

N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 23, Issue 4 April, 2020

NJBA during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The pandemic has affected everybody's daily life, and NJBA is no exception. Due to NJ Executive Order No. 107, NJBA can no longer sponsor in-person meetings or gatherings. Hence, **the NJBA Board has cancelled all upcoming meetings till further notice.** Your editor is leaving these on the calendar to facilitate clarification, but the next event that has any likelihood of occurring as scheduled is the Annual Picnic and Tailgate Sale at EJOT, Sunday, Sept. 6 (note the change in the date from the previous announcement). However, this event is subject to EJOT reopening by then *and* the NJBA Board voting to go ahead with the meet.

Since in-person meetings and demonstrations are what we are about, the **NJBA Board has decided to give all current members a dues holiday. Every current member in good standing will have their membership extended for one year without additional charge.** We don't do this lightly: it will be a significant blow to our treasury. However we hope thereby to retain our membership.

Important Note to Subscribers of the Printed Version of this Newsletter

NJBA must continue to charge \$10 per year for your printed subscription to cover the printing and mailing costs. Please use the form on the last page of this Newsletter to renew your subscription if you choose to do so.



Please Vote.

The NJBA election commences NOW and will be tallied in early September.
Please Vote using the ballot on the last page of this Newsletter.

Newsletters from Other ABANA Affiliates

Normally your editor excerpts articles from the newsletters from other groups for inclusion in this Newsletter. Recently I have been doing this without the software needed for excerpting pdf files, an onerous, roundabout process. Due to my own time limitations, I cannot continue to do this. Instead, I will be emailing all members some complete newsletters from other ABANA Affiliates for their reading pleasure.

Those of you who subscribe to the print version of this Newsletter will not receive these entire newsletters, but rather will receive a number of pages printed from them, representing those articles we considered of greatest general interest.

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

NJBA Board of Directors

Ryan Amos

Bruce Freeman

William Barrett

Mark Morrow

Marshall Bienstock

Bruce Ringier

Larry Brown

Thomas Santomauro

Eric Cuper

Ben Suhaka

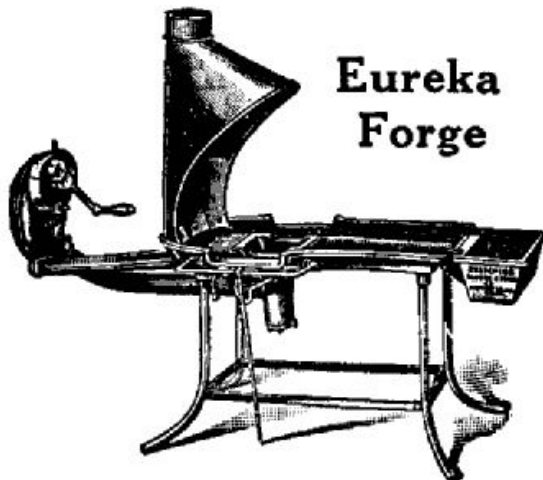
David Ennis

Dan Yale

Please Vote.

The NJBA election commences NOW and will be tallied in early September.
Please Vote using the ballot on the last page of this Newsletter.

We like to thank those who joined
NJBA as Business Members:
Marshall Bienstock



NJBA's Official Address

NJBA, P.O. Box 224
Farmingdale, NJ 07727-9998

NJBA's Website:

<http://www.njblacksmiths.org>

NJBA Newsletter:

Will be found on our website (above). Look for
"Current Newsletter" and/or "Newsletter Archive."

NJBA's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/njblacksmiths/>

NJBA's IForgeIron subforum:

Scroll down at <https://www.iforgeiron.com/>.

NJBA's subreddit:

[Reddit.com/r/NJBA](https://www.reddit.com/r/NJBA)

New!

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Upcoming Events (*we hope!*)

Saturday, April 4. How to Finish a Damascus Billet ... CANCELLED

This workshop was cancelled due to the pandemic. May be offered in the future.

Saturday May 2. Spring Membership Meeting CANCELLED

Cancelled due to the pandemic.

Sunday, May 17. Walnford Day CANCELLED.

