

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Gary Phillips '14

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### Steve King '14

### Bill Conyers '15

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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)

10:00 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 Moe Handy  
(317) 862-5647 for details.

## IBA MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Mar 16 2013	KELLY FARM (DOC RAMSEYER) IBA BUSINESS MEETING
Apr 20 2013	ROCKY FORGE BLACKSMITH GUILD
May 18 2013	MAUMEE VALLEY
May 31 June 2	IBA CONFERENCE TIPTON



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CLASSES AND  
UMRBC

### **Dates to Remember**

Mar 16 IBA  
Business meeting

May 31—Jun 2  
IBA Conference

July 19—21  
UMRBC (Pontiac)

## **Editors Message**

This edition is going to press a week early in order to get the board of director ballots out prior to the Business Meeting. Ballots may be mailed in, but should be received by March 13 to ensure being counted. Members are also able to vote in person at the Business Meeting. The Business Meeting will be held at Kelley Farms, between Kokomo and Tipton, just off US-31.

Ballots are shown on page 9. Jim Johnston and Keith Hicks have agreed to run for another term. Write-ins are also permitted. Write in candidates must be willing to serve.

Previously I had indicated that we have three board positions open. We will vote on the two director positions as Jim and Keith current terms expire. The third position is for an open slot that runs through next year, and can be filled by appointment. Gary Phillips announced that Steve King will fill out this term. Steve is an active member in the Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers. Please welcome Steve to the board.

The February hammer in was hosted by Ken Dettmer (shop shown here). As usual we had a very big turn out. I counted about 40 people present at any given time. Michael Wollowski demonstrated making some tongs that were



shown in a 16th century engraving. Jeff Farmer demonstrated forging a micro anvil from a bolt. Both demonstrations were well delivered and quite entertaining to watch.

Please continue to share your project ideas and tips. In next months edition will feature an article from John Zile on the IBA demonstration benches.

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

## 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

### Fall Creek Blacksmith Shop



Nine members showed up, (plus two). Gary Phillips, John Zile, Dave Kline, Joe Goebel, Eric Shotwell, and two others discussing the choice for the fire screen project. Dave Kline working at the forge with Max Gentry and Joe Goebel looking on. John and Eric cutting the fireplace material, with Garry in the background, talking to a



new IBA member. John, Eric looking at Max's pictures he took at a north east Indy veneer company tour Max took. I helped the new member with his first successful forge weld. Just about the time me and Eric was leaving, Don Kern and Kim Soladine showed up. A good day had by all.

Respectfully Dave Wells





## IBA Satellite Groups and News (continued)

### The Southern Indiana Meteorite Mashers

This month we met at Jason Hardin's new shop. Jason has put a huge amount of work into insulating, floor and walls inside the building and it shows. This



month Dustin Voyles was first up and forged a tomahawk from wrought iron with a steel bit under the tutelage of Steve King. Jeff Reinhardt and Dave Kunkler struck to spread the bit end in the photo with 2 guys blurred by their high speed and Dustin clear as he holds his tomahawk in tongs. Jerry Baugman made a penanular broach, Steve King displayed a double striking technique of his own wielding 2 hammers at once to drive the tomahawk down the drift. New visitor Mike Gilenwater a new IBA member also attended. Our gracious Hostess Andrea Hardin provided a great Chili and rutabaga cobbler. A good time was had by all.



Our next meeting will be the spring opening at Hidden Hill nursery and Gardens on March 30th in Utica Indiana. We demo for the public, and



sales are allowed, no fee to demo, 25% of sales to Hidden Hill. There will be other crafts on site and kite making and flying for those who would like.

The address is 1011 Utica Charlestown RD  
Utica Indiana 47130



### Jennings County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop

Kevin Welsh hosted the February hammer in. We all had a great time, but Pam's potato soup was the highlight of the day. Apparently Ray Sease was not exaggerating when he rated it best ever. We had a large turn out, although I did not get a final count. I do know the shop space was limited.



The March hammer-in will be held at Jim Watt's shop at 1813 S. Co. Rd. 175 W, Versailles, IN. Pitch in lunch.



## Tying a Hearth Broom

By Dave Wells

February 2013



How appropriate, with this year's I.B.A. contest piece being Fireplace Screen & Tools.

Several years back, while taking a blacksmith class at J.C. Campbell my wife took a broom class. Wanting to know how to tie a hearth broom, I made a handle and the wife took it to class.

Hearth Brooms are shorter in length so they can be used inside the hearth. They average anywhere from 25 to 36 inches in length. As any broom they should hang from something, so make a hook on the end.

**Note:** This is the method Joy learned.

**Material:**

Processed Hurl, Stems and nylon cord.

Material can be ordered from R.E. Caddy, Greensboro N.C.

(Right now they have a special, 10 lbs. broom corn for \$35 plus shipping. This will make several brooms.

