

April 2016

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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.

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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.

**Apr 16  
2016**

**YODER BLACKSMITH SHOP &  
FORGE, GOSHEN, INDIANA**

**May 21  
2016**

**JEFF REINHARDT SHOP  
FLOYD'S KNOBS, INDIANA**

**June 3-5  
2016**

**IBA CONFERENCE  
TIPTON FAIRGROUNDS**

**July 16  
2016**

**TBD**



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COLONIAL  
WILLAMSBURG

## **Dates to Remember**

April 16  
IBA Hammer In  
Mark Yoder' Shop  
Goshen

May 21  
IBA Hammer In  
Jeff Reinhardt'  
Shop Floyds Knobs

June 3-5  
IBA Conference

Sept 23-25  
Quad State SOFA

## **Editors Message**

The IBA annual business meeting was held last month at Kelly Farms. Highlights of the meeting are listed page 6.

The IBA's 14th satellite group that was formed late last year in Parke County. The group is called the Covered Bridge Blacksmith Guild. They meet the first Saturday of each month at the Parke County 4-H Fairgrounds in Rockville, IN. Contact is John Bennett at (812) 877-7274. They also are hosting a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Covered-Bridge-Blacksmith-Guild-880174938757192/>).

We have a special treat for our April hammer in. Mark Yoder will be our host at the Yoder Blacksmith Shop & Forge in Goshen, IN. This is a small shop, (22' wide x 31' ) with a brick forge, and unique interior...with old barn wood, from a 100 year old barn, and tin from a local 1800s blacksmith shop. Mark was fortunate to accumulate some of the Tim Kriss's museum anvils, one which dates over 700 years old. These are pictured in the book, "Anvils Thru the Ages", plus a few other unusual anvils. We are expecting to have Zack Royer demonstrate how he makes his hammers... he's from the Wakarusa, Indiana area...as well as (as couple guys from IBA). Bring your own chairs, there will be biscuits and gravy for those who arrive by 9am. (officially beginning at 9:30am) Lunch break at 12:00, there are many choices for lunch, 3 miles away, in Goshen.. Parking is along the driveway and additional parking in the field & pasture in front of the house.

The May hammer in will be at the opposite end of the state. Jeff Reinhardt will be our host at his shop in Floyds Knobs. Jeff has a special demonstration planned, but he is not saying what it is.

Those of you who are fans of the History Channel show Forged in Fire know the March 15<sup>th</sup> episode featured a young blacksmith from northern Indiana named Morgan Medlen. Morgan is a member of the St Joe Valley satellite group. The 5 day "home" project was filmed in Bill Conyers' shop.

The following information was sent to me by Jerry Medlen:

Morgan has started a Blacksmithing area at our Boy Scout Camp going on it's 4th year. He started this area right out of High School with a single crank forge and 1 anvil under a canvas tarp in the woods to last summer 5 work stations under a lean to. Now this spring we are putting in permanent facilities with 10 work stations and 1 teaching station. Funds and materials are being gathered for this by Morgan himself. We have the blue prints permits are being pulled. He has pushed relentlessly to expose young boys and people in general to blacksmithing and recommends the IBA to anyone that express's interest in blacksmithing.

**Visit the IBA website at: [www.indianablacksmithing.org](http://www.indianablacksmithing.org)**

## 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 and 4th Saturday  
 Contact: Clint Casey (260) 627-6270  
 Bruce Teegarden (260) 226-1722

### 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

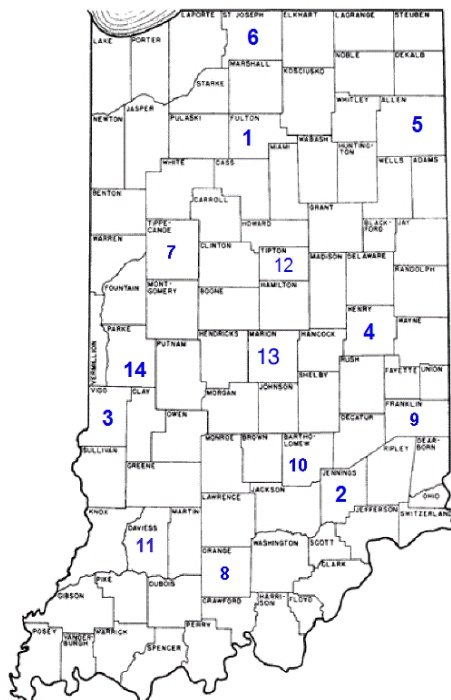
Meet: 1st Saturday  
 Contact: Tim Metz (812) 447-2606

