

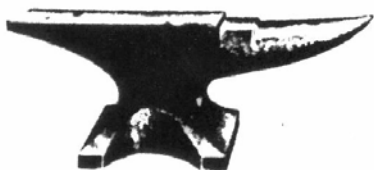


N.J.B.A.

NJBA Volume 11, Issue 2 08/01/06

Editors Soapbox

Hi, to all! The temperatures are dropping and winter is on its way so let's get together and come out the Holiday Party at Marshall's home. If you have any recent item to show off bring them along and if you are making item for the holidays share the ideas! Sorry the newsletter is running late but there have been some problems on this end, actually I need longer days or more time in the ones I have. The next event is a meet at Eric Cupers shop in February, so I hope to see you soon. Larry Brown, Editor



Upcoming events for 2006

Get your calendars out and mark these events down. Please bookmark our web site and check for meet information. Remember most of our meets have an "Iron in the Hat" drawing, so be sure to bring something.

December 3rd

Holiday Party at Marshalls home in Howell.
Information on this page.

February 17th

Meet at Eric Cupers shop in Easton, PA. (Right over the boarder)

March ?

We are setting up a forge hood workshop. Those who are interested contact Dave Macauley or Larry Brown, More information in the next newsletter in February



NJBA Holiday Party!

The holiday party is to be held on December 3rd at Jan and Marshall's house starting at 2PM. Many thanks again, to Marshall and Jan for opening their home to us in the holiday season. Guests are asked to bring a covered dish, salad, desert, etc. and your favorite beverage. Please coordinate with Jan on what to bring. NJBA will pick up all of the utensils, plates, cups, and some soda. Members are asked to also bring various trivets, candle holders, or other holiday items they are making to the party. Despite the emphasis on blacksmithing, members are encouraged to bring their families.

Directions to Marshalls' Home:

Marshall and Jan's "cabin" is not on Marshall's farm, but about 3 miles east of it on the same road. Casino Drive is just off Rt. 9, about 3.5 miles north of interstate I. 195 (exit 28). and about 4 miles south of Rt. 33. Either of these routes can be easily reached from the major north-south highways including the Gar-

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

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>

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

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February Meet at Eric Cuper's Studio

On Saturday, February 17, I would like to invite everyone out to my studio in Easton, PA for another winter meeting. I plan on demonstrating several forging techniques including the forge welding of my squid forms. This involves pipe forging and about a dozen forge welds so safety glasses are a must. Tailgating is welcome and the heaters will be on. Hope to see you there!

The address is:

1301 Lynn Street
Easton, PA 18042

Any problems finding my shop, call: 908-642-6420 or 610-438-8694

Directions:

Assuming everyone is coming from the east. Get to 78 or 22 west from wherever you are coming from. 78 and 22 merge for a while. Take the last exit in NJ, which is 22 into Phillipsburg. Take 22 all the way through Phillipsburg, through the toll (75 cents) into PA. You are taking the very first exit immediately off the bridge so stay to the right out of the toll. Exit right and stay to the right on the exit ramp and pass under 22 until you come to a stop sign at Larry Holmes Drive. Turn left onto Larry Holmes Drive. You pass McDonalds and WaWa on your left. Take the first left onto Lehigh Drive immediately after the WaWa strip mall. My shop is on the corner of Lehigh Drive and Lynn Street. It is the first white building on the right, my shop may be entered through the green door. Parking is available in front of my entire building and all up Lynn Street but please do not park in the driveway on the left side of my building, it is an active driveway for a delivery company.

You may also take 78 west into PA (also a toll) and take the first exit in PA. I do not know the street names but turn right at the end of the exit and follow the signs for the Crayola Factory/ Canal Museum/ or Attractions. These signs will bring you to a light with McDonalds on your left. Turn left at this light and take the next left onto Lehigh Drive as above.

CUPER STUDIOS

Eric Cuper, Artist Blacksmith

Cuper Studios specializes in architectural, functional, sculptural, hand-forged ironwork and restoration.

