

June 2017

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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.

July 15
2017

**ST JOE VALLEY FORGERS
BILL CONYERS**

Aug 19
2017

TBD

Sept 16
2017

TBD

Oct 21
2017

TBD



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Sept ??
SOFA

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Editors Message

Hats off to Jim Johnston. He organized another wonderful IBA Conference. We had a weekend packed with superb demonstrations. The Brotherhood of Friendly Hammermen started things off on Friday night. They went through several rounds of group striking, then recruited a number of people from the audience for striker training. Saturday kicked off with Robert Taylor, Gordon Williams and Alex Spellman demonstrating. Later in the day John Bennett demonstrated by making a really pleasant looking organic piece with angle iron.

Charlie Helton presented awards on Saturday night. Blacksmith of the Year was Tim Metz. Tim worked to establish the One-Armed Blacksmith satellite group and he led the efforts to establish blacksmithing as part of the Bartholomew County 4-H program. Nathan Pevlor was our Rookie of the Year. Bill Newman received the Paul Moffett service award. Here are the contest results:

Made at Home:	1st Place	Broadus Thompson
	2nd Place	Michael Kusuda
	3rd Place	Ron Gill
Gallery:	Best of Show	John Bennett
	Award of Merit	Larry Whitesell
Coat Rack:	Best of Show	Vernon Group
	Award of Merit	Larry Whitesell

I will most likely overlook a number of people, but here are some folks who put in a great deal of hard work to set up and tear down: Phoebe Graham, Jim Johnston, Jamie Johnston, Brad Markham, Bill Newman and Larry Whitesell. I also want to recognize Pam & Kevin Welch for helping with the auction. Be sure to thank these folks for their contributions. I apologize to those I forgot to mention.

This year we did have medical emergencies. Both Gary Phillips and Larry Whitesell required emergency treatment for illness. I understand both are undergoing further tests, so please keep them in your prayers.

On pages 10 & 11 you will find information about an event called Ride to Provide. This is an annual event to raise money for worthy causes. This year's ride will raise money to help the IBA's Mark Thomas. Mark suffered a heart attack and bypass surgery last fall and required knee replacement surgery this spring. The IBA would like to provide support for this event and for Mark. Stay tuned for information about a hammer in / public demonstration in conjunction with Ride to Provide.

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

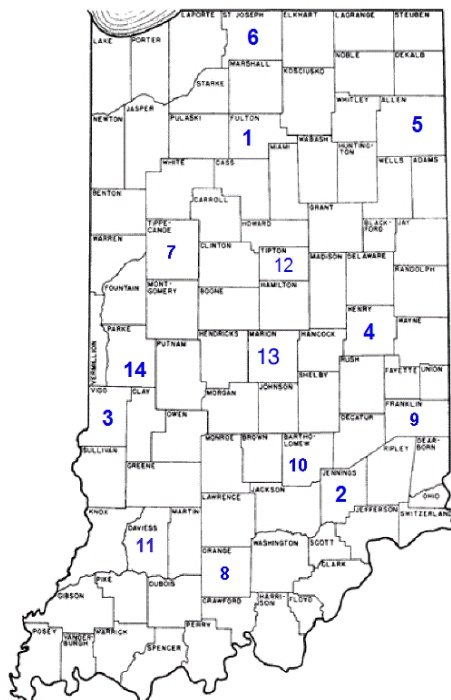
Meet: 1st Saturday
 Contact: Tim Metz (812) 447-2606

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



Meteorite Mashers

Mays meeting was held at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Foyds Knobs. Along with open forge time, striking practice was held and much was learned. The BFH will be doing the Friday night demo at Tipton and this was prep time. Roxane Reinhardt made a big pot of spaghetti with meat sauce, and with Isaiah Jenkins chicken and potato wedges everyone was well fed. Much water was consumed during the striking practice as the sun was out and the temp was in the 80's. Next meeting will be at Butch Spark's shop in English Indiana.

Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths

The Bunkum Valley Metalsmiths met this month in Elnora at Jerry Robinette's shop. Our numbers were down due to graduations and the state meeting in Tipton. But those who came had a good day, good food and lots of forge time. Next month will meet at our normal location. Visitors are always welcome!

IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild



Rocky Forge had a very successful knifemaking meeting at Ted Stout's shop on June 10th with 41 in attendance. At least 25-30 knives were made. Some 8-10 participants left with their knives only needing to glue on the scales. Iron-in-the-Hat brought in \$149 and the pitch-in lunch was so good that a third table had to be set up to accommodate all of the dishes of food. It was a most successful meeting with many young people participating. Ted Stout, Kurt Fahrenbach, Jerry Eitner, and Dan Thayer led the knifemaking.



St. Joe Valley Forgers

Sixteen people attended the St. Joe Valley Forgers May hammer-in. Including visitors from Pakistan and the Philippines. Frank brought a tool he recently got at an auction. The quiz of the day was to guess what the tool was.



Mark Hohulin reporting



Message from IBA 2017 Blacksmith of the Year

I would like to thank the IBA Board and Awards Committee Members for the award bestowed upon me at the 2017 IBA Conference. Few things have impacted my life more than working with metal, one being my personal relationship with my Lord Jesus Christ. One of my earliest recollections was sitting on the front porch of Foster's grocery store in Taylorsville, Indiana. I remember the intense heat of the late June day and the taste of the peanuts that my Papaw had poured into my red pop. Across the street was a blacksmith shop owned and operated by Wink and Irwin Ford. The men were outside working in the hot sun trying to finish shoeing a draft horse. I can remember the smell of the coal burning as well as the smell of the sweat from both man and beast. I can see the muscles of the horse rippling as if it were yesterday, as the men worked at putting shoes on the animal. Papaw said they were getting along better than he did trying to get my shoes on me. I was barefoot.

After much labor the horse was clearly tired of cooperating and would not hold up his foot any longer and the smith was unable to shift the horse's opinion on the matter. I remember the determination on everyone's faces, even the horse was determined to win the battle. His hoofs were trimmed, the shoes were fitted, and all the men needed were a few minutes more to nail on the shoes. It was like the horse knew that this was the only special treatment he would get all year and was determined to make it last. After a short break, a little head scratching and only one addable word spoke, out came a rope. I started to ask what was happening but Papaw was way out in front of me on this one and he told me to be quiet and watch. They created some kind of cradle and tied up one of the horse's front feet up and the horse rolled over on his side and they finished the job with the horse on his side. Even with the intense heat and the battle over getting the job done, I remember how gently the men helped the horse over onto his side and how quickly they worked to get his shoes nailed on and got him back on his feet.

After I was just a bit older, the blacksmith shop was a regular stop for me. I was always peeking into the dark shop to see what the smith was working on. He was unwilling to knowingly have me around for fear of me getting in the way and possibly getting hurt. I would check him out from afar as well as up close when I needed something fixed. I never believed the story about getting hurt, I just thought he was a mean old man and did not want me around asking questions. The reality of why he did not want me around was very different than what he said or what I thought. I do remember thinking that if I ever possessed that much knowledge about something I hoped that I would not be stingy with it and would be willing to share. The reality was, he worked very hard at a trade/craft that was dying a slow death. He had two sons that would have normally taken over a shop of this kind but knowing what he knew, a blacksmith in 1968 would probably not make enough money to survive. He sent one son to the Navy and one to college, his wife had died and Wink was dead also. He was a sad and lonely man not wanting anyone to become interested in a (at that time) dying trade. So he kept me chased away. He even called my parents and told them to keep me away from the shop. Today, I understand what he was doing and in some ways am grateful to him. Most often he seems like a noble friend that I barely knew. I also have this overwhelming desire to not be that man. To not be the man who takes knowledge to his grave with him. If I gain knowledge that can help someone, whether it be my religion or my occupation or my craft or my hobby, and I don't share that knowledge, then I have failed. This is what motivates me to do what I do. Julie and I have raised three daughters and the knowledge of working with metal supported us then and supports us today. I have aligned myself with the IBA and 4H. One place I am the pupil and one place I am the teacher. If I gain knowledge but take it to my grave, what have I achieved in my life?

