



N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 12, Issue 4 1/31/08
<http://njba.abana-chapter.com>

Editors Soapbox

Hi, we have been working to line up some great events for this year. You can all help by making suggestions for demonstrators that we can contact and try to arrange in the future. Remember this is your group, so find some way of being involved and you will enjoy it more. Get out your pens and mark your calendars. Larry Brown, Editor

Upcoming events for 2008

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.

February 9th PABA meet at Doug Learns home with Chris Winterstein. Information on **page 7**.

February 23th, 2008- 9AM - Demo Mark Marrow At Marshalls. More information on this page.

March 29,30th Joint meeting with FURNACE TOWN BLACKSMITH SHOP demonstrator will be Jonathan Nedbor. Information on **page 5**.

April 20th Demonstration meet at Historic Speedwell in Morris County - Open hammerin/demo. Check web site for date change. Election meeting. Information on **page 6**.

April 26&27 A Days in Doylestown, Pa
More information on **page 8**.

May 18th -9AM Open Hammer-in/demo at Tuckerton Seaport. More information on page .

June 28 - 29th Historic Cold Spring Village (HCSV) in Cape May. More information on **page 6**.



July 19th Delaware City Day, Hammer-In and BBQ More information on **page 6**.

August TBA Middlesex County Fair More information in the next newsletter.

September 12 - 14 Old Time Engine Show
Washington Crossing Park, NJ,
More info in the next newsletter .

September 28th Red Mill in Clinton NJ
More information next newsletter.

February 23rd Meet With Mark Morrow at Marshals

Mark is our resident sword smith who lives in Brick and has been coming to the open forge at Marshall's. Mark will probably demonstrate making a gladius sword. This is a meet not to be missed! 9AM start. More information about Mark starting on page 3.

Directions to Marshals:

Marshalls farm is at 663 Casino Drive, Howell (Monmouth Co.). NJ. which is about 1/4 mile east of Route 9. Casino Dr. is a few miles north of 1-195. and a few miles south of Rte. 33. Either of these routes can be easily reached from the major north-south highways. including the Garden State Parkway. the NJ Turnpike. 1-195. Rt. 18 or Rt. 34. Marshall can be reached at his shop at (732) 780-0871.

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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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 the site may be linked to from the NJBA web site.

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**

NJBA Board of Directors

This information is available in
hard copy only and not posted
on the web

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About Mark Morrow From His Web Site

<http://www.swordsmith.net/>

Morrow's Blade and Blacksmith Shop specializes in custom made weaponry for the distinguished collector. With over 30 years of blacksmithing experience, Mark has an eye for detail and prides himself on the integrity of his work. Any work commissioned from Morrow's Blade and Blacksmithing will be a one of a kind work of art hand forged by a master of the trade.

Mark Morrow began his career at the age of thirteen from what ever was available around his grandfather's junk pile. His first blades were made from broken saw blades and later he began using leaf springs which he would straighten cold and then grind to shape. Not satisfied with this method he built a small forge that was fueled by charcoal bricks. This worked quite well for smaller projects but did not work for larger swords because it used so much charcoal. Later, with the help of his grand father, he built a shop and a larger forge. This was simply the beginning, and many years later he is still pursuing this art. Once the shop was set up, he branched out into doing hand forged decorative iron work, which he still does (in limited quantity), but his main stay is weaponry and knives.



Mark forges all styles of edged weapons from the European, Roman and Japanese styles. When Mark began smithing, he had a genuine desire to learn the different fighting methods belonging to the varied weapons throughout the ages. During his studies, he found that the swords and weapons available were not built to withstand the test of an actual combat situation. Because of this, Mark determined that he would fill that void of quality weapons and founded Morrow's Blade and Blacksmith Shop. All of the weapons and knives from Morrow's Blade and Blacksmith Shop are hand forged to withstand the test of battle filling a void of quality weaponry and keeping to an ancient tradition shared by many cultures throughout the ages.

Brick man is one of a handful of professional swordsmiths in U.S

From The Asbury Park Press 01/23/08

The odds are you'll never need a Roman gladiator's sword, a me-dieval broadsword or even a Japanese samurai sword, but if you did, where would you go?