### 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 March meeting of The Jackson County Historical Society Blacksmiths was held at the home of Kevin and Pam Welsh. Charlie Helton and Brad Weaver gave an excellent demonstration of tongs for holding RR spikes. This is the revised version of the original ones. There are different sizes of spikes, so you may want to have a pair of tongs for each size. Alex Spellman, one of our beginners, showed excellent promise by forging a really nice fire poker. Russel Dean formed five large leaves from blanks. Leland Dean worked very diligently on a spring for a knife blank. We enjoyed a very large pitch-in meal. Lots of food was left over, even though we did our best to try to rid the dishes, we failed miserably. The food and fellowship here is the main reason many of us were here. You just can't beat it. We had great hosts. There were 23 or more who attended. there were some nice items in the iron-in-the-hat. Thanks to all who made it a success. Our next meeting in April will be putting us back in our Vernon forge. It may be a little cool, but we have braved it before. Come help us celebrate our return to the "home forge". As always, it is the second Saturday of the month. Paul Bray

## IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

### One-Armed Blacksmith Shop

The One-Armed Blacksmith Shop held its normal first-Saturday meeting on April 2th at its smithy located on the grounds of the Bartholomew County Historical Society's Henry Breeding farm. Present were Paul Bray, Jim Jessee, John McDaniel, Charles Shaw, and guest John Whitmore.

Jim Jessee demonstrated an elegant small candle holder. The base and drip catcher were hot-dished on the swage block. From seamless tubing Jim made the candle cup by gently hammering the end of a short piece of seamless tubing closed and flaring the other end.

To begin the handle, a fishtail was fullered on one end of a 7" piece of flat stock. About 4" of the opposite end was width- tapered slightly and then a generous finger sized loop was formed. Final assembly consisted of bending the handle stock 90°, drilling the necessary holes and cold-riveting everything together.

Jim also graciously made the necessary materials available to anyone wishing to try their hand at making their own candle holder --- Thanks, Jim.



Members Jim Jessee and John McDaniel are working with local Hauser Junior High School to mentor two "apprentices". The apprentices will be demonstrating basic blacksmithing skills to approximately 600 younger students during the local historical society's mid-May Spring-on-the-Farm event.

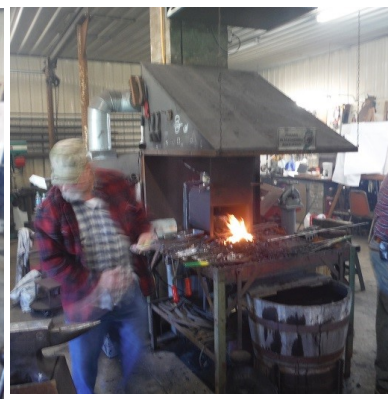
April's Iron-the-Hat was especially successful with no one leaving empty handed.... despite the best efforts of some!

At next month's meeting (May 7<sup>th</sup>) Charlie Shaw will be demonstrating his version of the \$50 Knife Shop one-brick forge – don't miss it!

John McDaniel  
OABS Reporter

### Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop

There was only 7 smiths showed up. Two of the seven were new members (Scott Odom and Larry Bowden), greatly needed. We worked on the project and made good results. Only two more meetings before the conference, we should be done. A couple years in the past we actually finished painting at the conference site. Reported by Dave Wells





## IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

### St. Joe Valley Forgers

March was a busy month for the St. Joe Valley Forgers. On March 19th and 20th we demonstrated blacksmithing at Sugar Camp Days in the Bendix Woods County Park. We made split crosses, and Mason jar handles. Additionally we made heart, maple leaf and arrow head charms. Fred Oden and Tim Pearson of the Sutton-Terock Memorial Blacksmith Shop group came to help us.

The following Saturday we had a number of visitors at our regular monthly meeting. One group came all the way from Chicago after seeing us at Sugar Camp Days.

