

THE HOT IRON SPARKLE

• NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA ARTIST-BLACKSMITH'S ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA •

ncabana.org

Volume 32 Number 2



Second Quarter 2013



Doug Merkel forging a railroad spike knife at the NC ABANA quarterly meeting at Big Blu in Morganton

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A Message from our President

Greetings All:

26 Apr 2013
Millers Creek, NC

Spring is way past sprung here in the prettiest part of the known world and just might slip into summertime hours shortly, with forging before second breakfast a distinct possibility.

The Q₁ meeting at Big Blue was another fine time had by all. I especially enjoyed the demonstrations. Iron In The Hat was a huge success with a near record raised for the scholarship fund. Thanks to all who donated and the ticket buyers. Of particular note was the exhibit of recent work by Paul Garrett and the demonstration of the Oliver Hammer by Jason Lonon as a project from his welding class at Mayland CC. Very interesting. A brief business meeting was held at the conclusion of the demos and Jennifer Phillips, Secretary has a summary in her report.



With a 50% chance of rain forecast, the Fire on the Mountain Blacksmithing Festival in Spruce Pine, NC 27APR13 was surprisingly well attended. Thanks to Garret Dunn for help with set-up and manning the booth and to John Mathews for set-up, tear-down and booth help. We gave out well over 50 of our Join brochures and many business cards. For a first time presence we had a very good reception and it was great to see many members come by the booth. We sold around \$185.00 from our stock of demo pieces from the Alexander collection with the proceeds defraying the cost and contributing to our general fund. I look forward to increasing our position in this event next year as it gives the chapter good recognition and is an excellent recruiting tool. As a sales venue, I highly recommend this opportunity because the customer base has wonderful potential.

The Q₂ meeting will be held 29 Jun 2013 at the Triad Blacksmiths' Shop at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds in Winston-Salem with Tommy McNab doing the lead demonstration.

Thanks to Cindy Alexander and Robert Timberlake for their representation of our chapter at the upcoming Madison Conference. Amos Tucker will be heading a committee to continue our affiliation in that event. If anyone desires to lend a hand, please contact Amos as he will gladly accept.

Doug Wilson has done a superb job in taking over as editor of THE HOT IRON SPARKLE and we hope you are pleased with the publication. We are currently studying the costs of bulk mailing versus electronic distribution.

The blacksmithing world is saddened at the loss of Phillip Gaddy, Bea Hensley and Francis Vega. We shall endeavor to carry on and hold their collective memory high.

It is not too early to be working on salable inventory for the State Fair. Last year we ran short of items to sell and need to stock the sales area well for this year. The Fair management has agreed to work with us on some needed improvements to the shop there.

Get it hot, hit it hard and know when to quit!

Lyle Wheeler, President NC ABANA

Submissions to THE HOT IRON SPARKLE can be made to:

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NC ABANA Reports

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Vice-president's Report

One of the really fun parts of being VP is getting to be the auctioneer for 'Iron in the hat'. We had the First Quarter meeting at Oak Hill Iron Works and I was stunned by how generous you all were and how many pieces we had to draw for. It was a great way to raise money for the scholarship fund and an even greater way to see people's work. If I get enough encouragement maybe next year a bottle of my best sparkling mead may end up on that table.

Chairing the scholarship program is another one of the VP jobs. We have an educational mission and there is no better way to make that happen than to help people get with top instructors and really focus on reaching their next level of achievement. The fund is named after Dean Taylor, one of our founding members and he was passionate about blacksmithing. Here is how the scholarship program works:

- The first type of scholarship is for taking a class offered at a recognized institution. A common choice is a week at Campbell or another similar school. The level of support would be based on the course needed and the financial need. Typically amounts up to \$1000 can be considered.
- The second type is the Mentor scholarship. This would be to support a lesson outside a school, for example a hands on forging day with a skilled instructor. Again the level of support would be based on the course and the need with typical amounts up to \$100 for a day long session.

All scholarships come with the same rules and conditions. The main ones are:

- You have to be a member for at least a year to apply.
- The use of the money is for tuition, materials, room and board only.
- You have to write a newsletter article, demo what you learned at a meeting, and donate something you make to NC ABANA for auction or sale.



All the rules are available on the website along with the application. Please check it out and think about applying. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

The last thing I want to cover is another way the club can help you with progressing your blacksmithing. Both the Winston Salem and the Raleigh chapters have an established presence in their big state fairs. These events are fantastic opportunities for members all over the state. I really enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship when joining in and demon-

strating at the State Fair in Raleigh each October. This is also a great chance to help make your shop pay for itself while giving you more practice time at the forge. People love to buy things to remember the demos we give at the fairs and are looking for small items to take home with them. A sweet spot for these are pieces in the 20-30 dollar range and we really cannot get too many things to put out in the sales area. Keep in mind they have to be forged and hand made by you – a member – personally. If you just set a target now of

making 5 items a week or 10 a month, you could be looking at a great opportunity in October and you don't have to be a demonstrator to sell through the club. So get those trade goods into production now and in the next issue I will tell you about the commission, rules about selling and how to get them to the fair if you can't make it that week in person.

Hammer on!
Garret

Secretary's Report



After the chapter meeting on 16 March 2013, the board of directors for NC ABANA held a quorum to discuss business. Board members present included Lyle Wheeler (President), Garret Dunn (Vice

President), Jennifer Phillips (Secretary), Jim Kennady (Treasurer), Marshall Swaringen (Triad Area Blacksmith Chapter Leader), Steve Barringer (Southern Foothills Blacksmith Leader), John Matthews (Blue Ridge Blacksmiths Leader), Randy Stoltz (Triangle Blacksmith Guild Leader), Paul Garrett (Brasstown Blacksmiths Leader), and Cindy Alexander (SBA Conference Representative and general advisor).

There were no official business motions presented.

Discussions were held regarding the following topics:

Upgrades to the State Fairgrounds presented by Lyle including lighting, drainage, a new sign, location of demon-

strators, and general ground keeping. Possible costs are to be discussed and voted on at a later date.

Fire on the Mountain [event occurred on April 27th, 2013]

Future publication dates for THE HOT IRON SPARKLE: deadline for third quarter content is July 27th and October 26th for fourth quarter.