The answer could be as close as Brick at Morrow's Blade and Blacksmith Shop. In the world of unusual businesses, Mark Morrow probably rates pretty high. He's a swordmaker, a specialty offshoot of the blacksmith trade. And, it turns out, business is booming. Morrow practices a craft similar to smiths of a past century, heating metal and then hammering it into shape to form a sword. It's an exacting craft and one that requires a love of the work, he said. At 48 years old, he's still honing the blacksmith skills his grandfather taught him as a 13-year-old boy, he said. Back then, he was creating metalworks out of whatever scrap he could find. He started forging blades from broken saw parts, he said. Today, it's a different story, as he creates specialty blades in a world where most of the business is by word of mouth and the reputation a smith establishes, he said.

He admits he's made some concessions to the modern age, with a propane forge replacing the old charcoal one, and he will use an autohammer for some of the early pounding. But after that, it's all hand

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hammering, grinding and polishing. There is a certain romance in that, Morrow said. But it's also a business, one that is under increasing international competition as emerging manufacturers in India and China try to elbow their way into this market.

Morrow figures there's about 24 professional swordsmiths in the U.S. "There might be more," he said. "But I don't know them. A lot of the people out there are hobbyists. There's a difference." And, while he said he loves the work, it is a business that needs to turn a profit. His market today is mostly Roman-style swords, used by people who re-enact gladiator fights or the battles fought by that empire's legionnaires, he said. Making one of these swords takes about two weeks and will cost a customer \$800 to \$1,000, Morrow said. He tries to do several projects at the same time, because parts of the process require pieces to be left alone for a time. In all, Morrow said he'll produce about 200 swords a year. It could be as little as 60, depending on the detail required. To do that, he works from early morning to about 9 at night, six days a week, he said. There was a time when he made a large number of Japanese ceremonial swords, some of the most intricate, he said. But the emerging economies of Asia have slowed that work to almost nothing now. "China and India have really moved into this field," Morrow said. "They're mass producing swords fast now, and a lot of it isn't good quality. There's been some horror stories of re-enactors using these things and having the blades break off."

Still, he wistfully concedes that the mass-produced swords have found a market. A mass-produced Japanese-style sword might cost \$400, Morrow said. One of his will go for about \$2,400, he added. "I can tell you that there is no competition between my quality and what they're turning out," Morrow said. "But if you're a kid that's just started collecting or you want something to hang up on the wall, you might opt for the \$400 product. Most collectors start with the cheap stuff." His craft may be one that will be phased out by the emerging economies. Right now, he figures he makes about \$20 to \$40 an hour for his work; not much, he said, when one considers the skills required.

A quality swordmaker needs to be a master blacksmith, a better-than-average wood worker and a silversmith, he said. "You think of blades when you think of swords, but there's a lot more to them," he said. For example, there's the grip and the guards. That's probably wood, leather and maybe some silver inlay work, he said. A medieval sword consists of four pieces that have to fit together. A Japanese sword might be 12, he added. There are also the times that things go wrong, and those cost both time and money. Once he made a sword for a movie producer in Georgia, with nothing but a photograph to work from. The handle came out wrong and had to be re-done. "I pride myself on having an eye for quality and giving the customer what he wants," he said. "Your quality and customer satisfaction are what you are really selling." And while the workload seems to increase, he's still a one-man operation. "I can't afford to pay anyone to help out and still make a profit," he said. "It takes a certain expertise. Low-carbon steel is not forgiving. The bottom line is you have to make money on what you're doing or it's just a hobby." Morrow relocated from Arkansas about three years ago, and the sticker shock of New Jersey was something he still remembers. "Money went a lot further in Arkansas," he said. "Things do cost more here."

But New Jersey has its benefits, he quickly adds. "I met my wife, Kathleen, on one of those Internet dating sites," he said. "She was already established up here as a physical therapist. So I packed up my stuff and moved north." Dave Macauley, chairman of the New Jersey Blacksmiths Association, said Morrow is a master of his craft.