(1) The handle must have a flattened end with a  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch diameter hole. The flat end prevents the broom corn from slipping or twisting.

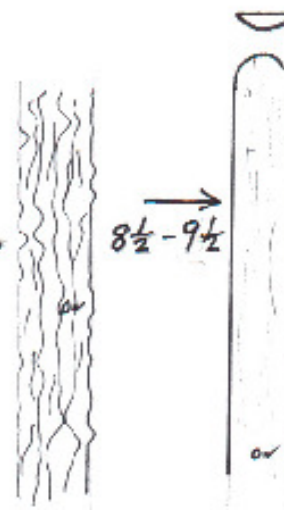
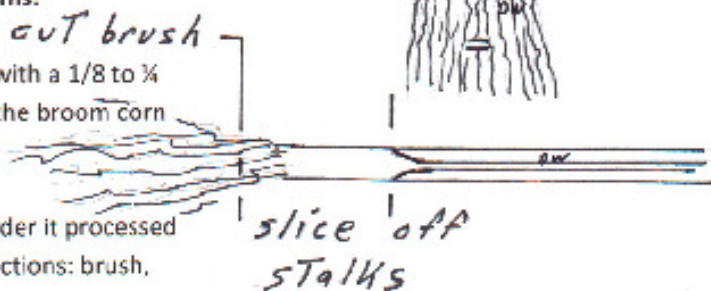
(2) Process the broom corn if you didn't order it processed from the supplier. Broomcorn has three sections: brush, knurl, and stalks.

(A) Cut brush below the knurl. One large handful should be sufficient to do a small broom.

(B) Cut stalks off  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. For an average broom this requires having at least 20 processed stalks. Having extra on hand is advisable. The stalks are split leaving a width from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{16}$ . Having the split uniform in thickness and not too thick makes braiding easier.

I start my slice about 1 inch from where the stalk begins, using a box knife.

*soak stalks at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr in water bucket.*





## Tying a Hearth Broom

By Dave Wells

February 2013

Having some variation in stock widths allows filling the last row of the weave.

An uneven number of rows allow an even weave. Keep a count and on the last two or three rows, add or remove stalk widths to fill the space.

*extend brush about 5" up*

(3) Cut two pieces twine about 14 inches in length. I prefer two, but you really need only one. Some broom makers call this the rip cord. It is used to pull your under and through the final wrap.

(4) A tie off block is used to keep the cord tight. A very straight and smooth limb about 12 inches long.

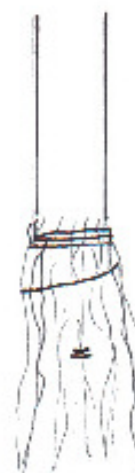
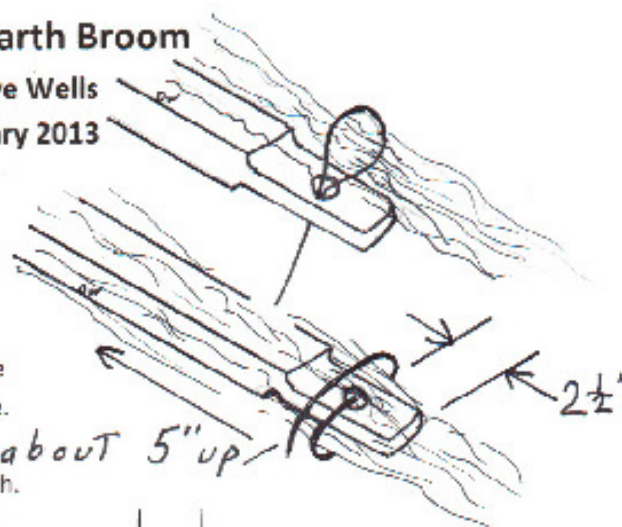
(5) With plenty of cord on the tie off block, (4 or 5 yards) take the other end through the hole and form a loop (hangs man noose).

(6) Place all materials within reaching distance, brush, stems, tie off loop, sharp knife, maybe scissors.

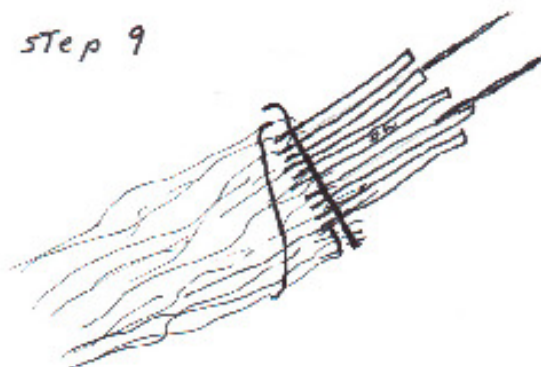
Separate two large size equal amounts of brush to start with. Have smaller amounts ready for adding to sides.

(7) Insert one equal amount of brush through the loop and tighten. Try to maintain handle in center. Add the second to opposite side and tighten by rolling the handle.

