

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Gary Phillips '18 President:**

14800 N SR 167 N
Albany, IN 47320
(260) 251-4670
behere@neidirect.net

Steve King '18

1155 S. Paoli Unionville Rd
Paoli, IN 47454
(812) 797-0059
kingshen228@gmail.com

Bill Conyers '19 Vice Pres

50964 Lilac Rd,
South Bend, IN
(574) 277-8729
billconyersrr@yahoo.com

Bill Newman '19

4655 Williams Rd
Martinsville, IN 46151
(317) 690-2455
ruralsmiths1@yahoo.com

James Johnston '21

Education Chairman:
806 Twyckingham Lane
Kokomo, IN 46901-1885
(765) 452-8165
kokomoblacksmith@comcast.net

John Bennett '21

Secretary:
741 W Jessup Rd
Rosedale, IN 47874
(812) 877-7274
JohnBennett1959@gmail.com

Jeff Reinhardt '20

2810 W. Riley
Floyd's Knobs, IN
(812) 949-7163
pthreeforge@aol.com

Dave Kunkler '20

20749 Lancaster Rd.
Branchville, IN 47514
(270) 945-6222
dwkunkler@yahoo.com

Librarian:
Larry Rosenthaler
8715 E. 375 N
Churubusco, IN 46723-9501
260-693-3267
lrosenthaler@gmail.com

Editor:
Bill Kendrick
1280 N 900 W
Seymour, IN 47274
(812) 445-3009
bill.d.kendrick@cummins.com

Treasurer and membership secretary:
Farrel Wells
8235 E 499 S
Dunkirk, IN 47336-8807
(765) 768-6235
fwells@frontier.com

Awards Chairman:
Charlie Helton
2703 South Water Plant Road
Westport, IN 47283
(812) 591-3119
heltoncs@frontier.com

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)

9:30 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.

Nov 18 2017	COVERED BRIDGE BLACKSMITH GUILD
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Dec 9 2017	TBD
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Jan 20 2018	TBD
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Feb 17 2018	KEN DETTMER'S SHOP COLUMBUS
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Dates to Remember

March 17, 2018
Annual Business
Meeting at Kelley
Farms

June 1-3, 2018
IBA Conference

Editors Message

This month's hammer-in will be hosted by the Covered Bridge Blacksmith Guild at the Parke County fairgrounds in Rockville, IN. There will be a pitch in lunch.

Gary Phillips is working to get confirmation on the December and January hammer-ins. The December hammer-in will be held on the 2nd Saturday in December. Keep an eye on the IBA website or Facebook page for updates.

Here is the poster for next year's ABANA conference. Conference details can be found at: <https://abana.org/conference/2018-richmond-va/>



IBA website: www.indianablacksmithing.org **IBA Facebook page:** www.facebook.com/groups/IndianaBlacksmithingAssociation/

IBA Satellite Groups and News

1) Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

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

3) Wabash Valley Blacksmith Shop

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

5) Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

Meet: 2nd Saturday
 Contacts: Clint Casey (260) 627-6270
 Mark Thomas (260) 758 2332

7) Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild

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

9) Whitewater Valley Blacksmiths

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

11) Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contacts: Jim Malone (812) 725-3311
 Terry Byers (812) 275-7150
 Carol Baker (317) 809-0314

13) Satellite 13

Meet: 4th Saturday
 Contact: Bill Newman (317) 690-2455

2) Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

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

4) Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

Meet: 4th Saturday at 9 AM
 Contacts: Gary Phillips (260) 251-4670
 Dave Kline (765) 620-9351

6) St. Joe Valley Forgers

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

8) Meteorite Mashers

Contacts: Mike Mills (812) 633-4273
 Steve King (812) 797-0059
 Jeff Reinhardt 812-949-7163

10) One-Armed Blacksmith Shop

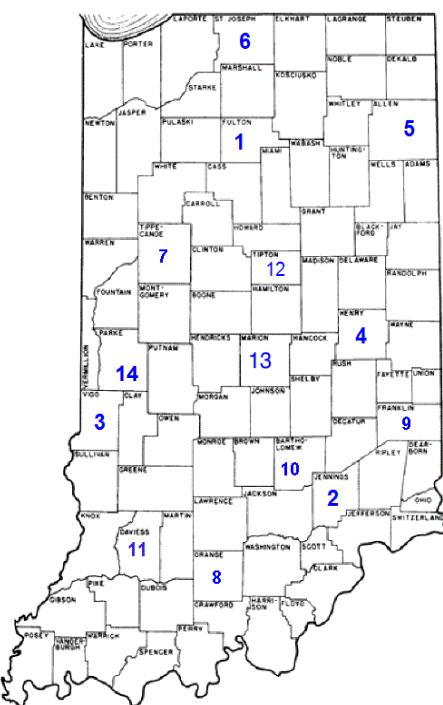
Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contact: Tim Metz (812) 447-2606

