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December 2016

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.

Dec 2016 **DON REITZEL'S SHOP (2ND SATURDAY)**

Jan 2017 **TBD**

Feb 2017 **KEN DETTMER'S SHOP COLUMBUS**

Mar 2017 **BUSINESS MEETING**

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CANDLEABRA**Dates to Remember**March 18
IBA Business
Meeting

June 2-4
IBA Conference

Editors Message

We are wrapping up the year with some good hammer ins. Last month the Covered Bridge Blacksmith Guild hosted us at their shop in Rockville. We had several different demonstrators showing different projects. See page 6 for pictures submitted by Dave Wells. This month our hammer in is hosted by Don Reitzel. Don's shop has plenty of heat, so do not let the weather keep you away. John Bennett will be demonstrating for us.

Here are some items to consider for the upcoming year:

1. The 2017 IBA Conference will be the first weekend in June.
 - The group project is a "free standing coat rack". As usually the theme provides a lot of room for creativity. You can use some of the upcoming cool days to develop some good ideas on motif, design and construction.
 - Demonstrator Gordon Williams. I had an opportunity to see Gordon demonstrate at UMRBC (Pontiac) several years ago. Gordon is a captivating demonstrator with immense amounts of energy. More information about Gordon can be found at:
<http://www.gwblacksmithschool.com/home.html> or
<https://www.facebook.com/gwblacksmithschool/>
 - Demonstrator Robert Trout: Robert is a master coppersmith. He is one of eight metalsmiths with distinction of being a Roycroft Master Artisan as well as an instructor at the John C Campbell folk school.
2. Start thinking about Blacksmith of the Year and Rookie of the Year nominations. Charlie Helton is the awards chairperson. Charlie has a desire to see nominations coming from every IBA satellite group. He is hoping to see 14 or more nominations. Certainly we have more than 14 qualified people for each award. Award qualifications and nomination forms are posted on the IBA web site under the "membership" link.
3. Consider taking an active role as an IBA director. Each year we have two director positions coming up for election/relection. If you are interested in filling one of those positions, contact Steve King (Ph: (812) 797-0059 or email: kingknives@live.com). Ballots will be included in the February newsletter, so get with Steve soon.

Jim Johnston tells me he is working with Tom Latané on a possible class this coming spring or summer. The specific subject/project has not been identified. Prior to our 2014 Conference, Tom instructed a class on making a Viking style axe/hatchet. That class was extremely well received. If you are interested in a new class with Tom, please contact Jim so he can understand the level of interest.

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
 Contact: Clint Casey (260) 627-6270

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
 Kathy Malone (812) 725-3310

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) The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

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

10) One-Armed Blacksmith Shop

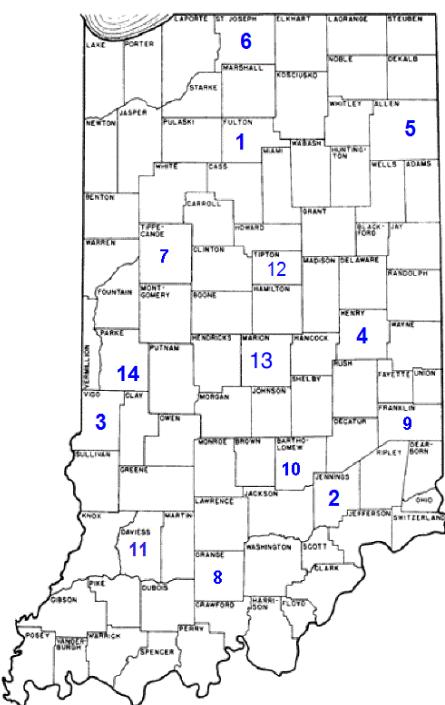
Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contact: Tim Metz (812) 447-2606

12) "Doc" Ramseyer Blacksmith Shop

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

14) Covered Bridge Blacksmith Guild

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



Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths started their day off with Ray Sease making coffee and getting the forge going. Thanks to the generosity of Bill Kendrick, we did have some much needed heat. Thanks Bill! Nathan Pevlor, an upcoming smith from the Bartholomew Co. 4-H'ers, crafting a leaf and practicing basic skills. Barak Kirchner worked diligently on a heart shaped dinner ringer. Alex Spellman started a heavy duty pot rack. Leigh Ann Peters worked on a leaf, with a little help. Lincoln Cooper and Landon Ferguson took their turn at the forge practicing basic skills, the most important thing for beginners. We had a record iron-in-the-hat, with 34 in attendance. Remember- December we meet at the Bartholomew County Fair Grounds Heritage Building . And my house in January! Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving !

