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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)

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.

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 Ron Gill
317-374-8323 for details

IBA MEETING SCHEDULE

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

**Mar 17
2018**

**KELLY FARMS
BUSINESS MEETING**

**Apr 21
2018**

**JOEL SANDERSON IRON WORK
QUNICY. MI**

**May 19
2018**

TBD

**Jun 1-3
2018**

**IBA CONFERENCE
TIPTON, IN**



INDEX

PGS 3-6
SATELLITE NEWS

PG 6
BLACKSMITH'S
PROJECT BOOK

PGS 7-8
FRED CRIST ROSE

PG 9
IBA CONFERENCE
FLYER

PGS 10-11
WORKING WITH
MICA

PG 11
PRE-CONFERENCE
CLASSES

Dates to Remember

March 18 IBA
Business Meeting
at Kelley Farms

June 1-3
IBA Conference

June 27-30
ABANA
Conference

Editors Message

This month is our annual business meeting at Kelley Farms March business meeting. Be sure to bring your ballot, if you have not already mailed it.

The February hammer in was at Ken Dettmer's shop. Kurt Fehrenbach demonstrated with Jeff Farmer assisting. Kurt forged an anvil bick with an integral bending fork. The bick went into iron-in-the-hat. After lunch Jeff demonstrated crowd pleasing items for festivals and fairs. Then Kurt got back on the power hammer to forge a large punch that was used to make a bolster plate for Steve King.

Our April hammer in will be at the Sanderson Iron in Quincy, MI. Joel Sanderson is the owner of Sanderson Iron. The shop features a full compliment of fully functional line shaft driven equipment, including a 250 lb Murray power hammer. We will start at 10:00 and end at 6:00. The topics covered will be line shaft set up and maintenance, Power forging, die making and anything else that comes up. Check out Joel's website for more details on his shop: <http://www.sandersoniron.com/>. There is a small restaurant nearby for lunch.

The IBA Conference is coming up quickly. We have three excellent demonstrations that cover a wide variety of topics. Pep Gomez will be demonstrating mosaic Damascus. Nathan Allen will demonstrate traditional forging. Bill Conyers will be walking through process of rebuilding a power hammer. In addition to the demonstrations there will be plenty of tailgating as well as the expanding gallery area.

The ABANA Conference will be a few weeks after the IBA Conference. This year ABANA will be in Richmond, VA which is well within driving distance. For more details: <https://abana.org/conference/2018-richmond-va/>

Page 6 includes a brief review of The Blacksmith's Project Book: Intermediate & Advanced Projects from European Masters. The book is available from Artisan Ideas. There are 21 different projects many of which include techniques that I have not seen before. The copy sent to me will be available in the IBA library. I encourage you to take a look at it. You may decide that you want a copy for your personal reference.



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 Hoopengartner (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

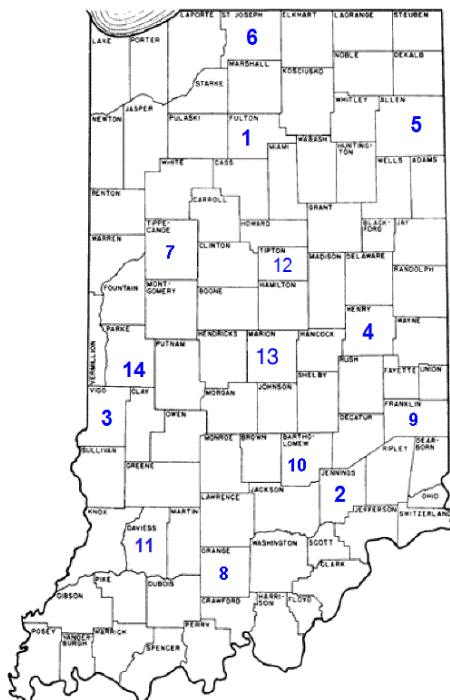
Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contact: Tim Metz (812) 447-2606

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



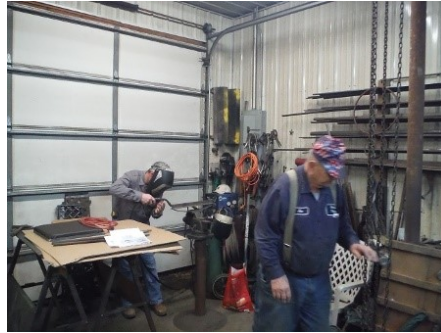
Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith shop

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths met at the forge of Kenny Dettmer's. Kenny drew out a billet for a knife blank. Broadus and Angus Thompson drew out a hot cut from the iron-in-the-hat made from spring steel. These two, assisted by Bill Newman, made a duet with their hammers. They then made a hammer head. Nathan Pelvor worked on a wall hanger, a very nice one. Alex Spellman worked on tong repair project. We had 30+ present, maybe more. Our next meeting will be at the forge of Kevin Welsh, 25619 Gill Rd., Nabb IN 47147. Bring a chair, dish, Iron-in-the-hat, and your money! April meeting will be back to the Vernon shop. Call if you get lost- really. Paul Bray

