



N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 14, Issue 1 05/01/09
<http://njba.abana-chapter.com>

Editors Soapbox

Hi, We are working on some great events for this year and we are looking forward to seeing you there. If you have an idea for an event or workshop talk to one of the editors and we'll see if it can be arranged. As editor I would appreciate some help in writing up events for the newsletter. You don't have to be a gifted writer just send me something about the event as I can't make all of them or remember everything.

I would like to request the assistance of our membership. I have had some family problems lately that have hindered my usual efforts for NJBA. Other board members have also had problems. We need some more effort from our members to keep NJBA from GRINDING to a halt if a few key board members cannot put out their usual effort. Please step up to the plate to help NJBA.

Larry Brown, Editor

Upcoming events for 2008—09

Get you calendars out and mark these events down. Please bookmark our web site and check for updated meet information. Remember most of our meets have an "Iron in the Hat" drawing, so be sure to bring something. Meet information starts on this page and continues on page 3

May 17— Two events! Hammer inn at **Speedwell Village** in Morristown NJ and a demonstration at **Tuckerton Seaport**. More information on pages 1 and 3.

Help Peters Valley!
Attend a class and or donate
See page 8

June 13—14th - Hammer in at Historic Cold Spring Village. More information on page 3.

July 18th—Delaware City Day. More information on page 3.

August 3rd—9th - Middlesex County Fair and we will again have demonstrations all week. More information on page 4.

September 27 - the Red Mill Village Museum for the 2009 Hammer-In. More information on page 5.

October 4th— Walnford Day. More information in next newsletter.

Check the website for updates on meets

Historic Speedwell, May 17th

NJBA has been invited to demonstrate at Historic Speedwell Park in Morris Plains. This is the historic site of Speedwell Iron Works and the estate of it's owner Stephen Vail and also listed as "The Birthplace of the Telegraph". We are asking Smiths of all levels to try to attend to help in this demonstration And if possible bring portable equipment

Directions;

From I-287

Exit 36 Southbound (Ridgedale Avenue) Exit 36B Northbound (Lafayette Street). Turn Right onto Ridgedale Avenue. At second light (third light from exit 36B), turn Left onto Hanover Avenue. At third light, turn Left onto Speedwell Avenue (Route 202 South). At second light turn Left onto Cory Road, and turn Left into parking lot.

From Route 24

Exit 1A-Morristown. Exit onto County Route 511. Remain in right lane and turn Right onto Hanover Avenue. Follow Hanover to intersection of Speedwell Avenue (Route 202 South). At second light turn Left onto Cory Road then turn Left into the Speedwell parking lot.

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The NJBA Web Site!

The NJBA Web Site is up
and running at:
<http://njba.abana-chapter.com/>

The Newsletter is at:
<http://members.bellatlantic.net/~vze25jcc/index.htm>

or use the link on the NJBA web site
for the newsletter.

Official NJBA Address

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

Rather than use room in the newsletter,
All correspondence between
ABANA and NJBA is now being posted
on the NJBA web site.
If you cannot access it there, contact me
and I will send you copies.
ABANA is communicating again so
check it out

NJBA Board of Directors

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From the Morristown Green
From downtown Morristown, follow Speedwell Avenue (Route 202 North) for approximately 1 mile. Turn Right at Cory Road. Turn Left into the Speedwell parking lot.
The coordinator is David Macauley

Tuckerton Seaport, May 17th

Open Demonstration

On May 17 NJBA will be doing a demo at Tuckerton Seaport at their Bluegrass Festival .

We did the event last year and had a good time. If anybody is free on the 17th come on down and spend a little time forging and checking out the Seaport. The event starts at 10:00 am . We start setting up around 9:00. Bring your own food or there is a restaurant at the seaport.

Contact for the event is Tom Majewski
Directions to the seaport are, from the North take the Garden State Parkway South to Exit 58(Tuckerton/Little Egg Harbor) . Make a left at the end of the ramp onto Rt.539 south. Follow Rt 539(becomes Green Street) to the third traffic light at Rt 9(Main St.) Make a right. The Seaport is on the left across from the lake. For information on the seaport go to www.tuckertonseaport.org

Historic Cold Spring Village (HCSV) June 13th - 14th

NJBA is holding a public demonstration/hammer-in at Historic Cold Spring Village (HCSV) in Cape May on July 13 – 14. NJBA has been holding this event at (HCSV) for several years now. I will be bringing the NJBA trailer and some personal portable equipment down to the site, so you don't need to lug any equipment If you are interested in demonstrating to the public or just hanging with the Smiths please join us. I can obtain free passes and meal vouchers for all demonstrators. I

do need to know in advance if you are coming one or both days, so I can make arrangements. We have also been known to have a nice a lunch at the Grange on the property.

Generally we start set up around 9AM and break down by 5PM. Travel time from central NJ is about 2 hours and Cape May is wonderful place to visit with your family.

If you need further information, please contact me at your convenience. The web site for HCSV is: <http://www.hcsv.org/>

Thanks,

David Macauley

Delaware City Day, Hammer-In and BBQ July 18th

Third Annual Hammer in / BBQ

Kerry Rhoades and John Chobrda, along with the New Jersey Blacksmiths Assn. would like to invite all smiths, metal heads, and their families to the 3rd Annual forge in and BBQ on Saturday July 18th at Kerry's shop, "Forged Creations" in Delaware City, Delaware. This event is being held in conjunction with "Delaware City Day" a day of parades, games, and fireworks.

