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THE FORGE FIRE

The Newsletter of the Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

An Affiliate Of The Artists-Blacksmiths' Association of North America, Inc.

IBA is a Not For Profit Indiana Corporation recognized by the IRS under section 501(c)(3)

10:00 AM is the regular meeting time for IBA Hammer-Ins
with beginner training available at 9:00 AM.
PLEASE MAKE SURE TO ASK FOR HELP!

**If you would like an IBA membership application form,
please contact Farrel Wells, Membership Secretary
(765) 768-6235.**

BULK LOTS ARE AVAILABLE TO DEMONSTRATORS,
SHOPS, SHOWS AND OTHERS WILLING TO MAKE THEM AVAILABLE.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.

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More nearby resources and organizations for blacksmiths:

Rural Smiths of Mid-America:
Meetings are on the first Saturday of each month
Call Ron Gill
317-374-8323 for details

IBA MEETING SCHEDULE

Check the latest *Forge Fire* for monthly IBA revisions.

July 19
2014

St. Joe Valley Forgers
See back page for driving instructions



Editors Message

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For those of you who are wondering where the June Forge Fire is, I had a complete computer failure while traveling. That failure prohibited me from publishing a June edition. I am back up and running. This is the combined June/July edition.

I am saddened to report that after a very long and courageous struggle, John Zile passed away on June 3. We will certainly miss him.

Clay Spencer recently suffered a heart attack and underwent triple bypass surgery. As I write this, Clay has been moving about and is being moved from a recovery room to a rehabilitation facility. Cards can be sent to his home address: Clay Spencer, 73 Penniston Private Drive, Somerville, AL 35670-7013.

On a happier note, the IBA conference was a great success, again. There were about 200 attendees. The done at home contest brought in a number of entries, all of which were very high quality. The Rural Smiths entry was selected as best in class. Some individual award winners are: Phoebe Graham—Rookie of the Year, Charlie Helton—Blacksmith of the Year and Fred Oden—Paul Moffett Award. All demonstrators did a great job. Dave Kunkler started on Friday night with a wonderful flypress demonstration. Jamie DePreist, Charlie Helton, Allan Kress and Tom Latane were superb. Tom led a pre-conference class on Norse style axe and hatchet making. I understand from JJ that we are working toward making the pre-conference classes an annual event.

Bill Newman has provided a demonstration schedule for the upcoming State Fair. The schedule is posted on page 6. If you have an interest in demonstrating, please contact Bill via email or phone. The IBA presence at the Pioneer Village seems to grow every year. Be sure to participate if you can.

The July hammer in will be hosted by the St Joe Valley Forgers at Bill Conyers shop. See the back page for driving directions.

IBA Satellite Groups and News

Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Fred Oden (574) 223-3508
 Dennis Todd (574) 542-4886

Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Doug Moreland (217) 284-3457
 Max Hoopengarner (812) 249-8303

Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd and 4th Saturday
 Contact: Clint Casey (260) 627-6270
 John Schamber (260) 579-7303

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Ted Stout (765) 572-2467

Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd Saturday
 Contact: Keith Hicks (765) 914-6584

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contacts: Doug Neukam (812) 259-4430
 Steve Stoll (812) 486-9668
 Kathy Malone (812) 725-3310

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 2nd Saturday at 9 AM
 Contact: Ray Sease (812) 522-7722

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: John Zile: (765) 533-4153
 Larry Singer (765) 643-5953
 Farrel Wells (765) 768-6235

St. Joe Valley Forgers

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Bill Conyers (574) 277-8729
 John Latowski (574) 344-1730

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

Contacts: Billy Merritt (812) 338-2876
 Steve King (812) 797-0059
 Jeff Reinhardt 812-949-7163

One Armed Blacksmith's Shop

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contact: Tim Metz (812) 447-2606

"Doc" Ramseyer Blacksmith Shop

Location: 6032W 550N, Sharpsville, IN 46060
 Meet: 3rd Sunday at 2 PM
 Contacts: Mike Kelley
 Charles Gruell (765) 513-5390