NJBA participation in this event was cancelled due to the pandemic. All events in Monmouth Co. Parks are cancelled through May 17, , including Walnford Day,

Annual Picnic and Tailgate Sale at EJOT, Sunday, Sept. 6, 10 AM - 4 PM

Note the change in the date from the previous announcement. Like all events scheduled for 2020, this one may have to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Although most NJ parks have now reopened under NJ EO 133, there is no guarantee that they will remain open, and even if the park is open, the Executive Order prohibiting gatherings still may remain in effect.

If everything works out right, NJBA will be holding this event at East Jersey Old Town in Piscataway. The demonstrator is slated to be Jonathan Nedbor. There will be a tailgate sale, and this meet will feature an "Iron in the Hat" drawing (fund raiser), so be sure to bring a contribution and cash to buy tickets.

EJOT is on River Road, just west of the Rutgers Stadium and can be reached from NJ Route 18 or from I-287. We hope to be able to update this information in the next Newsletter.

Open Forge Meets

All NJBA-sponsored open forge meets are suspended until further notice due to the pandemic.

(See "Rules for Participation in NJBA Hands-On Events")

Monday Night Open Forge, Howell, NJ CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

In normal times, NJBA Director Marshall Bienstock hosts an open forge meet **every Monday evening at 7 PM, except major holidays.** (Please call ahead on holidays to make sure the forge will be open.)

Donations for Marshall's Open Forge Meet

NJBA Board is soliciting contributions to offset the costs of running this open forge meet, with a suggested donation of \$1-\$2 per person per evening. A limited supply of steel stock is available (behind middle forge, where you'll also see a list of suggested donations to offset the value of the steel).

Sunday Open Forge, Smithtown, LI, NY. CLOSED UNTIL NOVEMBER, AT THE SOONEST.

In normal times, from the beginning of November through the end of April, Ron Grabowski will open his forge in Smithtown, LI, NY, to NJBA members. Please call ahead to confirm and get directions: 631-265-1564. Ronsforge@aol.com

Sunday Open Forge, Holcombe-Jimison Museum, Lambertville, NJ. CLOSED.

In normal times, the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead and Museum and Blacksmith Shop is open on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM starting on the **first Sunday in May until the last Sunday in October.** The shop is located at 1605 Daniel Bray Highway (Re. 29) just north of Lambertville, NJ. (holcombe-jimison.org, 609-397-2752) Anyone, blacksmith, novice, beginner or anyone wishing to try smithing for the first time is welcome. (**Note: The Museum is not subject to NJBA's age restriction.**) There is an annual fee of \$25.00 due on the first day of your arrival. This is for insurance purposes only. You are welcome to come and work on any Sunday we are open, the only Sunday we are closed is to attend the annual meeting and picnic.

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

NJBA Needs Help with Social Media

Most of you know NJBA has a webpage, namely NJBlacksmiths.org. However many of you probably don't know that NJBA has a presence on Facebook and IForgeIron. We even *used to have* a Yahoo Group -- and that's exactly the problem. These social media present an opportunity to connect with our membership, especially the younger ones, an opportunity which we are not exploiting for lack of a volunteer to deal with them. Even our webpage is in limbo since our coordinator for that site ran out of time to spend on it.

Therefore NJBA is actively soliciting help from our membership in exploiting such social media. If you have the time and know how to do any of this, please get in touch with NJBA Directors Ryan Amos, Bruce Freeman, or Larry Brown, to let us know.

NJBA Subreddit Interactive Site

In the meantime, NJBA is attempting to remain in contact with and to support our membership by other means. We have just created our own moderated subreddit (www.Reddit.com/r/NJBA), but as yet there is no content except for a greeting. Reddit is an interactive site, so anyone can post there. We're hoping that content, or links to content, will be posted for the benefit of all NJBA members. Let us know what you want to see there. Let us know what you view elsewhere on the Internet so that we can provide links to it.

Reminder:

This Newsletter is now sent by email only, so please be sure that we have your correct email address!

You can receive printed copies by US Mail if you subscribe for \$10/year.

See Subscription form on last page.

Rules for Participation in NJBA Hands-On Events

These rules apply to workshops, open forge meets, demonstrations with hands-on components, etc.

