at Allan Green's shop in Hillsborough, NC. Despite the cold weather and a few snow flurries, 25 to 30 members and guests showed up for this workshop to make nail headers and nails. We started off the meeting with an update on NC ABANA President Jimmy Alexander who is still in the hospital. We also discussed upcoming meetings, a gas forge building workshop by Eric Campbell, and the John C. Campbell railing project. Jim Kennady brought 5/8 inch square stock for those interested in forging a picket for the folk school.

With the large turnout, we set up three areas for the day's activities. In one area Dick Snow set up a PC so people could watch a video, from a very old film, of Swedish blacksmiths forging nails and other objects. At the main forge we set up to make nail headers and handed out handouts on making nails and nail headers. Outside under a canopy with a portable forge Dick Snow presided over a hands on workshop on making nails. One of the handouts, Dave Smucker's excellent article *Making Nails*, is available for download at <http://appalachianblacksmiths.com/Documents/Making Nails.doc>. The other handout was an excerpt on wrought nailmaking in *A Museum of Early American Tools* by Eric Sloane.

Prior to the meeting I had created nail header blanks by welding a handle onto a 1/2 inch slice of carbon steel round 1 9/16 inch diameter (photo below). In almost an assembly line the members hammered out the head to the desired thickness and used the ball tool and ring to cup or dish the header. Each cupped header was then set aside near the fire to cool slowly and leave the steel soft enough to drill. When the header was cool enough, an 1/8 inch pilot hole was drilled and the head was reheated to shape and size the hole using the square punch. For the final step the header was heated to a red heat, quenched in oil, and tempered to a straw color. This last step was at the portable forge set up outside where the members could try out their new nail header under the excellent tutelage of Dick Snow.

At noon we took a lunch break and had an great meal of barbecue (or barbeque if you prefer), baked beans, and an assortment of other items including some home made butter and home baked bread. After lunch we resumed work on the nail headers and making nails. About 15 members made nail headers at this meeting.



From left: Ball (dimple) tool, ring, square punch, nail header blank, and finished nail header.



Close-up of a finished nail header.

The ball tool used to cup the nail headers was made from a 1 inch ball bearing. To securely weld the handle on, a section of 1 inch steel pipe was welded to the handle first which provided a contact surface over the entire circumference of the ball bearing. The back side of the ball tool was ground flat to protect the face of the hammer. The ring tool was used as a bottom swage to cup the nail headers. It is made from 1/2 inch round stock with an internal diameter of 1 1/4 inch. The square punch was made from an Irwin bolt extractor.

EDITOR'S NOTE: NC ABANA is thrilled to introduce our newest Regional Group, the B.O.L.T.S. Guild. They are situated to the southeast of Raleigh. It is hoped they can attract members to their east who have been underserved by NC ABANA.

B.O.L.T.S Blacksmith Guild – Amos Tucker

There is a new guild of blacksmiths that has started up southeast of Raleigh. It is called B.O.L.T.S. (Brotherhood Of Learning and Teaching Smiths) and we are just too glad to be here. Our membership currently consists of people from various and sundry occupations such as machinists, welders, farriers, mechanics, factory workers, mechanical engineers, and preachers. Though we all have different backgrounds, we all have the same enthusiasm to learn and share the many secrets that blacksmithing has in no small amounts. We boast demonstrators at several museums in our area including The Tobacco Farm Life Museum in Kenly, Bentonville Battlegrounds, Aycock Birthplace in Fremont, and Historic Waynesboro in Goldsboro. Many meetings are held here in the blacksmith shop at The Tobacco Farm Life Museum. Here we have three permanent forges set up as well as a working line shaft operating an 1880's drill press and a 50# little giant power hammer. Soon to be added to the line shaft will be a South Bend lathe, a reciprocating hacksaw and a bench grinder. This site and our guild regularly hosts badge work classes for boy scouts and can have as many as eight working forging areas equipped with anvils and vises. A B.O.L.T.S. member demonstrates here the first Saturday of each month from 8:00 to 12:00 (weather and wife permitting). On these days, well-behaved children can receive a nail or a hook or some other small forging as a gift.

This shop will soon have a "sister" shop located at Historic Waynesboro. While using The Tobacco Farm Life Museum's original blueprints as a guide, Waynesboro plans to construct a new blacksmith shop to replace the old one. The new shops resident smith will be Andy Anderson who is our B.O.L.T.S. representative to NCABANA. When the shop is finished our guild plans to have a "Moving of the fire" ceremony where Andy will start the last fire to be made in his old shop and carefully carry it to the new one all the while passing blacksmiths tapping out salutes on their anvils. We are asking for volunteers to help with the salutes as well as filming the procession. This is an exciting project and our guild members are looking forward to having another shop to hold our meetings in.

A B.O.L.T.S. meeting goes something like this. Everyone shows up with food and tools. While the guys stand around and talk about politics, weather, and Peter Ross's work, the gals group W.A.S.H.E.R.S. (Wives And Sweethearts, Even Real Smiths) set the tables. After we eat, we have a short meeting discussing who will help clean up, when and where the next meeting will be, and if we could get Peter Ross to Demonstrate. The short meeting is followed by a demonstration by a guild member who usually prefaces his work with the statement that this is not as good as what Peter Ross could do. After the demo, is when the real fun begins, we call it "open forging". Members who have brought an extra forge and anvil let any N.U.T. (Novice Under Training) step up and have fun. This is where the "Learning and Teaching" part of our name comes from. The more experienced smith steps aside and lets the new comers play and practice while getting help from others. This is the foundation of our guild, to learn and teach. Each meeting follows the same theme except for when we have a meeting catered or talk about Tal Harris.

The first Saturday of the month from 8:00am to 12:00pm at The Tobacco Farm Life Museum in Kenly will always be a date where ABANA members are welcomed.

Our Guild meets the first Saturday or Sunday of even numbered months depending on where it is. The notices are sent out by e-mail in advance and a response, if you will attend, is expected. The bylaws so far are these: Members must have a pulse and an email and donate a forged object of their own creation to the guild to be displayed on what we call our "board of education". Proper attire for the meetings will be denim overalls and your favorite hat. Children can come if they don't eat too much. Wives and Sweethearts are most definitely welcomed but not at the same time.

To join, or help, contact Amos Tucker at amostucker@earthlink.net

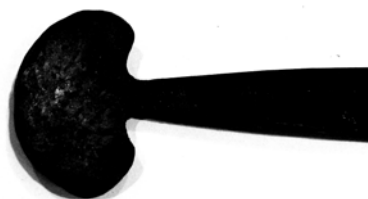
Forth Quarter 2009 Chapter Meeting

Rodger Barbour's Shop, Clayton, NC – September 26, 2009

My thanks to Brian Nalley for many of the photos in this article

Thanks are in order to Rodger Barbour for stepping up at the last minute and hosting our chapter meeting. We also thank Jerry Darnell for coming out, also with last minute notice, to be our demonstrator. Jerry again provided us with a fiery and entertaining day. Jerry works fast and the sparks sure fly when he demonstrates. He is what "The Hot Iron Sparkle" is all about. But, most importantly, Jerry contributes ideas, techniques, and advice that the audience can take home and use for the betterment of their craft. Rodger, again we thank you for having the meeting in your marvelous shop.

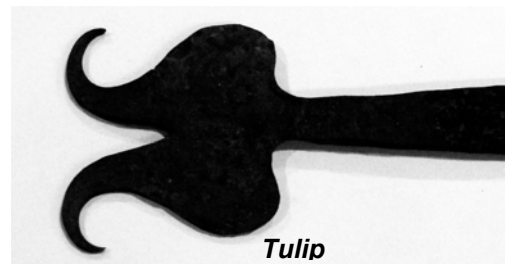
Jerry started by demonstrating three finial designs that he uses to embellish his work. The three, a bean, a tulip, and a bird's beak are finials that can be used at the ends of strap hinges and other items.



Bean Finial



Birds Beak



Tulip

The main part of Jerry's demonstration involved making a very involved cruise (oil burning) lamp with a sawtooth trammel (for adjusting the length). It's unbelievable that Jerry could have completed such a complicated piece in just a couple of hours. I'll just let the pictures speak for themselves.



Jerry and his Cruise Lamp with Sawtooth Trammel

Jerry wasn't content to stop there. In the afternoon he made one of his signature pieces, an eighteenth century foyer lamp – a very popular item with his customers.

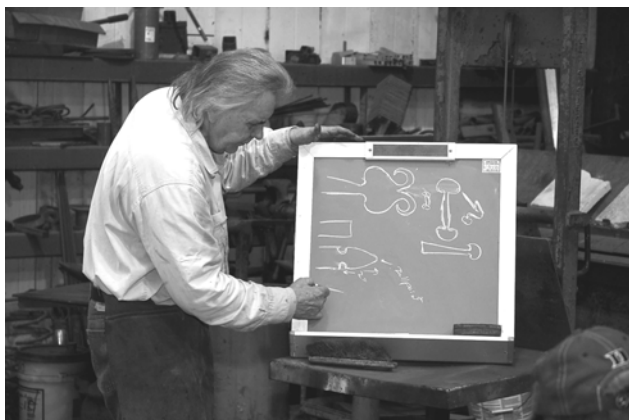


18th Century Foyer Lamp

Robert Timberlake brought the finished blade he worked on at the last chapter meeting at Jason Craft's shop in Roxboro. We watched him demonstrate the hand bench polishing. Robert completed the blade and brought it to the meeting for us to see and photograph.



Robert Timberlake's Blade. You can see the Hamon Lines



One of Jerry's Fine Illustrations



Jerry at the anvil. Note the roaring inferno in the forge

In recognition for their fine and exhausting work at the Heritage Forge at the North Caroling State Fair, new Vice President, Garrett Dunn presented very useful gifts to Al Andrews and Parks Low – cigars.

Again, many thanks to Rodger Barbour and helpers for throwing a fine meeting. Of course, our thanks go out to Jerry Darnell for the fine demonstration. There were several gallons of sweat on Rodger's shop floor when Jerry got done.



Garrett Dunn, Al Andrews, and Parks Low

First Quarter 2010 Chapter Meeting

Dean Curfman's Shop, Morganton, NC – March 20, 2010

Hear Ye!! Hear Ye!!

Mark your calendars for the 7th Annual
Big Blu Hammer-in / NC-ABANA Meeting.
Saturday March 20, 2010. Time 9:00 a.m. until??

Location:

Big BLU Manufacturing Co.
3308 Frank Whisnant Road
Morganton, NC 28655
828-437-5348

See the Big BLU MAX in operation!

Come with great expectations

- Demonstrations! - 9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. Plus some additional afternoon Demos.
- Good natured blacksmith bartering
- See the NEW Big Blu MAX Power Hammer demonstrated in its original home
- Experience the newest techniques in artist blacksmithing
- Seminar level education opportunity
- Observation and discussion time
- Iron in the Hat to Benefit NC-Abana Scholarship Fund.
- Barbecue meal with all the trimmings. Cost is \$5.00.
- Venders with product samples.
- Blacksmith Tool suppliers w/ an array of quality tools.
- Tailgaters Welcome so come and sell.

The Big Blu Crew, who have become well known in the blacksmith circles, welcomes all to their facility for the 7th Annual Big Blu Hammer-in; Saturday, March 20, 2009.

DEMONSTRATORS

This year our featured demonstrator will be Doug Merkel in the morning. Doug is a part-time smith who maintains a studio and operating forge in the western mountains of North Carolina. While specializing in colonial, rendezvous and reenactment blacksmithing, he continues to do commissions, iron art and special custom ironwork projects for clients through out the USA. Doug began his training in traditional blacksmithing techniques in 1986. Doug is both proficient with hand hammer and power hammer. Doug continues to better his skills by studying under some of the most well known blacksmiths world wide. In addition Doug spends a few weeks each year teaching both beginning and intermediate level blacksmithing.

And the afternoon demonstrator is to be Anderson Phillips. Anderson G. Phillips has worked as a full time blacksmith and ironworker since he was sixteen. Studying at the American Blacksmithing School (Oakland, OR) and undertaking a year-long apprenticeship at metal design in Winston Salem helped lay the foundation for his love of ironwork. Having spent time in many shops bettering his skills over the years, as well as being an active member of the Triad Blacksmiths Group; he continues to strive to give an old world feel to a new age of iron.

The prime focus of the demonstrations is to not only present power hammer and hand hammer technique; but also to point by point follow through with a completely finished project.

So come expecting, come glean some techniques, pointers, and short cuts in making beautiful ironwork that you too will be proud to display and sell.