Mark Hohulin

Reporting



### The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

The meteorite Mashers met at Dave Kunkler's shop in Branchville this month. Attendance was small this month as many have kids on spring break. Pete Riddle made a basket handled coal fire rake the hard way, by slitting the basket out of solid bar with Butch Sparks assisting. The finished coal rake came out very nicely. Jeff Reinhardt demonstrated a ginkgo



leaf for Isaiah Jenkins who then finished the leaf into a key ring and placed it into the iron in the hat. The Iron in the hat drawing was a nice layout out of goodies, well liked by those who won:) Isaiah Jenkins forged a knife blade from a file with Butch Sparks advising on how to normalize and straighten the resultant blade. The April meeting will be at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Floyd's knobs. The IBA State hammer-in will be at Jeff's shop in May. Jeff has an unusual demonstration planned, unlike one performed at an IBA hammer-in yet. You'll have to attend to see what it is:)





## IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

### Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

On April 2, 2016 the Bunking Valley Metalsmiths met at Elnora In. It was a windy and chilly . We still had a great time. We had meat and cheese trays . Everyone brought chips and deserts. No one went hungry . We had about 45ish in attendance.



# IBA



**Indiana Blacksmith Association**

**AUCTION**

**June 4, 2016 @ 6:00**

**Tipton County Fair Grounds**

***~ OPEN TO PUBLIC ~***

**Come early to view the gallery!**

Disclaimer: Sellers reserve right to withdraw items.

**Contacts:** Bill Kendrick @ 812-445-3009 or [bill.d.bendrich@cummins.com](mailto:bill.d.bendrich@cummins.com)  
Alvin Cave @ 765-623-5707 or [ascave98@frontier.com](mailto:ascave98@frontier.com)

**Auctioneer:** Alvin D. Cave - License #: AU10800005

## IBA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(unofficial notes by Bill Kendrick)

At the start of the meeting, Gary Phillips announced that he had been suffering from severe kidney failure. The condition was life threatening, but appears to be controllable with dialysis treatment. He does feel well enough to continue to serve on the IBA board.

New **IBA board members** are Jeff Reinhardt and David Kunkler. They are replacing Dominick Andrisani and Ted Stout.

The **board officers** remain the same: Gary Phillips—President  
Bill Conyers—Vice President  
Keith Hicks—Secretary  
Farrel Wells—Treasurer

The **auction** set for Saturday, June 4, during the Conference will be open to the public. We intend to promote the auction with flyers and internet listing. IBA members are encouraged to donate items that would appeal to blacksmiths and non-blacksmiths. Items selling for \$100 or more are eligible for 50/50 split with the donor. The intent is to showcase the skills and talents of the IBA members and to encourage donations. We plan to have an on-line listing to generate buyer interest. The expectation is that listed items would be committed to sell

Last year's **financial summary** was reviewed and approved. I do not have the numbers as I type the newsletter. I will provide that in an upcoming edition. On the balance sheet we did come out ahead again. Our financial position is strong. There are plans to move forward with a financial audit. We have not had an audit for many years. Farrel Wells had recommended having one as sound practice.

We had an open discussion about the upcoming **Conference**. Demonstrators and classes are confirmed. There will be a one day pre-Conference class instructed by Kurt Fehrenbach. The class will cover power hammer use and tooling. The class will be held at Conner Prairie. More details about the Conference are listed on the next page. The Conference brochure and registration forms will be headed to the printer shortly.

There was some discussion about **satellite group participation** at IBA board meetings. Each satellite group is encouraged to have at least one member present at each board meeting. The board usually meets 4 times a year, so this is not a big commitment. The intent is to ensure the satellite groups' needs and desires are being represented.

The IBA offers **scholarships** for people wanting to take classes to improve their skills. The scholarship maximum was increased to \$500. To qualify for the scholarship, the student is required to demonstrate at an IBA hammer in and to submit an article for publication in the ForgeFire. Jim Johnston is the scholarship chairperson. Contact Jim if you interested in taking a class.

