



N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 7, Issue 3 11/01/02

Editors Soapbox

Well, we made it through another hot, dry summer, the meet and demonstration at the Monmouth County Fair was a big success. We still are looking for some items to be donated or to purchase some items for the NJBA trailer which helps make these events such a success.

Some of us traveled out to Dave Fishers shop in Hamburg, Pa for the Peter Renzetti repousse demonstration. This meet was hosted by PABA and was worth the trip. We will have just finished the meet at Dan Cruzans' with Steve Mankowski from the Williamsburg Smiths by the time you read this. We have our holiday party coming up in December and are in the process of setting up more for other upcoming months. Check the upcoming events below and put them on your Calendars. See you soon! Larry Brown, Editor

Upcoming events for 2002

Remember most of our meets have a "Iron in the Hat" drawing, be sure to bring something.

November— To be announced

December 7th, 3PM — Annual Holiday Party at Marshall Bienstocks home, details on this page.

January—To be announced by postcard

February — Possible joint meet at Peters Valley with PABA, Details in the next newsletter.

March — Scheduled post vise stand workshop, details in next newsletter.

NJBA Holiday Party!

The holiday party is to be held on December 7th at Jan and Marshall's house starting at 3PM. Much thanks to Marshall and Jan for opening their home once again to us in the holiday season. Guests are asked to bring a covered dish,

salad, desert, etc. and your favorite beverage.

NJBA will pick up all of the utensils, plates, cups, and some soda.

Folks can either contact me, David Macauley, to indicate they are coming or contact Marshall or Jan about what specifically to bring. Also there will be a short board meeting at the party. We will also be showing Clifton Ralph's power hammer videos during the party. Despite the emphasis on blacksmithing, members are encouraged to bring their families. I will certainly be bringing my new daughter and wife. Announcement by **David Macauley**.

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 Garden State Parkway, the NJ Turnpike. 1-295, Rt. 18 or Rt. 34. From Rt. 9 northbound. make a right onto Casino Dr.; southbound. take the jug handle to make a left onto Casino Dr. Continue past Marshalls' Farm to #301 Casino Dr., Howell, N.J. (ph# 732-938-6577)

*** * * Remember to send * * ***
in your renewals!!

If you did not get one contact
Nate Pettengill, Membership Chairman
There is a form on the last page of this newsletter
If you have not renewed this will be the
last newsletter you receive!

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Renewal Time is Here!

If You Have Not Renewed
Your Membership Send
it in Soon or this may be your
last newsletter

Rather than use room in the newsletter,

All correspondence between
ABANA and NJBA is now being
posted

The NJBA Web Site!

The NJBA Web Site is up and running at:

<http://njba.abana-chapter.com/>

Bruces' links to the ABANA site;

<http://www.monmouth.com/~freeman/NJBA/abanawebsite.htm>

Official NJBA Address

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Greg Phillips, June 2004,

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(845) 457-5671, suresign@frontiernet.net

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513 Harding Highway, Vineland, NJ 08360

856-697-4144, hotiron1@juno.com

Bruce Ringier, June, 2003

346 Rt.565 Wantage, NJ 07641

973-702-8475 wlkngb@yahoo.com

Tim Suter, June, 2004

1112 Ladner Ave., Gibbstown, NJ 08027

856-423-4417

Monmouth County Fair July 24th through July 28th.

Report by **David Macauley**

NJBA once again provided a fantastic demonstration of blacksmithing at the Monmouth County Fair in East Freehold NJ, July 24th through July 28th. The weather even cooperated at least for the first 3 days. The last two days became quite hot. This year NJBA was positioned directly on one of the roads through the fair. This gave us much more visibility over our previous locations. The number of visitors to our events was up substantially. Two new hot cut hardies and several tongs were made at the fair for the NJBA trailer. Having the tool boxes at the fair made start up and shutdown every day quite easy.

Demonstrators during the week included: David Macauley, Marshall Bienstock, Bruce Freeman, Dan Rice and family, Tom Eden and Jeff Morelli. Many thanks to all those who helped set up and tear down. Here are some suggestions for additions to the trailer:

1. Folding table for displaying work, business cards.
2. More tongs especially general purpose wolf's jaws.
3. 3/8" square and round stock, 1/4" x 1/2" stock, 1/4" x 1" stock and 1/4" x 2" stock.
4. Another anvil ~100 lbs and stand.
5. A nice small lightweight forge like the square black one already on the trailer.
6. Sharp files all sizes.
7. First Aid kit
8. Rivets 3/16", 1/4", 1/2"
9. Cross Peen hammers

If you can help with any of these items it would be much appreciated, donations are great but the group is willing to be items also. Contact David Macauley if you can assist with any of these items.