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

May

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths started a fire around 8:00am. While some went to breakfast, others put the forge to good use. Tim Thompson tried his hand at splitting a RR spike to form a cross. Jason and Cade Maschino worked on honing their skills by making hooks by using the basics. Jack worked on his forge welding skills. Russell Dean and Lee Lynn K Dean worked on making tongs. Russell also made a splitting tool, reworked from iron-in-the-hat. we had 23 in attendance and had a great time. We are looking forward to the conference next month. Hope to be there and hope to see you there! Paul Bray

June

The Vernon Historical Society Blacksmiths meeting was started by Kenny Dettmer who made punches and formed a mouse that resembled a leaf. Charlie Helton used a bending fork to illustrate different ways to use it. Samples were put in the iron-in-the-hat. Brad made a trammel the traditional way, punching the holes. Looked great! Ray Dean made a twisted door handle from flat stock. Russel Dean worked on a pair of tongs while Ray Dean worked on a handle for a turning wrench. Meanwhile, Brad tried his hand at forge welding a twisted "S" hook that had been burned into. We had 16 present.

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

May

1st. thing Eric and I stopped by Wally World and picked up some various colors of paint. Then headed 67 miles northeast to Fallcreek Blacksmith shop. Good thing we did this because paint was needed and no place close to purchase paint in Sulphur Springs. Seven members showed up plus two guests. One guest was Wesley's father from Champaign, Illinois and Garrys son Chuck (IBA member) from Ligonier. No fire was lit and no iron-in-the-hat held. We all painted on the sign for Miller Cemetery. The sign is ready to install which we hope to do the next meeting. reported by Dave Wells



June

Eric and I was the last to arrive at Johns shop. Dave Kline arrived first, and had to touch up the sign with paint. We all was waiting for the paint to dry. This was taking longer than expected. So we loaded the sign brackets, etc. and headed to the cemetery. Joe Gobel had his generator and tools needed. Well most of them, Wesley had to get extra tools from his truck. We installed the posts and frame. Headed back to shop for the rest of the sign. After dinner in town we returned to the cemetery and installed rest of the sign. The members of the cemetery board, Johns daughter Franky, and son Norman showed up. Everyone was pleased. Despite some rain showers, mission accomplished. I am sure John was looking down smiling. Reported by Dave Wells



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

We met early this month as this was a State IBA meeting as well. John



Bennet demonstrated hummingbirds and flowers. Then Aaron Baker forged meteorite under the tutelage of a recovering Billy Merrit. The iron nickle meteorite made a nicely sized billet. Vicky Baker was taking photos and got a fabulous photo as Aaron forged the billet on end splatter flux and scale in all directions. She mentioned she "paid" for the photo, I suspect she was peppered pretty well. Then Dave Kunkler demonstrated bottle cap openers. Jeff Reinhardt made a 1/2" stock split cross.



As always Andrea Hardin was a tremendous hostess providing Blackberry cobbler and Rhubarb cobbler and ice cream.



The next meeting was originally to be held at Jeff Reinhardt's shop, but upon reflection the meeting will be again held at Jason Hardin's shop on Mill Creek Road.

June

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers met at Jason Hardin's shop near Salem Indiana this month. The



weather was very pleasant for this time of year. The day started with Steve King finishing up a special set of box tongs for Jeff Reinhardt. These hold the 2" wide leaf spring and hoof rasp blanks used to make the half moon veggie choppers. Then Jeff tried them out, and declared them perfect for the task. After lunch the Brotherhood of Friendly Hammermen adjourned outside, set up the big forge and finished a split cross for Dave Kunkler that had been most completed awhile back. Then with the forge already hot worked on Big wizard #2. the tooling is almost perfected and the technique is almost perfected. Once again Andrea, Jason's wife was a wonderful host. Vicky Baker brought very nice strawberries and shortcake, and there was a really very nice lunch for all. Had several visitors from Bedford and a new smith from Milltown Indiana. All in all an excellent way to spend a Saturday. Next meeting will be the retirement party & Open house for our Forge master Billy Merritt. It will be held at The English Senior Citizen Building in English Indiana 7-26-14 from 1:00 till 5:00pm.



Rural Smiths of Mid-America News

The weather was warm but dry, the crowd was good. There was a lot of interest around the blacksmith shop. The guys seem to like the new shop, cause they moved in and made themselves at home. Lots of work was being done making tools and working on old projects and starting new ones.