**IBA CONFERENCE**  
**JUNE 3, 4, 5**  
**Tipton County Fairgrounds**

**Featured demonstrators:**

Kim Thomas - Traditional Blacksmithing

Nathan Allen - Tools and projects based on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century examples

Steve King - Tools to make tools & forging a ladies ring

Wesley Hale - Latches, hinges and other gate hardware

**Classes:**

Beginners Blacksmithing with Keith Hicks: no charge

Baskets with Connie Retter: no charge

Power hammer use and tooling with Kurt Fehrenbach: \$25  
(June 2 at Conner Prairie)

**Auction June 4 @ 6 PM**

Open to the public

**Items selling for \$100 or higher eligible for 50/50 split**

**Bring your best, you and the IBA will benefit**

**Tailgaters welcome**

**Coal will be available for purchase**

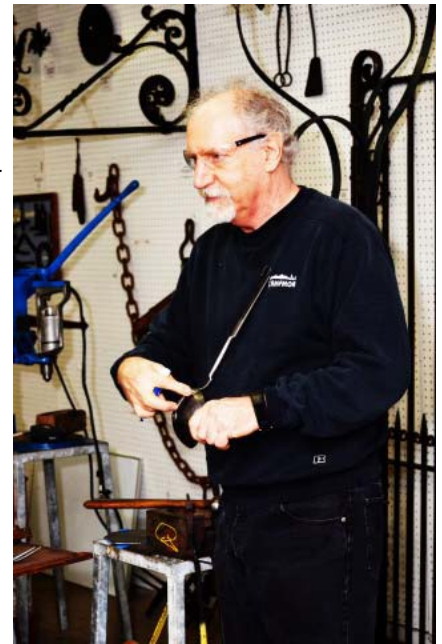
**Full Conference brochure and registration form will be coming soon.**



## October 2015 Mentoring Center Workshop with Jay Close: Colonial Williamsburg Blacksmith *Text by Hardie Swage, Photos by Dan Bowyer*

When asked for a few pithy quotes to epitomize his blacksmithing philosophy Jay offered the following:

- *I guess I'm an old school fool.*
- *I admire the objects and designs of our past, but I'm also intrigued by the tools and processes that produced them. It's not just romanticism, but a conviction that the heart of the blacksmiths' trade is what the skilled worker can accomplish with simple tools and very direct methods. I refuse to believe that the tools and materials that produced some of the most admired ironwork of the past 3000 years have suddenly become inadequate to the task.*
- *I think that the approach I take has something to offer every smith because it emphasizes hammer skills and efficient work habits. These two should be the foundation of all blacksmith training and practice.*



### A student's take away from the Jay Close workshop, teaching his system learned at Colonial Williamsburg, By Hardie Swage Oct 2015

Basic rule of life and craft...BE AWARE

Learn fundamentals Draw (including single and double shoulders), Upset, Bend, Twist, Cut, Weld, Punch, Stamp, File

Eliminate needless Blows, Heats, Steps, Tools

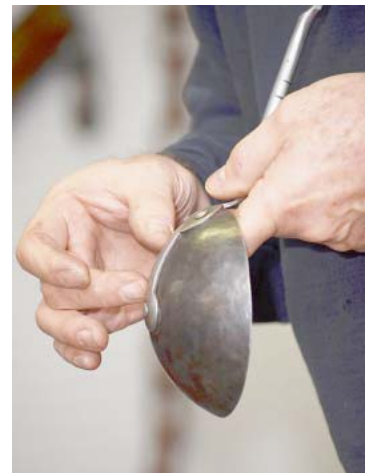
Review/evaluate your work constantly

Never let buying a new tool rob you of learning a new skill

HEAT + HARD BLOWS + SET UP are all are needed to get resulting shape you want from a bar.

Choose a hammer you can swing all day. With the leading edge of the head on your finger tips, the handle should just fit in the crook of your elbow. Use the whole handle.

Start your swing by getting the hammer above your eye sight. Start the down swing and then just hand on for the ride. Muscling it all the way just eliminates rebound, all the work is in raising the hammer.



See a coal/coke fire as a layer cake from the side and a bulls eye from the top. The hottest layer and center of the bulls eye should be the best heat. A strong air blast raises to hottest layer above the fire pot.

Start work at a yellow heat to get max out of the changing the shape of the bar. Last part of every heat is getting ready for the next heat, smooth and correct.

THINK AHEAD, plan your next forging step during the heat, not after you have taken the bar from the fire.

The anvil horn is under utilized, not just for bending, great for drawing out.

Modern alloys teach us to abuse tools, the finest work ever done was with soft iron and simple carbon steels.