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

One-Armed Blacksmith Shop

The One-Armed Blacksmith Shop held its normal first-Saturday meeting on December 3rd at its smithy located on the grounds of the Bartholomew County Historical Society's Henry Breeding farm. Present were Ken Dettmer, Jim Jesse, Charlie Helton, John McDaniel, Tim Metz, Jeff Park, Nathan Pevlor, Charles Shaw, and Nick Walter.



Nick Walter works on his snail striker while Nathan Pevlor looks on.

Maintenance work on the smithy's Little Giant power hammer continued with several improvements being made to facilitate periodic lubrication. Additional enhancements are planned for the hammer.

Jim Jesse provided both raw stock (sections of recycled dump rake tines) and guidance on forging a Scottish snail striker. Several attendees took advantage of the forge fire to make strikers – gaining experience in forging, hardening, and tempering.

For lunch, a hearty bean soup was supplied by Tim Metz with additional foodstuffs provided by Jim Jesse and Charlie Shaw.

The group's January 7, 2017 meeting will be held at Tim Metz's smithy.

John McDaniel
OABS Reporter



Scottish snail striker..... approximately 4" long.

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

The Meteorite Mashers met at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Floyds Knobs this month for now infamous Smoked Turkey Hammer-in. Well attended, and we had 3 forges going most of the day with lots of beginners instruction going on. Steve King demonstrated making a hammer with Isaiah Jenkins striking. Pete Riddle made a set of punches, Christopher Baker made a copper split cross with Jeff Reinhardt assisting. Jeff also demonstrated making a messaluna. Isaiah Jenkins and Tristan Forrester made a Damascus billet. 2 smoked turkeys were provided to feed the masses along with a stupendous layout as everyone stepped

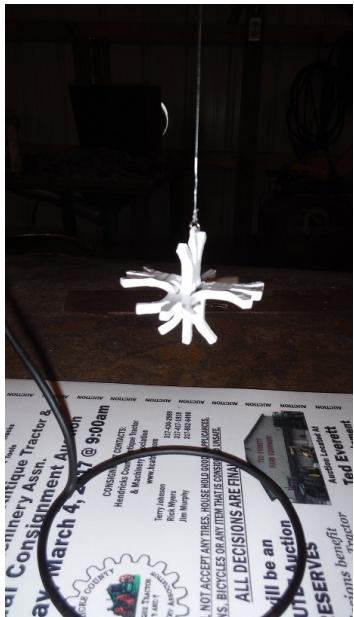
up the food for this meeting. Forging went on till almost 6 pm.



The next meeting will be at Dave Kunkler's shop in Branchville on December 31st.



IBA November Hammer In (photos courtesy of Dave Wells)



Editor's Note: Ed Puttoff was an active and valued member of the Jennings County Satellite group. Ed's shop sat idle for several years after his death. This past year the family contacted Ray Sease to assist in selling the unused tools and equipment. The family asked that this letter of gratitude be published in the Forge Fire.

November 25, 2016

Mr. Ray Sease

CC: North Vernon Chapter and Indiana Blacksmithing Association

Mr. Sease,

We the family of Edwin Puttoff would like to take the time and consideration to say **THANK YOU!!**

We greatly appreciate your patience and consideration in the purchase of Ed's equipment and tools. Ed would be pleased that the blacksmithing association that he loved so much now has it in their capable hands. We would especially like to express thank you to Mr. Ray Sease and his wife for his travel time and fairness in making this transaction happen as smoothly as possible. Also, Mr. Bill Kendrick and staff for your time. All has made this experience comforting in the respect of Ed's memory and we are so grateful.

Thank you,

The Edwin Puttoff Family

Heart Wall Sconce - by Jymm Hoffman

Materials: 3/8" Hot Rolled Square X 18" long
16 – 18 gauge sheet, 5" X 4
2 1/2" long rivets (3/16" diameter or smaller)

Since many people know much of my works are historical reproductions, I feel it is important to include a disclaimer. This is not a copy of an historical item. It is an item that Mark Bokenkamp of Loudonville, Ohio, showed me in the early 1980's. The original creator is unknown but believed to have been alive in the 1980's.

I normally make a pair of these at a time and they have sold more often as a pair than singles. Therefore, I normally start working on both at the same time, heart shapes first. I have found trying to match every step along the way is easier than completing one sconce then trying to match the completed one. The following dimensions are approximate, the key is making both alike. Some have heard me answer questions about how long or how thick by saying, "about that much."