12) "Doc" Ramseyer Blacksmith Shop

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

14) Covered Bridge Blacksmith Guild

Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contact: John Bennett (812) 877-7274



Meteorite Mashers

This month's meeting was held in conjunction with the Beck's Mill Oktoberfest. A fundraiser for the non profit group that runs the mill, we had 3 forges going and many beginners. Had 3 teens and several pre-teens getting in forge time, with Micheal Mills doing his usual great job with the young beginners inside the blacksmith shop, and Butch Sparks working with a couple in the parking lot where Jeff Reinhardt's new demo trailer was set up and running. A great time was had by all with a very nice turnout for a pretty cold day. The next meeting of the Meteorite Mashers will be at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Floyds Knobs and is the now somewhat infamous "Smoked turkey Hammer-in". Jeff hickory smokes several turkeys for the entree. The shop has heat, the fun will be great and the food better as everyone steps up the food game.

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths



The Bunkum Valley Metal smiths met this month on a beautiful sunny Saturday. We had a large attendance with several new people who want to learn blacksmithing. One young man has waited several months to be able to have a day off work so he could come.



We also had a spouse attend who does spinning as you will see in the pictures. We had lots of good food, good discussion, good smithing and a great time with all the new attendees. Feel free to join us the first Saturday of month, come ready to smith and bring a dish to share!



Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith shop

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths started with Ray Sease drawing out a rail road spike to check out the power hammer. Charlie Helton started making a pair of Steve King extraordinaire hammer tongs. Brad Wever was making basket handles . Nathan Pelvor made forged welded hinges. Bill Newman made a sword blank. Charlie and Brad worked on tongs and a handle and latch. Several others tried their skill at various tasks. We had a great turn out and many good items in the iron-in-the-hat. Next month will be the last meeting at Vernon this year. Dec. meeting will be at John Cummins, Jan. Paul Bray's March Kenny Dettmer's and April Kevin Welsh's. I hope this helps you in planning your schedules. Paul Bray

Reprinted from the Nov/Dec 2017 edition of The Hammer & Tong, the newsletter of the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland

The Blacksmith Primer DVDs

Albin Drzewianowski

Recently I learned from Randy McDaniel's Facebook page that the rights to his 3 DVD/6-hour version of his book "*The Blacksmith Primer*" has been purchased by his publisher, Astragal Press and is now available at a reduced price. You can get the 3 DVD set for \$99 or the book and 3 DVDs for \$115. This is a huge saving over the original price for the DVDs.

www.astragalpress.com

Some More DVDs Roy Underhill Strikes Again

Albin Drzewianowski

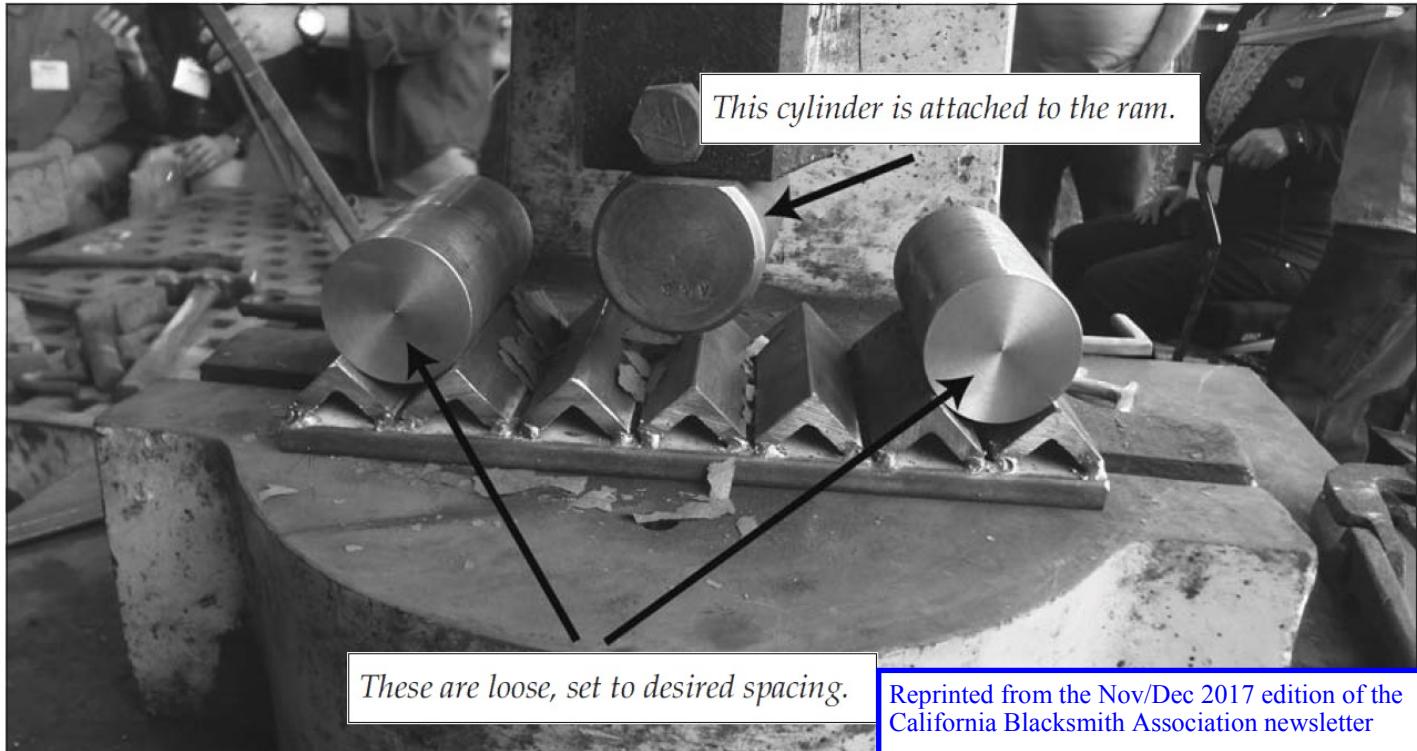
Recently I got the *2017 Fall Catalog* from Astragal Press. On page 23 they offer a DVD: "*Roy Visits Colonial Williamsburg: The Blacksmiths*". This DVD has 10 different episodes from the many years of "The Woodwright Shop" featuring Roy Underhill visiting the blacksmith shop and learning about traditional tools, hardware, and techniques. The price is \$24.99, so that makes it \$2.50 per episode. Roy is starting his 37th season of the program, so some of these videos go way back. I watched some of last year's episodes and they are still using the same opening and closing scenes as back in 1980.