This is why teachers teach and why preachers preach.

Sincerely, Timothy B Metz

Blacksmithing Book for Young Readers

My name is Robert Gwalchmai and I have been blacksmithing for some 15 years. I live in Schomberg Ontario, Canada where I have a small forge in my back yard and a mobile trailer-mounted forge that I use for demonstrations at "away" venues. I have been a member of the Ontario Artist Blacksmith Association for the past five years. Recently, I wrote a book on blacksmithing called "Song of the Blacksmith" for the young reader, aged 5 to 8, like my grand-daughter over in England. It was illustrated by Chantal Duclos, a young artist from nearby Kettleby, ON, and she used a horse as the narrator for the book. I wrote "Song of the Blacksmith" so that young people who may have recently learned of the art of blacksmithing can find out more about this ancient craft in an easy and enjoyable style. This is the first book on blacksmithing for this age group in print in English.

If any members of your association might be interested in taking a look at "Song of the Blacksmith", I have placed a video of me reading the book on my website www.robertgwalchmai.com in which I slowly flip through the book while the true sound of "hammer on anvil" accompanies the audio tract.

Initial responses both from little readers and fire-hardened old blacksmiths has been very favorable. A recent reading I did for 75 kindergarten children was very well received; I actually kept their attention throughout the entire book - a rare accomplishment, I have been told.

I hope you and your group see this book as intended - one small step in keeping our craft alive for at least another generation. My website also details options for getting copies of my book; you can get single signed copies of the book from me, or the publisher, Blue Moon Press of Huntingdon, PA. For the best quote on bulk orders, email the publisher, or call Judith Berger, at 866-627-6922.

Upper Midwest Regional Blacksmith Conference

Oct. 13th & 14th, 2017

Pontiac, IL Thresherman's Park

Demonstrators - Mark Aspery & Pep Gomez

Gallery * Tailgating * Vendors * Iron in the Hat * Live Auction * Forging Contest

Conference Registration: Fri. & Sat. \$40.00 per family	_____
One Day (Fri. or Sat.) \$30.00 per family	_____
Weekend Camping w/electrical hookup \$10.00	_____
Sat. night pork chop dinner \$10.00 per person	_____
Total	\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____, City _____

St. _____, Zip _____, Ph.# _____

Membership: IVBA UMBA IBA Other _____, None (circle all that apply)

Make checks payable to: UMRBC. Mail to: Gary Riss, 1409 E. 2309th Rd., Streator, IL 61364