DIRECTIONS

- Get off exit 105 on I-40 take a right off ramp - go 1.9 miles.
- Continue on S GREEN ST - go 0.5 mi
- Continue on N GREEN ST - go 3.7 mi
- Continue on NC-181 NORTH - go 0.9 mi
- Turn Left on FRANK WHISNANT RD - go 0.2 mi
- Bear Right on FRANK WHISNANT RD - go 1.0 mi (Water Mill Road goes straight)
- Arrive at Big BLU Manufacturing Co., 3308 FRANK WHISNANT RD, MORGANTON

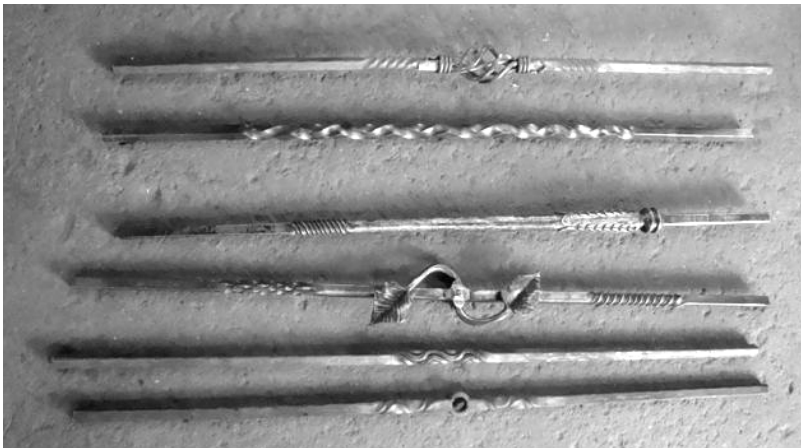
Update – Blacksmith Annex at the Folk School including the Picket Project

By Paul Garrett

We have been getting a great response to our call for pickets that will adorn the hand railings in the New Forge Building here at the Folk School. They are arriving by car, mail, UPS, and it is starting to look like if this keeps up, we might just have enough in the end to get the job done. Below is a picture of just a few of them and the variety that are coming in.

I knew that people's work would be top quality, and there would be a wide range of styles, but I am really pleased to see how much effort that some put into their examples knowing that they would be on display for generations, and wanting to put their lasting mark on the building. But they are all worthy of the scale and scope of the project.

There is still time to get a picket or two done by the first of April, so don't delay. The rules are simple:



Examples of Pickets Sent to Paul for the Annex

- *5/8" square or round steel, bronze or copper is ok too.
- *Keep the picket as straight as possible, and decorate it by forging, forge welding, twisting, chiseling, chasing, upsetting, punching, heck whatever.
- *40" finished length minimum.
- *Leave the ends plain.
- *Confine the bulk of the forging to the middle 1/2 of the piece or so.
- *Wire brush clean.
- *No paint, primer, or finish.
- *Be sure to put you touchmarks on them.
- *Be creative, and stretch yourself.
- *Bring or send to the Folk School.

About the new shop, it is coming along nicely. The painters are done inside, and the electricians are busy, and the plumber and sprinkler system folks will be soon as well. The move in date is the second full week of April, and then Clay Spencer will teach the first class there. That is fitting I think. Clay has been around the Folk School for a long time, has seen so many changes here, and pushed as hard as a lot of others to see this eventually happen.

As for myself, I am working almost full time preparing for the move in. There is much to do, and the list gets bigger each day. There are tables and carts to be made, storage solutions to work out, the choosing and ordering of new equipment, picking out paint, and working out a thousand small problems to make for a smooth transition. I have been working on this for about four years now, and it will be good to see it finally done.

Be sure to visit us when you can to see the new shop, or better yet, come and take a class and stay a week.

Thanks to all.





Announcing the Ammo Can Forge Workshop

Our goal is to make a small portable forge body to go with an aussie/ron reil style burner.

I have made over 20 of these in the past 6 years and it's a great teaching size and easy to repair. It takes a standard 3/4 inch burner like they sell at ellis knifeworks or zoeller forge. We will have time to assemble the burners if people show up with the kits.

Refractory will cost \$20, which I will be providing including an ITC 100 coating.

Parts you need to bring:

Ammo Can 12 inches long, 7 inches wide, and 8 5/8 inches high (commonly called a fat 50 mm)

Threaded Pipe floor flange 1 1/2 inches wide internal diameter

Pipe Nipple 1 1/2 inch diameter 9-12 inches long

Burner kit if you want to use my shop to assemble it.

9AM, May 8th

8517 Ten Ten rd Raleigh NC

10 seats available for the class.

RSVP with Eric Campbell

919-264-7868

solvarr@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article, about NC ABANA member Peter Ross, appeared in the December 5, 2009 issue of "The News & Observer", a newspaper that serves the Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill areas. We wish to thank Diane Daniel for her kind permission to reprint her article, and the News and Observer for allowing us to reprint the photographs of their photographer Harry Lynch.

Hot from the past

Artisan re-creates historic hardware in forge metal

By Diane Daniel - Correspondent



By his standards, the 1905 farmhouse Peter Ross shares with his wife, Louise Barnum, is not all that old. Ross, a nationally known blacksmith, has to explain to potential customers that when he says "historical restoration" work, he refers to buildings dating from 1650 to 1840.

After 25 years of heading up the blacksmith shop at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, Ross moved to Chatham County in 2006, after marrying Barnum, a longtime area real estate agent. (Ross moved from Forge Road in Virginia to White Smith Road here.)

Before renovating their home on 25 acres outside of Siler City, Ross first set up the studio where he makes custom hardware, tools and utensils for restoration projects. Current projects include supplying kitchen utensils and hardware for a privately owned 1750s kitchen in Virginia, making circa-1820s door hinges and

locks for a museum in eastern Tennessee, and creating a lock to match an existing door at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, which dates to the late 1700s.

"Up until now I've worked only in the historic house restoration field, but this year I'm trying something new - a line of historically inspired but contemporary iron pieces that people can use in their homes," said Ross, 55. "Those could be kitchen utensils, tools for wood stoves and fireplaces, and brackets for lights."

Ross decided to add another line of work, although he typically has a backlog of restoration jobs, because he wanted to reach out locally; most of his clients are in other states.

"I wanted a way of being connected to the community, to develop relationships with other artists and the public," Ross said.

To that end, he signed up to be a stop on the Chatham Studio Tour, where artists open their workspaces to the public. The tour is this weekend and next.

Ross will give demonstrations with his forge, anvil, hammer and tongs, something he's used to after speaking with the hundreds of thousands of Williamsburg tourists over the years.

First a hobby

Ross' association with museums began when he was 17, living on Long Island, N.Y. He and his father took a blacksmith class at a carriage museum in Stony Brook.

"They had a blacksmith shop, and would teach classes in the community," Ross said. "They taught us to make simple hooks, and I just loved it. Of course neither one of us thought it would lead to a blacksmithing career."

Ross then became perhaps the only teenager on the East Coast to set up a blacksmith shop in the corner of his garage.



"I played around with it as a hobby for a while, and then I volunteered at another museum on Long Island, a reconstructed town called The Old Bethpage Village Restoration. That was enough to convince me to find a college that had some kind of craft program."

Ross ended up at the Rhode Island School of Design, where he met his mentor, Dick Everett of Connecticut, who specializes in restoring 17th- and 18th-century hardware and furnishings.

"He was in an old town, surrounded by old houses," Ross said. "I worked for him with the idea that I'd eventually open my own business."

And he did, in 1976 on Deer Isle, Maine, also home to Haystack Mountain School of Crafts. "It's just a beautiful, breathtaking spot, right on the ocean," he said. But the Williamsburg job beckoned three years later.

Past methods

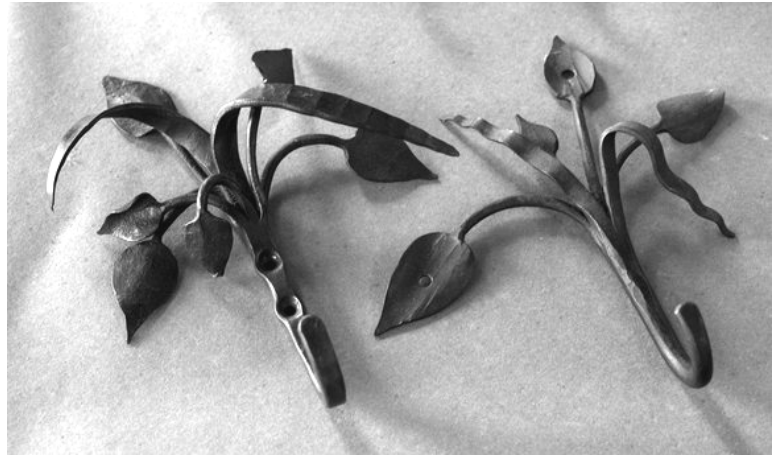
"It's a fascinating environment," he said of the country's most famous living history museum. "It's a great academic institution. You're surrounded with other professionals studying restoration - curators, architects, archaeologists. But you're also dealing with tourists who often have no or little knowledge, and so your job is to educate them. It's an interesting combination."

At one point, Ross as master blacksmith had a staff of seven blacksmiths.

"We had the same staff of blacksmiths for 12 years," he said. "It was a very skilled group."

About half his time was spent with the public and the other half working on restoration projects at the museum.

"I was hired to turn the blacksmithing into a more academic program instead of a souvenir-oriented program, so it was an exciting time to be there," Ross said. "There was a tremendous shift in many of the crafts there to do more



research, to study long-developed techniques and to understand decorative arts from the maker's viewpoint. We got to look at everything with a fresh eye."

One of the things Ross learned and often lectured about was the difference between contemporary and pre-industrial aesthetics.

"Our job was to re-create old pieces, and the methods in which they'd been made. It was a revelation to me that when you don't have modern tools at your disposal, not only are the tools you're using different, but the whole thought process is markedly different. You don't use the same sequence of steps. It's like cooking without a recipe, when you go by taste and sense and feel."

Nature's model

The 18th-century worker, he said, was led by nature's infinite variety.

"The aesthetic ideal was nature. Like if you have two maple leaves. They have the same character, but are different in size and shape. That was the function of handwork through the ages until industrialization. Now it's all about uniformity and measured precision, sometimes even in ways that can be detrimental to the work."

Ross' more contemporary forged metal work won't be a huge stretch from his restoration work because he's basing the designs on historical pieces.

"I'm not sure how much of the new stuff I'll do, but it's something I wanted to try. We'll see how it goes."

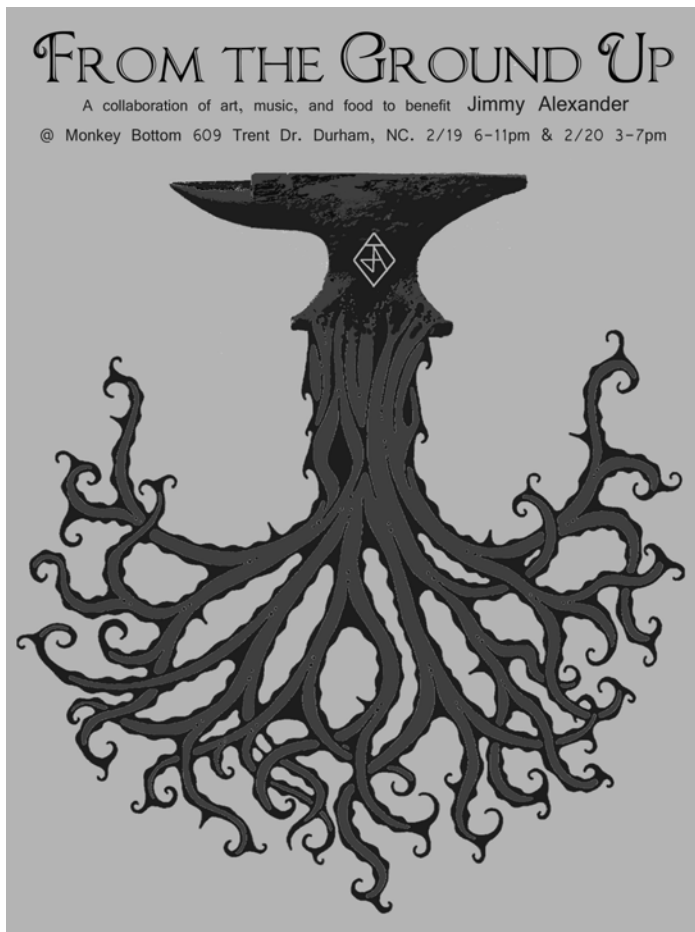
No, he answered, he doesn't have a Web site showing his contemporary work. He is, after all, a little stuck in the 18th century.

“From The Ground Up” Benefit for Cindy and Jimmy Alexander

By Marty Lyon

Mike Waller and Leah Foushee, friends of Cindy and Jimmy, through a benefit for the Alexanders to help defray expenses incurred by Jimmy’s illness and to help offset Jimmy’s loss of income. The event was held on the 19th and 20th of February at the Monkey Bottom, a studio with gallery space in Durham, NC.