The current overweening rule is NJ Executive Order No. 107: There will be no NJBA meetings of any kind until the pandemic emergency is lifted.

1. Participation in NJBA-sponsored hands-on events is limited to adults (i.e., 18 years or older). This rule was effected as of December 4, 2016.

(Note: This policy **does not apply** to open forge meets and similar events *that are sponsored or co-sponsored* by youth-oriented organizations such as scouts, 4H groups, schools or other venues, including the Holcombe-Jimison Blacksmith Shop.)

2. Workshops are open only to NJBA members, but nonmembers may join by paying dues when they register.
3. All workshop fees are due upon registering. Any materials fee is not refundable. A workshop fee is refundable only if your place in the workshop is filled by another person.
4. If you only want to watch the workshop, the fee is half the listed workshop fee.
5. Workshops are intended for the purpose of teaching certain skills and/or completing certain projects, and are subject to the authority of the workshop leader or instructor. Accordingly (as per a vote of the NJBA Board on Jan. 28, 2018.):
 - ♦ The participant shall work *only* on the project at hand and not on any other projects, *without exception*. (Note: Any NJBA member may attend an NJBA open forge meeting to work on his own project.)
 - ♦ Every participant will be required to follow the instructions of the workshop leader, especially any instructions pertaining to safety, or he may be ejected.

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Report on the April 6 Board Meeting

This meeting was conducted by telephone conference call. Participating in the conference call were Ryan Amos, Larry Brown, Marshall Bienstock, Bruce Freeman, and Dan Yale.

Lightweight Forging Stations Repairs. Bruce reported that he and Patty Miller-Recio went through all six NJBA toolboxes for the lightweight forging stations and ensured there were no misplaced tools. Patty created the following list of what should be in each tool chest: Farrier's rasp, wire brush, twisting wrench, hammers, 3-4 ea., tongs, 3-4, scrolling tongs, vise grips, hot cut, shovel, rake, poker, water can on handle, cut-off hardy, bending fork, chain (for use as a holdfast or chaining up equipment), cutting plate, canopy pegs, 1/4" dia., 4 ea., stakes for blower stand, 3/8" dia, 3-4 ea, stakes for vise stand, 1/2" dia, at least 2 ea, lighters, duct tape in color to match chest, soapstone crayon, a better assortment of hammers and tongs would be a good idea.

Patty and Bruce located the broken set of vise wheels and got them loose from the vise. Bruce took them to his shop for replacement, but reports no further progress on them. BF's fabricated tong project should help with the diversity of tongs. BF has three small hammer heads awaiting handles that could help with that issue. We still need three more lightweight blowers. Bruce reports no further progress.

Bruce has made slight additional progress on the new air ducts for the forge blowers. All but two are finished, but the remaining two await further work.

Web presence. No changes have been made to our web presence. NJBA desperately needs an increased web presence given the current pandemic. Larry proposed two websites, an information site & an interactive site

Middlesex County Fair. At the last meeting, Mark moved: "NJBA will not do the Fair unless the payment is in the form of a donation, not a wage to an employee, contractor, or hireling." The motion passed. Bruce was to have followed up on this motion by contacting the Fair, but chose instead to hold off until such time as NJBA was again invited to

demonstrate. Bruce believes there is a considerable likelihood that the 2020 Fair (scheduled for Aug. 3-9) will not come off due to the pandemic. No announcement has been made as yet.

Walnford Day. Bruce had volunteered to coordinate Walnford day, but does not expect that to come off due to park closures. Were it to come off, "social distancing" might be quite feasible.

EJOT Picnic, Tailgate Sale, and Demonstration. Bruce has made arrangements to bring in Jonathan Nedbor as the demonstrator for our September meet at East Jersey Old Town. This meet is now scheduled for Sept. 6 -- a change from the announcement in the last Newsletter. This change in date was to accommodate a conflict in Jonathan's schedule, but also was the date preferred by EJOT. Matthew reports progress in his negotiations with Jonathan as to compensation. Unfortunately, it is by no means certain that the parks closure will be lifted by this date.