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

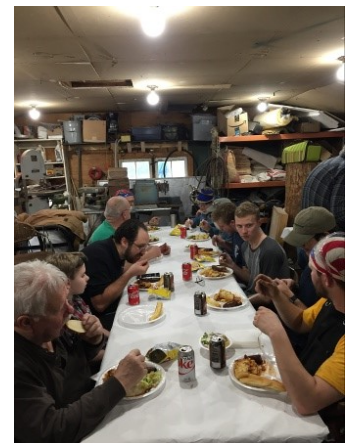
Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

Here is the monthly report from Fall Creek: 7 members showed up. We worked on the conference project. Andy Davis showed up with his son. After lunch things was going good until the compressor motor kicked out. Wesley started making a leaf. We ended up leaving about 2.



St. Joe Valley Forgers

On the 4th Saturday of February the St. Joe Valley forgers meet. We continued to work on our group project for the local park. One thing we tell newcomers is that the common belief that beards are a requirement for blacksmith is faults. We note that it is optional for female blacksmiths. As you can see if one of the pictures, Beth one of our lady blacksmiths decided to "wear" a beard for us at lunch. As always we had lunch together. This month lunch was provided by the neighbors of the park that we are making sign and bike rack for. Sometimes we work so hard we have to put our feet up. Mark Hohulin reporting



IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Meteorite Mashers

The Meteorite Mashers met at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Floyds Knobs this month. Although the weather was near monsoon, the turnout was very good with Jeff's shop full. The weather did prevent the deployment of the several outdoor forges yet the indoor forge was in constant use with 2 anvils in use at the same time. Iron in the hat was held under cover of a lean-to, and there was a ring making demo in the upper shop. Steve King brought his most recent project a striking hammer, shown in the photo by Vicki Baker. We had visitors from central Kentucky, and the visit will be reciprocated in March when we hold our March meeting in conjunction with the Kentucky group at the stockyards across from the Ky Horse Park on March 28th. The BFH will demo as well. Although it was slip slidey outside and a bit cool and very wet, we had a warm dry shop with lots of good folks having a great time. 100% of the huge pot of chili as well as a pot of mac and cheese disappeared as well as lots of other good food. All in all a good time was had by all.



Maumee Valley Blacksmiths

At our February meeting Chris Biggs demonstrated making punches and chisels. His always look nice and work even better so it was well attended. Starting with 6" of 4140 he worked them down while explaining the ins and outs and problem areas to look for. Afterwards we had our chance with the extra stock he brought. Even some to be made into some for the club. Thanks Chris.

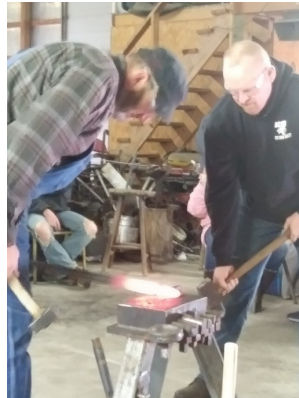
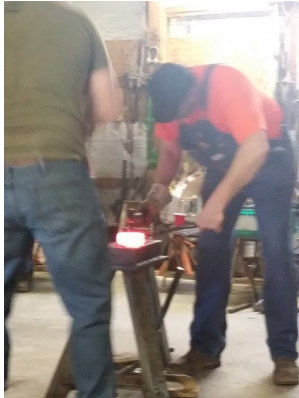


IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met on Saturday, March 3. We had a good turn out for the hammer and anvil tool demonstration put on by Steve King and Jeff Williams. They did an excellent job with the demonstration and I think everyone learned a lot and enjoyed the day. We had around 35 in attendance and shared a great lunch and good fellowship. Our iron in the hat was a lot of fun and everyone participated due to Steve King donating the hammer and anvil tools to the pot. We have a great group of folks young to old and we appreciate all of them. Until next time.

Kathy Malone,
Treasurer.



The Blacksmith's Project Book: Intermediate & Advanced Projects from European Masters

\$49.95 at Artisan Ideas

<https://www.artisanideas.com/home.jhtm>

Artisan Ideas provided me with a copy of "The Blacksmith's Project Book" for review. Because the book was provided at no cost, I intend to put it in the IBA library for all to enjoy. I also plan to purchase a copy because there many fascinating projects in this book that I would like to try.

As the title states this is a book filled with intermediate and advanced projects. Anyone planning to replicate the projects is expected to have a some degree of skill. The projects do not follow a step by step cookbook approach. However the explanations and photographs provide enough detail that intermediate blacksmiths should be able to complete the projects while injecting their own personal touches.

