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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.

The Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc., its staff, officers, directors, members, and hosts and the *Forge Fire*, specifically disclaim any responsibility or liability for damages or injuries as a result of any construction, design, use, manufacture or other activity undertaken as a result of the use, or application of, information contained in any articles in the Forge Fire. The Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc. And the *Forge Fire* assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, fitness, proper design, safety, or safe use of any information contained in the *Forge Fire*.

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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 Moe Handy (317) 862-5647 for details.

IBA MEETING SCHEDULE

Check the latest *Forge Fire* for monthly **IBA** revisions. Contact **Michael Wollowski** (812) 232-2591 if you are willing to host or demonstrate for IBA

Mar 17	BUNKUM VALLEY
2012	BUSINESS MEETING
Apr 21 2012	WHITEWATER VALLEY
May 19 2012	ROCKY FORGE BLACKSMITH GUILD
June 1-3	IBA CONFERENCE
2012	TIPTON, IN



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Dates to Remember

March 17 **IBA Business** Meeting, Bunkum Valley

March 30 Forging on the River

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

At the February meeting of the IBA we had 50 people attend the hammer-in at Kenny Dettmer's shop. Kenny made a forged welded billet from chain saw material. Kenny and Michael Wollowski collaborated in making an iron butterfly. Good job guys!

Enclosed in this newsletter is a ballot for election to the board of directors. Ted Stout and Dominick Andrisani are running for re-election. You may also vote for a write-in candidate. Nominations also may be made from the floor during the during the elections at the March Business Meeting. After the election, the board of directors will elect the officers for 2012-2013.

The March Business Meeting will be held at the Bunkum Valley satellite group. They meet at Jim Malone's shop, 14586N CR 1100E, Odon, IN. You will be able to buy coal at a nearby business.

The OBA 2012 Conference will be June 1-3, 2012 at the Tipton 4-H Fairgrounds. A brochure will be coming soon.

ABANA has a conference this year from July 18 through July 21 in Rapid City, South Dakota. There is an abundance of attractions to see in the Rapid City area, including: Mt Rushmore, Devils Tower, Crazy Horse monument, the Bad Lands, Deadwood SD, and more. It would make a good trip for a family vacation.

Please make and donate items for the IBA auction at the Conference. It is a primary means of raising funds for the IBA.

Gary Phillips

IBA President

A group of Historic Re-enactors is looking for someone who can custom cast brass in small (20) quantities of several items that they need. Contact - Norm Gable 260-982-2864 or email at Norm@erforge.com

Visit the IBA website at: www.indianablacksmithing.org

Ballot

IBA Board of Directors Vote for 2 Only

Dominick Andrisani
Ted Stout
Write in(Must be willing to serve)

Send ballot to:

Ken Dettmer 15721 S 250W Columbus, IN 47201

Mark the word 'Ballot' on envelope so it will not be opened until the business meeting in March.

Ballots may be cast at the business meeting.

Mailed ballots must be received by March 15th.

Ballot Ken Dettmer 15721 S 250W Columbus, IN 47201

> Ken Dettmer 15721 S 250W Columbus, IN 47201

INDIANA BLACKSMITHING ASSOCIATION BLACKSMITH OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

Date: Name of Candidate:	_
Nominating Group (Satellite Group or three petitioners)	
Name of Satellite Group:	
Name of Representative of Satellite Group:	
or Petitioners Signatures (3):	
The nominating group should describe the candidate's history, accomplishme contribution to blacksmithing and/or the IBA, and reasons for why the candidas smith of the Year.	_
Similir of the Tear.	

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

Date:	
Name of Candidate:	_
Nominating Group (Satellite Group or three petitioners)	
Name of Satellite Group:	
Name of Representative of Satellite Group:	
or Petitioners Signatures (3):	
Part 1: The nominating group should write a brief description why you feel you selected as Rookie of the Year.	ur candidate should be

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

Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop

Shop opened at 9AM

Paul Fleischmann, Tim Pearson, Andy and Austin Williams worked on the state project. Austin our 16 year old is doing the power hammer work. He looks like a natural on the power hammer. I would like to get him to work with Clifton or Kirt to see what where he might go with the hammer.