Locations and demonstrators for third and fourth quarter meetings for 2013 are still undecided.

Treasurer's Report [see Treasurer's section]

Possible new local chapters.

Brasstown Blacksmiths changed their meeting time to even number months on the first Tuesday.

Library listing to be published in 2013.

Members might be able to pay their dues with PayPal in the future.

If you would like more information about the board meeting or a copy of the board meeting minutes in entirety, please email Jennifer Phillips, Secretary for NC ABANA at northcarolina.abana@gmail.com.

Treasurer's Report



Business Checking Account		2013
		YTD
Dues		\$2,525
Heritage Forge at NC State Fair		\$885
Newsletter Printing and Postage		-\$497
Newsletter Editor Fee		-\$300
Insurance		-\$1,460
State Wide Quarterly Meetings		-\$140
SBA Madison Conference		\$ -
Other		-\$166
	Net	\$847
	Balance 31-Mar-2013	\$10,645

Money Market Account		2013
		YTD
Income		996
Scholarships		
	Net	996
	Balance 31-Mar-2013	\$4,972



FORGE 300
Fortress of Louisbourg
Cape Breton Island, NS

July 4-7, 2013

Message from the Editor

I had the opportunity to attend the ABANA 40th Anniversary Convention in March in Columbus, Georgia. It was particularly meaningful to me as both the 40th anniversary of my marriage and of when I started blacksmithing. I did not discover ABANA for another 20 years. I wish I had found them earlier.

Many of the surviving founding members were in attendance and it was inspiring to hear their words of why they formed ABANA. Today's smiths enter a very different world than existed in our craft in 1973 but many of the founding principles of ABANA are strengths of the community today. Much of that was by intent from the founding.

Dmitri Gerakaris read from the original notes that he made when he proposed forming ABANA to artisans meeting about blacksmithing at Lumpkin, GA, in 1973. Collaboration and sharing were the foremost thoughts on his mind. That resonated with the other founders. The openness and energy of the ABANA community has led to a revival of blacksmithing in England and Europe in recent decades with some of the collaborative culture ABANA created going with it.

While ABANA was formed as an organization for artists, it has always had members and participation from all streams of the craft from farriers to welders to re-enactors. That acceptance of all comers has been one of the things that I have personally valued most about ABANA and what keeps me coming back year after year.

THE HOT IRON SPARKLE is one piece of how we share our knowledge, skills and experience to further the craft. Thanks to all of you who have given and will give of yourselves to ABANA and NC ABANA. Keep it coming...it can only get better with our sharing!

Respectfully,
Doug Wilson
Editor

New Members

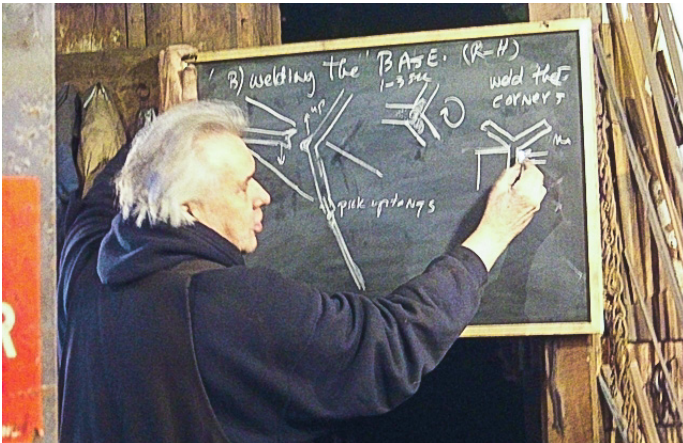
Adrian Down	Chapel Hill
Alan LaQuay	Timberlake
Bob McCuiston	Stokesdale
Cuinn McDermott	Indian Trail
Daniel Tito	Huntersville
David & Colton Baker	North Wilkesboro
Dennis David	Siler City
Gary Lester	Hickory
Gary Roath	Millers Creek
Houston Finley	Statesville
James "Mac" McIntire	Goldsboro
James Hodge	Newton Grove
John Broughton, Jr.	Cary
Matthew Hundley	Crossnore
Pat Jones	Cary
Phil Lewis	Oxford
Randy Calhoun	Harrisburg
Randy Joines	Newton
Robert Kinney	Fayetteville
Stanley Auton	Hickory
Steve & Shirley Kayne	Candler
Ted Thompson	Charlotte

Regional Reports

B.O.L.T.S. Blacksmith Guild

Article and photos by Amos Tucker

In February, B.O.L.T.S visited the shop of Jerry Darnell in Seagrove. Everyone worked on a colonial candle stand.



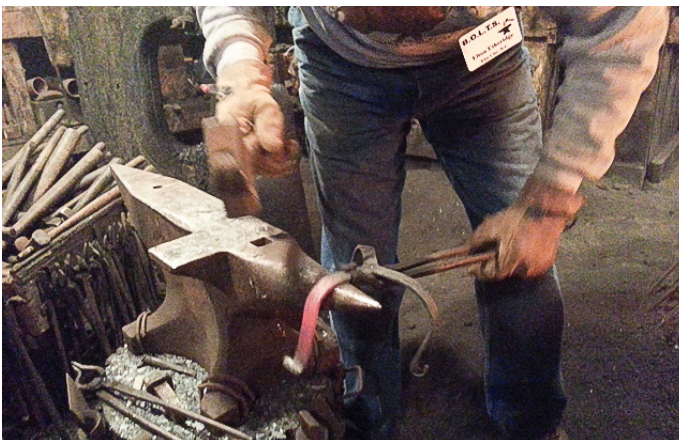
Jerry lays out the project.



Development of the base.



How to hold the legs when drawing out the feet.



Bending the legs.



Pictured left to right are Elton Etheridge, Amy Hinson, Jerry Darnell, Andy Anderson, John Sykes, and Kirt Jarrett.

Brasstown Blacksmiths

Article and photos by Doug Wilson

Brasstown Blacksmiths met at Dave Smucker's shop in March.



Dave began with showing the forming of power hammer tool handles from 5/16" round using a jig.