Newsletter Report. Bruce continually needs material for the Newsletter. Bruce may call for submissions from members via the Newsletter. Submissions to be printed in the newsletter are needed within the next two weeks. Ryan will send call for submissions to Facebook page. Larry will pull out old articles from other Affiliates.

Meetings during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Board addressed the question of whether NJBA should hold any in-person meetings. NJ EO-107 applies to NJBA, and therefore NJBA must cancel or postpone all NJBA events (gatherings) till the governor declares the emergency over. Bruce suggests NJBA suspend all in-person activities until "herd immunity" is established either by a vaccine or as indicated by an antibody test of the general population.

Two motions were passed: (1) "The NJBA will suspend all in-person meetings until a 2/3rds majority of the Board votes to resume such meetings." (2) "Those who have paid dues for 2019-2020 will have their membership automatically renewed for 2020-2021 at no cost."

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

ABANA Raffle

Due to COVID-19 the ABANA 2020 Conference was cancelled, but the raffle was not. Help ABANA rise from the ashes by purchasing raffle tickets for these great prizes.

- ⇒ First prize: BAM box filled with tools made by prominent smiths
- ⇒ Second prize: Re-built 100 lb Big Blu air hammer
- ⇒ Third prize: 240 lb Peter Wright anvil

Tickets can be purchased here: www.abanaraffle.org

Tickets will be mailed USPS. Winner need not be present. **Drawing @ The Village Blacksmith Shop 221 North St. Goshen CT August 1, 2020 @ 7:00 pm.** All prizes will be shipped FOB Goshen, CT.

Winners will be responsible for shipping costs and any applicable tax.



BAM box -Pat McCarty

BAM box tools/items



1. Matt Parkinson



2. Sam Perakis



3. Jonathan Nedbor



4. Ellen Durkan



5. Mark Aspery



6. Derek Heidemann



7. Dean Flanders



8. Kelly Kring



9. Bob Coxson



10. Dick Sargent



11. Jordan LaMorte



12. Mark Aspery



13. Bob Valentine



14. Dennis Dusek



15. Steve Gutzler



16. Nick Downing



17. Bob Menard



18. Gaylin Venter



100 lb. rebuilt Big Blu



240 lb. Peter Wright
-Richard Wright

Shop ABANA

ABANA has announced that <https://shopabana.myshopify.com/> has now been officially launched. On that website you will find memorabilia for the 2020 Conference, Mini-Anvil's for both the 2020 Conference and non-conference, along with new ABANA specific merchandise. This site is now live and you can purchase items from there at any time.

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

The History of Fisher & Norris Eagle Anvil Works 1843 – 2020

By Joshua A. Kavett

Reviewed by Don Plummer.

(Don Plummer is the author of *Colonial Wrought Iron*, *The Collection of James C. Sorber* and *Anvils Through the Ages*, *The Collection of Tim Kris*.)

What a joy to finally see this book in print! Many of us familiar with his collection and museum have long awaited it. Joshua Kavett now presents us with a splendid history of a highly regarded American industrial enterprise. Josh does this through a huge collection of equipment, photos, letters, various documents and relics of all kinds, that help him deliver the heart and soul of this fascinating company. I dare say there are few workers in metal and machines of any kinds who have not heard of Eagle anvils. Anyone who takes delight in the American history of industry will love this book.

This book is written by a man who fell in love with a company, and he treats it with gentle respect and fondness. By the time you have finished the second chapter you will have a warm, intimate affection for the Fisher and Norris families. Joshua writes in a relaxed, informal and easy to understand style. The stories, tales, history, events and descriptions just flow along smoothly. The chapter on anvils is a major achievement in observation and application of intellectual study. Joshua has identified and interpreted probably every variance in Fisher anvils throughout the entire 135 years of their production. And he has done it in such an easily readable way through photographs and descriptions. This gives you a genuine appreciation of how change occurs over many lifetimes.

The book is clearly an in-depth look at anvils and anvil making. But Joshua also introduces us to many other activities associated with that process. There are invoices and receipts, hand-written documentation, production reports, and advertisements. Fisher and Norris also made other items and they are brilliantly shown and described: swage blocks, anvil carts, parallel leg vises, railroad track joints and miniature anvils to name a few. And then there are the anecdotes, notes on family travel and the 1400 pound anvil at the 1876 World's Fair.