I have many of the early episodes squirreled away somewhere from when I taped them off the TV onto VCR tapes. (Of course, I no longer have a VCR player, so even if I could find the tapes and if they were in readable condition I would not be able to watch them.) I have not yet purchased this DVD, but am seriously thinking about it. If I do, you will get a more in depth review at that time. If you should buy the DVD, you could write the review.

By the way, the catalog has a lot of books that would be of interest to the blacksmith, both forging related and history of tools, history of technology, etc. www.astragalpress.com

Fly Press Bending Jig ~ as used at Oktoberfest

Ian Brooks, Sacramento



Reprinted from the Nov/Dec 2017 edition of the California Blacksmith Association newsletter

Metal Fume Fever

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJLjyfzXWUw)

Blacksmithing for Beginners - Metal Fume Fever

This blacksmith safety video by Denis Frechette outlines the dangers of forging pieces of steel that have been galvanized or have other types of coatings, like chrome, etc.

The metal oxide fumes are dangerous and for some, can even be fatal. This applies to welding as well as forging.

One of the key points made in this video is the remarkably low temperature the zinc oxide gasses form and enter the air.

Please be safe in your blacksmithing.

From Mid-Atlantic Smiths 2016-04 Fall Hammer Notes



ACORNS

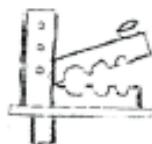
By Steve Manning, a MABA member

This acorn was inspired by an article in the Hammer's Blow-Spring 2010, page 15, by Steve McGrew

MATERIALS: 12 to 16 inches 1/2" Black Pipe (long enough to hold in gloved hand)

*Nominal 1/2" Black Pipe ID 39/64, OD 53/64 with a wall thickness of 3/32. *Do not use galvanized pipe because zinc vapors are toxic. See the Metal Fume Fever article in your Upsetter collection, 2015 MAY/JUNE issue, or find it in the on-line MABA newsletter archive.*

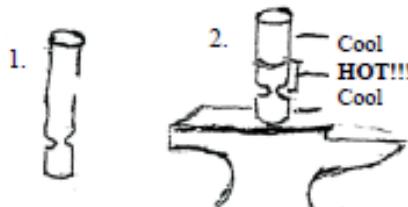
TOOLS: Scissor or spring fuller with 3/8" wide jaws or rods (often used for candle cups)



Important for safety: -Plug the end of the pipe closest to your hand to prevent "chimney effect" at the forge and water spouting or steam spray during quenching.

1. Heat and fuller 1-1/2" from end down to half the diameter of the pipe.

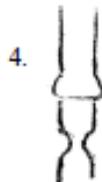
2. Heat 3" of end of pipe then quench above and below fuller. Note, to localize the heat in a gas forge, I used 3 broken pieces of fire brick to form a small tunnel inside forge. Stand pipe on end on anvil and drive top straight down.