First NJBA Picnic

Report by **John Chobrd**

Saturday, September 7th was a perfect day for the (first annual?) NJBA picnic. The picnic was held in conjunction with Adam Howard's tool swap, at the

Red Mill in Clinton, NJ. Many vendors came out with STUFF to sell and one was overheard to say "make me an offer, I don't want to take anything home". Believe me, there was enough to start a small shop, anvils, forges, post drills, leg vices, tongs, hammers, books, etc. I ended up buying some punches and a flatter, and I heard that Josh took home two more Fishers for the museum.

The forge in the shop was going all day and a small portable forge was going outside. The restoration of an old leather bellows was also going on outside, when the leather was removed it was found that the bellows had been rebuilt before, the inner bows were plywood.

Adam Howard provided coffee and doughnuts in the AM, a keg of beer later, and a band "The Collins Brothers". NJBA provided food for the BBQ, and yours truly grilled beef ribs, burgers and dogs (which all disappeared). I wish to thank all the members who brought food, for helping to make this event a success. If you would like to make this an annual event, please let the board members or myself know, and we will try and do it again.

Walnford Day,

October 6th 2002

Report by **Jeff Morelli**

Walnford park is the site of a gristmill that ran on the Crosswicks Creek in Upper Freehold, N.J. through the 18th and 19th century. The mill ceased operations in 1872 and the family closed its doors preserving the mill for over a century. The grounds were acquired by the Monmouth County Parks System, who restored the mill to working condition. It's a must see for all who appreciate good old American know-how in timber frame construction, line shafting and work and huge millstones powered through simple engineering.

NJBA members forged from 11 am to 5 pm across from the mill in weather that couldn't be better. This was the second year in a row that we set up at this event and I think it's safe to say that Walnford Day will become an annual event.

Dave Macauley spent the afternoon forging a pot

rack with matching hooks. Mike Erdie made a new spring swadge with help from Mitch Swirsky. John Choborda explained a strikers role and demonstrated by using a sledge hammer for fullering and flattening. He also forged leaves which he gave out for folks to hang on their key rings. Mitch amazed the crowds with a forge of blue flames coming off of his personal supply of galvanized half inch round stock that he skillfully forged into many unique forms. I (Jeff Morelli) demonstrated drawing out, upset bending and fullering to make simple vegetable choppers.

Special thanks go to Marshal Bienstock for taking time out of his busy season to deliver the trailer to and from the event.

The Weightless Sledge Hammer is Here! Levitating a Sledgehammer!

Ever feel you wanted to pick up a really heavy hammer and whale away with it? That could really move some metal! If you've ever tried it, though, reality probably set in pretty quick! Thy arm doest protest!

Some folks got the idea, a couple years back, to hang a sledgehammer from a bungee cord. (They may have even tried it!) Alas, all this really accomplishes is to make your hammer-swinging muscles do the work that your hammer-lifting muscles had to do. And you lose some hammer control in the process.

I turned my attention to this problem late last year. After three (different) prototypes, I knew I was onto something. After six prototypes, I had it.

Elsewhere in this issue are plans you can use to construct your own "Weightless Hammer," a 16-lb sledgehammer you can swing all day with one hand, delivering blows any direction except straight up.

Anyone can build this machine, cheaply and easily, using common tools. It's lightweight and portable, and can be installed most anywhere in a few minutes. I hope you find it useful.

- **Bruce Freeman**

M.R.I. Warning!

Jeff Morelli

This is a serious warning to all of us who may need an M.R.I. (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scan in the future. NJBA members frequently work with iron or steel. In the process of grinding, filing, sawing, etc. small fragments of metal may get into our eyes, even if we are using eye protection. Most will wash out naturally through blinking and tearing but some could migrate behind our eyeballs creating a dangerous situation if you are placed in an M.R.I. machine

Magnetic strength is measured in units of tesla or gauss; 1 tesla = 10,000 gauss. The earth's magnetic pull on us is 0.6 gauss and the typical high-field M.R.I. machine is 1.5 tesla or 15,000 gauss - pretty powerful!