The book covers many different projects and techniques. The wide variety of subjects means there is something of interest for everyone. Each subject is a separate project demonstrated by a different European master. Some of the projects are specific, like sculptures and faces. Other projects are technique oriented like damascening (inlay), patina and restoration.



A project that I would very much like to try is the harp with the musician face and wedged tenon joint. Damascening and metal fusion (coating steel with nonferrous metals) both look interesting to me.

The book is protected by copyrights. The images shown here are taken from the Artisan Ideas website.



Fred Crist: One Piece Rose

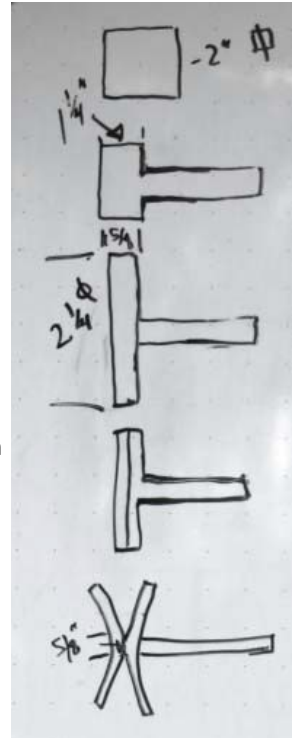
Article reprinted from Northwest Blacksmith Association newsletter 3rd Quarter 2017

Starting material for this one piece rose was a 2 inch cube. Previously, Fred had forged the starting cube into a disk with a tenon on it, the far left piece as pictured in the photo below.



The steps for forging the disk with tenon is seen in the diagram at right.

The demo began with Fred beginning to split the disk into 2 layers along a previously marked center line. He began the cut with a chisel and hammer in the vise, and continued with striker, chisel and bottom cut tool. The cut should be fairly centered, but slight variations will be forged out as the flower is developed. Split the disks down to around 5/8". Be very careful during all the forging process to avoid stress cracking the tenon where it joins the disks. It takes around 3 heats to split to desired depth. There is no need to fuller the inside of the cut smooth because that will all be hidden inside the finished flower. Spread the disks evenly, until they are 2 1/2" diameter.



Fred tried spreading them on the very handy bridge tool he brought, but it proved awkward and inefficient with the demo setup, so he finished the forging using the anvil and a block with a hole in it, first hitting one side then the other, evenly all the way around, heating as needed. The two disks will not forge weld together when worked this way.

Bridge shaped anvil tool (placed in the vise because the demo anvil was not stable enough).





Draw cut lines in the top disk layer, for seven evenly sized petals with a silver pen. Heat and cut lines as drawn, don't worry about marking the bottom disk layer, but try not to cut into it. Heat and pry up the first two petals. Forge the petals out, thinning them and fanning out the outer edge of the petal. Curl the petal around the horn then tightening the curl on the bridge tool or the anvil, whichever surface was best for the blow. Once the petal is curled up tightly, heat and forge the base of the bud a bit tighter.



Work one petal, then the petal opposite it, one by one, until all 7 petals of the top disk (the inside petals of the flower) have been curled into a tight bud.



Mark the bottom disk (outer petals) for five evenly sized petals.

Wrap outer petals following the same steps as for the inner petals. Heat with a torch to isolate the petals and to minimize stress on the top of the stem.

When all the petals are wrapped tightly into a bud, forge the base of the bud just a bit tighter yet. To spread the petals, opening it from the outermost petals inward, heat the flower with a torch and pry open the petals with a pliers and screw driver. Shape the flower to a natural looking form... A flower!

The source of this one piece flower technique is Paul Zimmermann, passed down to Heiner Zimmermann his son, and on to Fred.

More information about Fred Crist can be found online: <http://facristmetalsmith.com/>

Follow Fred on FaceBook
<https://www.facebook.com/fred.crist.3>





Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

38'th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*TIPTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
TIPTON, INDIANA
June 1-3, 2018*

Featured Demonstrators

Jose “Pep” Gomez & Nathan Allen

With

Bill Conyers power hammer rebuild demo

- ◇ Tailgaters welcome
- ◇ Exhibit Gallery
- ◇ Saturday night auction

THE HOT IRON SPARKLE Volume 32 Number 2

This article is re-printed courtesy of the North Carolina Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America, The Hot Iron Sparkle Newsletter, Second Quarter 2013

Working with Mica

Article by Jim Kennady

Photos by Jim Kennady and Doug Wilson

In February, I attended Paul Garrett's Arts and Crafts Ironwork class at the Folk School. This class taught various techniques to make several items based on work from Greene & Greene, Stickley, Roycroft and others. The class also gave me my first experience working with lampshade mica sheets. The mica style lampshades are common to many arts and crafts style lighting. I made a simple sconce style lamp frame and then proceeded to mould the mica sheet to fit the frame. This was quite a learning experience and I thought I would share this with those who might be interested.

