

February 2015

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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.

<b>Feb 21 2015</b>	<b>ST JOE VALLEY FORGERS BILL CONYERS</b>
<b>Mar 21 2015</b>	<b>BUSINESS MEETING DOC RAMSEYER SHOP</b>
<b>Apr 18 2015</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>May 24 2015</b>	<b>TBD</b>



## Editors Message

The IBA annual business meeting will be held next month at Kelley Farms (Doc Ramseyer). This edition includes a ballot for the Board of Directors positions. We have 3 very strong candidates running for two positions. Be sure to get your ballots in on time. If you plan to attend the business meeting, you can bring your ballot with you.

- Bill Conyers is seeking re-election. Bill has been an active member of the IBA for many years. He is our current vice president and is the IBA chairman for the UMRBC held every other year in Pontiac, IL. Bill is also the host for the St Joe Valley Forgers.
- Bill Newman is seeking re-election. Bill has been active in many IBA events. Bill recently led the effort to create the new satellite group based at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.
- Tom Reinhardt is seeking election for the first time. Tom is very active in the IBA. He is one of the members of the group called the Brotherhood of Friendly Hammermen. Tom supports a number of community events where he publicizes the IBA and blacksmithing.

The IBA Conference brochure is coming along. It should be ready for printing in the next few weeks. Featured demonstrators are: Michael Bendele, Nathan Robertson, Phoebe Graham and Dick Fisher. Nathan Robertson will be teaching a 4 day class on hammer making prior to the conference. There are two contests this year: a garden bench or seat, and a pair of tongs (2-person team).

Last months hammer in at Don Reitzel's shop was a great success. Don and his family were wonderful hosts. We had a good turn out. Several people new to blacksmithing got some good instruction. At a more senior level, Jim Johnston and Ted Stout teamed up to work on a folded tomahawk.

This months hammer in will be hosted by the St Joe Valley Forgers at Bill Conyers shop. Hope to see you there.

Charlie Helton has asked me to include information about the Rookie of the Year and the Blacksmith of the Year awards. Nomination forms were printed in last months Forge Fire. The forms are also available on the IBA website. Award guidelines were printed last month and are included again in this months Forge Fire. There are a number of deserving people in the IBA. Historically nominations have been sparse. If you know of someone who meets the guidelines, be sure to nominate them.

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### **Dates to Remember**

February 21  
Hammer In  
At Bill Conyers

March 21  
IBA Business  
Meeting

June 5-7  
IBA Conference

July 17-19  
UMRBC  
(Pontiac)

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

**Ballot**  
**IBA Board of Directors**  
**Vote for 2 Only**

Bill Conyers \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Newman \_\_\_\_\_

Tom Reinhardt \_\_\_\_\_

Write in. \_\_\_\_\_

(Must be willing to serve)

Send ballot to:

Gary Phillips  
14800 N SR167 N  
Albany, IN 47320

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 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Ballot  
Gary Phillips  
14800 N SR 167 N  
Albany, IN 47320

Gary Phillips  
14800 N SR167 N  
Albany, IN 47320

## 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 Hoopengartner (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

### **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**

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

### **Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop**

The Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmiths met at the forge of Paul Bray of Seymour. Breakfast included bacon, biscuits and gravy, potatoes and onions, eggs, and pies and donuts. Dinner was beef stew, bacon and biscuit sandwiches, and any other left-overs you could scrounge up. John Cummins tried to reharden a striker made from a file, but soon discovered that it had been overheated and was worthless. Robert McGinness, a newcomer worked on a "S" hook while John also made a "S" hook. Brad Weaver was gracious enough to demonstrate his "special" horseshoe and donated it to the shop. Dave and Jake (newcomers) worked with Bill Newman practicing basics and made "S" hooks also. There was a competition to see who could make a "S" hook the closest to 5" without measuring. It was won by Leelynn Dean by 5.053". Great work! He just won a large pair of pliers. Iron-in-the-hat was held and everyone had a great time.