When you are placed in the "tunnel" of the machine you are basically inside a giant electro magnetic coil. The noise you hear is the result of the magnetic field fluctuating with such great frequency and strength that it shakes it's own coils loud enough to need ear plugs or head phones to prevent hearing damage.

A magnet is attracted to iron and steel. If there's a piece of metal in around or behind your eye it could move around as the field fluctuates or be pulled out altogether. In each case the fragment is like a tiny knife on the move. The damage caused can range from minor to cutting the optic nerve and causing blindness in that eye.

So if your doctor wants to send you for an M.R.I. make sure that you tell them that you are a metal worker. You will need an X-ray or a C.A.T. scan of your orbits (eyes), which safely shows if you have metal in them before you go for the M.R.I. If the Radiologist says that your eyes are clear you may have the M.R.I. If there's metal in them you may have to have it surgically removed or your doctor may have to settle for a C.A.T. scan instead of the M.R.I.

The M.R.I. staff should ask you many times about your personal history(Including metal work) in person or on paper when making your appointment,

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filling out paper work and being interviewed before the test. Not all M.R.I. centers ask you, believe it or not. There's only one word for this - Negligence.

I hope this article has informed you and given you greater reason to wear your safety glasses.

Jeff Morelli, Director NJBA

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

The Blacksmith of Trenton

Alex Parubchenko occasionally gives classes at his shop in Trenton. Please contact Alex or John Chobrda at the shop, Phone # (609) 396-9583.

Red Mill Forge

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

Open Forge

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)

Coal

Coal is now available through Alex Parubchenko at his shop in Trenton. Please contact Alex or John Chobrda at the shop, Phone # (609) 396-9583.

Business Members

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

Please show them our support

Ginty's Welding Service, Inc

2 Lee Mack Ave., Danbury, Conn, 06810

Timothy Miller, Artist Blacksmith,

Bayport, Long Island, NY (631)419-1185

Marshall Bienstock

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

Lincoln Wolfe

11 Overlook Terrace, Bloomfield, NJ 7003
(973) 338-3913

John Chobrda

Pine Barrens Forge

231 Morrison Ave., Hightstown NJ 08520
609-443-3106 609-396-9583
JChob@earthlink.net

BLACKSMITH TOOLS FOR SALE!

John Chobrda at the
Trenton Blacksmith Shop

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

Daytime (609) 396-9583

Wanted: Donations for the NJBA Trailer

We need hand tools, files,
Tongs (Old, new and repairable),
Safety Glasses and assorted rivets.

Look around and see what you
have to donate.

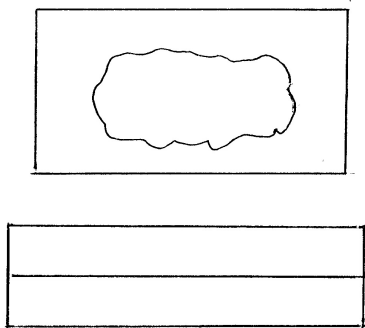
Contact: Dave Macauley, Directors list, Page 2
Also check the Web Site

PABA Meet at Dave Fishers

August 10, 2002, with **Peter Renzetti**,

Report by Larry Brown

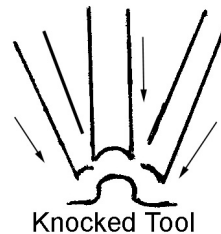
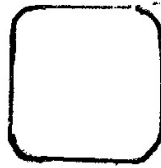
Peter started out showing an original Yellin candle holder and discussed the techniques used to create the piece and how he (Now working for the Yellin shop) was planning on recreating the piece. He also discussed the use of dies to form sheet. He had brought a sample of a railing with repousse animal figures from various metals to show.



The main part of the demonstration was about repousse. He started with a piece of 16 ga. naval bronze sheet about 6" x 8" that has a strip about 1" wide of the same material TIG welded around the outside forming a frame with the first piece lined up in the center. Pour lead in to the back side to fill to the top, allow to cool. Glue pattern onto front side with spray adhesive. Using a very small chisel form a "Connect the dots" type line on the pattern.