Eric Cuper, the founder of Cuper Studios, holds an MFA in Blacksmithing from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. While at SIU, Eric won the prestigious Rickert-Ziebold Trust Award, a senior competition in art and design. He was also the First Place winner at the James Renwick Alliance student competition. His work Odyssey was auctioned to benefit the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institute. Eric's work is exhibited and collected nationally. His art has been published in Dona Meilach's books, Architectural Iron Work and Fireplace Accessories.

March Forge Hood Workshop

We are starting to arrange a forge hood workshop for March. All who are interested contact David Macauley or Larry Brown to get your names on a list in case the participants gets limited.

Date(s) and cost to be determined

Employment

Metal Fabricator/Welder:

Fabricator and Working Supervisor positions available. Must have experience in high-end custom fence and gate fabrication and installation. Measuring, design, layout and computer knowledge preferred. Benefits and pleasant work environment. Fax resume to 973 481-5551.

www.airmetmetalworks.com

Airmet Metalworks
671 North 3rd Street
Newark, New Jersey
973 481-5550; office phone

Web Links

Any members who have web sites and want to list them in the newsletter or as links on the web site contact Larry Brown

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Delaware Valley Old Time Power Show

Report by John Chobrda

The "Days of the Past" old time power show was held this September and NJBA was there again demonstrating. True to form we had rain again. Friday was a total wash out with only a few people arriving with there antique engines, tractors, and trucks. The field was very soft and muddy from the previous rains. Mike Erdie, Mitch Swirsky, and I (John Chobrda) arrived with the trailer, set up the rain tarp and sat back to watch the entrance turn in to a hog wallow. It's amazing just how many four wheel drive vehicles got stuck in the mud.



John Chobrda
forging baler
hardware

We even watched a small dozer get mired down.

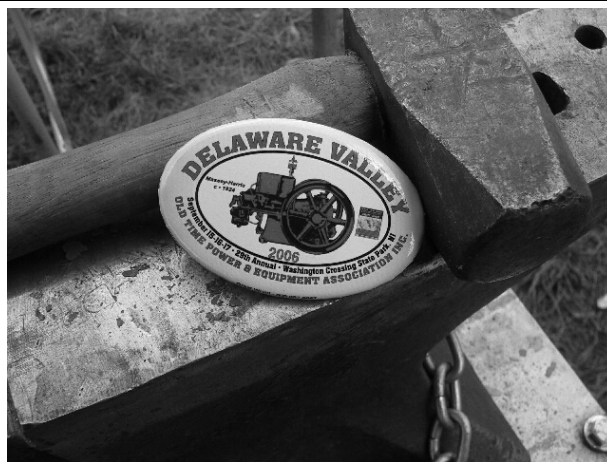
The sun came out Saturday and things started to dry out (but there were still some very wet spots) we set up the equipment, start-

ed a fire, and started forging. Mike Erdie forged and sold a bunch of heart hooks and got some of the young people in the crowd to help crank the blower and do a little forging. Mitch Swirsky was our interrupter, explaining to the onlookers what we were doing, and forged a few leafs. A member of the group that runs the show came with some broken pieces off of an antique baler and asked if we could forge some new pieces for him.

Sunday was a warm beautiful day and the crowds responded by really coming out. Mike worked on some



Mike Erdie
teaching
at the
forge



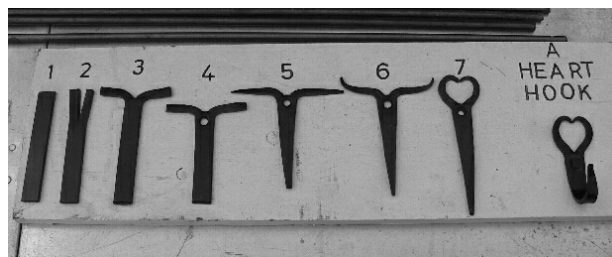
more hooks, finished up a bell he has been working on and we helped one of the young show attendees forge a heart hook to take home. Mitch was our lecturer again and I finished the hardware for the bailer.