February meeting will be at Bill Kendrick's forge at 1280 N 900 W, Seymour IN, 47274. Directions: US50 (about 5 miles East of Seymour) turn North on CR 900W (across from ISA scrap sign). Go North 2 miles. At T turn left then immediate right. Look for red barn and shop on right. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

March meeting will be at the brand -new forge of Kevin Welsh at 25619 Gill Rd., Nabb IN, 47147. This is a pitch in. If you haven't tasted Pam's cooking, it's to die for. be sure to come and bring something for iron -in-the-hat too. (This could turn out to be a work meeting). Notes taken by Diana Lynn Dean.

## IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

### Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop



13 smiths showed up. Garry brought his son Chuck, J.J. brought Charlie Gruel, Phoebe and Brandon Graham. After a short discussion on the bench project we lit the fire. Andy Davis and I started upsetting the ends for the feet. Eric and Dave Kline was patiently waiting to start texturing the stock. The Grahams made a scrolling fixture and started making scrolls. Wesley began helping on the scrolls. Eric and Dave started texturing using the power hammer. The forge was kept busy heating multiple pieces from both sides. Meanwhile Chuck was cutting and preparing stock to be used later. No iron in the hat was held. We closed the shop approximately 3:30. A good time had by all. reported by Dave Wells



### The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

This month's meeting was held at Jeff Reinhardt's shop in Floyds Knobs. Had about 15 in attendance in a nice warm shop. Steve King demonstrated tong making. Jeff Reinhardt demonstrated making bamboo from pipe. Arron Baker taught a beginner on how to make an S hook. Between Chile and Taco soup and all the fix in's, a good lunch was had by all. Next month's meeting will be at Dave Kunkler's shop in Branchville.

### Rural Smiths of Mid-America

The Rural Smith of Mid America meet At Conner Prairie on February 7. There was a good turn out with lots of people there. Nathan did a demo on making a hammer and an ax, good job. The chili cook off was good and everyone ate well. We had a lot of stuff for the auction, Alvin did a good job calling the auction, thanks The next meeting will be at Ray Phelps (Tina) shop on March 7th. We will be working on the garden bench project. Please make and bring a flower for this project. The trade item will be a spoon rest.

Thanks, Ron Gill

### Forge Welding Class at Conner Prairie

**March 21 (Saturday)**

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

\$130, \$120 members

Minimum 5, Maximum 10

Instructor: Nathan Allen

The basics of forge welding in a coal forge will be covered. Fire control and fluxes, chain link welding, bunch welding, and lap welding will be covered. Previous blacksmithing experience preferred. All tools and materials provided. Ages 16+

Contact Guest Services at 317-776-6000 to register



## January IBA Hammer-In hosted by Don Reitzel and Family

Here are a few photos taken at our January hammer in. Don Reitzel and his family were great hosts.

There were three forging stations going simultaneously. Two sharing a large coal forge and another with gas forge.

You will notice our IBA board members



fine a tomahawk weld and Gary made sure the



actively participating. JJ and Ted worked to re-



post vice stayed put.

Lunch was served in the log cabin that had been moved from Kentucky several years ago. The cabin displays an extremely large collection of blacksmith work, most of which was created by Don. I counted 13 trivets all of different styles.

Tire Hammer Plans,  
\$30 postpaid to US and Canadian addresses.

Beverly Shear Blades Sharpened, \$35 + \$10 postage.  
Extra charge for blades nicked more than 1/16".

Send to: Clay Spencer  
73 Penniston Pvt. Drive  
Somerville. AL 35670.

An interesting video of old axe factory in Maine:

<http://youtu.be/Qr4VTCwEfkoPioneer>

If you are looking for a large cone mandrel, check out

<http://www.saltforkcraftsmen.org/>

Taken from the January 2015 edition of the Florida Clinker Breaker

## **Gordon Williams' Copper Patina**

### **BY**

## **Gordon Williams & Mike Barton**

#### Introduction:

This is the recipe and method of application that was demonstrated by Gordon Williams at the 2014 FABAA Annual Conference in Ocala, FL.