Then, following a demonstration of the technique, he opened the floor for others to try their hands at forging a fuller/flatter attached to a handle. Jim Kennady and Paul Garrett stepped up to the hammer and gave it a try.



A number of members brought items to share including this detailed fireplace tool set by Butch Dey featuring oak leaves and Darrel Nelson style animal heads.



The meeting finished with socializing over a fine BBQ dinner.

Triad Area Blacksmiths

Article by Marshall Swaringen

Triad Area Blacksmiths' regular Tuesday night meetings have been well attended with an average meeting night attendance of 18 members. The Saturday meetings are averaging about the same.

One of our biggest events of the year is the annual Shop Day held in March at Crews Iron Works in Boonville. Each year, Larry and his wife, Darlene, open up their shop to the Triad Area Blacksmiths for a Saturday of work and learning. There were 3 to 4 forges going most of the day with demonstrations and projects going on.

Lunch was a delicious fish fry, all the trimmings, and with many deserts. The Triad Area Blacksmiths would like to thank Larry and Darlene Crews for their hospitality and for opening up their shop as they have done for many years, Richard Howard for the crappie, and Richard, Larry Crews, and Ronnie Nifong for cooking.

Mark your calendars for June 29th as the Triad area Blacksmiths will be hosting the 2nd quarterly State meet at our shop at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds in Winston-Salem. This year Tommy McNabb and Joe Allen will be doing a Damascus demonstration. Ian Thomsen will be demonstrating Wizard heads. We will be having a BBQ lunch. Lunch will be \$5.00 per person. Please plan to join us on June 29th at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds at 9:00 am. Use Entrance Gate #9.

On a sad note, the Triad Area Blacksmiths would like to send our condolences to the family of Phillip Gaddy. Phillip passed away suddenly on April 6th working in his shop. Phillip's death will be a loss to not only the Triad Area Blacksmiths and NC ABANA but to all who knew him

Triangle Blacksmith Guild

Article by Doug Wilson; Photos by Marty Lyon

The Triangle Blacksmiths met at Eric Campbell's shop where Eric led the group through his work on making bellows.



Eric had examples finished using canvas which did not work so well...



and with leather that did.



Eight months of work on chain mail!



A newly completed knife - wow!



Wilkes Teaching Forge

Article by Lyle Wheeler

The Wilkes Teaching Forge (WTF) has met consistently on the second Tuesday of each month this year and is reported as follows:

13 JAN @ Wheeler Forge - Started colonial candle stands a'la Jerry Darnell and began with the hardest part first, the drop the tongs "T" weld for the base. Since this was a first for some of the members, we had a general review of this weld with some trials much success. A discussion was held about the various techniques for case hardening.

12 FEB @ Wheeler Forge - Welcomed a new member, David Baker, who has some experience with Anvilfire. A review of hooks and leaves was in order, with variations on both just to see what the newbie could do. Made plans to attend the Q1 meeting at Big Blue.

12 MAR @ Wheeler Forge - Continued with the bases for the candle stands by cleaning up and aligning the legs; then on to ribbon tapers and foot scrolls before forming the legs over the horn. Welcomed Joel Hubbard who attended to seek help on his Eagle Scout Project which will be to restore the forge for a local reconstructed farmstead. This is an ongoing project of a historically significant farm in the Moravian Falls section of Wilkes County and we were able to enlighten Joel with how this forge would have been configured. He took copious notes and we will continue to work with him. He was also referred to contact the Triad group to look at their forge to get a better understanding of a masonry forge.

9 APR @ Wilbar Forge, hosted by Gary Roath, proprietor. With four anvils available we had them all ringing at once! More progress was made on the candle stands by forging the arm pieces and working on the springs from a salvaged garage door coil spring. We had two new members show up, David Baker's son Tyler and his friend Michael Johnson. They were put through their first hooks by the master of the forge. A report was given on the Q1 meeting.

Event Reports

NC ABANA Meeting at Big Blu

Article by Doug Wilson; photos by Marty Lyon

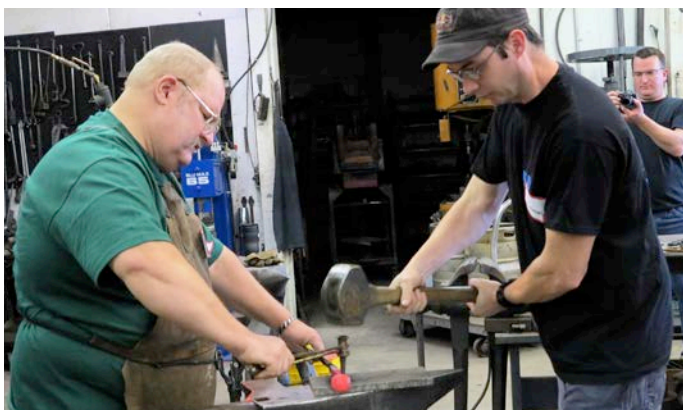
NC ABANA was hosted in Morganton for the now traditional Big Blu quarterly meeting. Keynote demonstrator was local talent and noted blacksmith, Doug Merkel.



Doug demonstrated the forging of a railroad spike knife (see THE HOT IRON SPARKLE v29 No. 3 for the detailed steps).



Doug took advantage of the blacksmithing talent in the shop to use a striker to chisel the handle for the decorative twist.



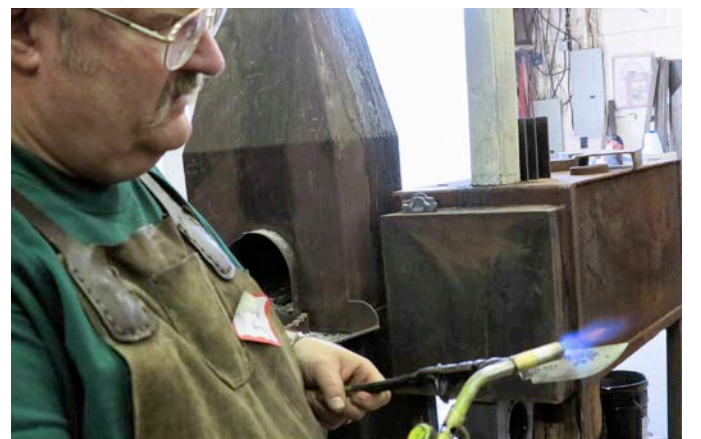
He also made good use of the power hammers available to make short work of drawing out the blade.