Ph. #'s Hm. 815-673-1389, cell 815-257-2634, email: rissforge@gmail.com

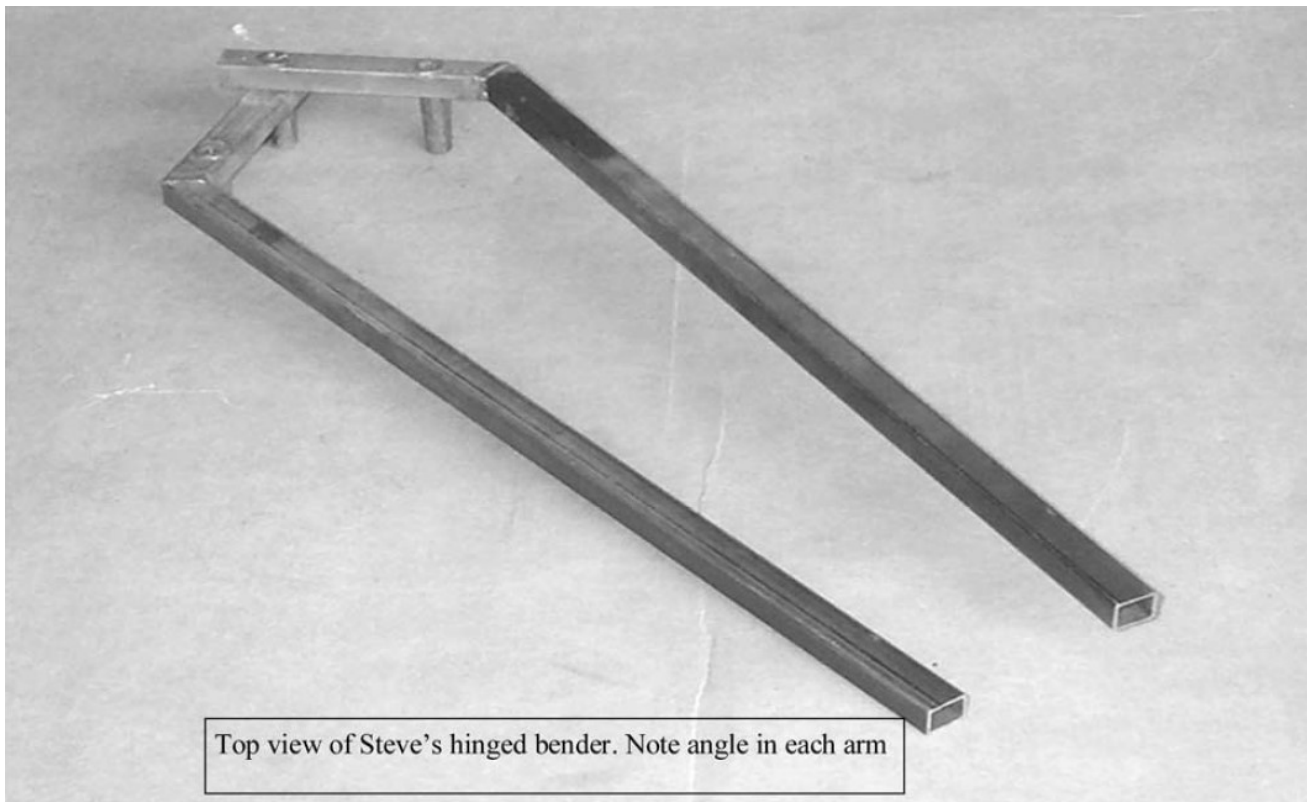
STEVE'S HINGED BENDING FORK

By Tommy Ward

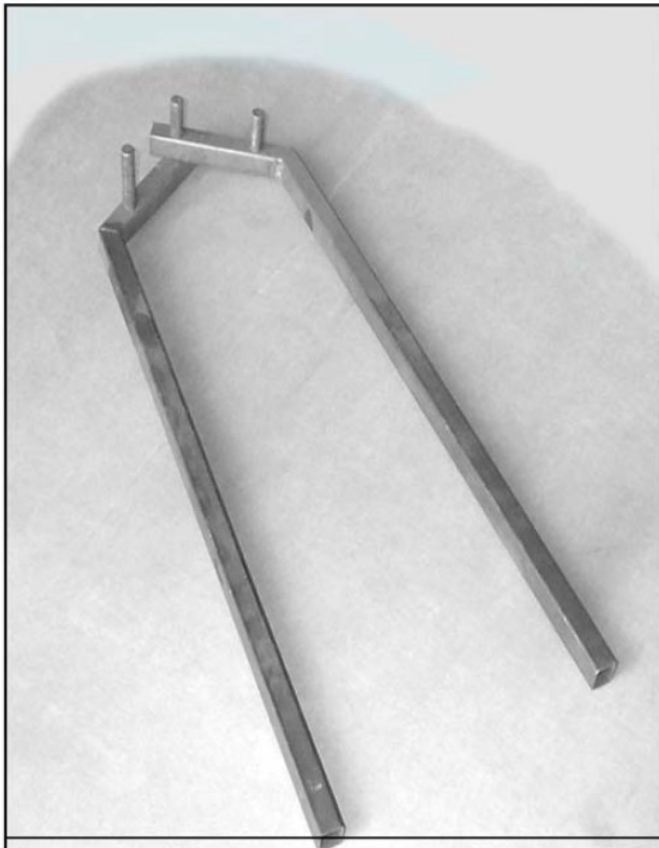
If you've ever used a pair of individual bending forks to tweak or bend a curve and been frustrated by the juggling act required you'll appreciate how effectively this little gizmo accomplishes the task. Steve Norquist didn't tell me what he calls his neat bending device, but it sure does work.

