



N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 10, Issue 4 02/01/05

Editors Soapbox

Hi to all and a happy and prosperous new year. We don't have a lot of events listed below, but we have some things in the works and I don't want to list them until they are confirmed. Look for an email and or post card with new events as the next month rolls around. The next meet at Eric Cuper's Shop is promising to be a very good demonstration and workshop. Make sure to sign up for the workshop right away as the seats are limited.

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.

February 4-5 — Meet at Eric Cuper's shop in Easton, PA. Demonstration on Saturday the 4th and workshop on Sunday the 5th. Details on this page and page 3.

February Meet at Eric Cuper's Shop With Rick Smith

On Saturday February 4th there will be a demonstration by Rick Smith on Sheet forming and repousse. Rick's method of sheet forming is not like Latane or Renzetti, it's not the classic fine repousse. Rick moves more volume creating more abstract shapes and forms. It involves creating volume while the metal is hot then defining form and edges cold with stakes and planishing. On the following day, Sunday February 5th there will be a workshop which will be limited to about 16 participants and will cost \$30 plus materials each. Contact Eric to sign up for the workshop. The workshop will be to explore and try the techniques demonstrated the previous

day under the direction of Rick Smith. Please bring items for the Iron in the Hat on Saturday and some donations may be auctioned. Attendees may tailgate if you are so inclined. I would recommend getting here early and parking in front of shop doors or on the pavement to the right of the office.

I should have folding metal chairs available but since I have no clue how many to expect I would recommend bringing a comfortable chair if you have one.

Cuper Studios
1301 Lynn Street
Easton, PA 18042

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.

Continued on page 3.

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 761
Mt. Laurel NJ 08054**

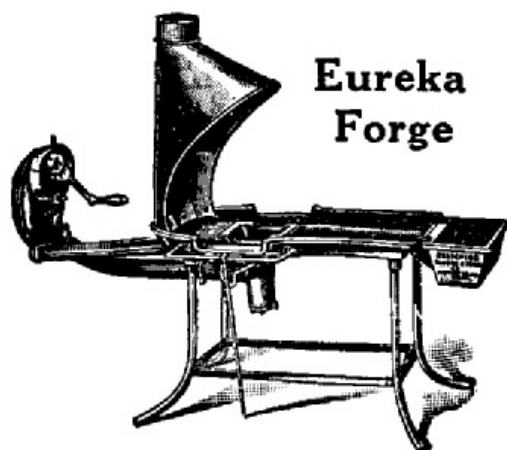
**Rather than use room in the newsletter,
All correspondence between
ABANA and NJBA is now being posted
on the NJBA web site.
If you cannot access it there, contact me
and I will send you copies**

NJBA Board of Directors

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

For you cheap skates there is a free bridge. Take 22 west through Phillipsburg. The last exit is for Main Street (I think) and bears right downhill immediately after a High School. Follow this until you reach a stop sign. Turn left and follow to the first light. Turn right at the light to go over the free bridge (3 ton weight limit). Turn left off of bridge onto Larry Holmes Drive and follow above directions.

Please call 908-642-6420 for directions if you get lost.



RICK SMITH

Artist Statement:

My work is a direct reflection of strong visual observations and experiences. Certain concepts such as time, stability, order, disorder, technology, or mathematical concepts are a part of the visual information that becomes the palette from which I work. I choose to work with simple, stable forms. Often these forms are made using a combination of materials or the forms themselves are broken up by intermittent structural or patterned details. These breaks and the choice of materials make reference to the built world. The use of deeply rusted steel implies the presence of time and the relationship of structure to the order of nature.



Artist Biography:

Rick Smith received his MFA in blacksmithing in 1990 from Southern Illinois University. He has taught classes at many prominent crafts schools including: Penland School of Crafts, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, and Peters Valley Craft Education Center. His work has appeared in Smithsonian, American Craft, Metalsmith, and Anvil's Ring. Smith was a resident artist at Penland School of Crafts until accepting a position on the faculty at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIU-C) in 1997. Currently, Smith is overseeing the blacksmithing program at SIU-C, while maintaining his status as a producing artist.