Levi Berkshire worked on his fork and spoon for his boy scout badge he should finish it next month.

Lynn Scott came from Hamlet, In. to try his hand at blacksmithing. He made two S hooks and a leaf for our tree of friendship. We hope that we got him hooked and a new member.

Denny Setnor made a triangle dinner bell so when he rings it his wife will bring him a beer. We are waiting to see if it works or it is around his neck next month.

With Tim Pearson and Austin Williams making the leaves for the state project under the power hammer we found what it sounds like when it brakes off. Was that a ha ha that we heard?

Shop closed at 5 PM.

Hammered in friendship

Fred Oden

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

Meet: 3rd Sunday at 2 PM Contacts: Mike Kelley

Charles Gruell (765) 513-5390







Editors Note: Photos of Levi Berkshire forging, provided by Tammy Berkshire

Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The day at Bill Kendrick's shop started at 6:30am with eggs, sausage, biscuits, OJ, coffee and donuts. Charlie Helton started the fire and Kenny Dettmer then heated a piece to try out Bill's new 50 lb power hammer. Charlie uncoiled a car spring and made a hold down for Bills anvil. Then he made a slitter-drift combo and explained the science and reasons why this is done. Three persons came in and brought in a damascus knife they had made and John Cummins heat treated for them, John is very good at this. Austin Hasting then made an S hook with proper instruction from Charlie. Iron in the hat was held and for the door prize John Cummins donated a very beautiful candle holder. Cathy Hastings, Austin's mom, won it. Their home burned last week and they lost everything. She said it would be the first piece she would put in their new home. Dinner was served chili, hotdogs, buns, potato salad, chips and many homemade pies by Bill. Last month at Paul and Judy Brays we also had dinner and I forgot to put this in the Forge Fire. Bill and Paul supplied all the food. THANKS. Tim Metz made a candle holder that came out very good. He also machined a nice hammer that he put in the iron in the hat; I won that. A very rare appearance at the anvil Ray Sease did a demo on how to take the edge out of edge bending. This of course was done with a fixture as Ray has always done his best to take skill out of blacksmithing. Paul donated the metal for this. Kevin Walsh brought in a cross one piece cross that was made from stainless steel and it was polished like a mirror it was made from 1 1/4 X 8 inch. You had to see this one. Jerry Willams is taking over the Vernon shop for school tours and the festivals as I am having arthritis and joint problems. Thanks, Jerry. We had 21 present and a great time

One Armed Blacksmith's Shop



Kenny Dettmer lit the fire promptly at 9:00am. Charlie Helton and Kenny modified a chisel into a special hot cutter. This tool packs the material towards the center as it cuts, a lot like a cable cutter. Kenny Demonstrated how to make a wizard. Jim Jessee forge welded a set of hinges for the new (future) front door.

Iron in the Hat generated \$40.00.



The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

The meeting this month was at Jason Hardin's shop near Historic Becks Mill. Well attended, the shop was full of folks having a good time and sharing blacksmith information, and learning. We were pleased to have Dave Kunkler demo his marvelous dragon and he made it look easy. Then Jeff Reinhardt demoed a wizard face on a RR spike that ended up as a coat hanger firmly affixed to a post in Jason's shop. And then the forge master of our group Billy Merritt demonstrated a style of knife he had never shown made in public. These are knives made from a connecting rod of a piston engine. Using Jason's 50# Little Giant, Billy as usual made the forging look like a walk in the park. Iron in the hat went well, and lunch was a very well received lasagna made by Andrea Hardin, Jason's wife. It was voted that Andrea is welcome to repeat that lunch as often as possible! A nice big end mill cutter was in iron in the hat, and was handed to Steve King to see if it could be forged. Steve got it hot, hit it hard and discovered the forgability of M-42, that is it crumbled spectacularly to say the least. Oh well. A good time was had by all, and the shop was getting cleaned up at about 5:30 pm, after a great day in Southern Indiana.