The July meeting will be at Bob Hessong's shop on July 5th. Please come join us.



State Fair Schedule

Aug. 1,2,3 Rural Smiths of Mid America

Aug. 4, 5 Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

Aug. 6,7,8 Jennings County Historical Society

Aug. 9,10 John Bennett

Aug. 11 Charlie Helton, Brad Weaver

Aug. 12 Fred Ripburger, Larry Ripburger

Aug. 13, Larry Whitesell, Doug Butt

Aug. 14 Larry Whitesell, Jim Jesse

Aug. 15 Jim Jesse, Doug Butt

Aug. 16,17 Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

Please contact Bill Newman (317) 690-2455 with any questions / or if you would like to participate.



John Zile 1941—2014

John Zile fought a long battle with illness before passing away on June 3.

John served the IBA in many roles: President, Vice President, Conference Chairman and active member. John hosted the Fall Creek satellite group in his shop. Traditionally he hosted the IBA hammer in every January.

John was a great teacher. He gave of himself. He expected high quality. We will miss him.

Cemetery Sign Created by John and Completed by Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop



BLACKSMITHING SCHOOLS

Touchstone Center for Crafts, Southwestern PA
www.touchstonecrafts.com

Penland School of Crafts, Northwestern NC
www.penland.org

John C. Campbell Folk School, Southwestern NC
www.folkschool.com

Peters Valley Craft Center, Northwestern NJ
www.petersvalley.org

New England School of Metalwork, ME
www.newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com

Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland,
www.bgcmonline.org/docs/classes.html: for more information contact SchoolAdmin@bgcmonline.org

Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts, Astern, Tennessee
www.arrowmont.org

Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, ME www.haystack-mtn.org

Yesteryear Forge, Amelia, VA, yester-yearschool@gmail.com or <http://montgomeryparks.org> 434-390-6203

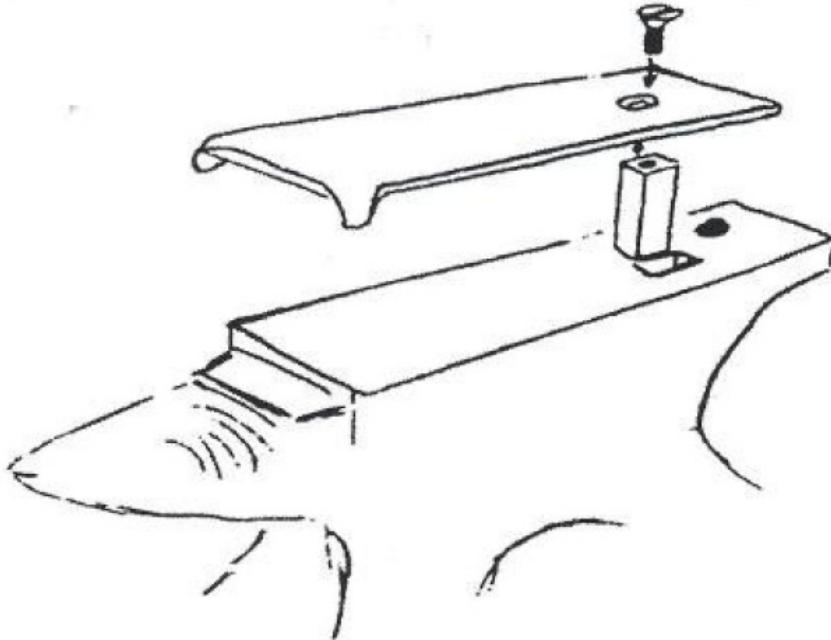
The Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing, Waynesboro, VA
www.vablacksmithing.org

Anvil Hot Cut Plate

By Carl Davison
Northeast Blacksmiths Assoc.

I recently had a lot of hot cutting to do and wanted a protective plate that was at least 1/8" thick , stable, yet easy to move on and off the anvil. The plate is drilled and counter sunk for a 5/16" flat head screw. Drill and tap stock that fits the hardy hole of the anvil. Pull two tabs at the front end to stabilize the plate and you're all set.

When the plate gets too chewed up I figure it should be a quick fix to flip it over reverse the tabs and reverse the counter sink with a hot countersink punch.