Quite a few artists had items for sale. They agreed to donate at least 15% of their sales to help Jimmy and Cindy. T-shirts were on sale with Jimmy’s logo on the front and a graphic on the back that commemorated the event. See image here. There was music to entertain and great food for the hungry. I attended on Saturday. There was a good crowd while I was in attendance. Music, for the afternoon, was provided by the High Strung Durham Ukulele Orchestra. What an unusual group. All five played ukulele, but most played other instruments as well, including bass guitar, accordion, various small percussion instruments, and, a small celesta. The celesta is a small, non-electrified, keyboard instrument. This one was a traveling version and was probably only a couple of octaves.



Photos: Clockwise from above:

Event poster and graphic printed on the back of the t-shirts.

Cindy sitting on Jimmy’s anvil and stump from his shop

One wall of the art for sale.



Dan Nicholas Park
Nature Center
6800 Bringle Ferry Road
Salisbury, NC 28146
www.dannicholas.net

Dan Nicholas Park Nature Center will be hosting the 3rd annual Simple Living Festival on May 1, 2010 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The annual all-day spring event is a special opportunity for folks to step back in time and to see and experience first-hand some of the skills, crafts, music and lifestyle of previous generations when life was simpler and closer to nature and the earth.

The Simple Living Festival is an expansion of the annual Earth Day event, expanding to include heritage skills and crafts in addition to the conservation and environmentally themed exhibitors.

2009 participants included Davidson County Community College, Carolina Raptor Center, Boy Scouts Of America, Salisbury Parks & Rec., Land Trust Of Central NC, and NC Forest Service.

Heritage skills and crafts demonstrated were blacksmithing, gunsmithing, woodworking, knife making, wood carving, musical instrument making, yarn spinning, and livestock (goat) milking.

Chris Hatley brought his hand built, ox-pulled cargo wagon, and Joe Teeter, a local science teacher, brought his battery powered electric car.

There will be a small music stage with old time and acoustic music, this year featuring Moon Mullins, a national and international champion of Merle Travis style thumb-picking guitar.

Hamburgers and hotdogs will be available, provided by a group of men from one of our local fire departments and churches.

If you are interested in participating, exhibiting, or sponsoring please contact Mike Lambert or Bob Pendergrass.

James.Lambert@rowancountync.gov 704-216-7833 sponsorship or music

Bob.Pendergrass@rowancountync.gov 704-216-7819 crafts or exhibition

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was originally printed in the Winter 2006 issue of "Hammer's Blow". It is from a series of educational articles, directed towards beginning blacksmiths, made available by ABANA

CONTROLLED HAND FORGING

Bending

Text and Photos by Dan Nauman

Lesson #14- Forging a 90-degree corner

Definition: Altering the centerline of a bar.

Intent: To learn how to forge a sharp 90-degree corner while maintaining the parent stock dimensions throughout the bend, and have the resulting two legs measure to a predetermined length.

Tools: Anvil, 16- to 20-ounce cross-peen hammer, center punch, steel square.

Material: 1/2" square x 20" mild steel.

Step One

Note: When producing a bend of this nature you will lose some length, equal to half of the parent stock thickness, on both legs.

Also, when figuring how much metal will be needed for this bend in a project, remember that your measurements should be taken from the center (or mean line) of the bar on your layout, and not from the inside or outside corners.

Our target length for the short leg that will be formed is 3 3/4", and a target length of 15 3/4" for the long leg. With that in mind, measure 4" from the end of the bar, and mark with the center punch.

Step Two Heat the bar to bright yellow, with the center punch mark centered in the heat.

Note: A short heat for this step will reduce the work in succeeding heats. The length of the heat when initially pulled from the fire will be too long. If this heat is not minimized, the resulting bend will require more effort to achieve your goal.

The bright yellow heat will give you some time to quench the bar. Using a dipping can, quench the bar (with water) down to 1/2" on either side of the center punch mark so that the heated area is confined to about 1 1/2"... ideal for this initial bend.

After you have minimized the heat, make sure the center punch mark is visible on the side of the bar, and position the bar so that the center punch mark is

over a 1/8" radius on the far edge of the anvil. Proceed to bend the bar over the edge of the anvil by striking the end of the bar down. Bend the bar so that it is at about a 100-degree angle. (See photo #1)

Notes- Do not use a sharp corner of the anvil or the vise to make the initial bend. This can lead to galling on the inside corner which may lead to forming a shut (overlap) during subsequent steps. A shut in steel can form into a crack, weakening the piece. A shut in wrought iron will cause the leg to fall off.

Our goal is to teach you to make this bend with a minimum of tools. However, some smiths prefer to use the vise to perform a controlled, gentle bend in Step Two (avoiding a gall), and then use it for a brace (or back-up) in succeeding steps. While this practice is not necessarily wrong, it must be noted that it takes precious time to place the piece in the vise. Also, the vise acts as a heat sink, robbing precious heat from the metal. These facts combined reduce your window of time to forge the corner.

Forging dynamics: From bending, the inside corner has now increased in cross-section from compression, and the outside corner has decreased in cross-section from stretching. This excess material on the inside corner can be moved to help replace the loss of material on the outside corner. The next step will help accomplish this task.

Step Three

In the same heat from step two, lay the bar on its side on the anvil so both legs are resting on the face. Using the cross peen of the hammer, carefully forge down the excess material on the inside corner back down to 1/2". The peen should strike the bend, perpendicular to the 50-degree mean angle, so that the metal pushes to the outside corner. The legs themselves will help prevent the metal from flowing into the inside corner. (See photo #2)

CONTROLLED HAND FORGING



1. After the initial bend, the angle should be approximately 100 degrees, as shown here.



3. Stand at the heel of the anvil to forge this form.



2. Position the hammer as shown when cross-peening the corner. Be mindful that you do not reduce the cross-section smaller than that of the parent stock.

five or six times with hard blows. The blows should be focused so that the hammer face is in the same plane with the long leg, and slightly to the inside of the axis of the short leg. (See photo #4)

In the same heat, position the bar ten degrees to the left (or ten degrees to the right if you are left handed), and redirect your blows with the hammer's face in the same plane as the short leg, and just below the axis of the long leg. (See photo #5)

Step Four

Heat the bend to bright yellow. Quench the bar to concentrate the heat to 1/2" on each side of the bend.

Note: Your stance at the anvil is important for this step. It will be easier for you to swing the hammer if you position yourself with your shoulders square to the heel of the anvil. (See photo #3)

Place the short leg ten degrees to the right of vertical (ten degrees to the left if you are left handed), with the end down on the face of the anvil. Strike the bar



4. Vertical blow— note the position of the hammer and the short leg.

CONTROLLED HAND FORGING



5. Horizontal blow—Note the position of the hammer and the short leg.

Proceed to strike the bar with seven to nine blows.

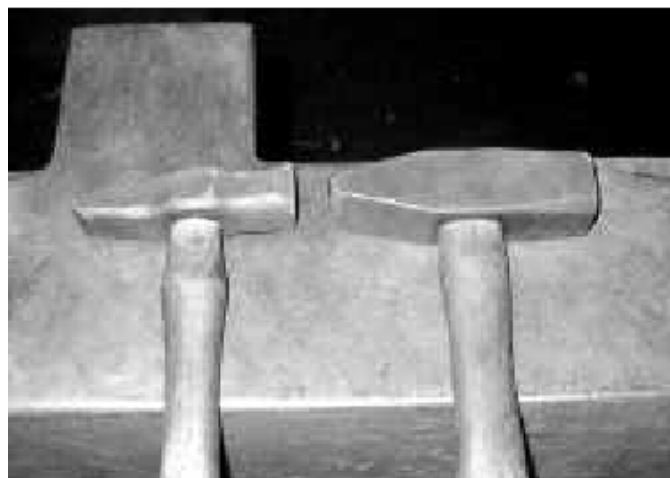
Alternate back and forth from the short leg to the long leg until the metal reaches a dull orange color. Maintain an angle of about 100 degrees. Count your blows as explained above.

Forging dynamics: The reason you strike more blows horizontally is that your hand is not as solid a brace as the anvil is for the vertical blows, thereby requiring more blows to accomplish the same task of moving material towards the corner.

Also, using a lighter hammer such as a 16- to 20-ounce hammer minimizes the possibility of forcing too much material to the inside corner of the bend (which could happen when using heavier hammers). The force delivered by a lighter hammer is expended on the surface of the bar. (See photo #6 of 1.8# hammer vs. 1# hammer.)

Step Five

Your work thus far has also increased the cross-section of the bar at the inside corner. As you did in step three, use the peen to simultaneously reduce the cross-section, and push the excess material to the outside corner. Smooth with the face of the hammer. Be careful, as you do not want to reduce the corner to less than the parent stock size.



6. Use a smaller hammer to do this operation. The hammer on the left is a one-pound hammer—a good hammer weight for the task. The hammer on the right is a 1.8 pound hammer which is too heavy for this form.

Step Six

Repeat steps four and five until the outside corner is visibly sharp (no greater than a 1/32" to 1/64" radius).

Note: If the legs begin to bend during any part of these procedures, straighten them at once or the energy from your blows will do more to continue bending the legs, rather than forging the corner.

Step Seven

Heat the corner to bright yellow. Quench as in step four. Lay the long leg on top of the anvil. The short leg should point down off the anvil, with the inside corner away from the side of the anvil. With light blows striking horizontally towards the short leg, close the angle of the corner to 90 degrees (See photo #7). The legs can be straightened by lightly tapping on the anvil in any orientation the corner. that suits the task. Use the steel square to check your progress. (See photo #8.)

Note: Resist forging down on the bar on the corner of the anvil to achieve the 90-degree bend, or to straighten the legs. What you are trying to do at this point is to bend the bar to 90 degrees, not forge the bar to 90 degrees. Forging down on the legs to achieve the bend will reduce the cross-section of the legs near the corner.

CONTROLLED HAND FORGING

Targets:

- The short leg is 3 3/4" long, and the long leg is 15 3/4" long, plus or minus 1/16".
- Both legs lie in the same plane. No twists or bends.
- The stock size remains 1/2" throughout the forging.
- The corner is 90 degrees, with a radius of 1/64" to 1/32" for an outside corner.

- The legs are straight, and do not slope down to the corner.
- The surface of the faces are smooth. -With practice, the corner should be forged in five to six heats.
- There is no shut (overlap) on the inside corner.



7. When trueing the angle to 90 degrees, keep the short leg away from the anvil as shown here. Doing so will keep you from reducing the cross-section of the bar beneath the parent stock size.



8. Check your work with a square. Note that the legs are square, but there is a gap near the corner of the long leg, which should be corrected.

Photograph to the right has not much to do with bending.

It is from the B.O.L.T. Blacksmith Guild's Christmas Party last December. B.O.L.T. is our newest Regional Group.

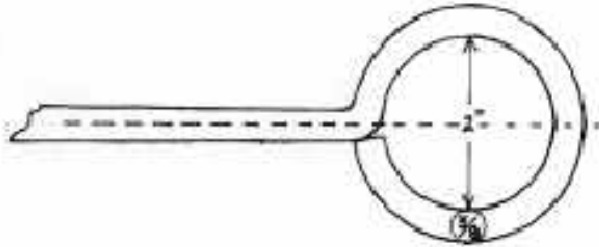
Photo courtesy of Amos Tucker.



EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was originally printed in the Spring 2006 issue of "Hammer's Blow". It is from a series of educational articles, directed towards beginning blacksmiths, made available by ABANA

CONTROLLED HAND FORGING

Bending Part 2



Text by Bob Freddell,

illustrations by Tom Latané

Lesson #15- Forge an eye on the end of a bar.

Definition: Altering the centerline of a bar..

Intent: To learn to forge a well rounded eye to a specific diameter.

Tools: Anvil, hammer..

Material: 3/8" square x 24" mild steel.

Note The reader is referred to two earlier articles in the *Controlled Hand Forging* series: (1) *Bending Bar Stock* by Jay Close, *Hammer's Blow*, Vol. 11, # 2, Spring 2003, (2) *Drawing, Punching and Bending* by Peter Ross, *Hammer's Blow*, Vol. 11, #3, Summer 2003. Read these articles. They detail the forging dynamics and the process of bending bar stock. The directions in this lesson are not as comprehensive as the two previous lessons.

Step One The formula to determine the length of material needed for the eye is:

Inside diameter of the eye + thickness of the stock x π = length of stock.