Here Doug forges in the finger stop using an oxyacetylene torch and repousse hammer.



The final step was tempering the knife after hardening by quenching in brine.



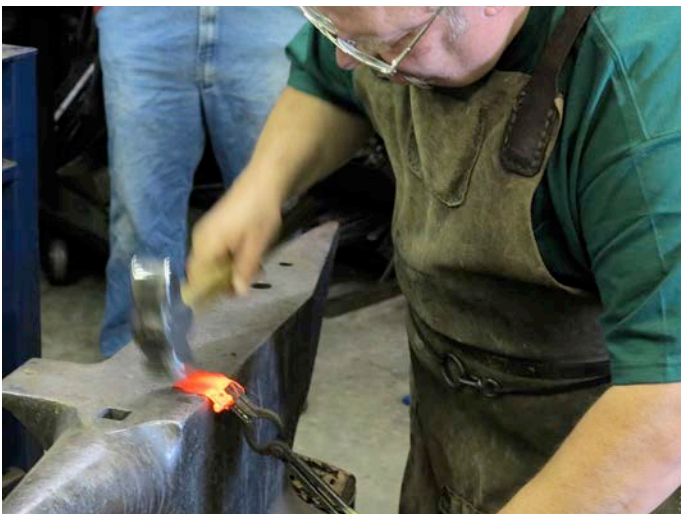
The second part of Doug's demonstration was the forging of traditional butterfly hinges.



The sheet metal is cold bent around a form (seen on the left in the above photo) while clamped in the vise.



A hinge pin is inserted to hold the eye open and the folded metal forge welded and shaped to the desired form.



After lunch, Andy Phillips demonstrated some of the hand forging skills that he learned with Brian Brazeal using an

NC ABANA scholarship. You can learn more about his experience in his article later in this issue.



These are a few examples of rings that Andy forged.



Dick Snow and Garret Dunn handled the raffle of the excellent contributions for iron-in-the-hat to raise funds for NC ABANA.



The Big Blu facilities were excellent and the meal fine. NC ABANA would like to thank Dean Curfman and his staff at Big Blu for being such gracious and generous hosts.

Fire on the Mountain

Article and photos by Doug Wilson

The City of Spruce Pine hosted their annual Fire on the Mountain Blacksmithing Festival on 27 April. The event is organized by Spruce Pine Mainstreet with support from Penland School of Crafts. Despite scattered rain, the turnout was large to see a top flight series of demonstrations, hands on forging lessons, tailgating, and blacksmiths galore vending their wares and forging for the passersby. Keynote demonstrations started with Susan Hutchinson from Weaverville. Susan focuses on Art Nouveau designs and created a new candlestick design for this demonstration.



Susan was joined by Linda Metcalf from Brasstown who helped with striking.



Susan was followed by a demonstration from John Medwe-deff, noted sculptor from Illinois. John works primarily in large rolled forms. Here he demonstrates his handy, straight bending forks as he adjusts a hand forged element.



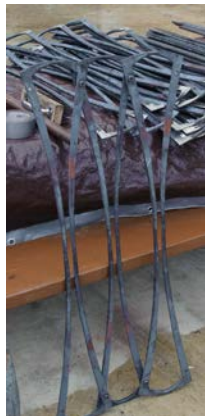
The demonstrations were well attended with a mixture of blacksmiths, artists and patrons.



The final demonstrators for the day were Colby Brinkman and Haley Woodward Austin Metal Authority. They worked as a team with Haley striking to create a chisel decorated bowl.



Throughout the event, blacksmiths from Penland School were forging elements for a railing to be installed in downtown Spruce Pine. The design was by Daniel Beck and consisted of tapered, hand-forged elements forge welded together and then riveted in sections. Below, we see (left to right,) Patrick Quinn, Jim Adams, Daniel Beck, and Ben Dory working to forge the pickets.



For the first time, NC ABANA had a tent at the event. Here John Mathews and Garret Dunn man the booth generously provided by Lyle Wheeler. They answered questions, handed out NC ABANA brochures and sold donated items for fundraising.



I will be putting Fire on the Mountain on my calendar for next year.

What's This?



Seen at the Morganton Meeting, this is an Oliver Hammer. It was built by Jason Lonon. We'll see if we can prevail on Jason to do an article on how you can build one.

ABANA 40th Anniversary

Article and photos by Doug Wilson

ABANA celebrated the 40th anniversary of its founding at a convention in Columbus, GA, Mar 15-17. Most of the founding members present gave demonstrations at the Alex Bealer Blacksmith Shop at Westville Village near Lumpkin, GA. It was inspiring to hear about the ideals and careers that started ABANA as well as having a chance to talk with many smiths from across the US and Europe.



Founding members that were present standing in front of the Alex Bealer Blacksmith Shop. Left to right: Wade-Spooner, Jimmy Johnson, Darrel Meier, Mike Reidel, Ed Trout, Peter Renzetti, Ivan Bailey and Dmitri Gerakaris.



Paul Lundquist of Burnsville, NC talks with artist blacksmith and Ukrainian Blacksmith Association representative, Sergei Polubotko (second from right).



Representatives of the British Artist Blacksmith Association (BABA) receive a forged turtle forged by Ivan Bailey and gifted by Lou Mueller. Left to right - Lou Mueller, Ivan Bailey, Richard Quinnel and Michael Roberts. Michael Roberts will be the featured demonstrator at the Forging on the River Conference in Memphis in 2014. He will present on non-ferrous forging.



Randy Hodges was the winner of the raffle for Alex Bealer's anvil.