Steve's bender is basically two forks that are combined into a single unit with a pin on one of the forks also serving as a hinge. An angle in each fork arm puts the user's hands closer together. This feature improves ergonomics and control - sort of like operating hedge shears.

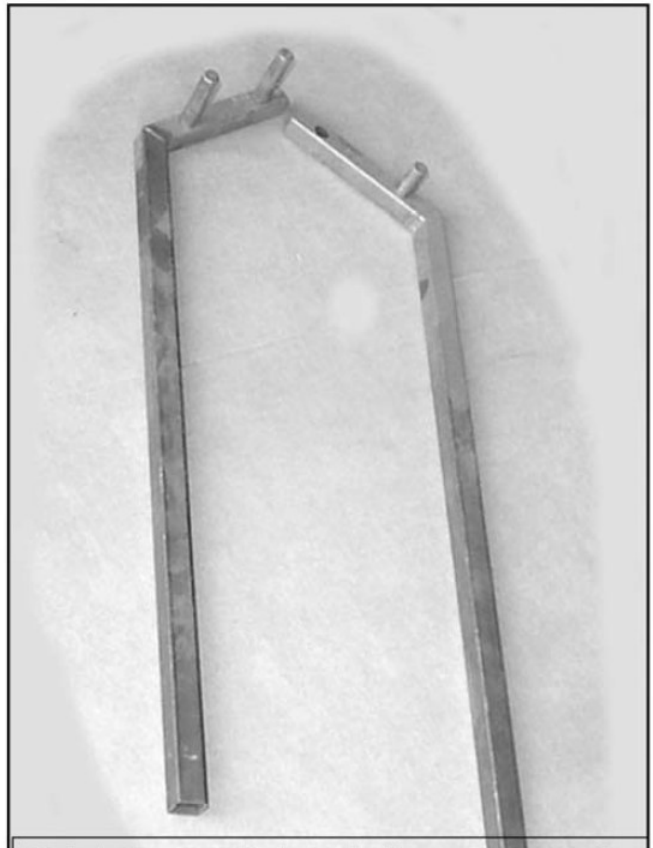
Using 3/4" square tube for the arms and 1/2" rod for the bending pins, the bender will cold work flat stock up to 1/4"x 2". The handles are about 21" long, with a second piece of square stock 5-1/4" long welded at a 45 degree angle on the end. Two 1/2" diameter holes, spaced 3" on center, are bored through the working end of each handle. Two 2-3/4" long pins are pushed through the holes and welded flush on the back side of one handle, and a single 2" long pin is welded on the opposite arm in the hole nearest the angle. The remaining open hole in the second arm receives the end pin from the first arm and acts as a hinge.