Next meeting of the Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers will be in the open air at Hidden Hill, in Lovely Utica Indiana. This meeting will coincide with the grand opening for the season of Hidden Hill http://www.hiddenhillnursery.com/; Jeff will have his demo trailer, and all are welcome to come demo for the public. The meeting will be Saturday, March 31st. The forging area is between the sales barn and the meadow. Sales to the public are allowed and encouraged, with 25% of sales to Hidden Hill.





Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met February 4, 2012. Our day was not as great weather wise as it has been. It was a little misty and chilly but we still had a good day. We had 3 forges going and 32 people in attendance, 4 or 5 who came all the way from Missouri to be at our meeting. Jerry Robinette was working on a damascus billet, for a sword, that weighed 21 pounds! He was using the press to reduce the size of the billet so it would fit in the hammer at his shop. It took him most of the day, but he accomplished his task. Shawn Gilley was working on making roses. William Pratt made a water leaf and scroll piece. Chuck Kryder was working on hardy tools for the anvil he received as a Christmas present. Gale Mehler and Jim Staley were making a drift to put an eye in a newly forged axe head. Ron

Tincher stopped by to see the press work. Aaron Baker gave his son Chris a tutorial on making s hooks. Most all in attendance were interested in and went out to inspect Jim Malone's newly purchased Bradley Cushioned Helve hammer. We enjoyed a great pitch in lunch together, iron in the hat was fun as always, and the fellowship is always the best. We held our business meeting right after lunch and are making preparation for the State meeting that will be











hosted by our group on March 17. It was a really good day of work, fun and learning mixed together. Thanks to all who attended and contrubuted!! And as I always say....even if you have too many irons in the fire (which I usually do) don't lose your temper:)

Correction: The helve hammer shown in February Forge Fire does not belong to Doug Neukam, it was found and purchased by Jim Malone. Doug is helping to restore it but it is not his helve hammer.

Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

When you and Gary visited the Maumee Valley Blacksmith forge at Jeferson Township Park during the Summer Tractor Show in August, the suggestion was made that we move our meeting dates so that they would not fall on the third Saturday of the month as that is the date for Hammer-ins around the state. After discussing this suggestion our club has decided to make a change in our meeting dates. Please enter these dates and changes for the Maumee Valley Blacksmiths in the Forge Fire.

We hold two meeting a month and in two separate forges.

Maumee Valley Blacksmiths Jefferson Township Park 1702 Webster Road Fort Wayne, Indiana Meets Second Saturday of the Month 9:00 AM

Maumee Valley Blacksmiths Salomon Farm Park 817 W. Dupont Road Fort Wayne, IN Meets Fourth Saturday of the Month 9:00 AM

If you have any questions e-mail me at fwtoolman@hotmail.com or phone 260-579-7303

Thanks, John Schamber

Whistles

By Dave Wells

2/2012

A friend of mine seen a whistle that a fellow blacksmith made. The friend was trying to replicate the whistle and the resulting sound. I didn't know squat about whistles, but thought I would help him. I ended up researching whistles on U-Tube (Broadcast yourself). Although they didn't have metal whistles, there were all kinds of information on how to make whistles, (mostly using wood and some on P.V.C. as a material.)

Following is the results. This is a fun project and very addictive. I bet if you try this, that you don't make just one.

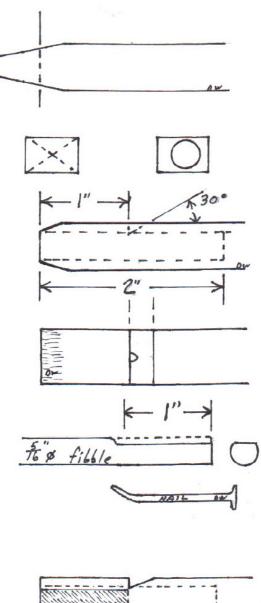
On the first whistle I used a rail road spike.