We will be setting up portable forges and tents on the side street. Kerry's shop is located at 124 Clinton Street in Delaware City, try to come early as the parade runs down Clinton Street and it will be closed at 9:00 AM. phone numbers are: 302-832-1631 or 302-757-0733

Come on out on the 19th of July, bring your family, your work, a hammer, your hunger and something (food) to share. Hope to see you then.

Notice

Recently NJBA member Jeff Morelli passed away. Any donations NJBA members are able to make to an educational fund for the benefit of Jeffrey's children would be appreciated. Donations should be written to "Morelli Children Fund" and sent to Mark Cubberley, 282 Main Street, Groveville, NJ 08620.

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Middlesex County Fair August 3rd through the 9th

We have been invited back to Middlesex County fair which runs from August 3rd through the 9th in East Brunswick. The fair hours are 5 -11 PM Monday through Friday, 11 AM - 11PM on Saturday and 11AM - 7PM on Sunday. We will have the NJBA trailer at the site and we will probably have additional forging stations. We will be under a tent with other crafters. The site has easy access to water and power and we will have tables to display our forged items. All smiths are encouraged to attend. We particularly need some coverage during the week days. A remuneration of \$100/day is available to NJBA which is turn will be available to demonstrators to help defer transportation costs. This is a wonderful fair to attend and is great opportunity for the entire family.

Here are the driving instructions:

The Middlesex County Fair is located on Cranbury Rd. where it intersects Fern Roads in East Brunswick. Take Route 18 into East Brunswick, follow the directions for Cranbury onto Cranbury Road (Rt. 535 South), pass East Brunswick High School on the left, keep left at the fork, and continue on Cranbury Road for about three miles to the fair. 655 Cranbury Road.

FROM OLD BRIDGE-Take Route 18 north toward New Brunswick, pass the Colonial Diner and head toward Cranbury over the Route 18 overpass and proceed past the high school and bear left at the fork, as above.

Route from north county (this is the least congested route), take Exit 8A on the New Jersey Turnpike. Turn right on Route 535 North directly to fairgrounds (5 miles

For further information please contact David Macauley, drmacauley@att.net 732-206-1568

BLACKSMITH HAMMER-IN & TOOL SWAP At the Red Mill Museum Village Sunday, September 27th 10:00am - 4:00pm

Details on the next page, come out and have some fun!

Meet at Walnford Park October 4th

We will be demonstrating and holding a membership meeting at Walnford Park on October 7th. Walnford is also known as Crosswicks Creek Park and is in Upper Freehold, N.J

Set-up starts 8:30-9:00, the event is 10:00 - 5:00. We will have the trailer there, so come down and do a little forging and meet with others in the group while enjoying the park and the day. David Macauley will be the contact person and coordinator. This will a "bring your own lunch" event.

The restored gristmill will be running, and there will be other exhibits, too. NJBA's trailer will be there with our fly and forges but feel free to bring your own if you would like

Directions

- NJ Turnpike to Exit 7A, (I-195 east). Follow I-195 to Exit 8 (Allentown, Rt. 524/539). Turn South onto Rt. 539 through Allentown (Rt. 539 requires a left turn where it splits from Rt. 524). Follow Rt. 539 to Holmes Mill Rd. Turn right. Follow to Walnford Rd. Turn right and follow 1 mile to Park.

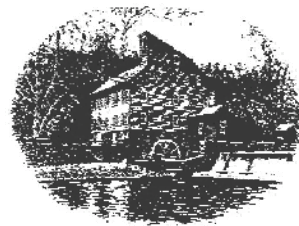
- Rt. 9 to Freehold (West Main Street/Rt. 537 east-exit). Northbound, turn left at exit; southbound, turn right at exit. Follow Rt. 537 west to Rt. 539. Turn right onto Rt. 539 west. Follow Rt. 539 west to Burlington Path. Turn left; follow to Holmes Mill Rd. Turn right; follow to Walnford Rd. Turn

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left and follow 1 mile to park.

Red Mill Museum Village

56 Main Street, Clinton, NJ 08809



PRESS RELEASE

For Information contact:
Elizabeth Cole, Curator of Education
908-735-4101 ext.102

RED MILL MUSEUM TO HOST ANNUAL HAMMER IN AND TOOL SWAP

CLINTON, NJ—The Red Mill Museum Village is pleased to announce its annual Hammer In and Tool Swap on Sunday, September 27th from 10-4pm. This event is hosted by the NJ Blacksmith's Association, under the direction of association trustee, Eric Cuper, and our own resident blacksmith Robert Bozzay. The day's activities will center at the Museum's Blacksmith Shop where local blacksmiths and the New Jersey Blacksmith's Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the art and craft of blacksmithing, will have members on hand to demonstrate and sell their work. Tool dealers and collectors are invited to tailgate, sell and swap their smithing tools and accessories. We are currently registering blacksmiths and tool collectors. Among the items to be found will be anvils, blowers, forges, vises, hammers, and tongs. Should anyone have a "what is it" cluttering up the garage, bring it along and we will be glad to identify it for you.