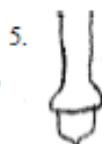
3. Rotate and hit, to keep straight, rotate and hit. Continue to rotate and hit, keep it straight! Reheat and quench, until you can drive top/cap down over the quenched cold, nut portion below fuller.



4. Heat then leave 1/2" below newly formed cap area. While fullering, pull to make nut round, then push to make small point.



5. Heat and continue to fuller completely off leaving a small point. You might need to file to refine the point.



6. Heat again then fuller just above cap fuller to form top of cap and stem. Keep the fuller close, pull to make top of cap flat. Once you fuller down to 1/4 inch, you can make the stem longer by angling the pipe as you fuller the pipe above the cap down to 1/8" round for the stem.



7. While still attached to pipe, seat the cap by cooling the nut then use the step on the anvil to back up the cap. Rotate and hit the cold nut with the pipe held down. Be careful not to hit point.



7.

8. Cut off the stem at 1/2" long, hammer the stem to size it.

8.



9. Texture cap and bend stem.

9.



This article reprinted from the Nov/Dec 2017 edition of the Upsetter, Newsletter of the Michigan Artist Blacksmith Association

Forging Simple Oak Leaves

By Douglas Morlock

This four page article was reprinted with permission from the author. The article was reprinted from the Spring 2017 edition of The Iron Trillium, a publication of the Ontario Artist Blacksmith Association.

Before Christmas, I was commissioned to make a set of tools to match fireplace doors done over the summer. As I banged out the tongs and poker and shovel, I gave some thought to the oak leaves that would decorate the finials and the stand itself.

Normally I'd be crushed by deadlines and would just torch them out of sheet, begging mercy from Wayland the whole time. I know that many other blacksmiths do likewise, using a plasma torch or even (St Eloi forgive them) ordering die-stamped blanks from fabrication houses. It is a question of expedience. Between clients and deadlines and commodities prices, I sympathize completely. But as a way of life, this is anathema to the blacksmith. Recourse to 21st century workarounds should always be regarded for what it is - desperation in the face of ignorance.

Desperation stinks - I prefer Old Spice, or even coal smoke. Henceforth, I resolve to forge out my oak leaves from bar stock, as a blacksmith should.

How to go about it? Nature has given us dozens of oaks to choose from – some with leaves that are exceedingly complex, widening and contracting with lobes that overlap when reduced to a single plane. Impossible to forge? Absurd – metal is the broadest of mediums, steel the most versatile of metals, and hammer and anvil are tools nonpareil.

White or Red Oak leaves are attractive but involved – pin oaks simple but misshapen. Most motifs tend toward English Oak – simple and recognizable, although uncommon locally. This general oak shape will do for most uses, forging out a gross or so will make the other forms obvious - and at that point you may nitpick my foliomorphology.



To Forge an Oak Leaf:

Begin with square stock, or square the stock you're working with. (This piece is the terminal of a hanging arm, and a bit on the small side. Dimensions are not given, because they are always relative. Judge for yourself, for what you are building).

Begin with the point. Hot-cutting the end off the bar gives a delicate point that will eventually define the end of the leaf. Strike on two adjacent sides, alternating blows.



Place the bar against the edge of the anvil, and forge the two sides that form the point. The radius of the edge will determine how sharp the corner between your lobes is. For small leaves (like this one) a fairly sharp edge is needed. Be sure to work hot and make sure the work is seated before striking, to prevent cold shuts.



You'll end up with a saw-tooth pattern. The volume in each "tooth" controls how large each lobe can be made, and what the leaf will ultimately look like.



A few mild blows with the hammer face will straighten the blank for shaping, and knocking the corners off the front of the teeth helps to keep the final leaf even, by widening the target for the peen.



Using the peen of your hammer, forge the centre of the leaf down close to its final thickness, leaving mass on either side to form the lobes. Note my skinny Swedish hammer - this is easier with a peen sized for the stock you are working on. A 1/2" peen is less than useful on 1/4" details.



Working from the front of the leaf, individually draw each lobe out and forward until it looks right.



*If you wish, this is the point to chase in veins or other details, or even to repoussé it into hyper-realistic wrinkles. I typically save that for non-ferrous work, and keep my forged leaves simple.

To add contours, simply tap the centre into the step on your anvil (or here the radius between horn and body). Then shape the lobes over a corner and the edge.



As forged.:



No tedious chiselling, filing or blasphemous plasma cutters.



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Newsletter of the
Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

Farrel Wells *Membership Secretary*
8235 E 499 S
Dunkirk, IN 47336-8807

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November 18 Hammer In Covered Bridge Blacksmith Guild

At the Parke County Fairgrounds. Just north of Rockville Indiana on US41. The address is 600 North US41 Rockville Indiana.

The meeting will start at 9 am. Pitch in lunch and iron in the hat