Then remove the pattern carefully making sure you marked all the lines. Melt the lead out of the back with a torch. Melt lead to fill in the front side. High-

light the dot pattern with sandpaper on the backside. Chisel inside the dots pushing the edges forward with a small, slightly curved chisel. Melt a little lead off the lead side to correspond with the areas with the most displacement.



Knocked Tool

Use a chisel with a crowned face to push the main body out being careful not to create cracks and creases. Be careful not to make marks too deep or sharp from the back. Pull lead out and flatten the background, then re-melt lead onto back.

Refine from the front with a chisel with a slight crown, then redress the edges with a small slightly curved chisel. A slightly crowned chisel is used on the background to give it texture.

By squaring up an edge it helps keep it from moving. Different tool radiuses used in different directions can give different effects. You can practice with the chisel in lead to see the effect.

For an eye you can use a knocked tool to raise the metal up. The piece is then patinaed and coated with butchers wax.



October Meet

at Dan Cruzans'

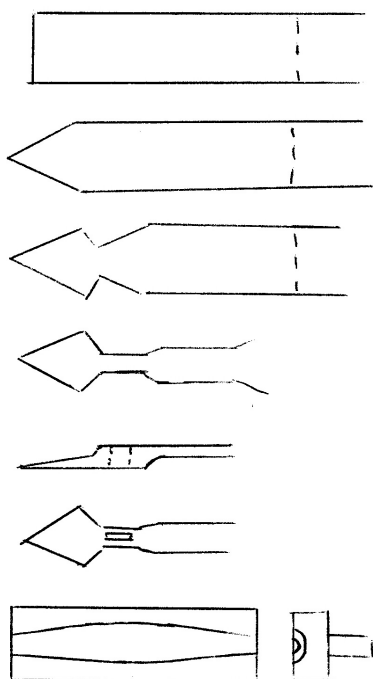
Steve Mankowski from Colonial Williamsburg was the demonstrator. Steve has been with the Williamsburg Blacksmith shop for 14 years and before that worked at the Genesee Village in NY.



Nail header

Steve started the demonstration by forging some nails, keeping two rods going and discussing the process and techniques used by blacksmiths and nail makers in colonial times.

Steve made a Suffolk style latch with arrow head ends and a drilled and pinned thumb latch. Steve started by marking out 6" of 1/4"x1" flat stock and then rough forging the upper arrow head point on the end. He said to be sure to leave enough mass of metal to do what you want in each section when rough forging.

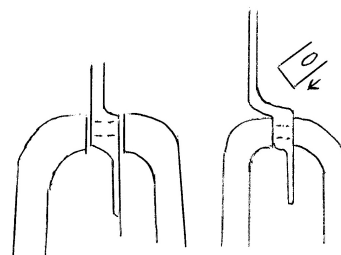
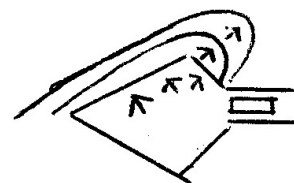


fullered in behind the point using the hammer and anvil edge, forming the part to be punched to pass the thumber through and started to rough the handle out. He then punched the hole for the thumber and drifted the hole and finished forging the area.

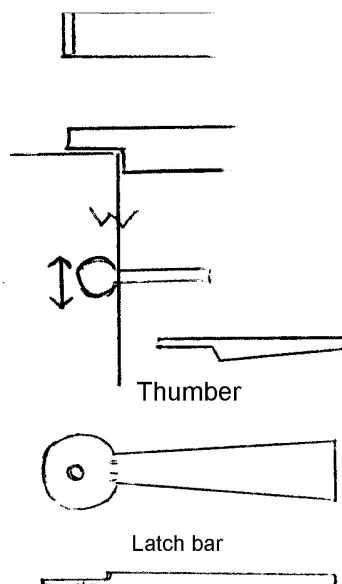
Then he worked on drawing the arrowhead out. Starting from the center and working toward the tip and working some toward the handle to form the arrow head.

He worked most of one side, then the other and so on till he had the shape he wanted. He then cut the piece off the bar and pointed and fullered the end the same as before and roughing the other end of the handle also. He then refined the handle to shape

and broke the edges before hammering into the swadge he had with him. The handle is curved by putting the top then the bottom in a vise and hammering the curve in from the back. The ends are adjusted on the anvil to keep it even.