Upset one end of each 3/8" bars to about 1/2" on the end tapering back to the 3/8" bar over about 11/2".

Start spreading to form an approximate outline of the sides of the heart shape. I use my cross peen to fuller out most of this, finishing with the face of my hammer to take out the marks and smooth it up. Some tricks in this process include working both sides as I spread it out. Also, a trick I learned from Peter Ross, Master Blacksmith at Colonial Williamsburg, is to flatten the peen on my hammer. Rounded and very narrow peens end up cutting the metal as it gets thinner. One of the first things I do to a factory made peen is flatten most of it, leaving a radius so there are not sharp edges. Also, another important trick is to focus the blows at the center and work out. Leave the edges thicker than the center until you are close to finishing spreading out the metal. Once I have the width of the heart to my satisfaction, I cool it off to start on the other end.



I taper both pieces down to about 1/4" square for about 5" long. I knock the corner down into octagon. I then put a shoulder on the end and punch the hole for a rivet. Bend and upset the corner for the candle holder and wax cup. Bend the curve around my horn. After getting the first curve to my liking, I mark the horn with soap stone as a guide for the second.



Twist both pieces. I normally mark my vise with soap stone where the end of the first sconce was held. For the other end I will either set a pair of dividers as a guide for the distance of the twisting wrench or simply keep the other sconce near by. Once the twist is nice and even, I bend the pieces so that they lay flat on the wall from the top of the heart through the twist to the start of the curve away from the wall. Let these parts air cool.

I start on the wax cups. I use my divider to strike two 4" circles, with a deep center punch mark in the sheet. I then trace my candle holder patterns and also put a deep center punch mark in the center.



Cut out the circles and candle holders with a shear. Clean off all burs and clean up the center of the candle holder with a 1/2 round file.

Sink the wax cups (technically raise them down) into my wedge block. I start at the outside edge and spiral down to the center. Take out any wrinkles as soon as you see them.

Peen the veins into the candle holders with a chipping hammer, cup them in the step of my anvil. Curl the ends, then finish forming them around a 3/4" diameter rod. Let air cool.

Back to the heart shape at the top of the sconces. I use a half round file to finish the outside shape as well as cut the V into the top of the heart. Then I hot punch the nail holes. Let these air cool.

Drill or cold punch the holes in the candle holders and wax cups.

Assemble the candle holders and wax cups to the wall part. Put the rivet on the 3/4" bar that is still in the vice on the screw. Put the pieces on over the rivet. You can then get things to line up relatively well as you peen down the rivet.

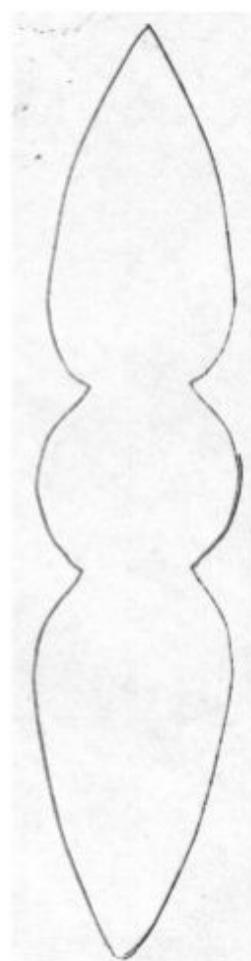


Finish options: Cold application of tongue oil; a mix of equal parts of linseed oil, turpentine, and white vinegar; paste wax, or some kind of clear spray.



These always look best when mounted with hand forged nails.

Template for
Candle Cups
(Actual Size)



Editor's Note: This article reprinted from the December 2016 edition of Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association newsletter.



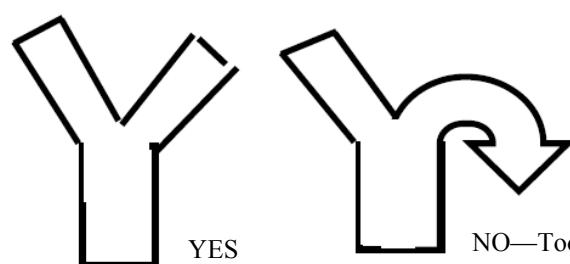
Dave Custer (PAABA Demonstrator for August 2017!)