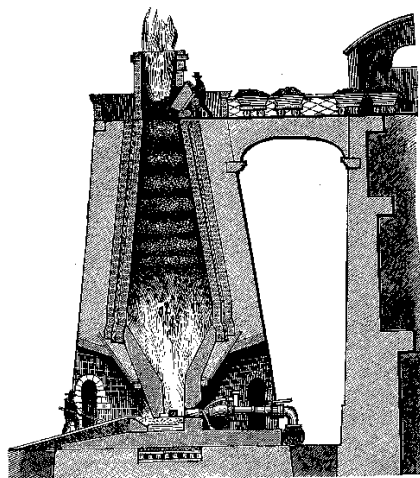
Artist Fellowship Crafts Recipient 2001

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*.



New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Happy New Year from Little Giant!

We have recently set the date for our annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar. The class will be held March 17-19, 2006 at our shop in Nebraska City, NE. The Friday through Sunday seminar is a hands-on opportunity for people to learn how to rebuild, repair and adjust their Little Giant power hammers. The cost is \$95, and we limit the number of participants to 25. Contact us for more information or a registration form.

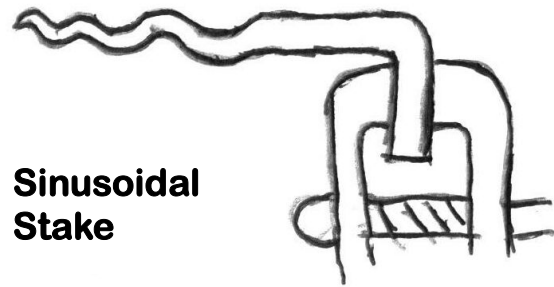
Keri Hincker Phone: 402-873-6603

<http://www.littlegianthammer.com>

Or write

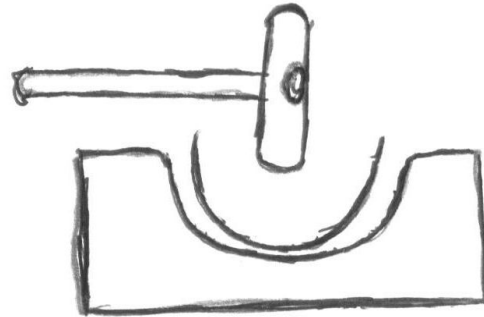
Little Giant Power Hammer
Attn. Harlan "Sid" Suedmeier
420 4th Corso
Nebraska City, NE 68410

Using a large heavy hammer he works the center into a sinking ring, which he follows by using a smooth faced hammer over a stake. He feels that by using a heavy hammer the hammer is doing most of the work. He then works the edges over a sinusoidal stake to give them the curves he desires.



Sinusoidal Stake

Sinking



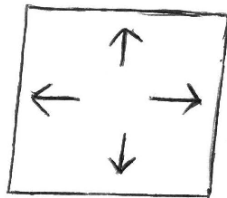
Raising



Reports

Meet at Tim and Rachel Miller's Shop In Long Island

The Meet was held on November 12, in the Spirit Iron Shop run by Tim and Rachel Miller. Tim was the first demonstrator. He started his demo by forging a freeform copper bowl. He uses copper buss bar pieces he gets from the scrap yard for the stock. Starting in the center of the piece he uses the power hammer to work out from the center of the piece. This gives a variation of the edge thicknesses as the piece develops. He has a clamp-on die holder to hold his drawing die for the hammer.

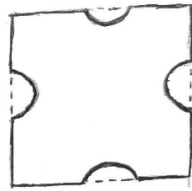


Tim uses muriatic acid dip as a cleaner for the bowl after working it. It is a weak solution with a small piece of iron bar in it which helps to accelerate the cleaning action. He also uses hot shearing with a lever shear to cut the copper bars.

Tip: When upsetting, straighten it when it bends or you will just continue bending it.

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

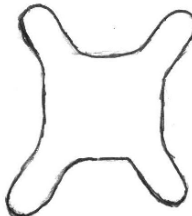
Fullered in from edges



Different size fullers and anvil horn



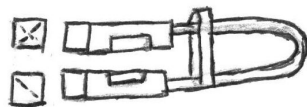
Draw out edges



Tips;

- Quench copper to anneal
- Hammering refines the grain making it smaller and tougher, causing to become work hardened
- Heating copper and then quenching it forms large softer crystals.
- Re-anneal as the piece work hardens