Featured Articles

Back to Southeast Asia

Outdoor Forging in Vietnam and Cambodia

Article and photos by Chuck Beattie, Oriental Ironworks

Hanoi, Vietnam

I have just returned from a month long trip to Vietnam and Cambodia. It was not a trip to relive memories of my C-130 flying in Vietnam from 1970-72. My wife and I wanted to explore a little of SE Asia plus visit a blacksmith on Blacksmith Street, Old Quarter, Hanoi, subject of my First Quarter 2011 article about the last blacksmith in Hanoi as reported by NY Times reporter Seth Mydans. Since then I have heard of other areas of blacksmithing like the one south of Hanoi in Da Sy, Vietnam. This information is thanks to fellow blacksmith Ron Whitehurst. Unfortunately due to inclement weather I was unable to visit Da Sy on the day planned but my wife and I headed to the Old Quarter in Hanoi to try to find the "last blacksmith."

As promised, on Lo Ren Street (Pho Lo Ren), Mr. Hung



Nguyen was working his magic on bent chisels used in jackhammers. His 3.5 kg (7.7 lbs) hammer straightened out

the most stubborn of chisels taken hot from his small coal forge. Without an interpreter, I was unable to



chat much with him but I did exchange some pictures of my shop and he well understood that a fellow blacksmith had come

calling. He seemed pleased with the pictures of my working in my shop but I can only imagine what he was thinking that day when I departed. Quite obviously I wasn't making a living straightening out chisels. Hung now has competition down the street but the blacksmith wasn't at the shop. Pictured is his workplace on Lo Ren Street. Another example of the expansion of the blacksmithing market.



Vietnam, while Communist, has the capitalist lifestyle of China. The government stays out of day to day capital ventures and free markets are everywhere. Many clothing and electronic factories (e.g. Columbia Outerwear and Samsung) are in Vietnam. Exports of rice, farmed fish and shrimp are huge money earners for the government and the workers. Small farms v. the old collective ones of the mid-seventies are back and a large land redistribution took place in the late 1990s. You don't exactly "own" the land but...



Bending Iron in Hanoi

These pictures show a fellow bending square steel stock for a railing. He used no heat but a long bending fork and bending jig. He also



used a tube bender for the scrolls. The home-made bending fork was up to the task. It was a lot of “bend and fit” work but what railing isn’t?

Kampong Tralach, Cambodia

On a river tour stop at Kapong Tralach, Cambodia, a small village along the Mekong River, was another blacksmith and



his wife hard at work. “Charlie,” as he wished to be called, his helper and his wife Sophie on the bellows



were busy forging iron into ax heads and meat cleavers. The axes are used to cut down large 30 foot bamboo stalks that



are bundled and used to float houses along the river. After 4-5 years the bamboo becomes water logged and needs replacing. The meat cleavers are for their obvious use. I can’t say I would buy much of the meat products hanging in the open air markets but then there aren’t a lot of Food Lions over there with refrigeration.

Summary

There is definite lack of infrastructure (good roads, electricity, sewers) throughout SE Asia. These needs are slowly being addressed with aid from foreign governments. The US has just finished a major highway project in Cambodia and the Chinese were working on another main highway we traveled by bus over to Ton Lac Lake to join our river boat, AMALotus. Progress is measured in feet rather than miles but I am sure these improvements will help the Cambodian people get back on their feet. It must be remembered that Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge murdered 3.5 million people from 1975 to 1979. Almost 60 per cent of the population is under 30 years of age. Most of the educated class of doctors and educators were targeted and killed during the genocide. Human resources are rebuilding slowly. The people were always smiling. We could learn a lot from their culture of patience and tolerance.

Happy blacksmithing to all. If you are ever in the Oriental, NC area give me a call at 252-249-2249. You are always welcome.

Chuck Beattie,
Oriental Ironworks

Working with Mica

Article by Jim Kennady

Photos by Jim Kennady and Doug Wilson

In February, I attended Paul Garrett's Arts and Crafts Ironwork class at the Folk School. This class taught various techniques to make several items based on work from Greene & Greene, Stickley, Roycroft and others. The class also gave me my first experience working with lampshade mica sheets. The mica style lampshades are common to many arts and crafts style lighting. I made a simple sconce style lamp frame and then proceeded to mould the mica sheet to fit the frame. This was quite a learning experience and I thought I would share this with those who might be interested.

Lampshade mica sheets contain natural mica flakes bonded with shellac or epoxy and is a wonderfully unique material to use for decorative panels in lampshades, wall sconces cabinets and candle shields. The sheets were purchased from the Asheville Mica Company and they have instructions that you can request when buying lampshade mica sheets.

Cutting

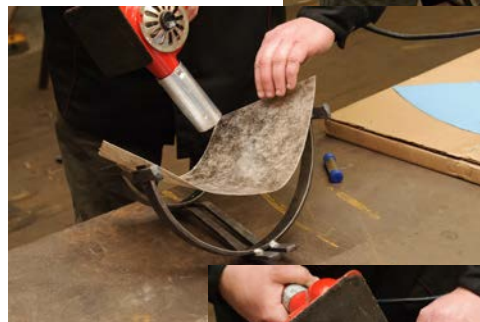
The sheet can be cut like roofing tin. I have found that a pair of EMT scissors works very well. The material should be gently cut and supported on both sides to reduce the possibility flaking. Once cut to shape it is ready to be moulded.

Moulding

When the sheets are warmed they become pliable, when they cool the shape is retained. The sheets could be warmed in an oven. It is best not to use the kitchen oven as the sheet does put off a resin odor when heated. We used an industrial heat gun on high heat to mould the sheet to fit the frame. This allows you to gently mould the sheet over a longer time. I think this worked better than heating the sheets in an oven. The sheet can rapidly cool and can be difficult to fully mould the sheet in one heat. Heat a small area of the sheet carefully while applying light pressure to begin forming the shape you want. It will be most helpful if you have three or four hands for this. Also helpful are pair of 'clean' kevlar gloves



and a wooden spoon. The sheet will develop a light sheen when heated and you can feel the sheet get soft. The sheet will not slump much under only it's own weight and you will need to form with your hands , spoons or other tools while continuing to



apply heat. Once you have the desired shape, continue to apply light pressure, remove the heat and allow to cool for ~30 seconds. The sheet can be formed over and over again.