Admission for the day's activities is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$5 for children (6-12). Free for children under 6, museum members and for NJBA members. Included in the price is admission to the Museum's historic buildings and exhibits. The Red Mill Museum Village is located at 56 Main Street in Clinton, NJ. For more information, or to register call the Museum at (908) 735-4101.

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Rich Waugh at Gichner's

Report Submitted by Bruce Freeman

Rich demonstrated making a double-ended raising stake. Starting with perhaps 10" of 1.5" square stock, he offset the center 2" or so by supporting the ends on a jig on the anvil of the power hammer and driving down the center. The jig was a flat plate with two smaller plates, ~3/4" thick, lying flat on and welded to each end, leaving a ~4" gap between them. He used a top tool ~3/4" thick and ~2" wide to drive the center of the hot stock down into the jig. Since this caused the two ends to rise he used a flat bar longer than the stock to drive down the ends. The result was a 1.5" bar with a downwardly offset center.

Next he rounded the edges of the two square ends under the power hammer. He then tapered one end and offset it downward so that metal worked over this side would not come in contact with the other side. (This was necessary because this was a double tool.) He completed this demonstration by driving a tapered round tool (larger diameter at far end) into the end that was to become the V-stake. This established the basic form of what would become a "V-stake" for crimping metal to start the raising process. The other end he merely rounded on the edges, but not much on the end. He refined the surfaces by forging, and explained that grinding and polishing would be used to remove all sharp edges and leave the working surfaces with a mirror finish.

He explained that the center section would be welded to a plate ~1/2" thick by ~1.5" high (and wide enough to be gripped in a vise) subtended by a thicker square set on the diamond, thus enabling the tool to be clamped in the vise. A hardy stem could be welded to the bottom of this plate as well. He showed a tool so constructed.

For his raising demonstration, Rich used two tools he had made previously. One of these was a double V-stake, the other a combination raising and bouging stake. The former is used for crimping, a preliminary to the raising process, and has a V-shaped valley down the center, with rounded

corners. The two sides of this tool provide different degrees of crimping. The latter stake is for the actual raising process.

Rich also demonstrated making a raising hammer, but since these closely resemble the lighter hammers used in auto bodywork, and other such things, I will not describe that here.

He demonstrated the raising process on a disk of copper, perhaps 10" x 16 gauge. Starting with an annealed copper disk, on one side he marked the center, then marked in pencil concentric circles, the smallest of which will define the bottom of the vessel. On the opposite side he drew radial lines (16 of them in this case) to guide the crimping operation.

Using the latter guide lines and the V-stake, he crimped the copper disk to lift the edge above the bottom. He did this in two iterations, making moderate crimps at first, then going around again to deepen them. Then, using the circular top of a cylindrical stake no larger in diameter than the vessel bottom, he refined the bottom such that it was flat and the edge between vessel bottom and sides was distinct. This left a shallow bowl with fluted sides, the starting point for the raising operations.

He then proceeded to raise the bowl, starting near the vessel bottom, and going around the vessel and then up the sides in stages. He placed the bowl "upside down" on the raising stake with the end of the stake at the edge of the flat bottom portion. He then struck the copper on one flute such that the point at which the copper was struck was not supported by the stake. Hence the copper was upset, not squeezed between the hammer and stake. He explained that he was using the slight additional stiffness induced in the copper by the crimping operation to allow him to upset the copper a bit at a time.

He proceeded around the bowl in this manner. When he got back to the starting point, he worked slightly further out, using the concentric circles as guides to this operation. The result was a very

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rough, shallow bowl, with obvious concentric rings of hammer blows. He placed this over the bouging stake, which resembled a very large thumb, pad upwards, and used a rawhide hammer to remove much of the texture from the raising operation. This resulted in a much smoother, shallow bowl with straight, not curved, sides.

Since the copper was work-hardened from all this work, he reannealed the bowl by placing it in a gas forge (with a quite low flame) until was barely red, then quenched it in water. He said that at this point it is possible to repeat the crimping operation over the V-stake, but he finds in unnecessary and prefers to continue with the raising operation. However, the annealing destroys the concentric pencil lines, so he used a compass to re-mark the bowl. He repeated the raising operations a few times until he got the bowl to a depth of about 4".

I asked why bother with raising at all, since sinking (driving the disk into a hollow) was so much simpler and easier. Rich answered that sinking is much more limited in capabilities, and also that it produces a thinner-walled vessel. Raising, by contrast, thickens the wall and also can be used to produce complex vessel shapes, like flasks with narrow necks. He showed a snarling iron used in such work, which is in essence a hammer head formed on a long horizontal arm and mounted at the extreme end in the hardy hole or in a vise. You place the narrow neck of the vessel over the snarling iron, then strike the snarling iron near the base, and the spring-back of the iron hammers the inside of the vessel.



Mark Aspery

Sorry about the unsolicited e-mail, but I'm hoping to generate interest in a class Mark Aspery is giving this summer at Touchstone <http://www.touchstonecrafts.com/>

If you're active on the web, you might be aware of the gains the California Blacksmith Association has made over the years in the area of training and education for blacksmiths. Along with teaching inspiring smiths, the CBA is very active in helping instructors become more skilled in the area of teaching. For years, the CBA has been conducting training programs to train the teachers. While members of the CBA have had this resource for many years, this is the first time for the East Coast blacksmith community.

So if you or your guild is interested in starting a training program or if you already have one and would like to see other options of teaching, please consider this course.