**Caution: Do this outside or in a well ventilated area!**

#### List of Supplies:

1. One gallon of water in a plastic jug.
2. One 32 ounce container root killer crystals (copper sulfate).
3. One 16 ounce bottle of hydrogen peroxide.
4. One gallon muriatic acid.
5. An 8 ounce plastic measuring cup.
6. A small plastic funnel.
7. One 16 ounce empty spray bottle.

#### Discussion:

1. The water can be purchased anywhere that has it in a plastic jug.
2. Roebic K77 or ZEP Root killer can be purchased at the local big box hardware stores. Check the contents to insure the active ingredient is at least 98% copper sulfate.
3. The hydrogen peroxide can be purchased at any pharmacy including Whalemart.
4. The muriatic acid can be purchased at most hardware stores or Whalemart.
5. The measuring cup, funnel, and spray bottle should be readily available at home or pick them up at your favorite store.
6. Repeat after me; "This ain't rocket science."

#### Let's Mix Some Solution:

1. Put on safety glasses and pour out about 6 ½ ounces of water from the gallon water jug (you might as well drink it, you paid for it). Carefully pour the same amount of copper sulfate crystals into the gallon water jug. Seal the jug and shake thoroughly to mix crystals into solution. Check and agitate as necessary to ensure complete mixing of solution.
2. Mark your 16 ounce spray bottle with a line 2 inches from the bottom and then add another line 3 ½ inches from the bottom.
3. Label the area below the 2 inch line CS Solution for copper sulfate solution, label the 1 ½ inch area between the two lines Muriatic Acid, and label the remaining area above the lines hydrogen peroxide.

Continued on next page



### Gordon Williams copper patina continued

4. If you removed them, put your safety glasses back on.
  - Remove the spray head from the bottle.
  - Using the small plastic funnel, carefully pour in the mixed copper sulfate solution and fill the bottle to the top of the first line marked CS Solution.
  - Put the cap back on the Copper Sulfate solution container.

**SAFETY:** Always add acid to water or a water solution and do it very slowly. When acid mixes with water it causes an exothermic reaction causing it to get so hot it boils. If you add the acid to the water the reaction occurs on the bottom under the water and is less likely to splash acid onto your skin or in your eyes.

5. Carefully open the container of muriatic acid and, using the small plastic funnel, very slowly add small amounts to the spray bottle until the liquid level reaches the top of the next fill line marked mu-riatic acid. Put the cap back on the muriatic acid container.
6. Open the container of Hydrogen Peroxide and, using the small funnel, slowly add it into the spray bottle until it is filled to about one inch below the threads at the neck. Put the spray head back on the bottle and carefully shake it to thoroughly mix the solution. The solution should turn green when it is properly proportioned and thoroughly mixed. Let the solution stand overnight before use.
7. Put the cap back on the Hydrogen Peroxide bottle and store it, the Copper Sulfate crystals, and the Muriatic Acid bottle.
8. Repeat after me: "This ain't rocket science."

### **Tips and Tricks:**

1. To get a little more of the old copper penny look you can increase the ratio of acid to the mix of the final solution by starting with about a half an ounce more. Increase the ratio if necessary after testing the Patina solution and checking the results. Be sure to remark your spray bottle with the new Muriatic Acid level for future reference.
2. You can remove the permanent marker lines on the spray bottle by marking over the permanent marker lines with a dry erase marker. Wipe off all marker ink with a dry paper towel and then dampen a clean corner of the paper towel to remove any marker ink left over. When dry, put your new lines on with permanent marker.
3. You can make as many different types of Copper Patina spray bottles as you want. Just be sure to mark them for the correct mixing ratio and your name for the type of patina created.
4. You can use an old (not worn out or loaded with junk) sanding belt for cleaning up the areas for high-lighting with the Copper Patina solution.