Use of molds or forms to help shape the mica to the curvatures desired is recommended. Sheets are a moldable product bonded resin. While the material needs to be heated to a flexible state of approximately 250-300 °F, too much heat will burn, discolor and embrittle the material. Additional heating will re-soften the plate, thus allowing more forming and fitting to the shape desired, as long as the sheet is not overheated. DO NOT HEAT OVER 300 °F.

Surface Preparation for Gluing

The sheet as supplied is normally milled (sanded) to reduce thickness variations. After this process the product is surface coated with the appropriate bonding agent. If applying a varnish, light sanding to the surface as preparation for this coating is recommended. If gluing the plate to another surface, such as a metal or wood frame, a two-part epoxy adhesive is recommended.

Final Surface Coatings

For most indoor applications additional coatings are not needed. For sun exposures, care should be taken to use varnishes which are UV light stabilized to prevent yellowing. Exterior use requires careful selection of a waterproof finish. Also, a heavy “bead” coating on the cut edge is required to seal the edges and avoid capillary moisture absorption.

Asheville-Schoonmaker Mica Co.
 Mica and Mica Products
 900 Jefferson Avenue
 PO Box 318
 Newport News, VA 23607-6120
 PH 757-244-7311
 FX 757-245-5236
<http://decorative.ashevilemica.com/decorative.html>

.....
A single click from Forging on the River at the Metal Museum in Memphis



Brent Bailey setting the mark by hand before punching a hammer eye under the power hammer

Attend the SBA Conference!

Article by Cindy Alexander

The first Southern Blacksmith Association (SBA) conference was held in 1981, 32 years ago. Seven chapters got together to start this association, each chapter put \$1000 seed money in to start and we've been holding the conference ever since! The 7 chapters are Alabama Forge Council (AFC), Alex Bealer Blacksmith Association of Georgia (ABBA), Appalachian Area Chapter Blacksmiths (AACB), Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA), us (NC ABANA), Ocmulgee Blacksmith Guild (OBG), and Phillip Simmons Artist Blacksmith Guild (PSABG) with each chapter taking a turn in chairing the biennial conference in Madison GA. (I was chair of this conference in 2011) This conference has always been the 3rd weekend in May and has always been held at the Lyons Club Fairgrounds in Madison. We have helped the Lyons club with improvements such as by adding electricity so that we had power for the demonstration areas. The fairground is a nice place to have this conference!

There is a lot of planning and work to get this conference pulled together, in fact the next conference planning starts with a board meeting while we are still at conference. Each chapter has their assignments and we hold conference call meetings for 2 years before you know it it's time for the conference.

On Wednesday afternoon we start letting vendors in and setting the conference up. The building is turned from an empty space into many areas; registration, souvenirs, and the member's gallery for displaying their work and, of course ,areas for family programs. The building is rearranged multiple times during the conference to accommodate a meal and auction. The fairgrounds is marked so vendors, tailgaters and campers know where their space is. The most important marking on the grounds is the anvil shoot area!

Thursday morning the conference starts with vendor day. We continue to get the forging stations ready with 3 forging stations created with each station personalized for the demonstrator. The conference project is assembled on Thursday in the third station and ready for the auction on Friday. Each chapter contributes a piece for this project with this year's project being the 4 elements Earth, Wind, Fire and Water!



Friday morning things get busy as the majority of registration takes place and the fairgrounds start filling up with people. Demonstrations start along with family classes. Let the conference begin!!!!

Green coal is busy with forges going and beginners learning. Each chapter is asked to assist. Iron-n-Hat tables line up with lots of donations! There are two different times for drawings with the proceeds going back to the SBA. Tailgaters are in abundance

Friday evening there is a gathering for a meal followed by the auction. Before the auction the President/Chair of the conference receives the pink anvil that is passed along to the SBA president to hold for two years. The President has the pleasure of awarding the Floyd Daniels Award to a black-

smith which that person holds for two years. Floyd was one of the original founders with this award being founded in 1969. We lost Floyd right before the conference in 2007 no more running to Floyd's if we forgot something! Then its auction time. Colonel Tim Ryan has been the auctioneer and he always puts on a fantastic show. Following the auction is the blacksmith competition with a great crowd staying to watch. What a long day!

Saturday is a half day of demonstrations and family classes. Then with a quick auction of demo pieces and chapter posters that had been signed by their respective members. Then it was time to close the conference.

As the blacksmith tradition goes, the conference is closed with an anvil shoot. This is done as a memorial to members that have been lost since the last conference. One year ABANA kicked the seven chapters out but we didn't care,

soon after we were back in and ABANA changed every one to affiliates!

Everyone starts pulling out and it's clean up time. All that we did to set up for the conference has to be undone. What a chore it can be but thanks to the many hands we can get it done in no time. We leave the building as we found it, empty, moving all the tables and chairs that were rented to a location outside for pickup on Monday.

I have been involved with the SBA conference for many years and have lots of wonderful memories. We all work together to put on one of the best conferences in this region. I was chairman for the conference in 2011 representing NC ABANA. It was hard work but a lot of fun. Our next turn to be chair will be in 2025!

Demonstrators for SBA

Ernie Dorrill

Ernie Dorrill hails from Canton, Mississippi where he is retired from a career as an architect. He took up the blacksmithing craft in the mid 1990's after watching George Dixon at work. This style of metalwork appealed to him, so he spent some time with George, Tom Latane and Carl Close learning their type of blacksmithing. Ernie considers himself to be "beyond the beginner stage" and practices the craft as a hobby.

The primary type of blacksmithing work that Ernie does is classic gothic or renaissance which was popular during the 13th through the 17th century. The style includes hot forging, hot and cold chasing, piercing and *répoussé*. He also uses layering, fitting, traditional joinery, and filing, but no forge welding. Forms and figures are highly detailed and in high relief. Some shaping is done with the treadle hammer and some is done by hand.

Although the original masters performing this type of work generally used wrought iron, Ernie uses mild steel sheet and bar stock. Design and tooling are some of the greatest challenges of this type of work and he considers it the most intriguing and challenging endeavor of his life. Pushing past the limits is always on his mind.



Ernie has demonstrated at the Alabama Forge Council's Tannehill Conference and the Indiana Blacksmiths' Conference, and has conducted workshops for the Alabama Forge Council. He has taught and demonstrated for his local blacksmiths and at the John C. Campbell Folk School. His style of demonstrating includes electronic media and

written material in addition to moving metal. Humor is used as a teaching tool as well.