— from *The Hammer's Ave*, Alex Bealer Blacksmith Association

To all Affiliates of ABANA,

Master Blacksmith/Teacher Jerry Darnell's second book "Forging Colonial Iron Work II" is fresh off the press as of today (June 5th). Cost \$20.00 plus shipping/handling.

Please contact Jerry directly:

Phone--- (910) 464-3888 (Shop)

(910) 464-2636 (House)

For Sale:

Antique Blacksmithing tools, including an old working Champion forge with blower; a post vise, a Vulcan anvil, stamped 113; tools; coal; books. Prefer to sell as a group, but will consider separating. See pictures. \$900. 765-586-9383 or marcia.gentry@comcast.net

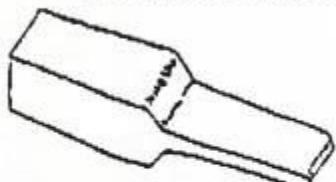
Craigslist link is <http://tippecanoe.craigslist.org/atk/4520047879.html>



Bob Patrick's Anvil Swedge

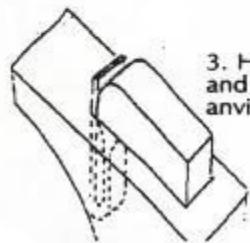
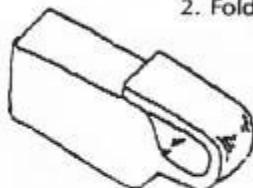
Demo by Bob Patrick at the '89 Quad State Roundup. Drawings by Larry Coregan, Michigan Artist Blacksmith Association. Reprinted from the Four State Iron Muncher's newsletter.

Start with 1 x 1 inch bar.



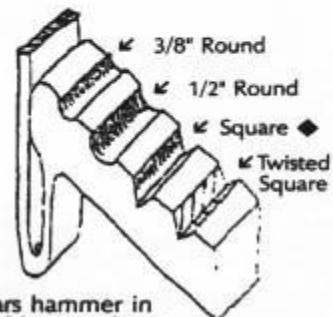
1. Fuller, draw out.

2. Fold over to fit hardy hole.



3. Heat, put in hardy hole
and bend to 90 degrees to
anvil face.

4. Heat again, and with cold bars hammer in
desired shapes. Quench at a red heat and use.



— from *The Anvil's Horn*, Jan. 2003

Setting Ironwork in Stone or Concrete

Peter Happny, Portsmouth, NH

Adjustable stands help hold things up and level. Sometimes wooden shingles make an easy slight adjustment and do not scratch paint. Jobs done inside require adjustable stands with clean bases, or you can set them on cardboard. Masking tape laid back on it self four times and then twisted, will surprisingly, hold things in place vertically when you don't have enough hands and stands or blocks.

To install small gates with posts, vise grip and clamp them as one unit, then use supports under the gate to allow yourself access for cementing the posts in place.

Use an adjustable wrench for the last few turns on lag bolts. A ratchet wrench has too much power and you can break off the head.

Once the iron work is in place, duct tape placed around the hole will help with clean-up. Forming a plasticine dam will allow for slumping of the compound.

Some quick setting compounds do not stand up to outside vertical water. A mix of two parts clay-like epoxy and 50% rock dust comes close to stone color. Dressing the top half inch of the hole with this mixture might hold up better. There are a few professional epoxy glues and rock coloring available, but they require a \$100 - \$200 investment. (note: the pricing is from 1991)

When pouring concrete, newspaper wrapped around the bottom of the post and laid on the ground helps a lot with clean-up. When digging holes near buildings, be careful. Some of the items up may hit are sewer lines, electric lines, etc. they can become quite expense if a crowbar is forced into them.

Punch and Chisel Holder

Charles T Reyner, Arlington, VA

Short lengths of thin walled electrical conduit brazed into clusters of vertical tubes will make an effective holder for such small tools as punches, chisels and drifts. The tubing is available in a range of diameters, including 1/2" and 3/4".

When individual sets of clusters are made up of tubes of unequal lengths, with the longer ones in the center and the shorter tubes around the edges, tools of different lengths will be equally visible and accessible.