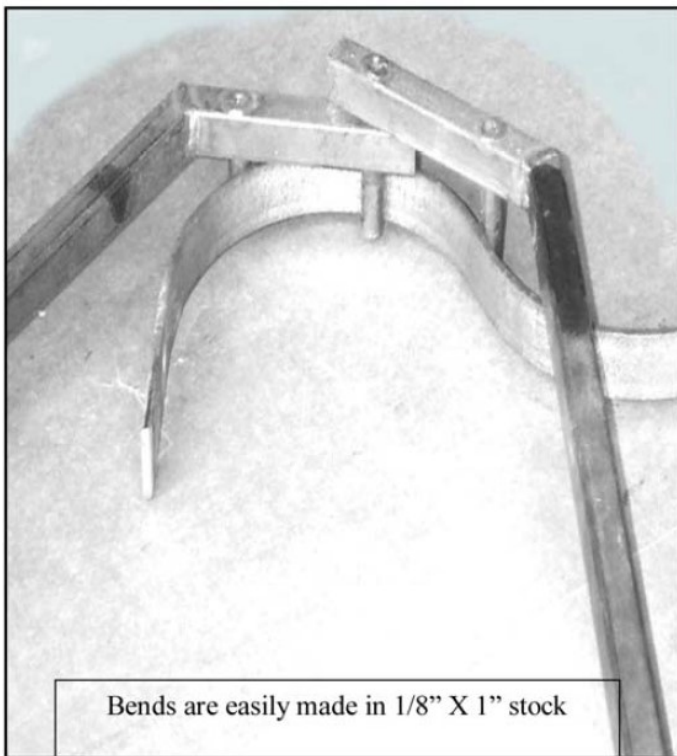
Top view of Steve's hinged bender. Note angle in each arm



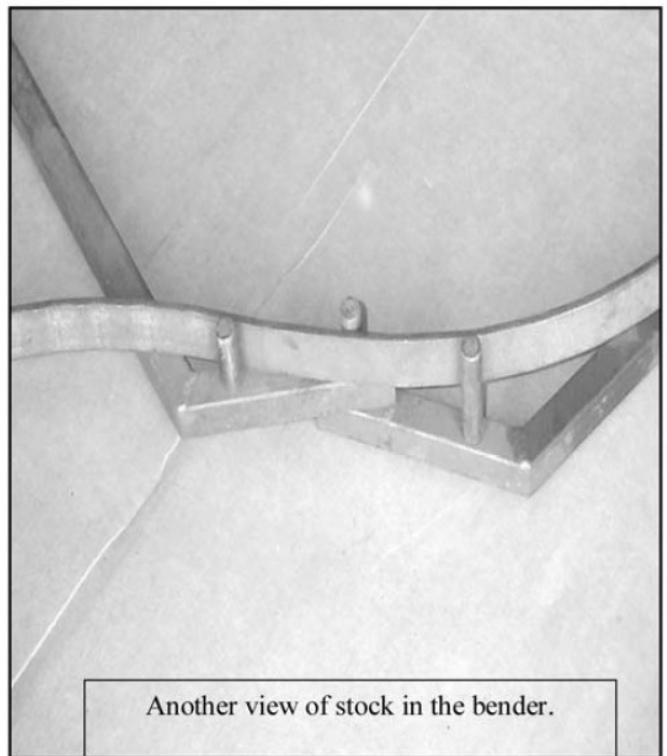
Bottom view. The two outside pins work material against the center hinge pin



Hole in the arm with single pin fits over end pin in the arm with two pins.



Bends are easily made in 1/8" X 1" stock



Another view of stock in the bender.

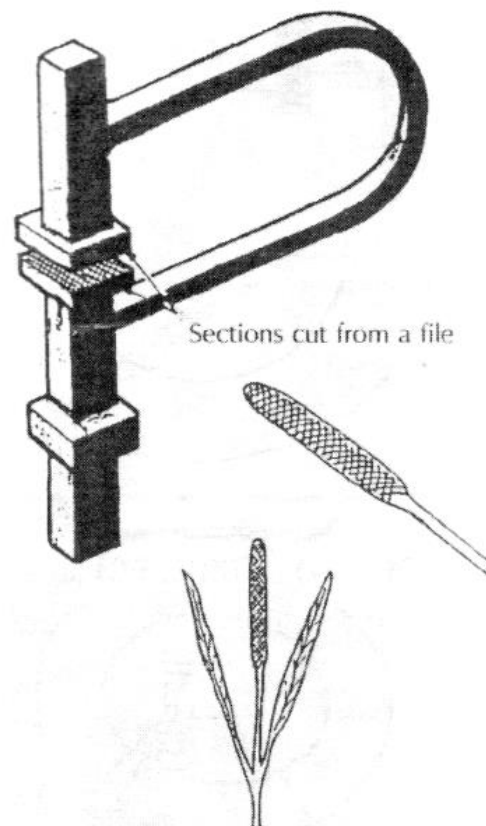
Texturing Tool

From the British Blacksmith

Reprinted from Hammer & Tong, a publication of The Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland, Inc., as found in Sofa Sounds, publication of the Southern Ohio Forge and Anvil