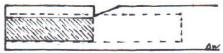
- (1) Reduce the end by cutting part of the taper off.
- (2) Drill a hole to depth desired. The hole needs to be at least past the 30 degree angle your going to cut with a hack saw. To start with the drill depth (shoot for 2 inches.) Note: I've used 3/16, 1/4, and 5/16 holes. 5/16th, holes are my choice for various reasons. I used a drill one size smaller than 3/16th.
- (3) From the end make a vertical cut. Cut slightly into the hole. Be careful doing this, the slivers of metal being cut remains in the cut area and is deceiving. I used a hack saw, and checked the inside of the hole using a sharp object as a wire,

Note: If you cut way to deep. You probably should start all over by cutting the vertical on through the stock, re/drilling etc.

- (4) Clean out any loose material, burrs etc. around the hole and intersections.
- (5) Now make a plug to fit the hole. I do this using a longer piece than needed. Using a belt sander and working the stock to fit the hole. A slightly tight fit is desired. This can be a tapered fit with only one end being tight. This allows the plug to remain in the hole and restricts air flow. You may need to remove the plug for adjustments; this is why a real tight fit is a hindrance.
- (6) File a flat down the plug length. A flat of 1/16th. is desired. A little more is ok. Also a little deeper at the in board depth is good. Remembering you need 1 inch, so file a little longer than needed. The plug with the flat is called the "fibble",
- (7) Cut the fibble off to length. The end needs to be flush with the vertical cut. Note: If you're using a long piece, be careful. The cut material may fill in the flat of the fibble. This restricts air flow. Cut from the top down.

drill 64 # if using 16 material





Whistles By Dave Wells 2/2012

Continued

- (8) Install the fibble. Blow into the hole and check for the sound. If no sound, shine a light at the slot, looking through the end. No light? The flat is restricted. Remove the fibble and file more on the flat or check for burrs. Note: This is why a real tight fit is a hindrance. To remove the fibble you need something curved. I grind the sides of a 16 penny nail, bend a curve, and use this to drive the fibble out enough to grab and pull out completely.
- (9) Reinstall and check. Now that my whistle is made, I decided to add more to the spike. I forged a Chinaman, a deserving remembrance to those that helped build the rail roads out in western America.
- (10) Wire brush, clean and spray with a clear lacquer. I sprayed the inside also. This helps preventing rust from saliva from blowing the whistle.

Second Whistle: Using round stock.

have some round stock that has a slightly larger hole than 1/4 inch diameter down the length. Kenny Dettmer put this in iron-in-the hat. I thought this would be great to use. I drilled this out to fit a 5/16 fibble.

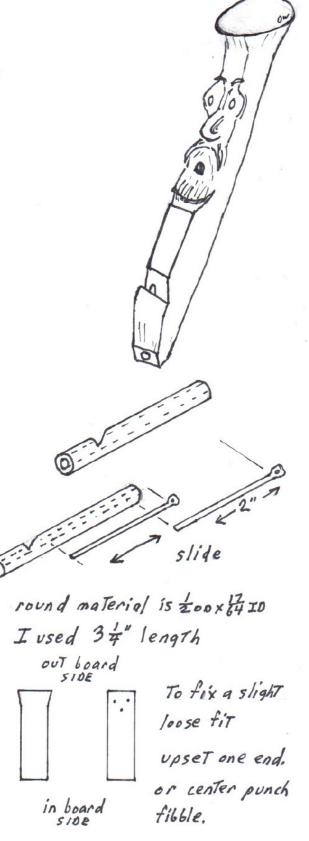
made these whistles the same as before, fibble, vertical cut, 30 degree angle, etc.