We had some NJBA members show up over the



Mitch
explaining

weekend Larry Brown, Tom Majewski, Larry Fogg and Tom Eden. We hiked up to the flea mkt. area a couple of times but only saw one anvil (beat and overpriced) and some foundry tongs (so I saved money). One day the owner of the steam tractor that was there parked it right next to us, so between the sound of the steam whistle and the ring of the anvil we had a large crowd all day. All in all it was a nice weekend and if you could not make it this year we hope to see you next September.



Heart hook demonstration board

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Report on the MASA Conference

From Bill Futer

Just a short note on the MASA conference. I got there at about 8:30 and already the place was hopping. John Chorbda arrived at about the same time. Also making an appearance was Tim Suter and his friend whose name unfortunately I can't remember. There were just a few blacksmith tailgaters, but another tool group was having a 'yard' sale on the same day. There were a lot of interesting machine tools, metals, and various pieces of equipment.

Dan Boone and Glen Horr were the demonstrators. On Saturday, Dan made his famous dragon head which is too complex to detail here, but we did get a small booklet on how to accomplish this. Glenn's demo was on how to use an air chisel to move metal in a very short time. He made a smaller dragon head in about 20 minutes. Of course there was the Iron in the Hat and auction. Dan's sample dragon head went for \$135. Dinner was roast beef or chicken breast sandwiches with all the fixings. After dinner there was an informal question and answer session, a lot of it centering on pricing your work and how to handle yourself at craft fairs.

Sunday Dan made some quick and relatively easy projects in response to the question session. He made a firepoker, wall hanger, corkscrew all within 15-20 minutes. Glenn continued with the fair scenario and made a nice bottle opener, large leaf wall hook.

Bottle opener:

1/4 round x 6 inches. Forge one end to a screwdriver type taper. Scroll this end to a diameter of 5/8. The other end taper round and scroll to make handle.

Walnford Day

NJBA's participation in the event was canceled by us due to rain. We look forward to a invite again and better weather next year

The Scrap Corner;

Aug. 9, 2006

Submitted by Tim Suter.

If you have a problem or a solution send it in and we will publish it to help you or others.

PROBLEM To hold small pieces firmly in position on irregular surfaces for tacking, gas, MIG or stick.
SOLUTION - Use Babbitt Right, the clay like substance used to make dams for Babbitt pouring. It has very good adhesion but releases cleanly. It has good heat tolerance and can be used multiple times before it becomes too dirty to work well.

Grip the piece with a small vise grip. Place a suitable sized gob of Babbitt Right close to the location then press the body of the vise grip into the gob and adjust to suit.

For Sale

I am selling a Landis Machine sanding machine and also a Landis Machine polishing machine.

Both machines are manufactured by Landis Machinery in St. Louis and were purchased from a saddle & tack shop that went out of business. The smaller one is a sanding machine & the larger one is a polishing machine (Landis 100 model). They were both used to work leather, but could also be used on wood or metal, etc. They would work well for knife making. Both have dust collection systems w/bags (one bag is decent & one can be used as a pattern for a new bag). They could also be hooked up to a modern dust collection system w/ a few 6" stove pipe fittings. Both are 110v. The polishing machine runs. The sanding machine may need a motor or switch. I haven't taken the time to diagnose it. There is some extra belting and some sanding paper sized for the sanding machine. They were originally purchased to use in my shop, but decided I need the space for a wood lathe instead. They need to go. I'd like to get \$200 for both of them, just to get my investment back. I can load them on your truck or trailer here at my shop in northwest NJ.

Please pass this on to anyone you might think would have an interest in them. Any questions, please email me back or call me on my cell phone, 908.337.2057. Thanks, Roger Dixon.

Peters Valley Pig Iron Fest and Iron Smelt

by Larry Brown,

The Pig Iron Fest was held on October 7th this year, which was later than usual to take advantage of the cooler weather and to avoid scheduling conflicts with events in other areas.