The thumber is made by hammering the metal over the edge of the anvil spreading it out to the sides and then drawing the other end out for the lifting tang. The latch bar is started the same way and then punched for the nail. The keeper is started over the far edge of the anvil and then finished up by drawing



Thumber

Latch bar

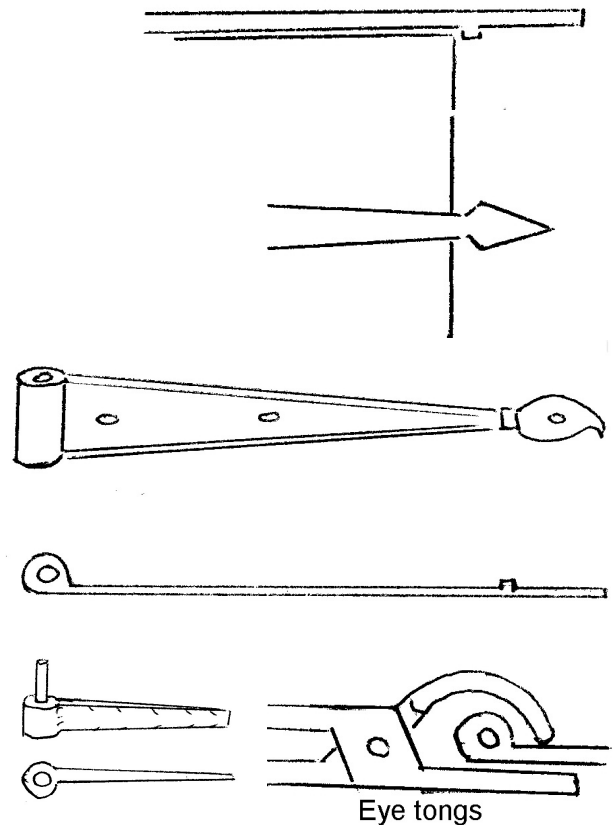
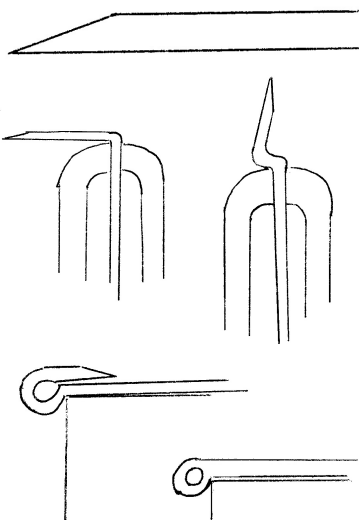
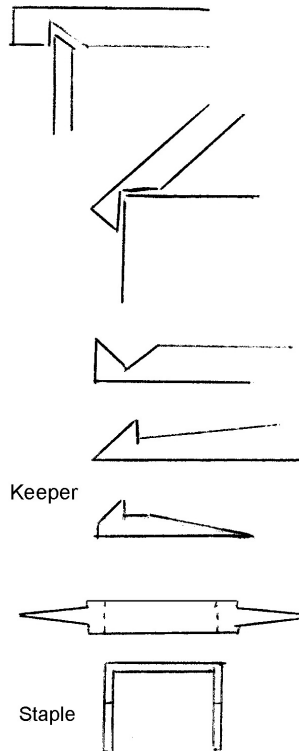
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out the part that is hammered into the frame. The staple is a piece of 1/8"x1/2" with the ends shouldered and drawn to nail points and bent over.

Steve next demonstrated a hinge with a leaf type end.

First he drew the end of a piece of 1/4"x 1 1/2" out for a taper about 1 1/2" long. He then folded the stock back by hammering in the vise. The next step was to hammer the stock back up and around to form the eye. As the stock is worked back around the work is moved to the anvil and a drift is inserted to keep the eye sized correctly. The eye is refined and the stock welded. The eye is further refined after welding by working the drift back in a little at a time. (Flux was previously heated and crushed borax and iron filings) Steve worked his way down from the eye refining, champhering the edge and punching the holes as he went working each section till it was finished. The end was finished up leaving a raised boss on the end and forming a leaf type end.

The pintle was formed the same way as the hinge eye with slightly thicker stock. After the eye is rolled up the pin is then welded in as the piece is shut. the final steps were to refine the hinge surface in a bolster block and put in bards on the edges.



Many thanks to Steve for the demonstration and many thanks to Dan Cruzan for his hospitality and the opening his shop to us.

Old spade drill press as described by Steve