Here's what's listed in the school catalog:

June 7 - 13 2009

Blacksmithing Instructor Course—"Just for the Skill of It!"

Mark Aspery • Intermediate • \$460

Materials Fee Payable to Instructor: \$10

This class will concentrate on developing individual skills, the background information that helps attain them, and correcting the common mistakes of a beginning smith. This class will appeal to any blacksmith who has taught others the fundamentals of the blacksmithing craft (or would like to), either as an individual or representing a school or an ABANA affiliate. The class will follow the Western States Blacksmithing (WSBC) Level I Curriculum as a base, but the techniques are quite transferable to other curricula.

So just what is my interest in all this? Last year I was the resident artist of the blacksmith studio at Touchstone. Part of my duties was helping schedule this year's classes. As luck would have it, Mark Aspery asked me to be his assistant for the class and so I have a vested interest in helping get the word out.

Fair Winds, Gerald Boggs, www.wayfarerforge.com

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Peters Valley Financial Appeal

January 2009

Dear Friend's

Your generous support has been critical in helping Peters Valley continue to provide outstanding craft education programs. Peters Valley plays a unique role in the education, promotion and preservation of American craft. Through our educational and outreach programs we provide thousands of people the opportunity to experience the expression of creativity through ideas, materials, and process. We are very proud of what we have accomplished with your help in 2008:

Core Educational Programs

Peters Valley adult summer workshops are among the largest in the Mid-Atlantic region. We ran over 110 adult workshops this year, with over 725 participants, including more than 100 scholarship students. Our Beginner's Weekend was a huge success, introducing first time students to the possibilities of art.

Community Outreach

Spring: Over 1200 PV members, neighbors and visitors joined us for our annual Open House. Each of our seven studios was on the tour with demonstrations in each craft.

Summer/Fall: Thousands of visitors learned about craft from more than 50 artists' demonstrations at Peters Valley's booth at the Sussex County Fair and at Peters Valley's own Craft Fair.

Artists Residency

This program provided 22 professional artists with time, space and support for the development and refinement of skills and the creation of new work.

Special Programs

In March, Steve Butler, head of our Woodworking Department, established "Watergap Woodturners", a local chapter of The American Association of Woodturners. Bruce Dehnert, head of Ceramics, hosted eight special kiln firings at our Ceramics Studios. We are particularly delighted to have had more than 70 local high school and junior high school students participate in these firings. Dick Sargent, head of Blacksmithing, hosted our annual Pig Iron Fest.

Youth Programs

Our summer Youth Program enjoyed its second successful year, with a full month of workshops designed especially for youth. The children produced work in ceramics, fibers, fine metals and more.

The children's activity booth at the Craft Fair was busy all weekend as more than 100 children tried their hands at a variety of crafts.

2008 has been a year of challenges as well. Cuts in New Jersey State Arts funding hit hard at Peters Valley. We are extremely grateful to the over 200 supporters of Peters Valley who contributed to our emergency appeal this summer for our educational and outreach programs. These donations helped keep our doors open and our programs running.

Continued on next page

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Looking ahead to 2009 we see a year of immense opportunity but also serious challenges. We have plans to invest in our facilities, add to our innovative educational programs and expand our outreach. But with further cuts in state funding on the horizon, Peters Valley will be hard pressed to simply maintain basic programming.

We are profoundly aware of the current financial crisis. In tough economic times, arts organizations bear a disproportionate share of the burden. But we firmly believe in the importance of continuing to make and experience art, especially at times like these. Art enriches and empowers the maker and the observer. It brings beauty to our lives and creates hope and a feeling of possibility.

Individual donors account for 75% of philanthropy in the United States. Here at Peters Valley we are fortunate that our individual supporters are dedicated, generous and determined to see that we survive through this trying period. We hope that you choose to continue to support Peters Valley's educational and outreach programs and will include Peters Valley as you consider your year-end giving. The need for your support has never been greater. Your tax deductible contribution will make it possible for Peters Valley to continue to offer an enriching and creative experience of fine American craft.

On behalf of the Staff and Board of Peters Valley, please accept my sincere thanks for your generosity and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2009.

Sincerely,



Maleyne M. Syracuse
President, Board of Directors
Bruce Ringier
1st Vice President

The Australian Affiliate's Tree Project

Early February of this year Victoria, Australia suffered the worst national disaster to ever occur in Australia's recorded history. To honor those that have been lost to the devastating fires and the brave people who battled the elements, Australian Blacksmiths Association (Victoria) Inc., ABANA's newest affiliate is inviting blacksmiths from around the world to contribute to the tree project. Make a leaf and join smiths from around the world forming a memorial and for the spirit of renewal. Visit the ABANA web site and click on The Tree Project under Latest News.

Replacement Supplier

Lawler Foundry products formally carried by the now closed Eastern Ornamental Supply Co in Freehold, NJ can contact Architectural Iron Designs, Inc 950 South Second Street, Plainfield, NJ 07063 • Ph: 800-784-7444 • Fax: 908-757-3439
www.archirondesign.com •
E-mail: aisales@archirondesign.com

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Iron: Twenty Ten **International Juried Exhibition** **Call for Entries - Addendum**



In order to accommodate blacksmiths wanting to create new work for the exhibition and for those who do large-scale architectural work and public art, the following additions and changes have been made to the Call for Entries for Iron 2010.