Bruce Ringier



Josh Kavett

items, including an anvil. After the initial round of beer, other beverages and food, Bruce Ringier became an auctioneer. With the help of Josh Kavett showing the items, he auctioned off the donated pieces of forged art pieces, tools and other items. Many of the items are donated by smiths who have taught there over the years and by people who have

It was held in conjunction with a three day Iron Smelt with the two events having an overlapping day on Saturday. People attending the Pig Fest could watch the iron fest but they couldn't participate unless they had paid for that event. Dick Sargent, who is the head of the Peters Valley Blacksmithing Department, spent most of the day interpreting what was going on at the iron smelt to spectators as the smelt was held behind the shop in front of the barn.

There was food aplenty with a pig and a large piece of beef cooking in ovens on spits. It was delicious to say the least.

Bruce Ringier was selling raffle tickets for a few



The Star (The Pig)

enjoyed taking classes there.

In the afternoon several smiths including Tom Ryan gave demonstrations. Tom demonstrated forging some of the iron from the morning iron smelt and then proceeded to draw different shapes out of the bar he was working on the power hammer. It was getting too crowded in the shop too see well so I went outside and missed the rest of the demonstrations that Tom gave and the smiths who came afterwards.

It was a good time with a lot of nice people, although it could and should have been better attended. Peters Valley offers the best opportunity in NJ to learn blacksmithing and we should show our support for it so it will still be there when we want to go there. So next year let's have more than just a few NJBA faces there. For more information on the Iron Smelt look for the article in this newsletter by Bruce Freeman about the summer class held at Peters Valley.



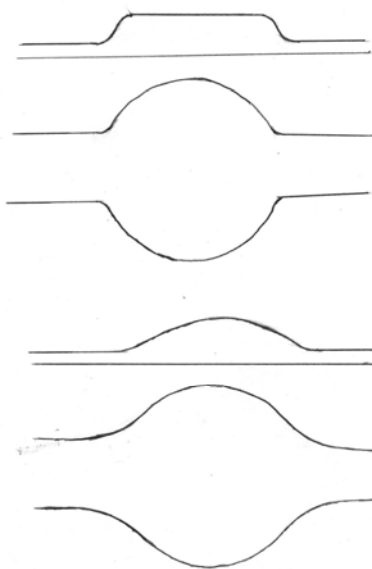
Tom Ryan

Jonathan Nedbor

Meet on Oct 14th

Report by Larry Brown, pictures by Larry Brown and Bill Futer

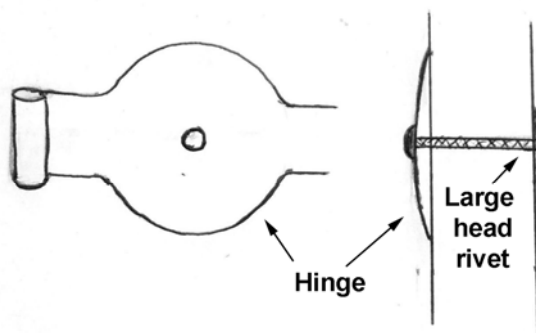
On Saturday October 14th NJBA hosted a demonstration by Jonathan Nedbor of High Falls, NY at the shop on Marshalls Farm. The weather was good and we had a turn out of about 25 members. Jonathan started by discussing old iron work and the rediscovery of the techniques used to make it. By understanding the technique you can try to determine the region of Europe the smith was from. He discussed how the transition of mass is important in setting up your forging work, especially



More abrupt changes in mass give a sharper corner when forging out the hinge.

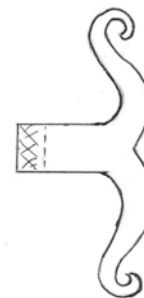
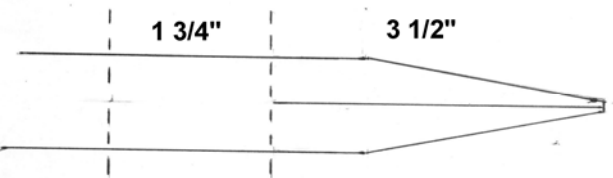
Less abrupt changes in mass give a more rounded corner

in relation to making hinges. By forging sections of the bar thicker and thinner, you can then go back and forge the thick areas wider and the thinner areas less to create the different sections of the hinge.