Peter King describes a useful tool which can be used for producing a texture on the forged seed heads of grasses and rushes

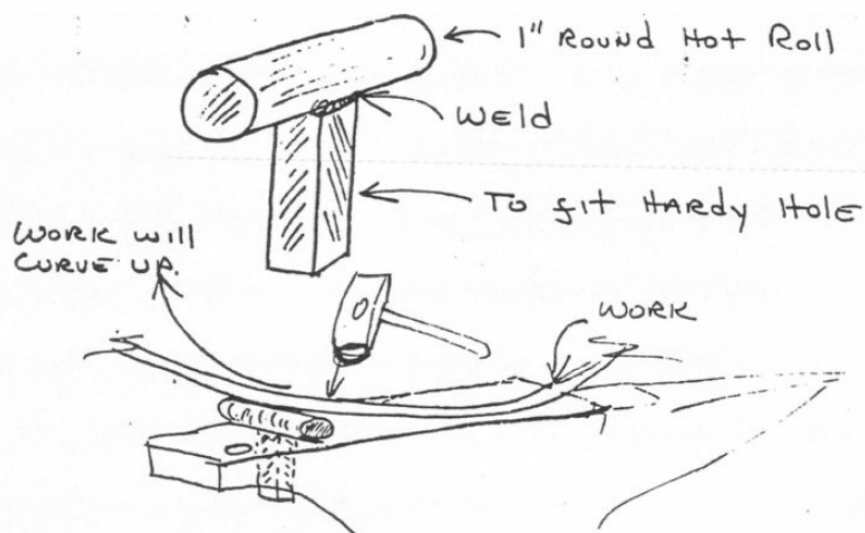
At a recent Forge-in I was asked by a very knowledgeable member how I textured the spike of grass. Well, if he didnt know and was interested enough to ask, I thought other Z members would be interested. The drawing shows the spring tool that I use, with the two sections cut from a file welded as shown. I use a stainless steel rod for this weld. The forging is done at red heat, the grass spike being rotated between the file sections as the blows are struck with the tool.



Handy Jig

Bending large pieces on the anvil is usually done between the table and the cutting platform. This is sometimes hard to do if the piece is long or the bend is acute as the horn of the anvil is in the way and has a tendency to make the work move side to side. The following jig will help you with these complicated and even the simple bends.

(From the Hammer's Arc Newsletter of the Alex Bealer Blacksmith Association of Georgia)



P.S. Works great for bending cold stock.

Keep Hammering!

Stan



RIDE TO PROVIDE
Attn: Lesa Asher
3398 East Markle Road
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 758-3437

April 21, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

The "Ride 2 Provide" is an annual fundraiser in its 12th year, held on August 19, 2017. This event includes a motorcycle ride, raffle drawing, silent auction, kids raffle, cookies and canvas, bake sale, corn hole tournament, Bingo, and a benefit dinner. Each year, the funds raised are for an individual or a family in our community that is in need of assistance for medical or emergency expenses.

We are requesting any donation items for the raffle, prizes for Bingo, prizes for the Corn Hole Tournament, products towards the meal, or a monetary donation to help with other areas. Your donation will help towards raising as many funds as possible to support Mark Thomas and his family with the many medical challenges that he is currently faced with, and many to come in the future. Our organization is a 501c3 charitable organization and your donations are tax deductible. Donations can be sent to the above address. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

This year our recipient for the Ride 2 Provide is Mark Thomas. Below is a little bit of his story.