Joshua has spent a significant portion of his life researching, traveling, viewing, collecting, studying and documenting this company. He is the singular authority and owner of all this information and objects. And now we also have it, and it is as a treasury of high-quality photographs and down to earth writing. As Josh himself says: There is so much here "that it takes time to absorb it all". Indeed, how true. You can randomly open this book to any page and be delighted with what you find.

I have come to dearly appreciate these individuals who collect, study, interpret, photograph and document their collections. Collections are transitory, here today and gone tomorrow. Collectors and collections exist for but a brief time and the collections can never be re-assembled again. Josh has given us a look at a segment of American Industrial history that is utterly fascinating as well as an historical treasure. Thank you, Joshua A. Kavett.

The book will be available around May 20. Details will be published on Josh's Facebook page, "Fisher & Norris Factory Museum," and other groups at that time. You can get ordering details from Josh directly at nj anvilman@gmail.com - ed.

Blacksmith Coal and Coke Available to NJBA Members

NJBA purchased ten tons of "nut" coal of good analysis. In addition to our using it for our demonstrations, this coal will be available for purchase by NJBA members at 20¢ per pound, on a bring-your-own-bag and bag-it-yourself, honor-system basis. The coal is located across the drive from the larger door to Marshall's pole barn, formerly the site of the coke pile. We still have some coke available at the same price, *behind* this same bin. (Walk around by the path to the left of the bin, but watch for poison ivy.) Plastic bags of at least 3-mil thickness are recommended. (A spring balance, *not legal for trade*, has been mounted beside the bin for your convenience in *estimating only*.) Please inquire of Marshall Bienstock for more information and to make

NJBA T-Shirts Available

NJBA T-shirts are still available for purchase. These navy blue heavy-duty pocket T's bear the anvil logo on the pocket and the vise logo on the back. Prices are \$20 for sizes M, L & XL, or \$25 for sizes 2XL & 3XL. *The NJBA Sweatshirts are still available at \$25 each for all sizes.*

These T-shirts and sweatshirts may be purchased at the above prices at our Monday evening open forge meet at Marshall's Farm, and we expect to have them available as well at our upcoming workshops and meets.

If you wish to order them by mail, a postage and handling charge of \$10 will be charged for one sweatshirt or up to two T-shirts. For further information, contact NJBA Director Bruce Freeman.

If you send money for T-shirts or sweatshirts, please specify the size(s) desired. It is best to inquire before sending money, as available sizes may be limited.

Combined Form

Subscription Renewal (\$10/year)

Membership (\$20/year for New Members Only*),

Ballot (*Please vote*), and

Volunteering

Mail completed form, along with check for any amount due, to the above address.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email address _____

Your correct Email address is *essential* if you don't care to pay \$10 extra for a mailed Newsletter! Please Print Clearly!

***Note: Current members owe no dues for the 2020-2021 dues year.**

My check is enclosed: ☐ \$20 (*new* regular membership dues), or
 ☐ \$40 (*new* business membership dues)

For printed Newsletters: ☐ **\$10 subscription fee** (for paper copies of Newsletter)

Ballot for the Election of the NJBA Board of Directors

Please check the boxes by all nominees you wish to vote for.

Nominee	Nominee	Nominee
<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Amos	<input type="checkbox"/> Eric Cuper	<input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Ringier
<input type="checkbox"/> Billy Barrett	<input type="checkbox"/> Dave Ennis	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Santomauro
<input type="checkbox"/> Marshall Bienstock	<input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Freeman	<input type="checkbox"/> Ben Suhaka
<input type="checkbox"/> Larry Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Morrow	<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Yale

NJBA Volunteers List

"Please put my name on the list of potential volunteers:" (Circle all that apply.)

Availability: Saturdays Sundays Weekdays
Interests: Demonstrating Coaching Novices Assisting at Workshops
Blacksmithing Experience: Novice Intermediate Experienced Professional
Other Experience: Weldor Fabricator Other Metalwork Writer Editor Photographer Videographer
 Facebook Contributor* IForgeIron Contributor* Website Manager*