If the lower ends of the tubes are cut off at an angle of about 45 degrees prior to their assembly into the holder, the latter will be self cleaning. However, a skeleton floor made up of scrapes of steel, copper or brass beneath the ends of the tubes will keep the tools secure.

Reminiscences of Shipshewana

July 18 & 19

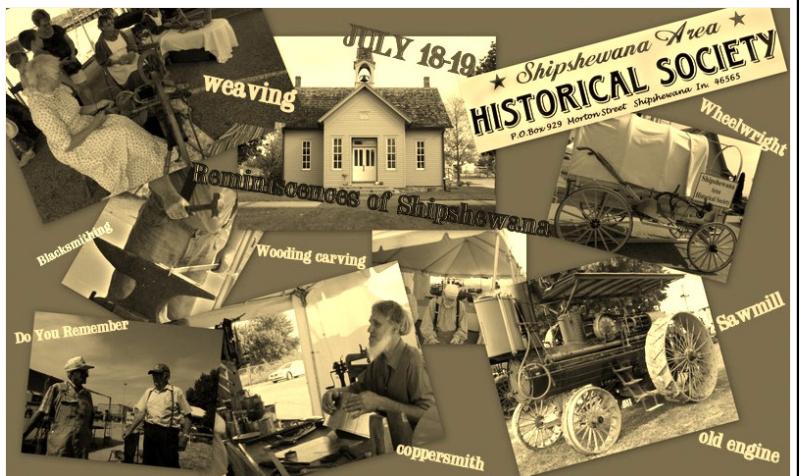
If you have anyone that want come hammer some steel, or some tinning send them my way.

--

Best Regard

Al Yoder

Blacksmith & Historian

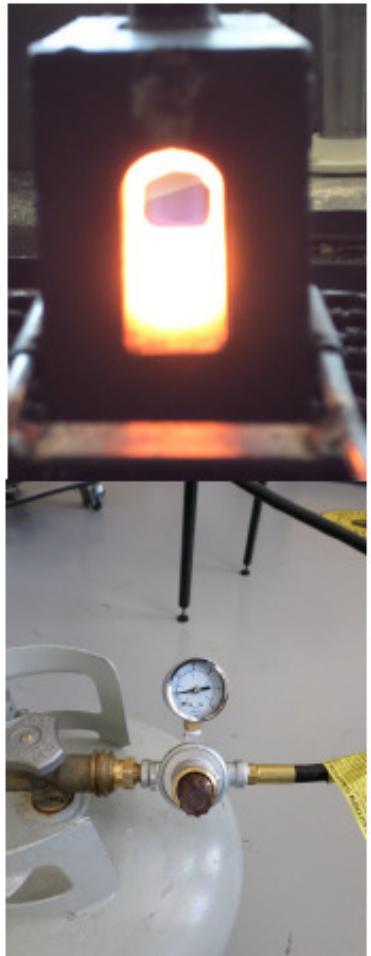


Mini Forge Review



As a middle school teacher I wanted to introduce the students to blacksmithing but had some budgetary and space restraints. I found a forge on EBay that fit both those criteria. It is called a One Brick Forge and I purchased it for about \$175.

The forge is made of a single soft fire brick whose outside dimensions are 3" x 4 1/2" x 9". The brick is enclosed in sheet metal. A hole has been drilled through the brick and opened up to about 1 1/4" x 2 1/4", this is the fire chamber. This hole goes completely through the brick. There is another hole, although smaller, that is used for the gas to enter. There are little legs that help stabilize the forge; they



are about 3/4" wider on each side. It comes with a needle valve, gauge, regulator, and about a 5 foot hose. There is also a little tool rest that slides out about 6 inches.

The forge works great. It gets hot enough to melt quarter inch square stock. It's certainly small enough to move around easily. Since the opening goes completely through the brick, one is able to heat up the center of a piece of metal to form a twist. There are limitations to the forge: the small opening makes it difficult to forge a variety of shapes and the tool rest is not long enough to hold a piece of metal much longer than 12 inches. Also, because

the brick is soft, it gets worn away as the metal rubs against it.