OR

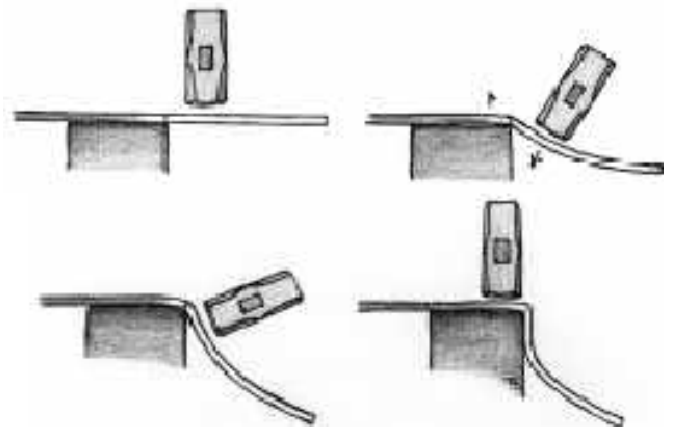
$2" + .38" \times 3.14 = 7.5"$, or $7\frac{1}{2}"$.

The numbers for this lesson are written using decimals. If you prefer to use fractions, $3\frac{1}{7}"$ is used for π and $3/8"$ for stock size.

Tip: If you are overwhelmed by the mathematics, the same information can be gleaned from a full sized sketch of the finished eye. Use a piece of

wire or string along the median circumference of the sketch to get the needed stock requirement for the bend. Or step it off with dividers set at, say, 1/2 inch. Lifting dimensions from a drawing is an important skill to develop. Many forms— such as scrolls— will not readily submit to a mathematical approach.

Center a punch mark 7 _" from the end of the bar. There is more than one way to hold the bar while center punching. It may be placed in the corner of the anvil's step, or set on the vise with the jaws opened to slightly less than the diameter of the bar.



Making the first bend and correcting the counter bend.

Step Two

Heat the entire 7 1/2" portion of stock, plus about another inch, to light yellow.

a.) Place the punch mark at the far rounded edge of the anvil with the punch mark facing to the side where you can see it and keep track of it.

Be certain to keep the bar stock horizontal and flat to the anvil face.

Strike next to the bend—not near the tip of the bar, and bend the bar down 90°. As you do this you will probably note two counter bends.

b.) The portion of the heated bar on the face of the anvil will likely have lifted slightly off the anvil in a counter curve. This is caused by the edge of the anvil acting as a fulcrum. As you strike down on

CONTROLLED HAND FORGING

one side, the bar levers up on the other. Forge down this unwanted counter bend without reducing the bar dimension.

If you have directed your bending blows near the bend itself, you will likely notice the tip of the bar curving up. The inertia of the bar's end is tending to keep it stationary as the remainder of the bar is forced to bend. The result is a curve like a reversed "J". Do not straighten this! Use it in the next step.

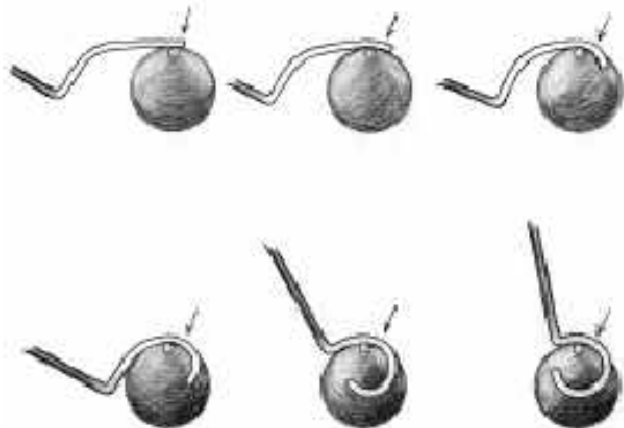
Step Three

Go to the anvil horn quickly to use the same heat as in Step Two.

Flip the bar over with the bent portion pointing up.

Raise the hand holding the bar high so you can place the tip of bar horizontally on the anvil horn.

The tip should extend over the horn about 1/4". You have a head start if the tip already has a slight bend (see Step Two).



Progressive bends form the eye.

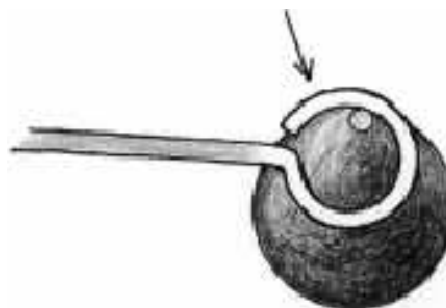
To make it curve, strike the hot bar that extends beyond the horn. You are working on the side of the horn that is furthest from the smith. Do not pinch the bar between the hammer and horn, as that will not bend it. That will only reduce its dimensions by drawing it out.

Continue to feed the bar across the horn in short increments of about one half of an inch. Never strike the bar twice in the same place. Continue working in this manner until the hammer blows approach the point of the initial 90 degree bend of Step Two.

Inspect your progress frequently. Are you bending a sufficient curve? Is the curve too tight? You may



Returning the eye to the proper plane.



Eye flipped to an area of insufficient bend.

need to go back to an already bent section of the eye for correction. Alter the position of your holding hand—raising it or lowering it—so that the correcting blow is as near vertical as possible.

Sometimes the eye seems to spiral like a coil. Pay attention to how it contacts the horn and how you hit it. Remove the coil effect with a flattening blow or two on the anvil face.

Note: A common error is to hold the hammer at such an angle that the hammer edge strikes the hot bar making unwanted dents. Only the hammer face is to strike the hot bar.

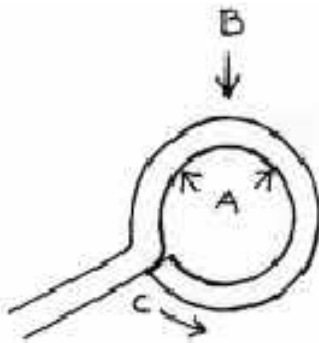
Depending on how the eye is forming, you may find it necessary to flip the eye so the termination is on the top-side of the horn. In this orientation the bending hammer blows will come on the side of the horn nearest the smith.

Note- Making such a bend is really a matter of approximations and on-going corrections.

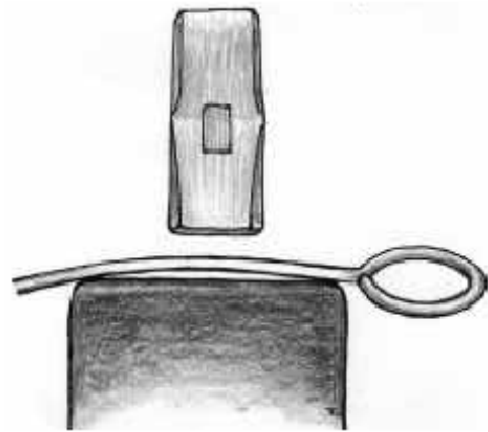
With experience, this step can be completed in one heat. However, the beginner should work for control and accuracy, not speed.

The eye is now formed, but may need further refinement.

CONTROLLED HAND FORGING



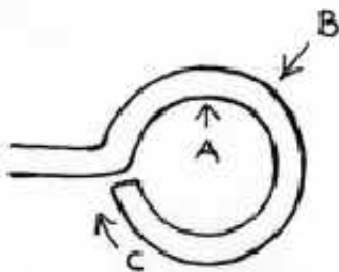
Opening a kink— eye contacts horn at points A, struck at point B, resulting in movement at C



Straightening the "handle" portion of the bar.

Troubleshooting and corrections

- Look at the eye you have formed. Make mental notes if it is not true to your specifications. It may exhibit "kinks" where the curve is too tight and "flats" where it is too gentle.
- To remove a kink, with the eye heated to a light orange, place the high spot of the kink on the top of the horn where the horn is wide enough to support the eye on either side of the kink. Sometimes you need to angle the work on the horn to get such a bridging effect with a small diameter. Strike the top of the kink, then make a note of any change of shape, i.e. not enough, too much, or just right.
- To remove a flat spot, place the flat spot on the top of the horn so that the flat spot is supported. Gently strike the eye on the far side of the horn slightly past where the bar contacts the horn.



Removing a flat spot— eye contacts horn at point A, struck at point B, resulting in movement at C.

Check your progress. Is the adjustment better, worse or just right?

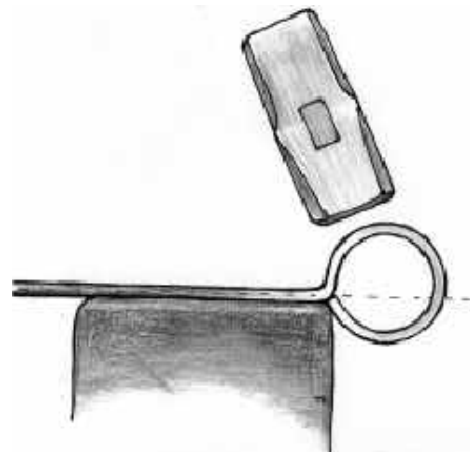
- These techniques are also used to adjust the tip of the eye to meet the parent stock.
- You may need to raise or lower the holding hand as needed to present the correction conveniently to the hammer.

- The handle and its alignment with the eye may need correction. If so, first straighten the handle so you can accurately read its relationship to the eye. Once the handle is satisfactory, assess its alignment to the eye. The handle must point straight to the center of the eye.

- If the eye is out of alignment, proceed by heating the area of the initial 90 degree bend. Lay the handle across the anvil with the bend on the far rounded edge and the eye placed so that any offset is up. Forge it down into alignment and then make any small corrections to the eye and handle that may be needed.

Targets: -The eye has a 2" inside diameter, and has an error of no more than 1/16".

- The end of the bar that forms the eye is to touch the bend at the handle.
- No twists, kinks, or flat spots.
- The handle is to point directly to the center of the eye.



Aligning the eye to be centered on the bar.

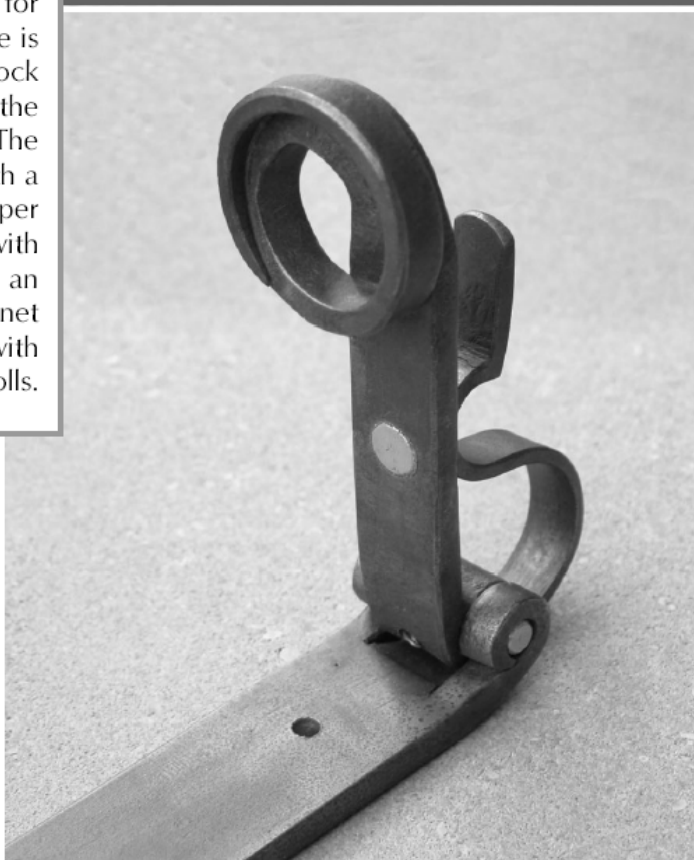
EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is from the "Blacksmith Journal" published by Hoffmann Publications. They have been kind enough to allow ABANA chapter editors access to some of their back issues free of charge. The "Blacksmiths Journal" publishes beautiful shop drawings of blacksmith projects. See the last page of this article for more information,