Cutter for bronze nails

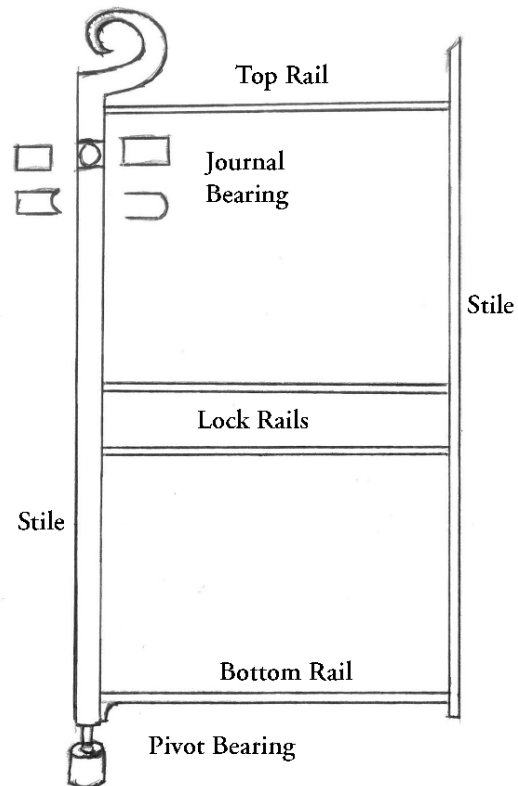


Tim then showed a project he has been working on using forged silicon bronze nails

Recommended book by Tim;
Form Emphasis for Metalsmiths

The next demo was by Tom Ryan, Tom gave the next demonstration, starting with showing shop drawings and describing how they are presented to clients and this led into discussing other business practices.

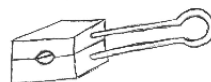
He then described a basic gate layout for a garden gate.



The layout was traditional and simple.
He demonstrated how the top strap and bearing section on the bar are formed.



Swage to dish strap so it flattens when bent



Spring swage to round stile for the top journal and bottom pivot



Tool to keep bottom strap in shape for the top journal



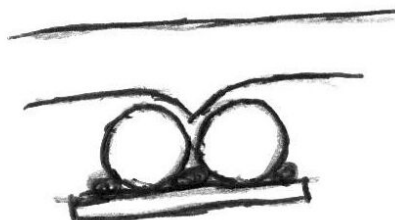
Worked into an swage to even out journal strap

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Tom then showed how he was working out the test pieces for an up coming job by doing them there (Without a previous dry run)



Drawing



Tool to make center point

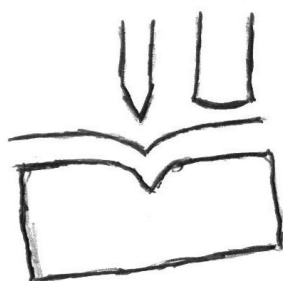
Rachel Miller was the next demonstrator. Tims partner and sister Rachel showed photographs of several pieces and had some on display that had been made recently using large forged leaves. She then demonstrated the forging of the leaves
Her steps were to ;
Chisel veins

Define veins over swadge



Work from the back to bring out the front

Redefine the leaves



Planish over a ball stake.

Many thanks to Tim Rachel and Tom for an excellent meet and great demonstrations .



December Holiday Party

Once again Marshall and Jan hosted the Holiday Party in their home. The party was a success with about 20 people attending. The food and camaraderie was excellent and enjoyed by all. The drawing was held for the inverter welder and it was won by Tim Suter (See write up below).

Many thanks once again to Marshall and Jan for their hospitality.

BELATED WELDER RAFFLE

First I would like to say thank you to everyone involved with the welder raffle, those who bought tickets and especially those who spent time selling them. As you know the drawing was postponed from its original date of our picnic/tool swap to our annual Christmas party at Jan and Marshall's. Tom Eden's son Christopher drew the winning ticket, and I am happy to announce that Tim Sutter was the lucky winner. Maybe we can do this again next year, with a different prize.

Thanks again
John Chobrda

ABANA Katrina Disaster Relief

ABANA is collecting donations to assist smiths who suffered losses due to Hurricane Katrina. The smiths do not have to be ABANA members. To date about \$15,000 has been collected. For more information check the ABANA Website or call them, **706-310-1030**

Donations should be by check, US Postal Money Order or Canadian Postal Money Order made out to "ABANA Relief Fund". ABANA will provide a receipt for all donations of \$250 or more.