One whistle I just used my finger to close the hole on the open end. On the other whistle I drilled the hole to 5/16, sliding a 5/16 rod in and out, creating different tones. Sounding similar to a kazoo.

Note: Blowing on the fibble creates saliva. Saliva creates rust inside. I used a brass rod to replace the steel rod. Not necessary. It is a good idea to keep this whistle. Use it to determine the sound you want for your whistles. Different depths of the hole for different tones.

Deep Hole = deep sound Shallow Hole = high sound

As I said, this is addictive. I bet you don't make just one.



A special call out for Blacksmith Volunteers

To assist Girl Scouts with a hands-on opportunity to experience blacksmithing Saturday, April 21st - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Camp Dellwood, 2301 N. Girls School Road, Indianapolis

http://www.girlscoutsindiana.org/girls.aspx?cid=Dellwood



Dear IBA Members,

It's been a few years since I've communicated to you through the IBA newsletter, but I would like to take this opportunity to share some exciting news. I'd like to offer you an opportunity to join me in an event that would combine two very special organizations in both education and celebration.

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts. As a young scout, I learned that Girl Scouts founder, Juliette (continued)

Gordon Low, tried her hand at blacksmithing and became proficient enough to fabricate an elaborate gate to honor her parents. A few years later at a Girl Scout event, I had my first opportunity to strike an anvil and make a hook with the help of a museum volunteer. Years later my father, Bill Conyers, began building his own smithy. He shared his knowledge of blacksmithing and eventually introduced me to the IBA. I have since enjoyed years of friendships and learning experiences through the IBA.

Juliette Gordon Low recognized blacksmithing as an art form in the very first Girl Scout handbook and she included it as an option in the Artist badge offered from 1913-1918. From 1938-1948 Girl Scouts offered a Metal badge that required completing 8 out of 18 activities. Some of these activities included understanding the importance of metals in the household; finding examples of metal work in the community; learning the history and creator of each piece; understanding the use and care for tools; demonstrating techniques in metal working; and understanding how metal is transformed from ore and prepared for use.

I'm asking you to join with me in a wonderful opportunity to introduce blacksmithing to our youth. The Girl Scouts of Central Indiana's 100th Anniversary Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 21st at Camp Dellwood. The event will look at the Past, Present, and Future of Girl Scouts.

The current plan for the blacksmithing area is to offer 15-20 minute repeating demonstrations that briefly provide an overview of blacksmithing (including parts of the anvil, the coal forge, the progression from coal to coke, what is happening on a molecular level as the metal is heated and, of course, mention the connection of Blacksmithing and Girl Scouting, and highlighting the IBA and the satellite groups as a way to continue learning blacksmithing. After the brief demonstration the Scouts would participate by assisting an IBA member in making an s hook or leaf or similar item in gas forges. (Gas forges would be easy to transport and keep metal ready while showcasing another aspect of blacksmithing, and connecting with the idea of past and present.) Two larger demonstrations (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) would compare the state of blacksmithing and its importance during the time period of the badge (1938-1948) and now.

You could help by providing one-on-one instruction to the scouts. The event is open to scouts from kindergarten through

high school and their families. Their first experience in black-smithing could be as limited as assisting you in placing the final twist on a hook, or more involved by bringing the stock to a point or curling the finial.

At this point, for the hands-on area, we are looking at having five gas forges and ten anvils set up. This means that we need a minimum of ten volunteers ready to spend a day of making hooks and answering interesting questions from the public as well as supporting the youth of our communities and educating them on the IBA and the art of blacksmithing. Lunch will be provided. There will also be sleeping space available in buildings (camp cots) for anyone who wants to stay over. We've been given permission to bring in an RV or two, but there are no hook ups. If it's muddy the RVs will need to be near the main entrance in the gravel parking lot. Demonstrators are asked not to sell anything at this event, but can network and share their information, including having membership information on hand for the IBA and the annual conference in Tipton.