Architectural Work and Public Art

To ensure that this exhibition provides a complete overview of blacksmithing today, NOMM will include exhibition photographs of architectural work and public art in situ. Exhibition photographs will be produced by NOMM from images provided by the selected blacksmiths. Participating blacksmiths may choose to exhibit a maquette or detail of the final work. Please note that architectural work and public art must be designed and fabricated by the applicant.

New Work

Work to be created specifically for exhibition in Iron 2010 will be considered. Blacksmiths may submit PDFs of up to two drawings per proposed work (to a maximum of two different works) for review prior to completing the final work. Images of two examples of existing work must be submitted with the drawings. NOMM reserves the right to reject work created for the exhibition if it does not (A) meet the quality of the example work and/or (B) is not built as designed.

Application Procedure

The following materials are required as electronic versions on a CD or may be submitted by email to iron2010@metalmuseum.org. Please note if submitting by email, be sure to request confirmation of receipt. A résumé or biographical sketch in PDF file format, not to exceed 2 pages (please include current contact information). Images of up to two works.

For Existing Work. Up to two images per work in JPG file format. See below for image format.

For Architectural Work and Public Art. Up to two images per work of work in situ. Images must be in JPG format and must be available as a file large enough to create exhibition prints. See below for image format.

For New Work. Up to two drawings per work to be created and images of two examples of existing work. Drawings must be submitted in JPG file format. Up to two images per example work may be submitted in JPG file format. See below for image format.

Numbered Image List, including title, medium, dimensions of the object depicted and date of making, if applicable.

No application materials will be returned.

Image Format

JPG images should be no smaller than 300 dpi and 1280 X 1048 pixels. The images should be organized on the CD as individual files and named to correspond to the image list requested below. The JPG file names must include your last name, a number and the image title (example: smith01untitled.jpg). Please note files will be renamed by the exhibition coordinator to maintain artist anonymity.

Deadline Extension

The deadline has been extended to 5 pm, May 29, 2009. There will be no exceptions.

Questions

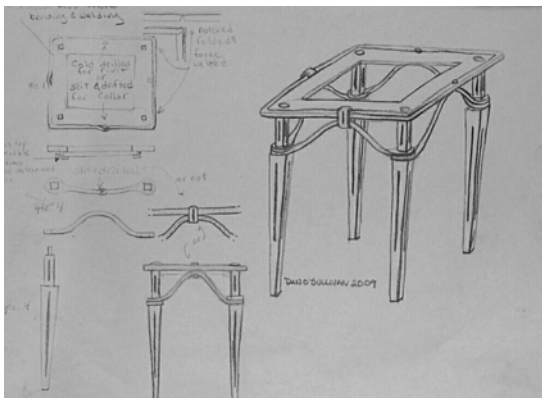
Please submit questions to iron2010@metalmuseum.org. Questions and answers will be posted at <http://www.metalmuseum.org/irontwentyten.html>.

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NJBA and Paba Joint Meet Eric Cuper's Shop in Easton, PA Saturday January 31st 2009

Table design and fabrication
by Dan O'Sullivan and Eric Cuper

The meet started by Dan showing a design he had made for a table and explaining the various parts.



Dan had notched a piece of flat stock that would be the table top before the meet. He then scarfed the insides of the notches and then folded them together. Dan and Eric then welded the corners forming the frame.

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The frame was then grooved near the edge and a hole was punched in each side to collar the leg supports to.



Eric started the legs by tapering the stock on the power hammer. Eric then used a striker and a smithing magician to butcher in for the shoulders on the legs and then drew the stock to that size on the power hammer. Dan worked on the cross supports that go under the frame to support the legs on the power hammer and the anvil. Although they tried they were unable to complete the table (They said they may not at the beginning) and that they will get together at a later date and finish it and donate it to an auction, perhaps at Peters Valley.



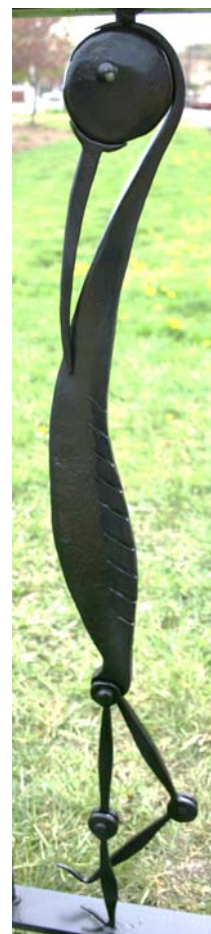
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"Between Fences"

Delaware City, Delaware

Saturday April 19th, a group of semi-local smiths fabricated and erected a section of fence in the park in Delaware City, DE. This was done in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit "Between Fences" which is presently in Delaware City. Over 20 individual pickets were made with no constraint except they be 36 in. long and not over 3 1/2 in. wide.

These are photos of what resulted;



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For more pictures check the web site!!!