"He'll always be in demand," Macauley said. "Handmade is better than anything that can be manufactured by machine."

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Furnace Town Blacksmith's Guild Joint Meeting & Workshop 29th & 30th March, 2008

Cost is \$40.00 if registration if by 14th March
\$50.00 thereafter

Saturday night dinner is \$15.00 extra

Jonathan Nedbor is the Demonstrator

A full time blacksmith for over 30 years, Jonathan is a popular teacher and demonstrator, able to share his insights into the forging process. He specializes in historic forged ironwork focusing on early hardware of New York's Hudson Valley. Much of his work is used on historic houses and museums, many of which are listed on the National Register. He also designs and produces contemporary furniture and household ironwork.

Jonathan's classes and demonstrations seek to communicate the beauty and simplicity of a pure forged approach to shaping iron. He covers tool making, forge welding, scrolls, approaches to authentic reproduction of historic hardware and more.

There will be Iron-In-The-Hat, a special auction, and tailgate sales. We will have Norm Larson's and Skipjack Press books for sale.



=====
Registration form:

NAME / s _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

PHONE / EMAIL _____

Preregistration x \$35 (\$45 late) =
Saturday night dinner x \$15 = Total =

Send money and registrations to:

Mark Williams, 114 W. Federal St., Snow Hill, MD 21863

williamsiron@comcast.net 410-632-0914

Make the check out to: Furnace Town Blacksmiths Guild. Mark will send a confirmation.

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Historic Speedwell April 20th

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. This is also our Spring election meeting?

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.

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 18

On May 18, 2008 NJBA will be doing a demo at Tuckerton Seaport, in Tuckerton NJ. 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.

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 28th - 29th

NJBA is holding a public demonstration/hammer-in at Historic Cold Spring Village (HCSV) in Cape May on July 28 – 29. 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 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 19th

Second Annual Hammer in / BBQ

Kerry Rhoades and John Chobarda, along with the New Jersey Blacksmiths Assn. would like to invite all smiths, metal heads, and their families to the 2nd Annual forge in and BBQ on Saturday July 19th 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 display tables for you to display and sell your work, also to demo to the general public and teach some of us old dogs new tricks. We will be grilling a whole suckling pig, so we ask that you bring a covered dish or something to share with others. Space is available for tail gating so bring any tools, anvils or stuff you no longer use.

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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.

Old Time Engine Show September 12th, 13th, and 14th

NJBA will again be at the Delaware Valley Old Time Power and Equipment Association's "Days of the Past" Engine Show at Washington Crossing State Park, in Titusville, New Jersey. Come on out and bring the family, there are hay rides for the kids, a metal heads flea market, and a lot to see. We will have a couple of forges going so bring a hammer, also if you have some items for sale we will have a table out. Come on out and join the fun. For more information check out their web site <http://daysofthepast.com>

Directions:

The Engine Show is located in Washington Crossing State Park off of Rt. 29 (River Rd.) South of Lambertville and North of Trenton signs are posted to show the way.

Outside NJBA Meets PABA February 9th

The meeting will be on 09 February, at Blue Beam Forge, 121 Pebble Woods Drive, Doylestown, PA 18901-2907. Space will be limited, as the forge is a 24 x 26 space, so plan to pack in tight. Please bring hearing protection, as the forge will be noisy if the doors are kept shut to combat the cold. There is additional space in the house garage and I may be able to get a tent from the scout troop for IITH and general congregating.

Lunch is up to each person; I will have maps of Doylestown available (about 2 miles away) with various eating spots highlighted.

The lead demonstrator will be **Chris Winterstein** owner of Dirt Circus Ironworks in North Carolina and now working for Yellen Ironworks (and the current ABANA President). Chris has been blacksmithing for over 12 years, beginning at the Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina, and he then moved to the National Ornamental Metals

Museum in Memphis TN, where I got to know him well. He left the Metal Museum and worked with many other smiths across the US as a journeyman, and then returned to Penland, as Studio Coordinator of the Iron Studio at the Penland School of Crafts. Chris has demonstrated for many groups over the years and is a talented demonstrator with fine artistic skills and the ability to make complex forgings clear and understandable. He will demonstrate in the morning.