Dave was the demonstrator for the Fall ABA (Appalachian Blacksmiths Association) Conference. He was an amazing smith; very accomplished and comfortable at the forge. He has a sense of humor, a lightheartedness, his confidence is clearly recognizable, and his ability to use a hammer is impressive. In addition to his obvious physical strength he has a humble and friendly approach to his craft....at only 24 years old! You won't find "attitude" with this young man, he is a truly talented individual and an all around nice guy.

Dave made a three candle candelabra in record time using traditional methods and an elegant bird sculpture on Saturday. His use of tools and tooling is efficient and purposeful. The following tips are from his demonstration. PAABA has scheduled Dave to demonstrate at Steel Welding in August 2017! In the meantime, read these tips and apply them to some of your projects, you are sure to save time and perfect some of your techniques.

Dave's Tips: On splitting-

- ◆ Just split from one side, and forge the edge back in. Dave feels that splitting from both sides leaves a ragged edge. He carefully watches the "split happen" without cutting into his anvil.
- ◆ Having a "V" shaped end ground on a slot punch guides the metal around the punch instead of plowing like a flat punch.



- ◆ Don't bend the leg all the way down after splitting. It is common to want to get it out of the way to clean up the leg you are working on but it puts undue stress on the split, just move it out of the way then clean up the other leg. You will have much more success.



Editor's note: This article reprinted from Dec 2016 edition of Pittsburgh Area Artist—Blacksmith Association newsletter

More Tips Continued:

- ◆ If you want a 3/8" hole make a 3/8" slot.
- ◆ Dave makes his chisels softer than the anvil because it is cheaper to sharpen a chisel than to re-pair an anvil face.
- ◆ Dave uses Iron Mountain Flux for forge welding. It has iron filings in it for a little traction as he calls it when welding. He finds it gives him a more consistent and even weld. When asked about using Borax, Dave commented that he found it slippery and did not get as good of results.
- ◆ He recommends chamfering all edges for a finished look on a flat bar.
- ◆ Dave uses a flat jaw tongs as opposed to box tong or other tongs because you can release your grip slightly and move material to a more ideal position quickly. It takes some time to get use to this method and you need a firm grip.
- ◆ If you are "eyeballing" a center, use a light hammer first to mark, it is easy to make the adjustment.
- ◆ When making a tenon, be careful when you turn it, you can easily twist it off as you are forging or cleaning it up.
- ◆ Grab enough material to forge a small tenon then cut it off to correct size/length. No use spending the energy and aggravation to forge a tiny tenon when making it a little longer is more efficient, just cut off the extra length.
- ◆ Refer to the center post on the candelabra (right), slightly taper the this area before twisting, it gives it an elegant finish to the work, this subtle detail make a big difference.
- ◆ If a candle disc is too thick, forge the edges to thin a bit, it will give the illusion of lighter stock.
- ◆ When checking two scrolls to match, make one side then proceed to next. Resist pulling our the ruler, it sometimes complicates things more than needs to be— train and use your "eye"!
- ◆ Get in the habit of NOT putting your tongs in the fire.
- ◆ Taper just the tip of a collar, it makes it just a bit easier to wrap around, and let it air cool because you are going to wrap it around cold.

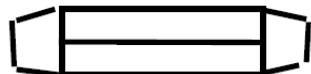


Background

Dave began blacksmithing when he was 13 and what started out only 9 years ago with a goofy looking fab-shop version of a brake drum forge, an old champion #400 hand-crank blower, a small 4-nch post vise and a little 89 pound Trenton anvil and now has now developed into the Fiery Furnace Forge Blacksmith LLC - a bustling and crowded 720 square foot shop located in Columbia, Kentucky. At the age of 18 he started taking classes at the John C. Campbell Folk School where his instructors included Jerry Darnell, Greg Price, Mark & Mindy Gardner, Steve Williamson and, of course, Clay Spencer. Spending time with Brian Brazeal in Mississippi also had a great influence on his forging style. Dave was a member of the Young Smiths 2012 forging team, spending 30 days traveling the mid west demonstrating at the ABANA conference and teaching at different blacksmith venues. 2013 was the first year Dave had attended Quad State and he won the forging competition, and over the past year he has assisted Clay Spencer with teaching several classes.*

*From SOFA SOUNDS 2014 Program

Right: Three candle candelabra made using traditional methods in record time!





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December 10 Hammer In

**Don Reitzel's Shop, 4113 W County Road 900 S, Stilesville, IN
46180**

Directions: Take I-70 west of Indianapolis to exit 59 (SR 39). North on SR 39 for 1 mile. Turn left on County Road 900. Shop is about 6 miles on left.