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NOMMA NE Chapter Meeting

April 4, 2009 Report by Bruce Freeman

I learned from Eric Cuper that the April NOMMA NE Chapter meeting was in NJ, that it would be a hammer-in, and that NJBA members were welcome to attend. Apparently, this chapter covers an area that includes at least NJ, NY & CT – I'm not sure what else. The host was Keith Majka and his family at their business location in Paterson. Majka Railing Co. specializes in aluminum railings and has a generous shop space in which to construct these. I arrived at 10 AM and shot the bull with Keith and others while helping myself to coffee and a donut. Eric Cuper and his father, Rich, and Dan O'Sullivan showed up soon after. After a generous social period, Keith ran the business meeting, during which I took the opportunity to invite the NOMMA members to NJBA events. After everybody introduced themselves, the business meeting concluded and we broke for a buffet lunch courteously provided by NOMMA and the Majkas.

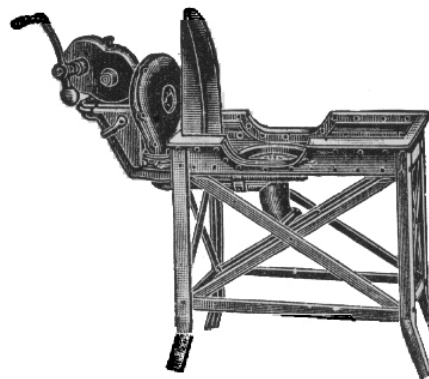
Eric and Dan were featured early in the hammer in. Eric demonstrated forging of aluminum. Dan demonstrated a snub-end scroll. I missed the names of the other demonstrators, but the demonstrations included forging bronze, forging a dragon's head, and perhaps other demos that I missed while occupied with other conversations.

Of great interest to me was that Majka produces its own biodiesel (methanol-lye process) from waste oil from the diner across the street, and that Keith Majka Jr., a recent Mech.E. graduate, has written this up for NOMMA's magazine, *The Fabricator* (Sept./Oct. 2008 issue). (That same issue has an article on our own Tim Miller and his sister Rachel, of Spirit Ironworks.)

The Majka shop is literally a block from the famous Great Falls of Paterson, soon to be a

National Park. Eric, Rich and I wandered over to look at it, as I had never seen it before.

There's a small power house there, but the original use was apparently from a canal that is fed from the top of the falls. This travels along the uphill side of the historic Paterson district and presumably fed turbines to power factories. More about these falls and their industrial history can be found at <http://www.teterboro-online.com/scenic/falls1/falls2.shtml>.



Coal Alert

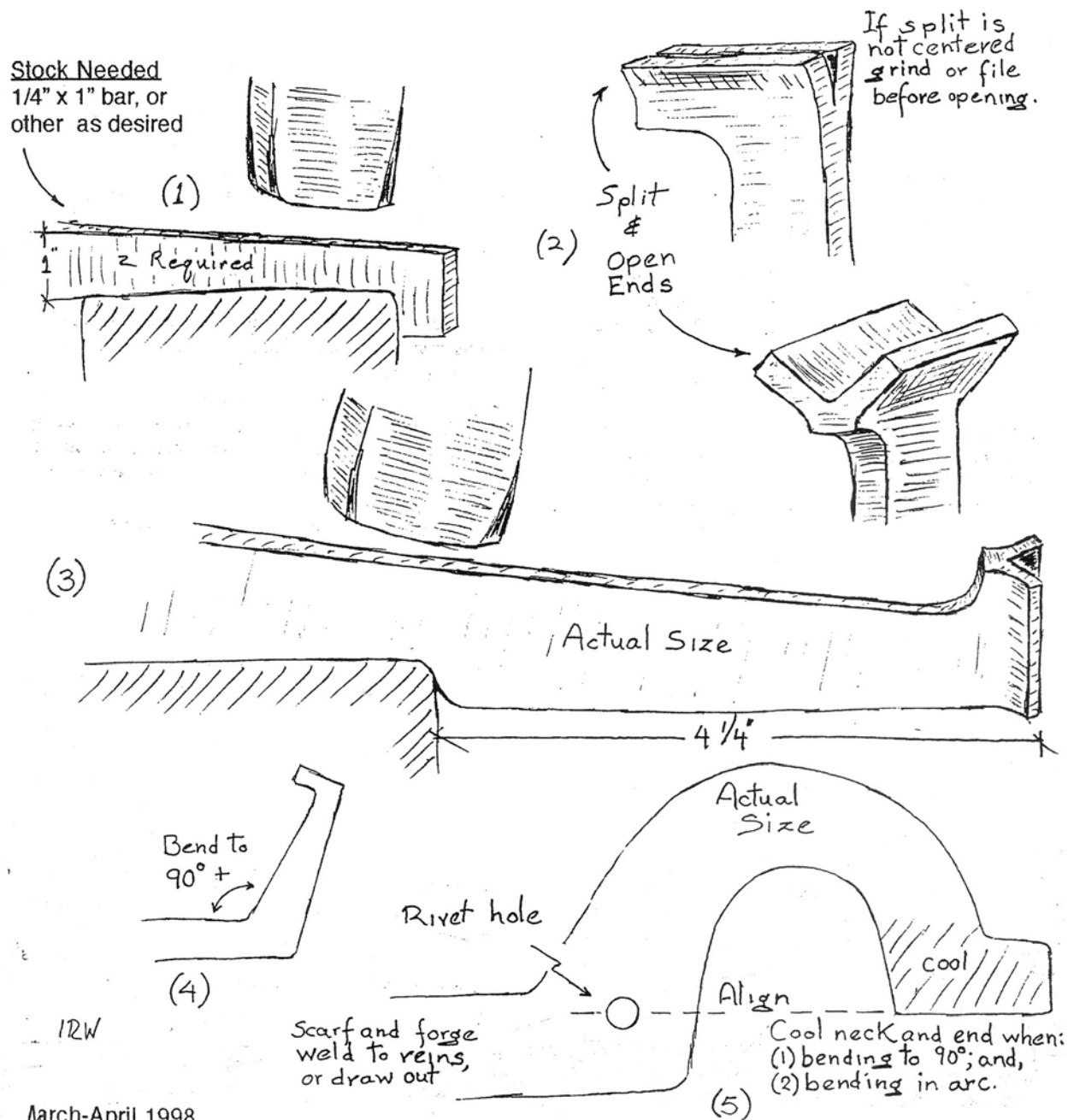
I have heard mention that there are efforts on the New Jersey, New York and Federal levels to outlaw the burning of coal without proper scrubbing equipment or completely. This would be a disaster for the rebirth of blacksmithing. The small shop smith and the hobbyist burn very little coal compared to an industrial facility and should be exempt from these requirements along with historic villages and old engine groups including railroads.