One of the hidden jewels of Doylestown is the Mercer Museum <http://www.mercermuseum.org>. This museum, the vision of Henry Chapman Mercer, is one of the largest and certainly the most eclectic collections of early American crafts and everyday life and certainly something to visit. For those members who wish to visit the Mercer, I am trying to arrange a special price for admission. More on that at the meeting. The afternoon can be spent at the Mercer, and members can pick up IITH items at the forge up to 5:00 PM. For those members who elect to stay at the forge, we will keep the plans for demonstrations loose. My son Calum and I demonstrate the pierced plates that I have been doing, or Chris may also do more work. Anyone who wants to work can also pitch in.

We hope to see you all here. Doug Learn

Directions:

From the West; travel on the turnpike to the Willow Grove Exit. Proceed north on 611 approximately 8 miles, past Barn Plaza and the intersection of Edison-Furlong Road and 611. Turn right (east) on Edison-Furlong Road and proceed approximately 400 yards to the first left, Sauerman Road. Proceed on Sauerman Road for approximately 100 yards to Pebble Hill Road on the right. Turn right; 121 is the fifth house on the left, counting the house on the corner. Please park only on the right side of the road so traffic can easily get past.

From the North, travel south on Route 33 to Interstate 78, going west to the Hellertown exit. Go south on Route 412 through Hellertown and on to 611. Proceed south on 611 and follow the directions above.

From the east, travel on the turnpike and follow the directions above. You can also come down Route 202 into Doylestown and get on 611.

For further directions call 215.489.1742.

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THE BLACKSMITHS' GUILD OF THE POTOMAC INC

Spring Fling 2008 April 18,19,20, 2008

Gates open 3pm Fri.

We again invite you to join us in a return to the traditional SPRING FLING, two and a half day event with demonstrations, tailgating and story telling. The Berryville, Va. Ruritan Fairgrounds gives us ample tailgating and camping space.

NOTE: THE FAIRGROUNDS CHARGES FOR HOOK-UPS. \$15.00 per night

The Demonstrators for SPRING FLING 2008 will be:

JAMES VISTE - ARTIST BLACKSMITH, DETROIT, MI

CRAIG BARR - MAKER OF PATTERN WELDED STEEL Cotopaxi, Co

KEN SCHWARZ - MASTER BLACKSMITH, ANDERSON FORGE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

J.J. ROBERTS MASTER ENGRAVER, MANASSAS, VA.

For more information see our web site or contact Larry Brown, editor.

A-Days at Delaware Valley College April 26th and 27th

Last April 27-29 my son Calum and I used the NJBA trailer to demonstrate at A-DAY at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, my hometown. In the Spring 2007 newsletter, I described A-DAY, it's history and how the funds raised sup-



port student activities throughout the year for all the groups on Campus. Over the years, we have demonstrated at

various sites and each year, we get a better location, a better tent, and more recognition from the school. A-DAY is now designated an official fair, as defined by the PA State Associate on County Fairs, and able to take entries and award prizes in all the categories that county agricultural fairs have (iron work won several categories in hand crafts last year). For the fifth year, Calum and I demonstrated for the attendees and supported the students in their fund raising efforts (the highest grossing A-DAY in history). As a gesture to the students, on Sunday Calum and I made small horseshoes (or unicorn colt shoes, as I described for some of the attendees) from 5/16" bar stock, 22 in all, for the students on the steering committee and their faculty advisors. In each one I stamped 'A Days 2007' and then their initials in the toe of shoe. These were handed out and I got much positive feedback from both students and staff. I assume that I will again be making shoes for this year's committee.

For the sixth year, we hope to be back with the NJBA trailer, we enjoy doing it and the president



Unicorn colt shoes

of the executive committee has invited us back. I invite all NJBA members to join us in this demonstration. We have a great time, expose a large number of people to the art and craft of blacksmithing, the campus is beautiful and student enjoy what we do. Please contact me if you are interested in demonstrating cjfdlearn@verizon.net, 215.489.1742. For more information on A-DAY, please go to the Delaware Valley College web site www.delval.edu. I hope to see you at A-DAY.