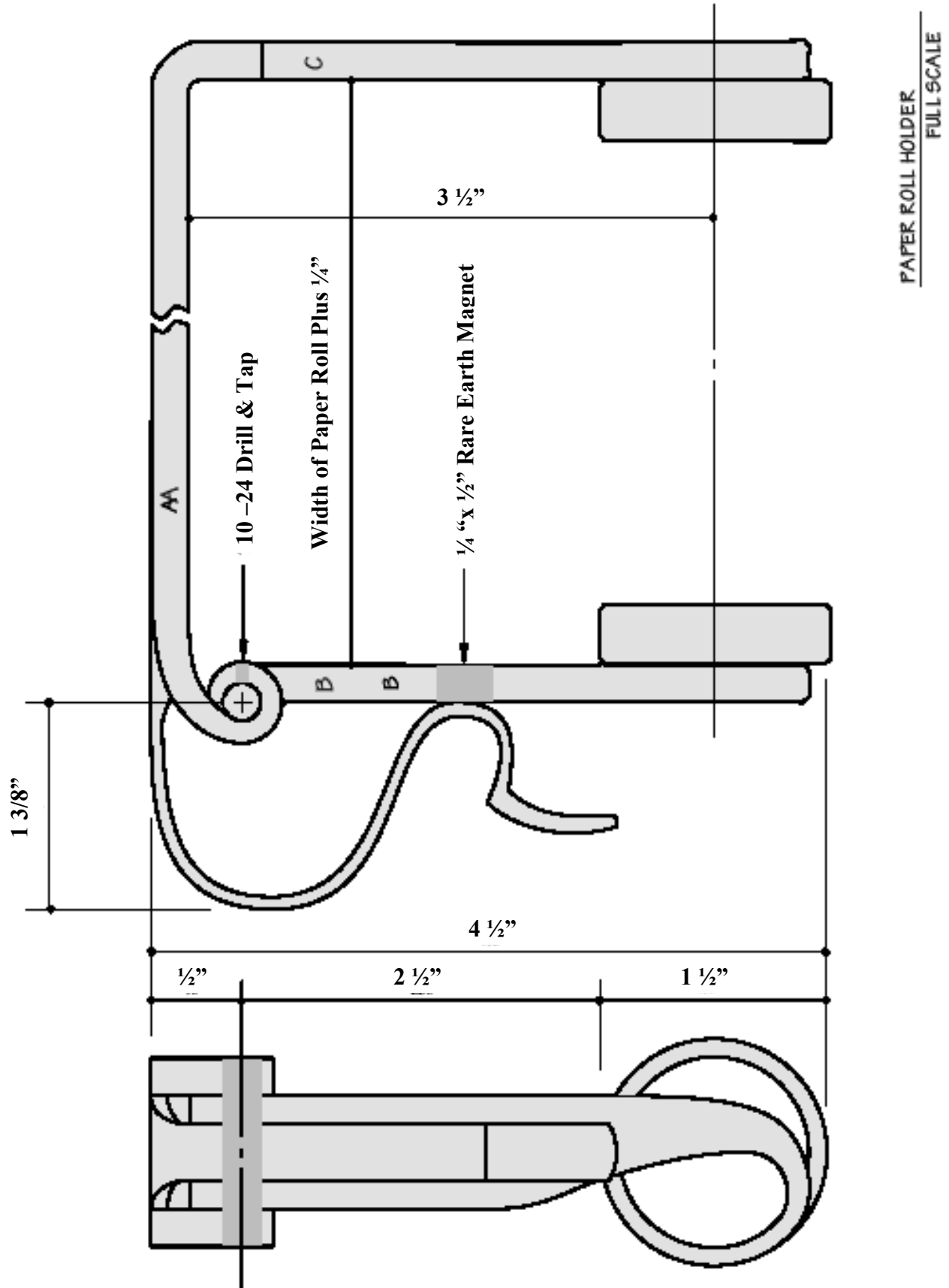
PAPER ROLL HOLDER

Make this heavy duty holder to dispense any roll paper product.

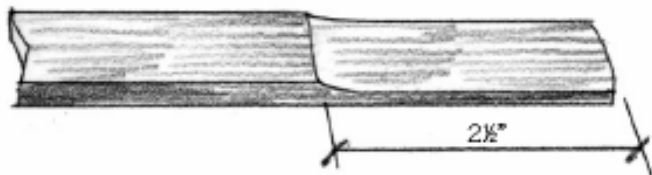
Paper towels, craft paper or toilet paper are some of the products this project can be sized for (this one is made for paper towels). The frame is made from $\frac{1}{4}$ "x $1\frac{1}{4}$ " stock with one end split to make the hinge journals and spring. The other end is finished with a loop that fits inside the paper roll. A hinged bracket with another loop features an imbedded rare earth magnet that keeps it in contact with the spring when changing rolls.

A rare earth magnet passing all the way through the stock keeps the hinged bracket in contact with the spring

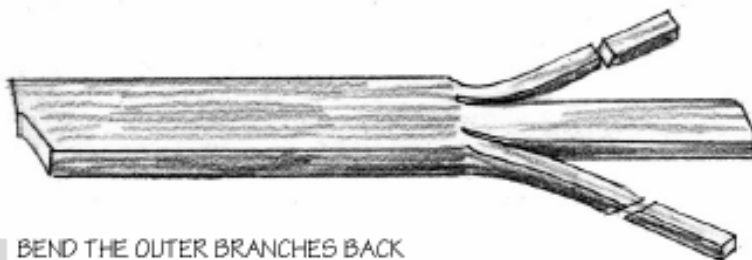




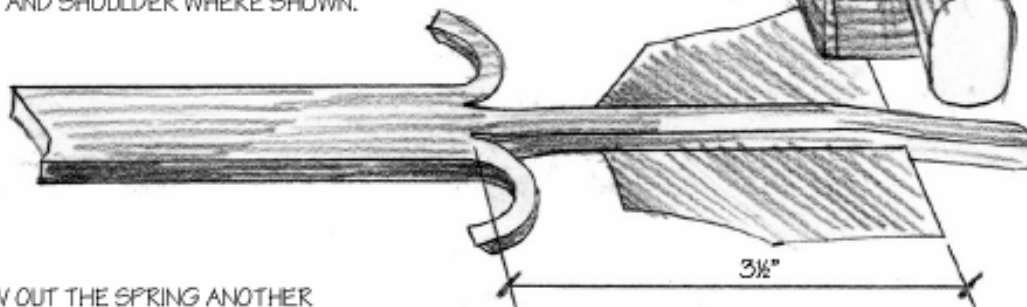
PART A



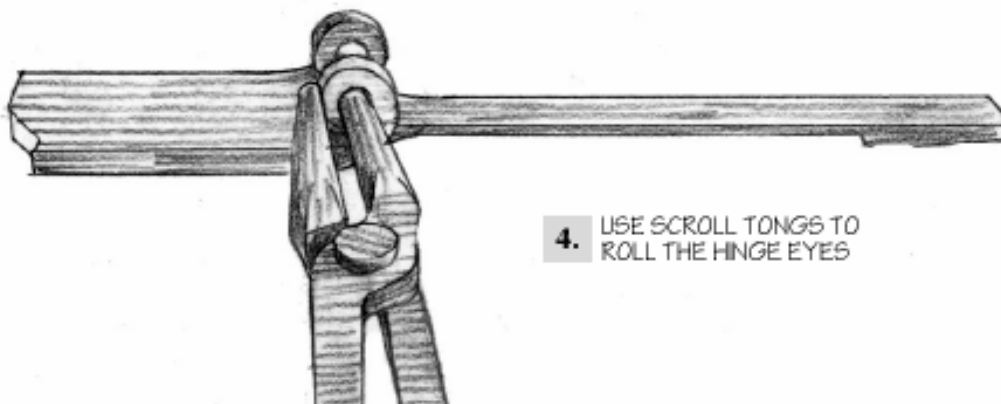
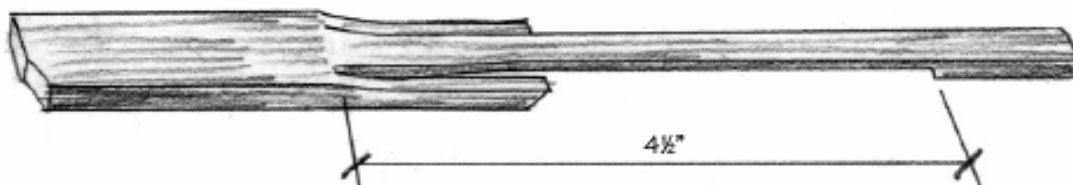
1. DRAW 1/4" x 1 1/4" STOCK DOWN TO 3/16" THICK, THEN SAW OR SPLIT TO MAKE TWO BRANCHES. TRIM THE BRANCHES SO THEY CAN BE ROLLED INTO HINGE EYES.



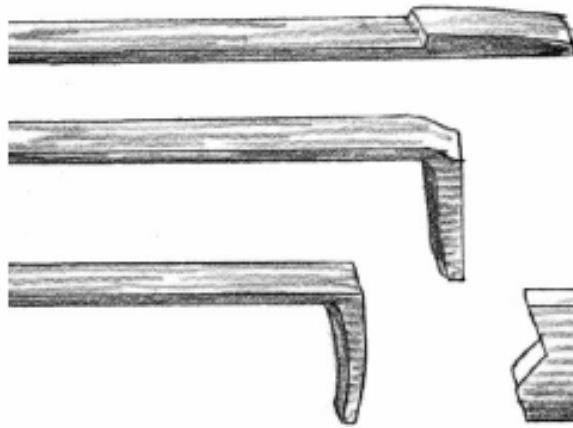
2. BEND THE OUTER BRANCHES BACK AND DRAW OUT THE CENTER BRANCH TO 3/16" x 3/8" AND SHOULDERS WHERE SHOWN.



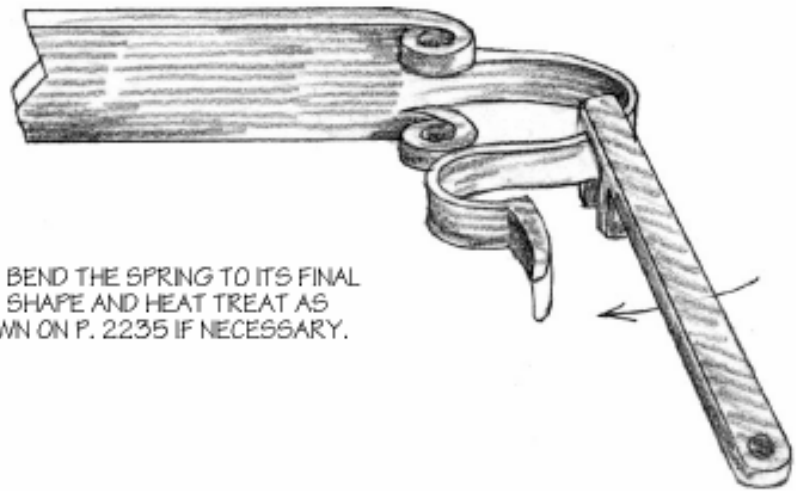
3. DRAW OUT THE SPRING ANOTHER INCH TO ITS FINAL THICKNESS.



4. USE SCROLL TONGS TO ROLL THE HINGE EYES



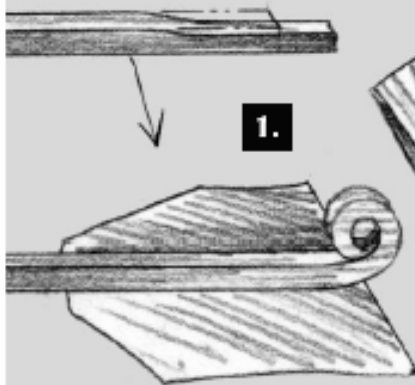
5. FINISH THE END OF THE SPRING BY MAKING A SQUARE CORNER. THIS WILL BE A THUMB LEVER FOR OPENING HOLDER.



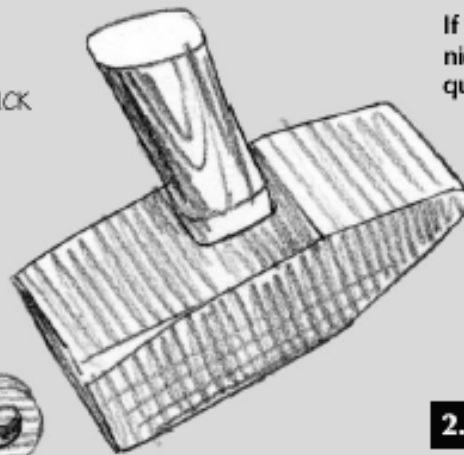
6. BEND THE SPRING TO ITS FINAL SHAPE AND HEAT TREAT AS SHOWN ON P. 2235 IF NECESSARY.

FORGED AND FABRICATED

DRAW THE END OF TWO PIECES OF $\frac{1}{4}$ " SQUARE STOCK DOWN TO $\frac{3}{16}$ " THICK AND FORM INTO EYES.



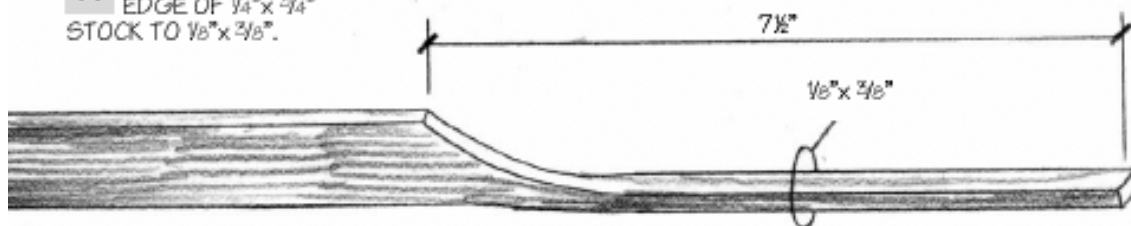
If you don't need to use traditional techniques, forging, then fabricating can be quicker and easier to do. Here's how:



DRAW THE SPRING OUT OF $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " STOCK.