This is not a style of work that we see very often, so bring your notebooks and be prepared to be entertained and exposed to a level of craftsmanship and design that is beyond the normal.

Steve Williamson

Steve and his wife Vicky live in the countryside outside Columbia, Tennessee. His interest in the blacksmithing craft stemmed from a four-year apprenticeship as a millwright in the middle 1980's and continued throughout his 30-year career in the automotive industry. He is an accomplished blacksmith in the architectural, functional, and ornamental fields, and recently completed a five-year restoration project at the Nashville TN City Cemetery. He also completed handrails for the James K. Polk home in Columbia, TN. Since retiring from his automotive career, Steve does commission work for clients from his shop at home, teaches at various venues, and demonstrates at conferences and blacksmith meetings.

His formal blacksmith training was largely at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC and at the Tennessee Technological University's Appalachian Center for Crafts at Smithville, TN. He studied under instructors such as Clay Spencer and Darryl Nelson, as well as being self-taught. Steve is a regular at the invitation-only "Work

Week" at the Folk School where he lead the effort to assemble and install the handrails in the recently-opened Clay Spencer Blacksmith Shop, and is a recipient of the Francis Whitaker Scholarship for the Advanced Traditional Joinery Class at the Folk School.

Steve is also an experienced demonstrator, having demonstrated at such events as the 2002 Hot Iron Muster in Brisbane, Australia, the Alabama Forge Council's Tannehill Conference, Mississippi Forge Council's Annual Conference, and numerous others. His "down to earth" style of demonstrating is forceful, detailed, and educational for the beginner, intermediate, and advanced blacksmith. Animal heads have become one of the frequent items demonstrated, and his dragons are legendary throughout the blacksmith community.

Steve is a past president of the Appalachian Area Chapter of Blacksmiths and former board member of the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America. His demonstration will be great!

SBA Conference Events

Vendor Day

This year the conference will start on Thursday. This day has been set aside so that you can see the vendor demonstrations, and buy and sell tools and supplies at your leisure.

Registration starts for everyone on Thursday, 16 May 2013 at 8 am so that the vendors & tailgaters will have time to set up.

Vendor and tailgate sales will run during the conference. A special area is designated inside the compound.

Iron in the Hat

The Alabama Forge Council will have tickets for this fun event. All donations are greatly appreciated and there always surprises in this fundraiser. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 (a bargain). There will be two drawings, one at 5:00pm on Friday & the other at 1:00pm on Saturday.

Tool Box Raffle

In addition to the Iron in the Hat, we also have the tool box raffle. Bring a blacksmithing tool as a donation to outfit the tool box and buy a raffle ticket for a chance at the whole set of tools with the tool box.

Blacksmith Exhibition & Peoples Choice Award

All attendees are encouraged to bring an outstanding example of their work for this exhibition. Beginners and experts alike are encouraged to bring in their latest handiwork. Please submit piece upon registration. Cards will be provided to vote for your favorite piece. The Peoples Choice will be announced at the Auction and the winner will receive a \$100 check.

Blacksmithing Contest

A forging contest will be conducted Friday night after the auction at Demo Site 1. The prizes are: \$50 for first, \$30 for second & \$20 for third place!

Auction

Please bring something to donate for the auction. Blacksmithing tools are sought after, as are pieces of your own work. You may donate items to up till the time of the auction. Blacksmith tool suppliers, Vendors and Tailgaters may donate an auction item to show their appreciation.

Forging with Brian Brazeal

Article and photos by Andy Phillips



In our trade, tooling and skill is all you get to go head-to-head with a medium that is synonymous with unyielding, stubborn strength.

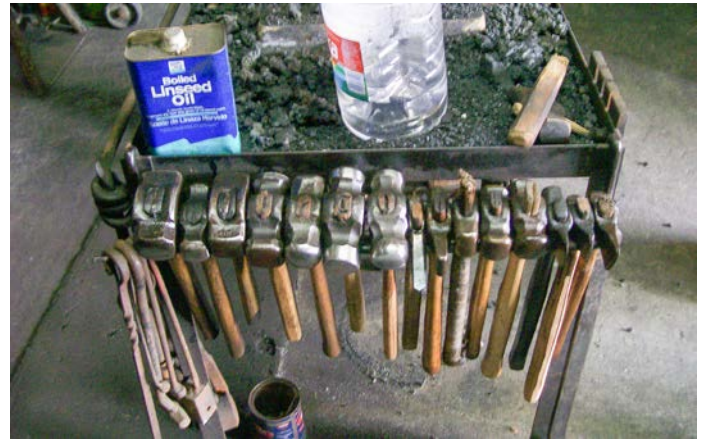
A few months ago I had the chance to take a class with Brian Brazeal, thanks to the NC ABANA scholarship. I had been very impressed the few times I had seen him work not just by his forgings, which were very clean and refined, but also by the collection of tooling he had made and maintained himself.

Everything that happens between the hammer and the anvil happens with good reason. Your work is a direct reflection of the tooling that you use thus, behind every masterful piece of work, there is most likely a masterwork of tooling. Developing, maintaining, and using that collection of tooling is the first step to any piece of ironwork. Taking control of the way you build that tooling method and maintain it is the first step to controlling the outcome of the execution of your art.

We got to Brian's home and shop in Benton, Mississippi late in the evening the day before the class started. My family and I had arranged to stay there onsite right next to the shop so we settled in, unpacked, and then sat down with Brian, and got to talk and get introduced. Blacksmithing is a cause and effect business "The evidence is there, all you have to do is see it", Brian said. He told stories of his travels abroad, his students, and some of his recent works. All the time he shared an underlying message of how important it is to observe the reactions and not just ignore them. It can be painfully simple if you are just willing to break down what is happening with every hammer blow. The next morning we started out the day with a good breakfast and a discussion of what the goals for the day would be. Brian sketched his way through the basic steps of our first task and right after breakfast off we went to the shop.