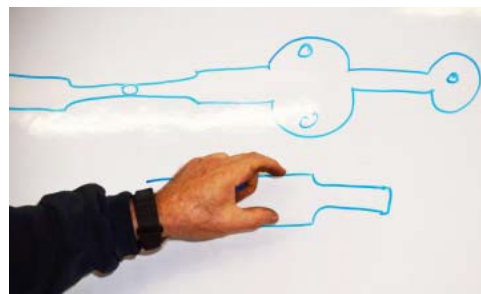
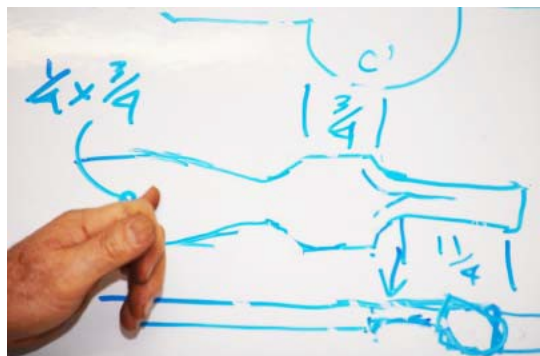
Cold punch below 1/8" in thickness, use a hard punch and soft die block.

NEVER STOP LEARNING AND GROWING!

This article reprinted from the 4th quarter 2015 Northwest Blacksmith Association newsletter.

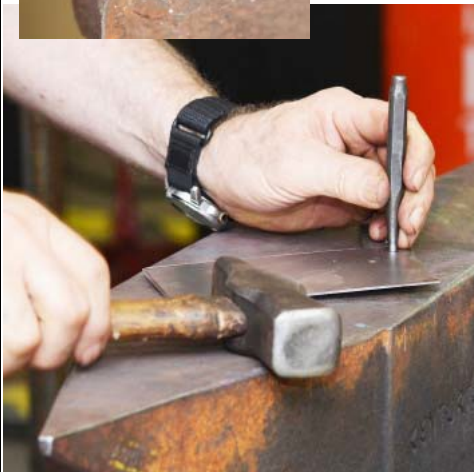
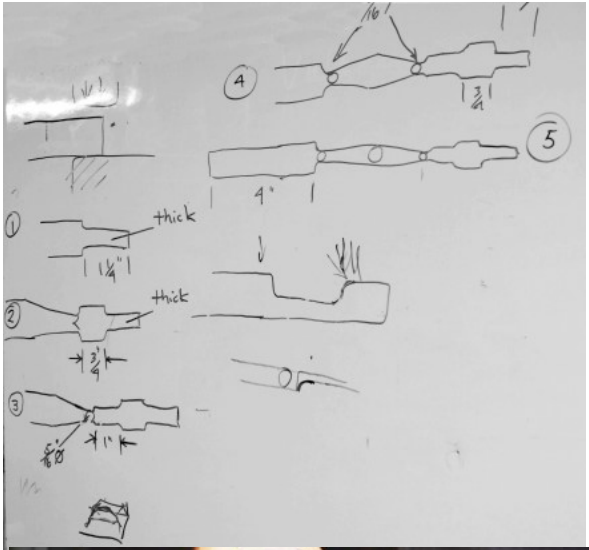
## October 2015 Mentoring Center Workshop with Jay Close: Colonial Williamsburg Blacksmith

The photo series on this page and the next shows some of the processes involved in forging a colonial ladle. Thank you Jay Close for coming to the NWBA and teaching a wonderful workshop.





## October 2015 Mentoring Center Workshop with Jay Close: Colonial Williamsburg Blacksmith







## **The *FORGE FIRE***

Newsletter of the  
Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

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

First Class Mail

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If Undeliverable return to  
sender

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### APRIL 16 HAMMER IN

#### **YODER BLACKSMITH SHOP & FORGE**

14887 COUNTY ROAD 40 GOSHEN, INDIANA

Driving directions: From US33 turn east on Elkhart CR 40. Drive about 1.5 miles, shop is on the left.  
Parking along drive and in field in front of the house.

Bring your own chairs. Lunch will be on your own with several restaurants about 3 miles away.

### MAY 21 HAMMER IN

#### **JEFF REINHARDT SHOP**

2810 W. RILEY, FLOYD'S KNOBS, INDIANA

Driving directions: From I-64 take exit # 119. Take first right onto Old Vincennes Road. About 0.7 mile  
turn left onto W. Riley. Go about 0.7 mile on W. Riley. Shop is on the right.

Bring chairs. Pitch in lunch