If anyone knows how to research this problem to find out about legislation that may affect all of us, please do so and let me know so we can share it and work to save our craft again. If anyone is a member of NOMMA they may be aware of the problem or might be able to help, please contact them. Larry Brown-ED

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Vee Jaw Tongs

I believe these were by Doug Wilson and published in the New England Blacksmiths Newsletter. A small computer problem caused me to lose the text that went with this but the drawings say it all. My apologies to the originator of this if I am wrong as to the source. I have made this type of tong and they are very nice to use. L Brown, NJBA Editor



March-April 1998

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Blacksmithing Workshops and Classes:

Peters Valley Craft Education Center
19 Kuhn Rd., Layton, NJ 07851 (973)948-5200
pv@warwick.net www.pvcrafts.org

**Academy of Traditional Arts
Carrol County Farm Museum**
500 South Center St. Westminster, MD 21157
(410)848-7775 (410)876-2667

Touchstone Center for Crafts
R.D.#1, Box 60, Farmington, PA 15437
(724)329-1370 Fax: (724)329-1371

John C Campbell Folk School
One Folk School Rd.
Brasstown, NC 28902
1-800-365-5724 www.folkschool.com

Brookfield Craft Center
286 Whisconier Road
P. O. Box 122
Brookfield, CT 06804-0122
203.775.4526

Open Forges

We are looking for members who are interested in opening their forges up to members as a open forge. This does not have to be a weekly forge as is Marshall's the others can meet once or twice a month. Please contact, Larry Brown, Editor.

We want to encourage all to join us at:

Monday Night Open Forge in N.J.

Marshall Bienstock is hosting an open forge in his shop at 7 pm almost every Monday night (Please call ahead on holidays to make sure , (732)780-0871)

Open Forge in Long Island

Sunday from 10:00 am to 6pm.
Starting the 1st Sunday in November until the end of April. Please call ahead to confirm and get directions. Ron Grabowski, 110 Burlington Blvd. Smithtown, NY (631) 265-1564
Ronsforge@aol.com

If any members have a forge at home and work in the evenings or weekends and want to open it up to help a few local guys, let me know, Larry Brown, editor, as we get requests from members who have a hard time traveling to some of the open forge locations.

Business Members

We would like to thank those who joined with our new Business Membership category .

Business dues are \$40

Please show them our support

John Chobrda, Dragon Run Forge
P.O. Box 315 Delaware City, DE, 19706
302-838-1960 jchob@verizon.net

Grant Clark, GWC Forge
PO Box 158 Perrineville NJ 08535
732 446-2638, 732 446-2638

Eric Cuper Artist Blacksmith
109 Lehman Lane, Neshanic Station, NJ 08853
908 642-6420 ericcuper@msn.com

Bruce Hay, Jr.
50 Pine St., Lincroft, NJ 07738

Jayesh Shah, Architectural Iron Design
950 S. 2nd St., Plainfield, NJ 07063
jay@archirondesign.com

Louise Pezzi, Blacksmith
1241 Carpenter St
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215 336 6023 pezziandjr@gmail.com

Search

I am looking for a #250 fisher anvil in good shape. If you have one for sale or run across one, contact me; Larry Brown, NJBA Editor. (718) 967-4776

BLACKSMITH TOOLS FOR SALE!

John Chobrda

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Tongs – Hammers

and/or resurfaced Anvils

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(302) 838-1960 cell (609) 610-3501

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

WORK SMARTER IN THE SHOP: HAND TOOLS

By Barry Denton

To me there is nothing better than going up to the shop and having all my tools organized, polished, tight, and ready to go to work. Normally the day before I start a new project I will make sure everything is in order. There is nothing more irritating than starting a project and having to stop because you can't find something or you have to repair it. During my shoeing career Sunday afternoons were always spent sharpening and repairing tools for the week ahead. Because I punched and counter punched hundreds of horseshoes each week, I would keep about 6 of each style of punch on hand. In the normal course of work I would break or melt the tips of my punches so I always had another to move on to. This allowed me to keep the dollars rolling in by not stopping to repair a tool. I simply laid the damaged one aside and proceeded with the next punch. The damaged punch would wait until Sunday afternoon to be repaired. The point being, not to hold up production due to breakage.