Please address your donation to:
ABANA Relief Fund
P.O. Box 816
Farmington, GA 30638

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Blacksmithing Workshops and Classes:

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

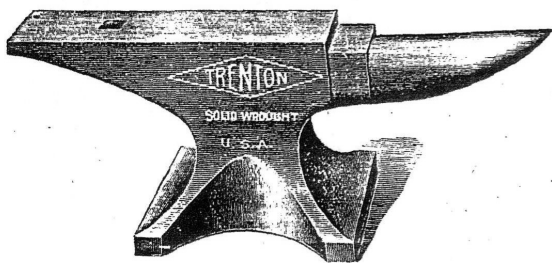
**Academy of Traditional Arts
Carroll County Farm Museum**
500 South Center St. Westminster, MD 21157
(410) 848-7775 (410) 876-2667

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

Red Mill Forge
Contact Adam Howard about workshops and per diem
use of the shop (908) 735-4573

TRENTON BLACKSMITHS' PATTERN.



BLACKSMITH TOOLS FOR SALE!

John Chobrda

Has a large selection of tools for sale.
Anvils – Forges – Leg Vices—Blowers
Tongs – Hammers
Will also repair and/or resurface Anvils
Call John for prices and availability
Evening (609) 443-3106

Business Members

We would like to thank those who joined with our new
Business Membership category
Please show them our support

Marshall Bienstock

663 Casino Dr., Howell, NJ 07731
(732) 938-6577, (732) 780-0871

John Chobrda, Pine Barrens Forge
231 Morrison Ave., Hightstown, NJ 08520
609-443-3106 JChob@earthlink.net

Eric Cuper Artist Blacksmith
109 Lehman Lane, Neshanic Station, NJ 08853
908 642-6420 ericuper@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

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.

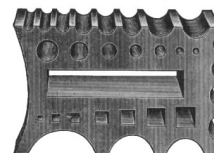
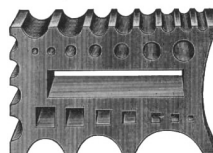
We want to encourage all to join us at

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



MUZZLE LOADER MAGAZINE

Article About Jeff Morelli

While at Dixon's Gunmakers' Fair last summer, I was fortunate to meet a young man who is a fine craftsman in the blacksmith's art. I was pretty busy at our table taking sales of our new *Flintlock Fowling* book, but when my friend Buford said I needed to look at this guy's work, I made it a point to go up the hill on Sunday. I was very impressed with Jeff Morelli's work. Most of the work I see of this caliber is made by the older guys who have seen a lot of original pieces and have a real eye for reproducing them. It turns out that Jeff does too, as you can see in the photos.



What I appreciate about the cooking utensils shown here is the amount of whitemithing and file-work done on each piece. I think of it as buying a finished piece. That's the way quality work was done in the 18th century. I also noticed that these pieces are made from solid stock. There are no rivets holding the working ends to the handles.

The first photo shows some of the fanciest pieces Jeff had on his blanket. From the left is a Spanish turner, circa 1600–1900. It's a reproduction of one found at Washington's Crossing Historic Park and sells for \$75.00. The fork in the middle is an interpretation of a fork from the Winterthur collection. It is finished on both sides and sells for \$150.00. On the right is an 18th or 19th century spatula from the Sorber collection that sells for \$100.00.

The second photo contains the more basic models—still great craftsmanship, but simpler decoration. The ladle has a 3-1/2 inch bowl and a rattail hanger (unseen) on the back of the handle. It sells for \$40.00. The



New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

fork is a typical 18th century type with round copper inlays in the handle, and it's priced at \$50.00. The moon-and-stars, breadloaf spatula has a plain tapered handle and sells for \$35.00. All of these utensils and prices are just examples of Jeff's range. The variations—handle length, style and ending; ladle bowl size; punched or filed decoration—are all options that can affect the price.

To order a piece or for more information, contact Jeff Morelli, 234 Rahilly Road, Wrightstown NJ 08562, phone 609-723-5990, email <masonicsmith@aol.com>. Morelli's card says he offers "an ever-evolving line of eighteenth century items, individually forged of iron or steel." He pointed out to me that he doesn't really have a "standard line" but rather makes up items to order or items that interest him for carrying to events. He will reproduce an original from a picture provided by the customer or work with a customer designing one that's faithful to the originals but totally new. The shipping price will vary with each order, so contact Jeff before ordering.

—Bill Sartak

Mary Thanks to Muzzleader Magazine for permission to reprint this article about one of our members. To find out more about Muzzleader Magazine

To submit your order by mail, Contact: Scurlock Publishing, 1293 Myrtle Springs Road, Texarkana, TX 75503. Orders also may be faxed to 903-831-3177 (24 hours) or call 1-800-228-6389 (Mon.-Fri., 9:00-5:00 Central time). Order form available on the web site <http://www.muzzmag.com/>