Next he discussed some of the old hardware he has collected and some of the pieces he brought to show. He had one hinge still attached to a piece of the door showing how many times a large flat head rivet was used to hold the hinge to the door using the first hole in the hinge. This would hold the hinge securely to the door and the rest of the nails going through the hinge would hold the hinge straight and hold the door together.

Next he made a moustache hinge from 1/4" x 1", tapering the end for about 3 1/2" then splitting part-



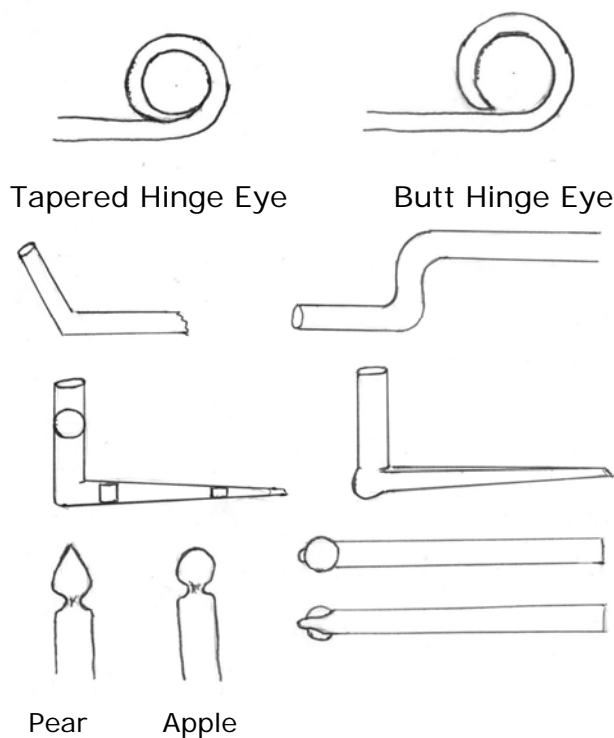
way from the front with the slitting chisel and then shearing it open using the leg vise to hold the

piece along the slit line. He then cut off the piece 1 3/4" from the end of the split and tapered the end so that it was 2 1/4" long. The split ends were then worked out over the horn and then on the face hitting the back side of the hinge to spread. Work the outsides of the hinge to form the ends.

He showed two styles of eyes for Dutch hinges, neither of them welded. one is rolled to a short taper butt end and the other tapered more so it rolls around inside behind the pintle.



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He then showed a pintle he had that showed how the smith who forged the pintle did so



Larry Brown, Editor

in such a way as to have the elbow end stick out a little past the shaft of the pintle, strengthening it and giving a surface to hammer on so as not to bend the pintle. He bent the rod to about 60 deg. , then cooled the end and hit it to upset the elbow in the corner as the bend was formed. He then put a convenience bend in the shaft to allow for easier rounding of the pintle section. After rounding the shaft was straightened and the corner was drawn out a little. One pintle should be a little taller than the other to make it easier to hang the door. He showed two decorative ends, a pear and an apple, one a little taller than the other. He says he doesn't finish his work and that he uses a vinegar and salt mixture to pickle the work clean and then tells customer they are responsible for painting immediately to prevent rusting.

Josh Kavett's Fisher-Norris Anvil Museum



After Jonathan finished the morning part of his demonstration, we moved up the road to Josh Kavett's, where he has built a new building to house the Fisher Norris Anvil Museum.

I can't explain how many Fisher Norris items are in the museum, but he has anvils of almost every size and type that they produced. He has the dual screw leg vices they made and the patterns they used to produce the items. All I can say that the museum is amazing without getting into the fire engines and other items he has there. If you are interested in the museum contact Larry Brown for Josh's contact information.