7. DRAW OUT THE
EDGE OF $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ "
STOCK TO $\frac{1}{8}$ " x $\frac{3}{8}$ ".



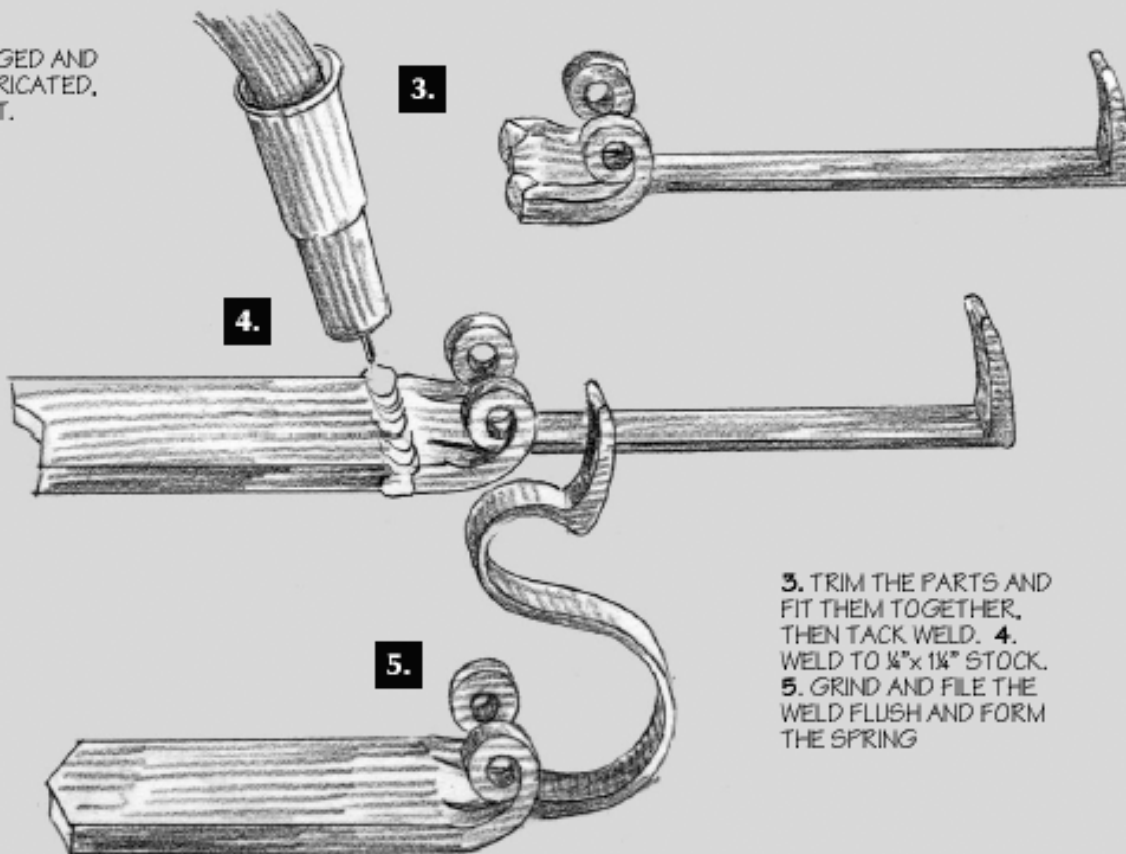
8. DRAW DOWN THE END TO $\frac{3}{16}$ " THICK.



9. FORM THE HINGE EYE.

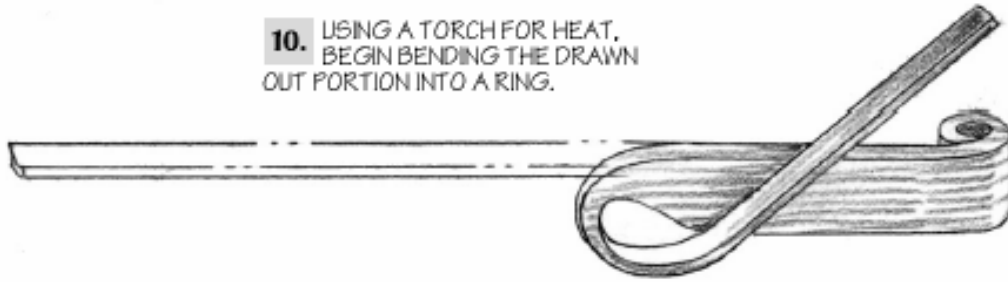


FORGED AND
FABRICATED,
CONT.

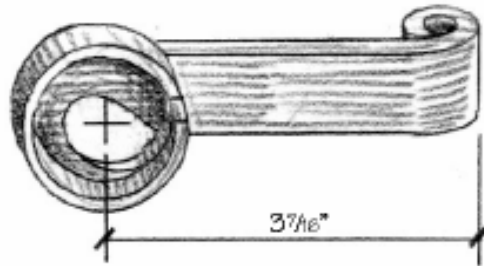


3. TRIM THE PARTS AND
FIT THEM TOGETHER,
THEN TACK WELD. 4.
WELD TO $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1" STOCK.
5. GRIND AND FILE THE
WELD FLUSH AND FORM
THE SPRING

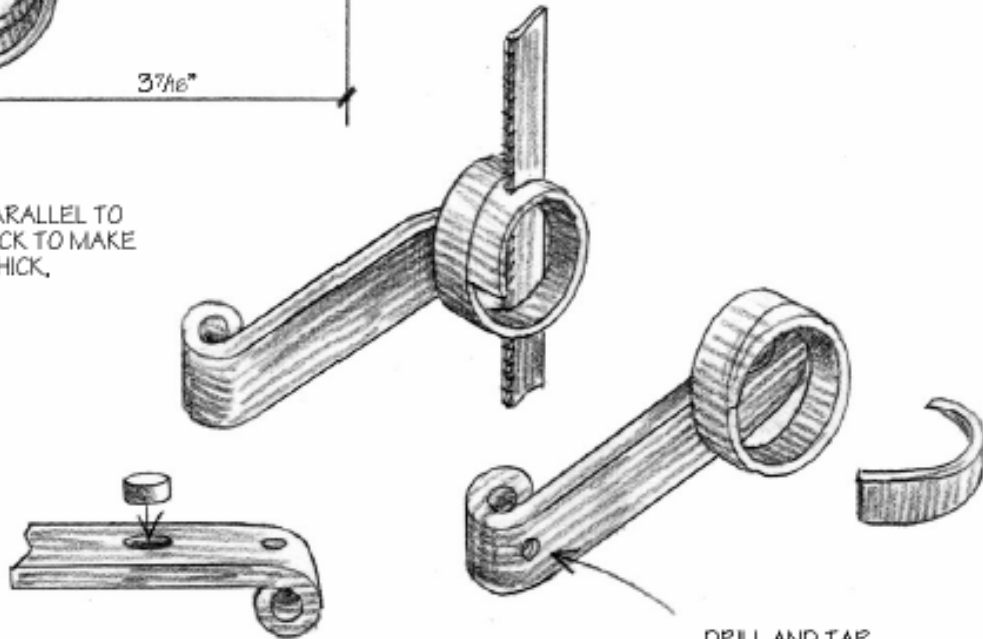
10. USING A TORCH FOR HEAT, BEGIN BENDING THE DRAWN OUT PORTION INTO A RING.



11. THE BENT RING SHOULD BE $1\frac{1}{2}$ " IN DIAMETER AND CENTERED $3\frac{7}{16}$ " FROM THE EYE.



12. SAW THE RING PARALLEL TO THE PARENT STOCK TO MAKE THE COILED RING $\frac{3}{16}$ " THICK.



13. DRILL A $\frac{3}{16}$ " HOLE WHERE THE SPRING MEETS THE ROLL HOLDER AND PRESS FIT A $\frac{1}{4}$ "x $\frac{3}{16}$ " RARE EARTH MAGNET INTO IT.

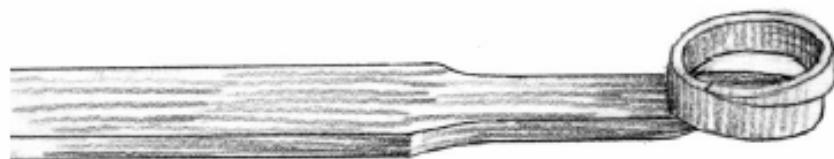
DRILL AND TAP FOR A 10-24 SET SCREW

PART C



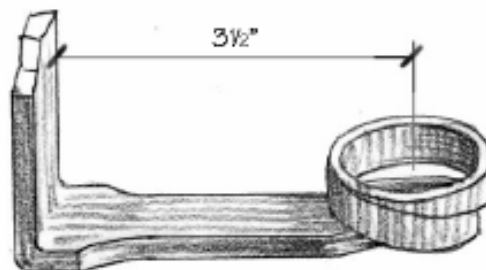
14. DRAW OUT $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $1\frac{1}{4}$ " STOCK TO $\frac{1}{4}$ "x $\frac{3}{4}$ ", THEN DRAW OUT ON EDGE DOWN TO $\frac{1}{8}$ "x $\frac{3}{16}$ "



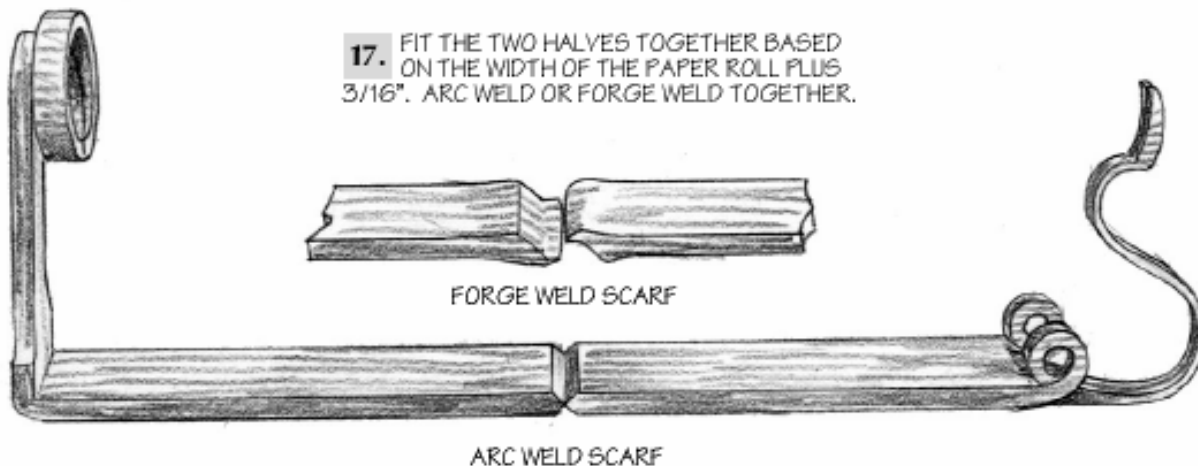


15. ROLL THE END INTO A RING AND CUT IT FLUSH AS BEFORE.

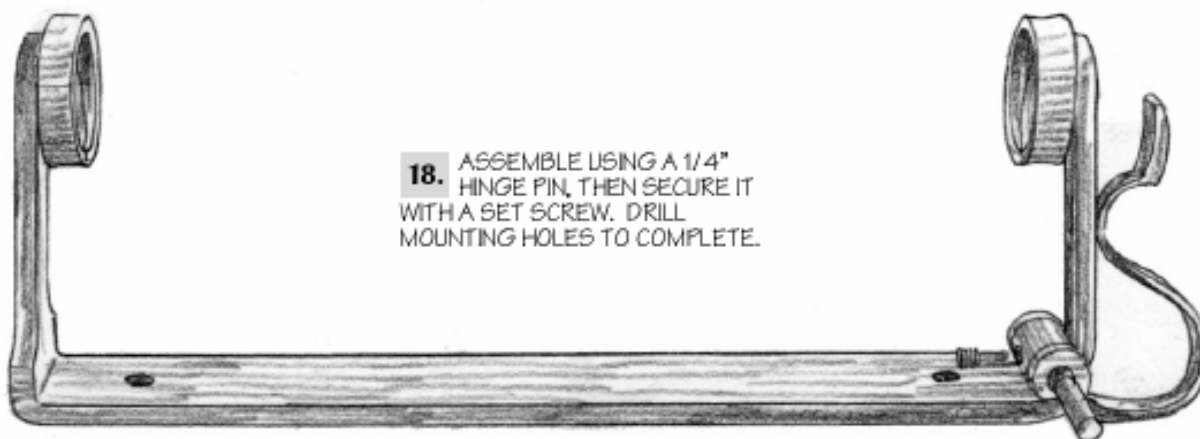
16. BEND THE STOCK 90° TO FINISH PART C.