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*"Hammer on Down, the Anvils are in
Our Town"*

**GREAT LAKES INTERNATIONAL
IRONFEST 2008
HOSTED BY
NEW YORK STATE DESIGNER
BLACKSMITHS**



May 23, 24, 25, 2008

Demonstrations by

Jymm Hoffman

Kim Thomas

Mark Puigmarti / Bob Cook

Deke Wedow

**One Day Advanced Class Offered by
Jymm Hoffman on Monday, May
26th**

Gallery / Auction

Iron in the Hat

Camping

Spousal Program

For more information please visit us at www.nysdb.org or contact GLIFF Conference Chairman Peter Parry at blacksmith@forterie.com 905-894-4843
Contact Larry Brown NJBA editor for more information also.

Northeast Blacksmiths



Announcing the first regional Blacksmithing Conference produced by a consortium of Blacksmithing groups from Maryland north to Maine. More information will be posted here in the newsletter as it becomes available.

Atlantic Coast Blacksmith Conference September 4, 5, 6 & 7 2008

A joint effort by the Northeast Blacksmith Association and other Regional Affiliates

3 Days of Hot Metal

Featuring demonstrators

Mark Aspery

David Norrie

Peter Ross

Numerous presenters, trade show, tailgating. Bunkhouse and camping, food on site.

To be held at the Ashokan Field Campus, near Kingston, NY, directions and more information about the site are on the web site;

<http://www.northeastblacksmiths.org/>

If you want to help and are not an NBA member see the "Join Us" information at the bottom of the page. Members that want to help or have conference questions please contact Ryan Blessey; Ryan@roverheadmetalworks.com or Jonathan Nedbor jonned@hvc.rr.com

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Randy McDaniel Demo at Eric Cuper's Shop in Easton, PA



This Demo was based on the work that Randy did for the gate at the Childrens Garden at Hershey Gardens.

The meet started with Tim Suter introducing Randy to the group. Randy discussed how steel plates were laser cut and attached to frames to make the main gates and the side panels. The gate frames and columns were made by a fabricator and his work was attached to them. He talked about the advantages of laser cutting for repetitive work and blanks for forging. He then discussed how the forms were made to create the Hershey Kisses on



Randy McDaniel



Leaf forming tools

top of the pillars. For the demo he started by making a leaf using a laser cut blank and an anvil fuller he brought with him and a veining swadge tool. Next he made a leaf using rectangular stock which was welded to a leaf and stem he had brought with him. Then he started a sunflower using a Laser cut blank. He demonstrated a tool he had made that enabled him to line up top and bottom tools in the center of the work piece for texturing and veining. Using this and a series of punches and chisels



Veining and texturing tool

he made a face in the center of the sunflower blank, which he then sunk into a piece of pipe on end on the anvil. He dished the petals into a small hardy swage he had made for this. Eric welded the leaf to the stem he had brought and the stem to the base. Randy then demonstrated forge brazing to provide

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The eye locations were punched down and holes drilled for the antennas and eyes which were welded from the



texture and color to the base by putting it in the fire, fluxing areas and applying brazing wire. The stem was then welded to the sunflower top by Eric.

He then demonstrated making an ant. The body of the ant was made by tapering the end of a piece of pipe closed and then using a guillotine

fuller to segment the body. Then he upset the piece at each segment to define the parts. He then forged two balls for the eyes, the antennas and the legs which he textured in a die he had. The end of the pipe was cut off and a vee cut into it for the mouth.



inside. the mouth was then finished and Eric welded the legs onto the body.

Randy was an excellent demonstrator who filled the day with tips and techniques. He brought lots of tooling and parts of items with him so the group could handle them and ask questions, helping to bring out a lot of information. These picture courtesy of Roger Dixon. More of these and others will be on the web site soon. LB

Randy's web site is <http://www.drgnfly4g.com>



Finished Ant