The forge is great for smaller items and for people who are interested in getting into blacksmithing on a limited budget. This is not the only inexpensive forge on the market. A company named Devil Forge builds several different sized gas forges. The smallest and least expensive is about \$165 and can be found on E Bay. I've read good reviews about these forges. If you are into building your own mini-forge try the Anvilfire website at <http://www.anvilfire.com/21centbs/planfile/>.



Pictured above is the \$165 Devil Forge

Above article reprinted from Bonneville Forge Council newsletter June/July 2014

A message from IBA President Gary Phillips

The 2014 IBA Conference at Tipton was a good conference. The four day workshop with Tom Latane was a success. We ended the Conference in the black financially. Our thanks to all who donated their time to make this conference possible. Special thanks to the Conference Chair person Jim "jj" Johnston.

Our July Hammer-in will be at Bill Conyers shop in South Bend on July 19. We will also have a Board Meeting at the meeting.

This has also been a year of loss for the IBA. Since December Don Neuenschwander, Ray Phelps and John Zile have died. Our heartfelt sympathy go to Betty, Tina, Arthenia and their families. These three men were great blacksmiths, but even more they were great men who gave their time, talent and knowledge to further the craft of blacksmithing. There was a country song that came out several years ago. It named many of the great country singers of years past who had since died. The refrain was this "Who's gonna fill their shoes". The truth is nobody can fill Don, Ray and John's shoes. They were unique individuals and can't be duplicated. There are others who will fulfill the roles they have played in the IBA. People who have a passion for the craft, a love for people and a willingness to teach what they know. For fear of leaving someone out I'm not going to name any names. You will see them across the fire helping others. I encourage you to tell them "thank you" for what they have done and are doing.

I also see many of our younger and newer members who will someday be in this class of people. We need to encourage them, to help them become better smiths and leaders. As I look around at the IBA I see an organization with a bright future because of the people who are the IBA.

Thank you Don, Ray and John for all you have done for the IBA. Thank you for the way you influenced us. We will miss you. I also want to thank the membership of the IBA for making this group the great organization it is.

See you at the forge. Gary Phillips

Tom Latane and the pre-Conference class attendees show off their Norse Style Axes.



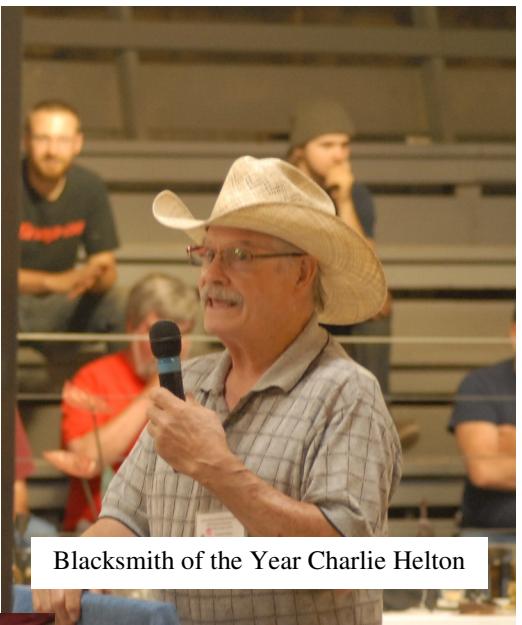
Memorial Tree for Clifton Ralph's Grandson is Completed



Back in 2010 the IBA celebrated its 30th anniversary with a weekend hammer in hosted by Ted and Carol Stout. Blacksmiths from several states helped to create a memorial tree for Clifton and Joann Ralph's grandson. The tree was not fully complete by the end of the hammer in. But it is now finished.



Images from this years IBA Conference







The **FORGE FIRE**

Newsletter of the
Indiana Blacksmithing Association,
Inc.

Bill Kendrick *Newsletter Editor*
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Seymour, IN 47274

First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested
If Undeliverable return to
sender

July 19 Hammer In St Joe Valley Forgers

Bill Conyer's Shop: 50964 Lilac Rd, South Bend, IN

From the south: Go through South Bend on US 933 to Auten Rd. Turn left or west, cross the river, the first road is Lilac turn right (north), look for yellow house on right

From the toll road: Get off at exit # 77 this will put you on US 933. Go north to Auten Rd. Turn left or west, cross the river, the first road is Lilac turn right (north), look for yellow house on right

Lunch will be provided