17. FIT THE TWO HALVES TOGETHER BASED ON THE WIDTH OF THE PAPER ROLL PLUS 3/16". ARC WELD OR FORGE WELD TOGETHER.



18. ASSEMBLE USING A 1/4" HINGE PIN, THEN SECURE IT WITH A SET SCREW. DRILL MOUNTING HOLES TO COMPLETE.



Blacksmithing Classes

I received the following email from Yesteryear School of Blacksmithing. They are in the Richmond, Virginia area and they seem to have some interesting classes. Some are even free to novices. EDITOR

Greetings!

I wanted to take a moment and touch base with everyone to let you know about some newly listed classes that will be happening at the Yesteryear School of Blacksmithing!

We have scheduled several FREE novice classes for anyone just starting out to get a full day in of forging the fundamentals! We have also created a few level 2 novice classes to better practice and introduce those forging fundamentals.

March 5-7 will bring us our first knife making class with Kim Thomas. In three days you will go from forged to finish with a chance to WIN one of his Damascus knives as well! We are really excited about this class and especially the opportunity Kim has created to win one of his knives too!

We also have classes scheduled with Elmer Roush, Alwin Wagener, Doug Merkel, Jerry Darnell, Mark and Mindy Gardner, David Tucciarone, and our resident instructor Mike Tanner. We are always on the lookout for new classes and new instructors...some are still in the wings awaiting to be published!

We are also having some holiday themed classes for Valentine's Day and the Christmas season. With Valentine's Day right around the corner we are holding a one day class to come and make several heart themed pieces to give to your loved ones, or to make with your loved ones!!! We are running a special tuition price for any couples who want to come and enjoy a day of forging together!

If you have a group of people and want have a special class just for you we can do that too!

We also have special tooling geared for the blacksmith at very affordable prices. If you do not see the tool you are looking for give us a call and we can make anything from forges, anvil stands, tooling, and signs! We are dedicated in making your forge a better place to work through our classes and tooling options! All of our classes are weekend centered and flexible on payment and enrollment!

Take a moment to check out our upcoming classes at: <http://www.yesteryearschool.com>

Please contact me with any questions you may have! We are here for you!

Warmest regards,
Peyton Anderson, Administrator

Yesteryear School of Blacksmithing
15421 Five Forks Rd.
Amelia VA 23002

434-390-6203

<http://www.yesteryearschool.com>
peyton@yesteryearschool.com

Thought I would print a list of Yesterday School of Blacksmithing's available classes - EDITOR

March 5-7 2010 => Forging Colonial Period Patch Knives with Kim Thomas - Filling Up

March 27 2010=> FREE Level 1 Intro Class with Mike Tanner - Available

April 10 2010=> FREE Level 1 Intro Class with Mike Tanner - Available

April 30-May 2 2010 => Forging 10th Century Viking Locks with Elmer Roush - Available

May 22-23 2010 => Bear Heads and Wizard Heads with Alwin Wagener - Available

June 12 2010=> Level 2 Novice Class with Mike Tanner - Available

July 24 2010 => FREE Intro Class with Mike Tanner - Available

August 7 2010=> FREE Level 1 Intro Class with Mike Tanner - Available

August 27-29 2010 => Repousse: Tool Making and Techniques with Mark and Mindy Gardner - Available

September 11-12 2010=> Hooks and More with Mike Tanner - Available

October 1-3 2010 => Colonial Hearth Equipment with Jerry Darnell - Available

October 9 2010=> FREE Level 1 Intro Class with Mike Tanner - Available

October 22-24 2010 => Rasp Tomahawks and More with Doug Merkel - Available

November 20-21 2010=> Intro to Forge Welding with David Tucciarone - Available

November 27 2010=> Level 2 Novice Class with Mike Tanner - Available

December 3-5 2010 => Forged Projects with Brian Brazeal - Available

December 11 2010=> Christmas Forging Fun with Mike Tanner - Available

**Classes at the New England School of Metalwork, Auburn, Maine 1-888-753-7502
www.newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com**

April: Creative Joinery with Dereck Glaser

May: Belt Ginder; Build it, Use it with Wayne Coe

May: So, you want to be a Blacksmith? with Wayne Coe

May: Forged Animal Heads with Darryl Nelson

June: Pattern Welded Steel with James Viste

June: Forging for the Hearth with Jeff Mohr

July: Basics in Botanicals with Susan Madacsi

July: Handles and Guards with Greg Neely

August: Bountiful Betty; Traditional Oil Lamps with Peter Ross

August: Gardens of Color; Botanical Forms in Copper with Enamel with Ira DeKoven

September: Forge Welding with Randy McDaniel

October: Live the Legend, Wootz Crucible Steel with Ric Furrer

October: Forged Integral Blades with Christoph Deringer

October: Flora and Fauna in Metal with Eric Ziner

Spring Workshop at Bill Brown's - Linville Falls, NC

April 19 - April 23, 2010

Nothing but Sculpture Workshop – Spring 2010

Art can be hard to define; yet, without it, our lives would be lacking. As Henry James states, "It is art that makes life, makes interest, makes importance... and I know of no substitute whatever for the force and beauty of its process."

Who: Sculptor - Bill Brown

To familiarize yourself with my work please view my website at www.studiosculpture.com

What: Five day workshop entitled, "***Nothing but Sculpture***" to explore artistic inspiration and the technical processes in making contemporary sculpture. Main medium used will be steel.

Where: Anvil Arts Studio – 9600 Linville Falls Hwy, Linville Falls, NC

Fully equipped studio with a myriad of equipment ranging from the traditional tools of blacksmithing, three forges, Mig-welders, and powerful air hammers such as a 3B and 5B Nazel. Air hammers such as these used in forging and fabrication of steel sculpture are not for the faint of heart!

When: Monday, April 19, 2010 thru Friday, April 23, 2010

Each day will begin at 8:30 a.m. and last until at least 5:00 p.m. Can be later depending on class discretion

Details: Limited to four participants – Familiarity with metal is necessary and a desire to create art – Early registration is recommended as class will fill to capacity quickly.

Workshop includes: Daily Discussion, Demonstrations, One on one Instruction, Illustration of all equipment on premises, Atmosphere will be one of encouragement solely for the purpose of creating sculpture by combining techniques, tools, and aesthetics.

Materials: Steel can be purchased here or BYOS (Bring your own steel).

Cost: \$ 750 per student

Requirements: Registration deadline is April 5, 2010. A \$375.00 payment is expected for registration, Remainder of balance is due at sign-in. Sign-in is scheduled for Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. This will be a meet and greet session to discuss the upcoming week. Signature for a Waiver of Release form will be signed at that time. Travel/Lodging accommodations are participants' responsibility. If you're interested, we are more than willing to assist in recommendations for accommodations.

Refund Policy: Refunds can only be issued up to two weeks prior to workshop. After April 5, 2010, there will be no refunds. No exceptions.

Please visit www.studiosculpture.com or contact us directly at 828-765-6226 or bill@studiosculpture.com

Unique Opportunity for Young Smith

From ABANA Email

The American Friends of Coubertin have announced the availability of training fellowships for September 2010 through July 2011 in woodwork, architectural metalwork and stonework at the Coubertin Foundation outside Paris, France.

Applicants should have at least 2 or 3 years work experience in their craft, be accomplished and seeking master skills.

The deadline for applying is March 31, 2010

Please consult our website for details and an application form, at www.afcoubertin.org

You can Email Zibby Jahns at: board@afcoubertin.org with any questions.

You may download the application from this Link: <http://www.afcoubertin.org/resources/AFC-fellowship.pdf>

THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Curriculum:

Fellowships last 11 months (from September to July). Fellows undertake to attend workshop sessions, classes, lectures and other cultural activities. Classes and lectures represent over 1000 hours over the course of the fellowship.

The program includes:

- Work in the workshops
- Professional training in their relevant trade (technology, drafting, workshop organization)
- Classes in French language and general culture open to the modern world
- Instruction in how to teach one's own craft
- Free-hand drawing, history of architecture and styles
- Modeling and casts
- Perspective and proportions
- Basics of management and accounting
- Mathematics and mechanics of materials
- Foreign languages (English, German)
- Computer skills and CAD
- Artistic heritage
- Weekly lectures on cultural topics
- Visits of monuments, museums, exhibits
- Live performances (theater and music)

Fellows who perform satisfactorily receive a certificate of completion.

Material Conditions:

Fellows receive room and board on-site at Coubertin. Their productive work in the workshops is paid, which ensures a minimum monthly income of € 500. All fellows without exception receive health and insurance and workers compensation coverage.

One round trip airplane ticket between the U.S. and France is included, as is visa (work permit) processing. The program has a demanding schedule and includes weekend excursions. Except perhaps over the Christmas holiday, a return to the U.S. is not possible except for emergencies.

General Requirements:

Fellows should be between the ages of 21 and 29, and have at least 3 years of professional experience beyond their apprenticeship.

They must demonstrate a good level of professional skill in their area with concrete examples (a portfolio is part of the application).

They commit to participate fully in the program's activities and to abide the rules and regulations of the program.

Language Requirement:

A fellow who does not have sufficient mastery of the French language is required (at no cost) to take an immersion course in the month of August prior to the start of the program. The goal of the course is to obtain an adequate level of knowledge of the French language and French customs.

ABANA Conference News*Call for 2010 Conference Gallery Submissions*

2010 ABANA Conference will host an open to the public Gallery event in conjunction with the Memphis conference. This is your call for Gallery submissions. The conference Gallery will host an opening reception, inviting the public to an evening event and the opportunity to meet the artists.

We invite you to consider donating your Gallery items for the conference auction. Funds raised by the conference auction go to support the mission of your association and are gratefully accepted.

Please be sure to indicate whether your Gallery item is for "Display Only", "Auction Item", or "For Sale by Artist". Please Contact Steve Williamson for Gallery Submissions

Not attending the 2010 Conference? Well there is still a way for you to display your item(s) in the Gallery and/or donate an item for the Auction. Contact Steve Williamson to find out how!

Gallery Submissions Coordinator

Steve Williamson

3434 Pulaski Hwy, Columbia, TN 38401

H: 931-381-7910

Cell: 931-374-1190

sslw2@aol.com

ABANA Conference News

Scheduled Activities – Teaching Forge Program

ABANA Conference Workshops / Teaching Stations

Mark Aspery, Darryl Nelson and Gerald Boggs will be facilitating these Workshops at the "Green Coal" teaching stations during the the 2010 Conference in Memphis.

Mark Aspery works with both Darryl Nelson and Gerald Boggs on a regular basis, teaching twice a year at Darryl's school in Washington State and teaching with Gerald at some of the craft schools in the Eastern States on a somewhat regular basis.

Gerald will be handling the fundamentals classes and Darryl will be running the advanced classes. Mark Aspery will be manning the intermediate section with a basic forge welding class and a tool-making class.

Gerald's class will explore the basic tenets of blacksmithing using leaf-making as a vehicle. Hammers, hammer swings and types of blow along with tapers and spreading will get you well on your way as a beginning smith. Gerald's attention to detail and a seemingly unending supply of patience and a healthy sense of humor will be a boon to the new smith in this class.

Darryl will focus on two-dimensional animal heads and the related tooling for his classes. The steps used to complete an animal head in 2D are very similar to Darryl's 3D heads but are a little easier to complete given the time frame that we will be operating within. Darryl will be showing the larger three-dimensional heads during his demonstration at the conference.

Mark Aspery will be looking at forge-welding in the gas forge making a flux spoon and a BBQ fork for his first class and tool-making for his second class. The tool-making class will focus on a section of his tool-making demonstration given during the conference. This will give some smiths a chance to try their hand at some of the things they may have seen at the demo.

If we have time, Mark might try to fit in an evening talk about basic heat treatment and offer a practical demonstration for those interested.

ABANA has arranged to borrow 'BAM's' well-provisioned equipment trailer to make up a section of the teaching station.

Many thanks to Don Birdsall and the BAM board. We should have a mix of gas and coal forges and upwards of a dozen anvils at the teaching station.

Don't forget to bring your personal safety equipment if you would like to participate in the classes. We are planning to have some seating available at the teaching station for those that prefer to watch but not participate.

I hope to see you at the conference, until then I wish you safe and productive forging.

Cheers,
Mark Aspery
School of Blacksmithing

Blacksmith's Exchange

Have something for sale, or looking for something? This is just the place to look.