I am always amazed by how effortless ironwork can be made to look; all it takes is years of practice and refinement, trial and error. That morning Brian and I forged a hand hammer and started making a few fullering tools and by the afternoon, I was using that hammer to forge punches and more tooling. Each piece of tooling in his method is forged using a very well thought out process by which there is never a wasted blow and all tools are forged to finish. "Forge to finish" (something we should all strive for) means that you forge every surface as cleanly as possible to minimize grinding after the tool is forged. Furthermore, you can quickly dress a forge to finish tool, even hot forging it back to shape and get that tool back in action very quickly. As we moved into the evening, Brian and I moved in to some of the impression work making simple but clean flowers, sea shells, and leaves for use on rings and bangles thus meeting my personal goals for the trip.





The second thing I paid close attention to during the course of the class and the other main reason for taking the class was Brian's tooling method. In Brian's shop, almost every hand tool is forged to finish and designed not just to serve their purpose but to survive long-term use by being easily and quickly removed from their handles, reformed, and put right back into service. Not just this but all the tooling fits together in a wonderful codependency that has no gaps from one tool to the next. Brian told stories of his past and starting sometimes with no tooling and beginning by making a drift; the drift is then sharpened to be both a drift and a chisel. That drift is used to make a handled chisel and then a handled fuller. After you add a few hardy tools, you're ready to start forging hammers and so on. Along the road if you damage or destroy any tool you simply reforge or replace it.



The next day was spent refining and improving the techniques I had learned the first day – expanding into some more tooling and later more rings in steel and copper.



On the last day before I left, Brian and I spent some time in the shop just going over and proofing some of the neat elements he had made through the years. We even made a brief trek into forge welding.

There were two main reasons I took this class. The first is that I am always striving to make my forging crisp and clean so it was important to me to pay attention to all the little things that Brian does that makes his work so clean. These include refining every process so that every step has a purpose and every hammer blow moves you forward along with forging at the appropriate heat and finishing at a very low temperature.



Your tools make your work what it is, but whether you made them from scratch or picked them out of a catalog, you still make the choice so your work is still your own. But I don't think it's right that any tool should be venerable and

irreplaceable less the tool really does start to take control of your work.

I enjoyed my time with Brian and brought back a mountain of information. Thank you all for your support in this endeavor. I enjoy learning and growing as a metalworker. It's evident that those who have only themselves to learn from grow slowly and so I am appreciative to have such a strong community of smiths to work with.



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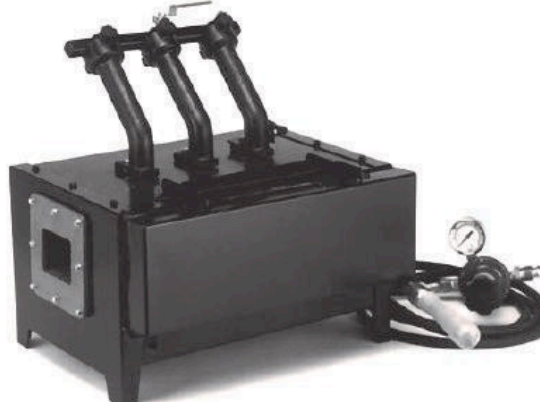
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Tool Steel for Sale

After supplying the materials for a recent tire hammer & tool build, I am now offering competitively priced tool steels to the blacksmithing and horseshoeing community on a local basis. I have a small inventory of S-7 and H13 rounds in stock. Other sizes, shapes, and tool steel types can generally be delivered in about a week.

Contact *Walt Beckwith* for a quote or more information c/o
 Woods Edge
 3745 Swarthmore Rd.
 Durham, NC 27707
 1-919-309-5667 or by e-mail at: wbeckwith@mindspring.com

Local Group Meetings

Triad Area Blacksmiths (Winston-Salem, NC)

Marshall Swaringen
marshall@swaringen.com (336) 998-7827

1st Tuesday at 6:30PM for demos
3rd Saturday at 9AM for business and all day forging
Dixie Fairgrounds, Winston Salem, NC

Southern Foothills Blacksmiths (Mooresville, NC)

Steve Barringer
steve@powerhammerschool.com (704) 660-1560

2nd Sunday each month

Triangle Blacksmith Guild (Raleigh - Durham, NC)

Randy Stoltz
rhstoltz@gmail.com (919) 481-9263

1st Saturday in even # months at various locations

Brasstown Blacksmiths (Brasstown, NC)

Paul Garrett
pdg86@hotmail.com (828) 835-8441

1st Tuesday in even # months; 5 to 8 PM

B.O.L.T.S. Blacksmith Guild (Wilson, NC)

Amos Tucker
amostucker@earthlink.net (252) - 289-7317

2nd Saturday in odd # months

www.theblacksmithsanvil.com

Wilkes Teaching Forge (WTF) (Millers Creek, NC)

Lyle Wheeler
chairmakr@yahoo.com (336) 838-2284

2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM

You are welcomed to attend any of the local group meetings.
Please contact the host to confirm date, time and location.

NC ABANA Meetings

2nd Quarter - June 29 at 9:00 A.M.

Blacksmiths Shop in Yesterday Village
Dixie Classic Fairgrounds
Gate 9, 27th Street
Winston-Salem, NC

3rd Quarter - Date TBA

Bonus Meeting - November 2 at 9:30 A.M.

J. C. Campbell Folk School
Brasstown, NC 28902

4th Quarter 2013 – Date TBA

Other Events

Southeastern Blacksmith Association

May 16-18, 2013
Madison, GA

Tommy McNabb Custom Knife Show

September 21-22, 2013
Winston-Salem, NC
Benton Convention Center.

Dixie Classic Fair

Winston-Salem, NC
October 4 - October 13, 2013
www.dcfair.com

North Carolina State Fair

Raleigh, NC
October 17-27, 2013
www.ncstatefair.org

For the most current meeting and event information go to the NC ABANA website,

ncabana.org

North Carolina Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America



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Second Quarter Meeting of NC ABANA

June 29th - 9 am

Dixie Classic Fairgrounds

Winston-Salem, NC

Tommy McNabb and Joe Allen - Damascus demonstration

Ian Thomsen - Wizard heads

BBQ lunch - \$5.00 per person

Use Entrance Gate #9