## **INDIANA BLACKSMITHING ASSOCIATION BLACKSMITH OF THE YEAR - GUIDELINES**

Nominations for Blacksmith of the Year must be returned to the chairperson of the Awards Committee no later than April 1st

The candidate must be an IBA member in good standing and must be nominated by one of the satellite groups or have a petition signed by three (3) members of the IBA in good standing.

The nominating group should describe the candidate's history, accomplishments, outstanding skills, contribution to blacksmithing and/or the IBA, and reasons for why the candidate should be Blacksmith of the Year. A nomination form can be found at the IBA web site (<http://www.indianablacksmithing.org/>).

Examples of work (and/or photographs of work) demonstrating the candidate's workmanship should be placed on display at the annual IBA Conference. We encourage the candidate to donate some or all of these items for auction at the Conference. All items must be clearly marked as either "For Auction" or "Not for Auction." Items submitted for auction should be given to the auction coordinator by noon on Saturday of the Conference.

The Blacksmith of the Year will be selected by the Awards Committee together with the Education chairperson and the current Blacksmith of the Year. Selection will be based upon the nomination material specified above, the workmanship demonstrated in the submitted examples of work, and the selection committee's direct experience of the candidate.

Announcement of the winner will be made at the Saturday evening auction at the Conference.

The Blacksmith of the Year winner will receive a plaque and free registration at the next IBA Conference. The recipient is encouraged to write an article for the Forge Fire on a topic of his/her choosing. Alternatively, the recipient is encouraged to be interviewed by the IBA for an article in the Forge Fire.

Send completed forms to:

Charlie Helton—Chairperson of the Awards Committee  
2703 South Water Plant Road  
Westport, IN 47283  
Email: [heltoncs@frontier.com](mailto:heltoncs@frontier.com)  
Phone: 812-591-3119

## **INDIANA BLACKSMITHING ASSOCIATION ROOKIE OF THE YEAR - GUIDELINES**

Nominations for Rookie of the Year must be returned to the chairperson of the Awards Committee no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>

The candidate must be an IBA member in good standing and must be nominated by one of the satellite groups or have a petition signed by three (3) members of the IBA in good standing.

The candidate must have been blacksmithing for three years or less at the time of the application.

The nominating group complete the Rookie of the Year Nomination Form found at the IBA web site (<http://www.indianablacksmithing.org/>).

Examples of work (and/or photographs of work) demonstrating the candidate's workmanship should be placed on display at the annual IBA Conference. We encourage the candidate to donate some or all of these items for auction at the Conference. All items must be clearly marked as either "For Auction" or "Not for Auction." Items submitted for auction should be given to the auction coordinator by noon on Saturday of the Conference.

The Rookie of the Year will be selected by the Awards Committee together with the Education chairperson and the current Rookie of the Year. Selection will be based upon the Rookie of the Year Application Form and upon the workmanship demonstrated in the submitted examples of work.

Announcement of the winner will be made at the Saturday evening auction at the Conference.

The Rookie of the Year winner will receive a plaque and items from the IBA store with value not exceeding \$50. In addition, the recipient will receive a 2-3 day training session with an established IBA blacksmith. The recipient is strongly encouraged to report back to the IBA the ways in which the training session improved his/her blacksmithing skills or capabilities. This could involve a demonstration at a future IBA meeting or an article in the Forge Fire.

Send completed forms to:

Charlie Helton -Chairperson of the Awards Committee  
2703 South Water Plant Road  
Westport, IN 47283  
Email: [heltoncs@frontier.com](mailto:heltoncs@frontier.com)  
Phone: 812-591-3119



**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

Address Correction Requested  
If Undeliverable return to  
sender

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## **February 21 Hammer In**

### **Bill Conyers 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

## **March 22 Annual Business Meeting**

### **Kelly Farms / Doc Ramseyer**

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