Mark suffered a heart attack while blacksmithing during Trail of Courage at Rochester, Indiana last fall. Jesus, working through a series of timely events, wise decisions and quick actions, brought Mark back from a deadly arrhythmia and provided a 6-bypass surgery to give him extended life. After 2 ½ weeks in the hospital, he returned home to recover. In addition to this, his knee, left weak from a high school football injury & subsequent surgery, had been worsening over the past decade. This has led to times of painful walking and difficulty setting up at some of the events he participates in. Since his blacksmithing business is our sole source of income, it was decided he needed knee replacement while he had insurance. This was done the end of March and he is now also in recovery from that. Unbeknownst to many, this is when other things have decided to break down, too. (When it rains it pours?) Since the heart attack, we have replaced a well, fixed our van and tractor, and had other things break that still need repairs, both major and minor. It has only been through the grace of God and our daughter's help that our business has survived while its main blacksmith, Mark, has been unable to return to full time production in the shop. We have shut down retail sales until Mark is further recovered, hoping he can continue to provide product to his wholesale accounts, especially since his daughter plans to quit in the near future. We are thankful to God that Mark's recovery has progressed so well to this point, and we are thrilled at the support He has sent through the local neighborhood, our caring friends and church family, and the reenactors we have come to know over the past 20 years of participation. God is, indeed, very good!

Sincerely,

Lesla Asher, Ride Coordinator

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2017

CHECK-IN 11am-noon (Markle Park) - FIRST BIKE OUT 12:10pm - LAST BIKE IN: 4:30pm (Markle Park)



All proceeds to benefit Mark Thomas

**RAFFLE • BAKE SALE • DOOR PRIZES • 50/50 DRAWING • DUNK TANK
KIDS RAFFLE • FACE PAINTING • COOKIES & CANVAS
CAKE WALK • BOUNCE HOUSE • SILENT AUCTION**

COOKIES AND CANVAS (2PM-4PM)

CONTACT JEN BAILEY @ 414-1066

BINGO (2PM-4PM)

CONTACT DIXIE OLDHAM @ 758-3394

SILENT AUCTION (4PM- LAST BID @ 6:00)

CONTACT ANGENETTE REED @ 438-7539

CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT (4PM-???)

CONTACT KAREN JEFFERS @ 224-3540

FREE WILL DONATION BENEFIT MEAL

CARRYOUT AVAILABLE - MEAL STARTS AT 4PM

PULLED PORK PREPARED BY FAT JOHN'S

**BRING A CANNED GOOD ITEM AND RECEIVE A FREE RAFFLE TICKET FOR A \$25 GAS CARD
(DONATED BY MARKLE QUICK STOP) LIMIT 5 PER PERSON! ALL ITEMS DONATED TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES.**

OPEN TO EVERYONE, WHETHER YOU RIDE OR NOT! RAIN OR SHINE!

DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO: RIDE TO PROVIDE

3398 E MARKLE ROAD, HUNTINGTON, IN 46750 OR CONTACT LESA ASHER (260)758-3437



The *FORGE FIRE*
Newsletter of the
Indiana Blacksmithing Association, Inc.

Farrel Wells *Membership Secretary*
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Dunkirk, IN 47336-8807

First Class Mail

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July 15 Hammer In

Bill Conyer's Shop: 50964 Lilac Rd, South Bend, IN

From the south: Go through South Bend on US 933 to Auten Rd. Turn left or west, cross the river, the first road is Lilac turn right (north), look for yellow house on right

From the toll road: Get off at exit # 77 this will put you on US 933. Go north to Auten Rd. Turn left or west, cross the river, the first road is Lilac turn right (north), look for yellow house on right

August 4—20 Indiana State Fair Pioneer Village

Contact Bill Newman if you are interested in demonstrating

Ph: (317) 690-2455

Email: ruralsmiths1@yahoo.com