Send your "for sale" or "looking for" requests to Marty Lyon (at the address or email address on the back cover). Please include your name and phone number

For Sale

125 pound bullhammer air hammer, in excellent shape and hardly used. Two dies go with it. Need to sell it soon, and would like \$5000 for it. I live in south Asheville. Phone is 828-215-6003. Bill Drake

For Sale – Antique Forge

I have an antique forge with some tools- it appears to still work. It is from the Champion Blower and Forge Company, Lancaster, Pa. I was told it is about 100 yrs. old. I also have a few blacksmith tools to go with it. I am interested in selling it. I live in Florence, S.C. E-mail me if you are interested in it. I bought it for my brother who has done some blacksmithing, but he has become disabled from cancer and is unable to use it. Thanks Martha Smith - memarmarsc@yahoo.com

For Sale - Looking To Sell As A Complete Set Up:

Large Hay-Budden Anvil	Sheet metal anvil	Post vise	Propane forge on stand	a lot of tongs
Gattis Williams		New Bern, NC		252-637-7348

If Interested, I will be happy to email pictures

Ray Clontz Tire Hammer Plans by Clay Spencer

Ray Clontz Tire Hammer Plans, \$30, including postage to US and Canadian addresses. Send check or money order, e-mail me for cost to other countries

Tire Hammers for sale, 50 lb. hammer head, approx. 250 blows per minute, 1 hp motor, 6" diameter anvil, 700 lbs., 2 ft. square base, Contact me for price/availability. Reasonable delivery if I am headed to your area..

Beverly Shear blades sharpened, \$35 + postage. Blades must be removed from shear, extra cost for deep nicks or blades previously sharpened at angle.

Clay Spencer, 73 Penniston Private Drive, Somerville, AL 35670, 256-498-1498, cell 256-558-3658, clay@tirehammer.com

For Sale

Blacksmithing/ Knifemaking/ Forging POWER HAMMER - 50# Little Giant

Little Giant 50#, manufactured in 1947, modern style (clutch at rear) excellent condition, Plug and pound! Has drawing dies, 2hp original motor, single phase, runs like a sewing machine can forge up to 2" solid metal. \$3800.00 919 / 444-1665

Blacksmith Supply

Tools and Supplies For The Modern Blacksmith

John Elliott

P.O. Box 3766
Chester, Virginia 23831

Phone: 804-530-0290

Fax: 804-530-0290

E-mail: jelliott@blacksmithsupply.com

Website: www.blacksmithsupply.com

Wrought Iron Rods (up to 14' long) Available

Wisconsin Woodchuck LLC has iron rods ranging from 5/8" to 1 1/2" in diameter (from a 1887 grain elevator). They also have iron flat bars and millions of iron square nails. Prices start at \$2 per pound. Call to check inventory.

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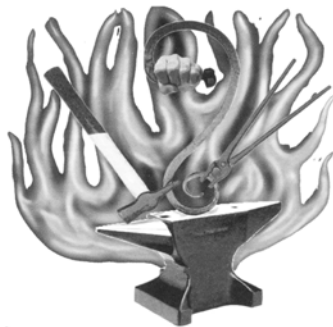
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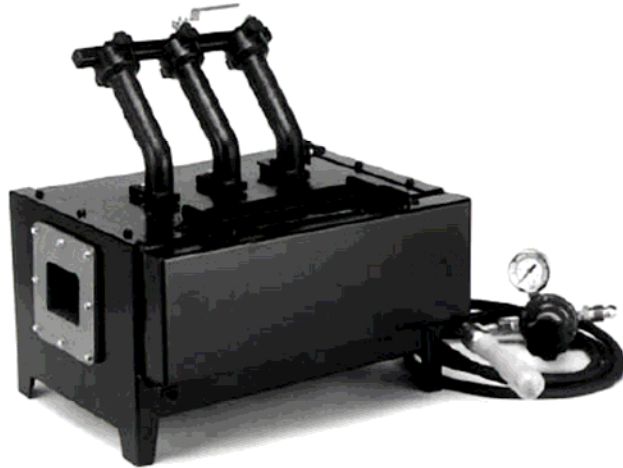
www.powerhammerschool.com

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 Web site: www.nctoolco.com

Coal For Sale

I have roughly 15 tons of Sewell Vein pea stoker washed coal from the Green Valley Mine. 15.5 BTU, 1.25-2% ash. I sell it in 50 lb. bags for \$10.00 and no charge for the bags-you pick up. Whatever bulk load the buyer wants, my front end loader bucket holds 400 lbs. \$10.00 loading fee (or I can furnish shovels). I prefer not to make deliveries. I should have a consistent supply for several years. References available. Fred Pugh 5332 NC87N Pittsboro, N.C. 919 542 4164

Here is an Excellent Source of Tool Steel:

The Atlantic Steel Corp
 35-27 36th St.
 Astoria, NY 11106

For Sale: Small Oxygen and Acetylene Tanks with a plastic carrier.

Easily carried with place for hose. No hoses or regulators included. Originally purchased from National Welders. Current price is \$250. Selling them for \$150.

Parks Low at 919 818-3036

Change of Address Form. Please Use This Form or E-mail Me your Changes Important – Don't Miss a Newsletter or a Notification

Change of Address Form:

Your Name: _____

New Address: _____

New City, State, and Zip: _____

New Phone Number(s): _____

New E-Mail: _____

Comments: _____

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF ABANA

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

ABANA Member?: Yes No

Blacksmithing Experience: _____

DUES: \$25.00 per year (within USA)

\$35.00 per year (outside USA)

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: NC ABANA

REMIT TO: Marty Lyon

220 Fearington Post

Pittsboro, NC 27312

If you are renewing your membership and your address and phone number have not changed, you do not need to use this form.

ABANA APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

DUES: Regular (US/Canada/Mexico) \$55.00

Senior 65+ (US/Canada/Mexico) \$50.00

Student (US/Canada/Mexico) \$45.00

Foreign \$65.00

Library (US) \$45.00

Contributory \$100.00

Make check payable to: ABANA

Credit Card: American Express MC

Discover VISA

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

REMIT TO: ABANA
15754 Widewater Dr.
Dumfries, VA 22025-1212

NC ABANA LIBRARY BOOK ORDER FORM

Date of Request: _____

Requested by: (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Library Code of Item: (if known) _____

Title of Item: _____

Mail this request form to:

Dick Snow, NC ABANA

4222 E.L.G. Road

Efland, NC 27243

If you are a member in good standing of the NC Chapter of ABANA, the book you select will be mailed to you as soon as it is available. You may keep it for up to 30 days and then you must mail it back to the librarian. A return address label will be included when the book is mailed to you. All books must be returned in the condition they were received in or you may be charged for the damages. You may have ONE book (Code BK) or up to THREE Hot Iron Sparkles (Code HIS) or THREE magazines (Code MAG) at any one time. A new copy of this form will be sent with each book.

Chapter Calendar 2010

January	☞ <u>Regional Meetings</u>
February	☞ <u>Regional Meetings</u>
March	☞ <u>Regional Meetings</u> ☞ <u>1st QUARTER CHAPTER MEETING</u> March 20 AT 9:30 A.M. DEAN CURFMAN'S, OAK HILL IRON WORKS MORGANTON, NC
April	☞ <u>Regional Meetings</u>
May	☞ <u>Regional Meetings</u> ☞ <u>2nd QUARTER CHAPTER MEETING</u> - Date TBD at 9:00 a.m. DIXIE FAIRGROUNDS, WINSTON SALEM, NC
June	☞ <u>Regional Meetings</u>
July	☞ <u>Regional Meetings</u>
August	☞ <u>Regional Meetings</u>
September	☞ <u>Regional Meetings</u> ☞ <u>3rd QUARTER CHAPTER MEETING</u> TBD
October	☞ <u>Regional Meetings</u> ☞ <u>Dixie Classic FAIR OCTOBER 2 – OCTOBER 11</u> ☞ <u>NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR OCTOBER 15 - 25</u>
November	☞ <u>Regional Meetings</u> ☞ <u>BONUS MEETING</u> Date TBD at 9:30 a.m. J.C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown
December	☞ <u>Regional Meetings</u> ☞ <u>4th QUARTER CHAPTER MEETING</u> TBD

Regions

See map on bottom of the page for approximate locations of each region within North Carolina

(1)
Western North Carolina Blacksmiths
Steve Kayne Candler, NC
(828) 667-8868
2nd Wednesday evening, each month
(2)

Triad Area Blacksmiths
Marshall Swaringen Advance, NC
(336) 998-7827
1st Tuesday 6:30PM for demos
3rd Saturday, 9AM for business
and all day forging
Dixie Fairgrounds, Winston Salem, NC
(3)

Grand Buzzard's Nest
Tal Harris Waxhaw, NC
(704) 843-5586
Last Saturday, even # months
(4)

Southern Foothills Blacksmiths
Steve Barringer Mooresville, NC
(704) 660-1560
2nd Sunday, each month
(5)

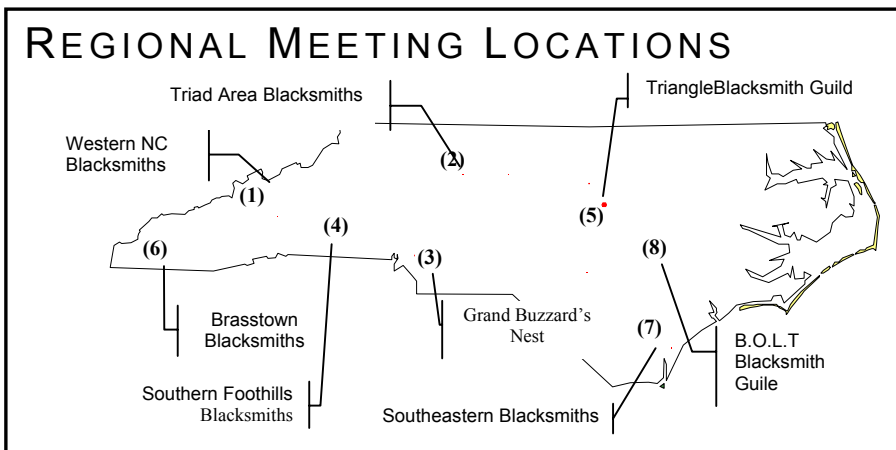
Triangle Blacksmith Guild
Randy Stoltz Cary, NC
(919) 481-9263
1st Saturday, even # months
(6)

Brasstown Blacksmiths
Paul Garrett Brasstown, NC
(828) 835-8441
3rd Saturday, even # months
Noon to 4PM
Note Changes
(7)

Southeastern Blacksmiths
Richard Coley Wilmington, NC
(910) 547-3131
Quarterly Meetings
(8)

B.O.L.T. Blacksmith Guild
Amos Tucker Kenly, NC
(252) – 289-7317
1st Sat. or Sun. Even # months

Note: Any member is welcome at each of the Regional meetings. Call host to confirm date, time and location.



President

Jimmy Alexander
922 Lakeside Drive
Durham, NC 27712
919 / 684-7820
jima136040@aol.com

Vice-President

Garrett Dunn
119 Tanager Ln.
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-6452
919 / 469-1317
gngdunn@gmail.com

Secretary

Marty Lyon
220 Fearington Post
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919 / 642-0098

NCABANAML@EARTHLINK.NET

Treasurer

Parks Low
8108 Deermeadow Drive
Apex, NC 27539
919 / 818-3036
P.Lowjr@att.net

PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

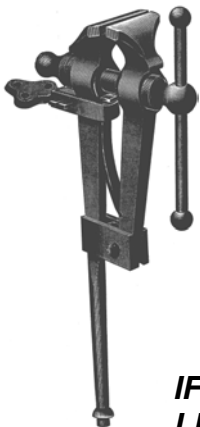
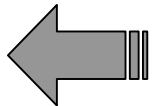
Chris Bradley	Roxboro	NC
Lee Miller	Roxboro	NC
Barry Stanton	Henderson	NC
Sandy Costa	Cary	NC
Doug Lane	Elizabeth City	NC
David N. May	Charlotte	NC
Paul Bourgault	Rose Hill	NC
Bob Cain	Winston-Salem	NC
Christopher Cain	Winston-Salem	NC
Adam Broderson	Independence	VA
Peter Gardner	Greensboro	NC
Tommy and Laura Harris	Murphy	NC
Robert Larrick	Clayton	NC
Russell A. Rigsbee	Independence	VA
Marc Wasserman	Durham	NC
Jerry Langdon	Raleigh	NC

Don't Forget

2010, 1st Quarter Chapter Meeting

March 20 - 9:30 AM

Dean Curfman's Oak Hill Iron Works, Morganton, NC



North Carolina Chapter Artist Blacksmith Association of North America

THE HOT IRON SPARKLE

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