Lampshade mica sheets contain natural mica flakes bonded with shellac or epoxy and is a wonderfully unique material to use for decorative panels in lampshades, wall sconces cabinets and candle shields. The sheets were purchased from the Asheville Mica Company and they have instructions that you can request when buying lampshade mica sheets.

Cutting

The sheet can be cut like roofing tin. I have found that a pair of EMT scissors works very well. The material should be gently cut and supported on both sides to reduce the possibility flaking. Once cut to shape it is ready to be moulded.

Moulding

When the sheets are warmed they become pliable, when they cool the shape is retained. The sheets could be warmed in an oven. It is best not to use the kitchen oven as the sheet does put off a resin odor when heated. We used an industrial heat gun on high heat to mould the sheet to fit the frame. This allows you to gently mould the sheet over a longer time. I think this worked better than heating the sheets in an oven. The sheet can rapidly cool and can be difficult to fully mould the sheet in one heat. Heat a small area of the sheet carefully while applying light pressure to begin forming the shape you want. It will be most helpful if you have three or four hands for this. Also helpful are pair of 'clean' kevlar gloves



and a wooden spoon. The sheet will develop a light sheen when heated and you can feel the sheet get soft. The sheet will not slump much under only it's own weight and you will need to form with your hands, spoons or other tools while continuing to



apply heat. Once you have the desired shape, continue to apply light pressure, remove the heat and allow to cool for ~30 seconds. The sheet can be formed over and over again.



Use of molds or forms to help shape the mica to the curvatures desired is recommended. Sheets are a moldable product bonded resin. While the material needs to be heated to a flexible state of approximately 250-300 °F, too much heat will burn, discolor and embrittle the material. Additional heating will re-soften the plate, thus allowing more forming and fitting to the shape desired, as long as the sheet is not overheated. DO NOT HEAT OVER 300 °F.

Surface Preparation for Gluing

The sheet as supplied is normally milled (sanded) to reduce thickness variations. After this process the product is surface coated with the appropriate bonding agent. If applying a varnish, light sanding to the surface as preparation for this coating is recommended. If gluing the plate to another surface, such as a metal or wood frame, a two-part epoxy adhesive is recommended.

Final Surface Coatings

For most indoor applications additional coatings are not needed. For sun exposures, care should be taken to use varnishes which are UV light stabilized to prevent yellowing. Exterior use requires careful selection of a waterproof finish. Also, a heavy "bead" coating on the cut edge is required to seal the edges and avoid capillary moisture absorption.

Asheville-Schoonmaker Mica Co.

Mica and Mica Products

900 Jefferson Avenue

PO Box 318

Newport News, VA 23607-6120

PH 757-244-7311

FX 757-245-5236

<http://decorative.ashevilmica.com/decorative.html>

Pre-Conference Classes at Conner Prairie

Blacksmithing: Forge Welding

Wednesday, May 30 • 9 am-5 pm

\$115/non-member (\$105/ Conner Prairie member)

Ages 16+

Welding is an ancient technique that is not only practical but produces an aesthetic that can't be matched with other processes. In this class, we'll learn the basics of welding using a coal forge. Several different types of welds will be practiced including lap welds, "t" welds and chain links. Previous blacksmithing experience strongly preferred to get the most out of this class.

Blacksmithing: Making Tongs

Thursday, May 31 • 9 am-5 pm

\$125/non-member (\$115/Conner Prairie member)

Ages 16+

Making your own tools is a rewarding part of the blacksmith's trade, and good tongs are an essential part of the work. In this class, we'll cover the basics of making tongs to suit different types of work, such as flat bit, bolt, box jaw and offset jaw tongs. To get the most out of this class some basic blacksmithing experience is preferred

Sign Up & Details: <http://www.connerprairie.org/things-to-do/events/prairie-pursuits>



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Farrel Wells *Membership Secretary*

8235 E 499 S

Dunkirk, IN 47336-8807

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March 17 IBA Business Meeting

Kelly Farms / Doc Ramseyer Shop

6032 W 550 N Sharpsville, IN 46060

Located just west of US-31. Approximately 6 miles north of SR-28 (Tipton) or 3 miles south of SR-26 (Kokomo).

Please bring a dish to share

April 21 Hammer In

Sanderson Iron

10AM—6 PM

344 Maple Rd, Quincy, MI 49082

Directions: Take I69 north to US 12 exit. Take US12 east for 7.5 miles and turn right onto Maple Road. The shop is about 1.1 miles on the right.

Lunch will be a local restaurant