The most important tool in my box is my hammer. My primary hammer is a rounding hammer, next is my cross peen, and third is a ball peen. Each of those hammers perform their functions very well if they are properly maintained. I switch hammers to make my working time more efficient. Yes, I can probably do 90% of my work with just one hammer, but it makes it much easier on me if I have the right hammer for each job. Blacksmithing is hard, taxing work so why not make it as easy as you can on yourself? All three of my primary hammers weigh the same, so when I happen to switch hammers I don't have to readjust my body to accommodate the new hammer. I also have secondary hammers of heavier and lighter weights for different applications, but for now let's concentrate on our primary hammers.

The first thing in my mind when I pick up a hammer is balance. Hammer balance allows a fluid even swing when you are striking metal. If your hammer is balanced it will swing with minimal effort, will rebound nicely, hit squarely, not turn in your hand and not make your forearm tie up. Avoid hammers that are clubby and unbalanced as they will only contribute to the destruction of your arms. Hammers are very much like cars. You can go anywhere in a Volkswagen that you can go in a Lincoln. However, when you arrive in a Lincoln you will be a lot more relaxed and less worn out. Expensive hammers are always worth the extra money. What you hammer with everyday when you are 25, will have a

direct effect on how you hammer when you are 45.

The face should be constantly watched and polished. This keeps your work free from unnecessary marks left by a chipped or distorted face. A few minutes on a belt sander with a #400 belt goes along way on an air hardened hammer head.

Something else that is important is the tightness of the head. The head should be absolutely solid on the handle. If it is moving around you are wasting energy. Maintaining tight hammer heads under the drastic conditions of the Mojave Desert takes some ingenuity and extra effort. First of all I drill all my hammer heads through the middle from side to side and put a pin in them. About once a month all my hammers find their way to a bucket with about 2" of anti freeze in the bottom. I put them in head first and soak them about 4 hrs. The anti freeze seems to keep the head tight for a long time and does not rot the wood as quickly as water. I have tried many things over the years, but this is what works best for me.

Lastly let's talk about tongs. The worst thing you can have in a blacksmith shop are ill fitting or poor working tongs. Remember that your hammer hand is the "power" hand, but your tong hand is your "smart" hand. Therefore, use a little time before you start a project to make certain all the tongs you will use fit the work, swing open easily, and fit comfortably in your hands. If you are trying to present a professional image of your self in front of a customer there is not a worse thing to watch than a blacksmith fumbling with tongs that don't fit or don't open. Your work gets out of position and so do your hammer blows which in turn distort your forging project. I like all my tong reins small and rounded so they feel good in my hands. If I buy a pair of tongs at a yard sale that are big and clunky I'll take the rivet out and forge them down to my comfort zone. Tongs are very easy to make so I really like the control I have when I do that. If I buy a new pair of tongs, I will buy the best I can and still alter them. Forging and belt sanding go a long way to making a pretty and comfortable pair of tongs. When you are working and a rivet seizes up on you, dip your tongs into the water bucket quickly, then immediately drop the end of one rein on the anvil face. Nine times out of ten "jogging the rivet" in this manner will free it up.

Hopefully you have a few new ideas on maintaining your hand tools. Now get out there and be efficient! It only makes your life easier.

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Join ABANA or Check out other area chapters!

Northeast Blacksmiths Association

Northeast Blacksmiths holds its meets twice a year at the Ashokan Field Campus in New York State.

The Ashokan campus is located in Olivebridge, N.Y., several miles west of Kingston, N.Y. The meets are held the first weekend in May and in the first weekend in October every year. The main demonstration is in the blacksmith shop and there is a "Hands On" workshop for beginners. A main demonstrator is brought in for each meet, food and bunk-house style lodging are provided as part of the cost of the weekend long meet.

Contact : Tim Neu

to register for hammer-ins

or subscribe to the newsletter;

Tim Neu, The Ashokan Center,

447 Beaverkill Rd.

Olivebridge, N.Y. 12461 [914]657-8333

For more information check out the web site; <<http://nba.abana-chapter.com/>>

Join The Pennsylvania Blacksmiths Association!

 Name

 Address

 City, State, Zip code

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 E-mail (optional)

New Member ___ Renewal ___

Do you have any particular skills (welder, accountant, carpenter, doctor) that may be helpful to the group or membership?

 Suggestions for PABA demonstrations

What is your skill level?

☐ Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Advanced ☐ Professional

Membership paid by ___ Cash ___ Check # _____

Send your completed application with \$ 20 (one year dues) to;

PABA Treasurer, Buzz Glahn

1667 Wyomissing Rd.

Mohnton, PA 19540

(make Checks payable to PABA)

PABA Membership Application

Membership is from Jan. 1 — Dec. 31

New Jersey Blacksmiths Association
Attn: Larry Brown, Editor
90 William Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10308



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How to Join or Renew your Membership in NJBA:

NJBA Dues are \$20 per year.

NJBA Business Dues are \$40 per year

Please make your check out to: "NJBA"

Please mail checks to:

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

Please include payment with the information listed below. You will receive a postcard confirmation of your membership, and will receive a newsletter within a month.

NJBA's "year" runs from June to June. If you join mid-year, the postcard will offer a prorated dues option which will then allow you to extend your membership till the following June. The following information will be listed in a roster available to other members.

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