The Central Indiana Girl Scout Council is one of three councils in Indiana. It is my hope that this event will be a great success and that the IBA can then offer this same type of event to the other two councils in the state, using this same format for future educational demonstrations to other youth organizations. In this way we can help continue the IBA's mission of education.

Please contact me, Jennifer Hayden, at jnjhayden@yahoo.com or 812-648-2557 to volunteer to help with this event. I hope you agree with me that this is a very worthy opportunity!

Forging a Butterfly

Michael Wollowski

Ken Dettmer and I forged a butterfly at an impromptu demonstration that took place during an IBA meeting at his forge. We made this up by the seat of our pants, with help from the audience. The finished butterfly can be seen in figure 1. I brazed it to a shepherd's hook.

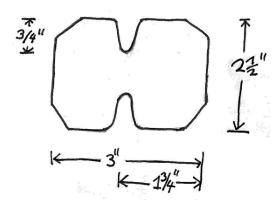


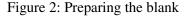
Figure 1: Finished butterfly on shepherd's hook.

We started out with 1/4" flat stock, 2 ½" wide by about 3" long. The first order of business was to fuller ¼" notches into the sides of the stock about 1 ¾" from one side. The notches formed by this operation are about ¾" deep and will separate the front and back wings.

Next, we used a hot cut to remove the four corners. Figure 2 contains a diagram of these steps.

We then folded the stock along the center line and hot cut along the bottom of the smaller section, about 5/16" from the bottom of the fold and about ½" long. This cut defines the rear wings and leaves material for the tail. Next, we cut materials for the antennae from the front of the stock. In order to get sufficient materials for some fairly long antennae, the





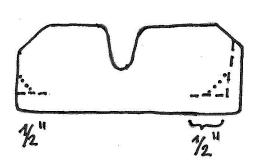


Figure 3: Cutting the materials for the tail and antennae

audience suggested that we first cut perpendicular to the center line. We did so and then straightened the cut material. After that, a second cut was made, this one along the centerline, about ½" long and again, about 5/16" from the bottom of the fold. In the diagram of figure 3, the cuts described here are shown by a dashed line. The result of these cuts can be seen in figure 4.



Figure 4: Cuts for antennae and tail



Figure 5: Wings and tail shaped

Next, we removed the corners produced by the cuts: one in the back of the smaller section and the other near the front of the larger section. These two cuts are indicated by the dotted lines in figure 3.

We then heated up the entire piece and put the fold in a vise, about a 5/16" deep. We opened up the wings, at first with a chisel and then by hammering them so that they were horizontal. While the wings were not yet formed, we worked the tail over a wedge shaped hardy tool, rounding it and drawing it to a blunt point.

We were now ready to shape the wings. Using the rounded pien of a farrier's hammer, we moved the metal so as to equalize the corners left by the cutting and fullering operations. Figure 5 shows the butterfly after these operations. Notice the nicely shaped body.

We were now ready to finish the antennae. We began by lengthening the existing cut so that it ended at about the beginning of the front wings. We then drew out the material on the wedge shaped hardy tool and rounded it over. The result of this operation can be seen in figure 6.

Back at my own shop, I removed some of the irregularities on the wings and the antennae. I also shaped the body and wings so as to give the butterfly a more natural appearance.



Figure 6: The butterfly after forging



Address Correction Requested If Undeliverable return to sender With original address legible

Bunkum Valley Hammer In and Business Meeting

March 17 Jim Malone's Shop 14586 North CR 1100 East, Odon IN

Driving Directions: Take US 231 south and then SR 58 towards Odon. After the turn-off from US 231, go for 2 miles, and then turn right so as to head north on CR 1100. After another 2 miles, Jim's place is on the right.

Please bring a dish to share

Whitewater Valley

April 21

Big Cedar Forge, the residence of Joyce Roell & Bobby Hoff Directions: 5171 State Road 252, Brookville, IN 47012. Located at the intersection of Big Cedar Road and SR 252.

For more info call Keith Hicks at 765-914-6584.

First Class Mail