Place more brush to one side and again to the opposite side. Note: The idea is that you're forming the brush to sides making the broom widen.



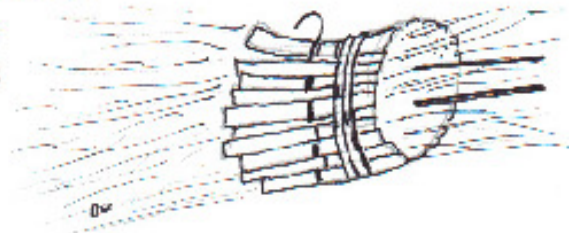
*Step 9*



## Tying a Hearth Broom

By Dave Wells

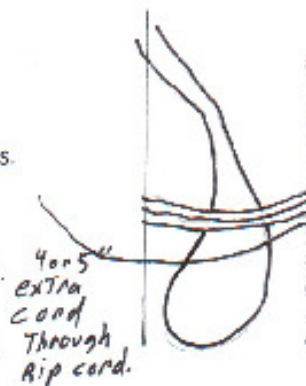
February 2013



**Note:** While wrapping keep tension on the cord at all times. Relax your foot some to get more cord.

(8) Making sure handle is fairly centered, if it's way off, go back now and redo. At the end make a couple wraps keeping them straight and in line around the diameter.

(9) Start placing the stocks underneath the cord while wrapping it around. Be sure to use an odd number of stalks. If it comes out even, replace the last two or three stems with narrower or wider stalks to get the odd amount. Be sure to place stem, where the good side will show later.

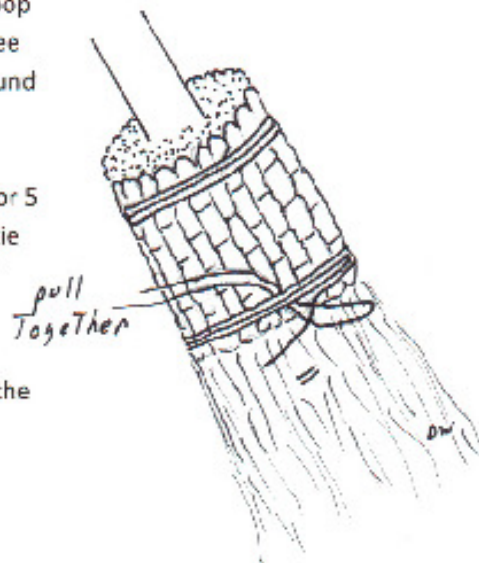


(10) Make three loops around the stems, pulling real tight. Start weaving of the stalks, raise one stalk and run cord under it, skip the next stalk and run cord under the cord under the stalk after that. As you weave each stalk, push or pull the cord up tight.

(11) Continue weaving until you reach near the end of the shortest stalk. Allowing approximately 1/2 inch remaining, start the first of three complete loops. Lay your tie off loop (rip tie) as shown. Wrap over the tie off loop. Make three complete loops, keeping them straight and uniform around the circumference.

(12) Place your thumb tight against the cord allowing 4 or 5 inches of extra cord, cut it off. Place twine through the tie off loop half way and pull the cord through to the other side.

Some do the same thing again but this time leave some slack so you can tie a knot. Threading the cord through the



## Tying a Hearth Broom

By Dave Wells

February 2013

slack loop and then pulling tie loop completely. Tie a knot at the end and cut off excess.

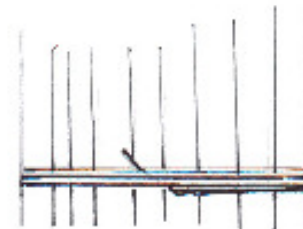
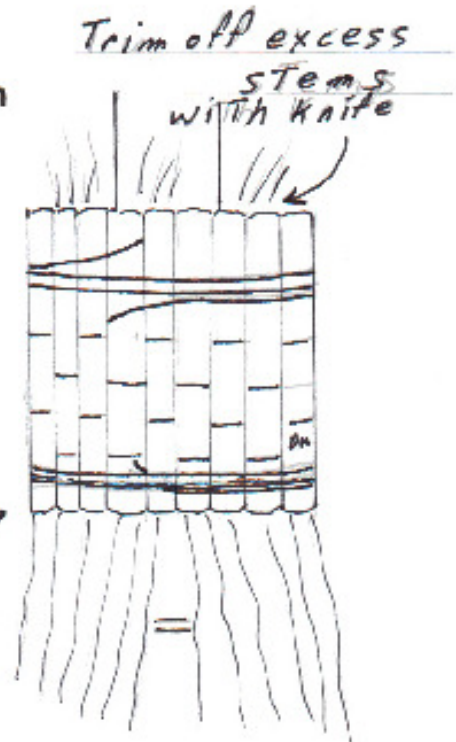
If you don't use the second loop, when you cut off the cord, leave about an inch. It can draw up and shrink some. Cut excess off later after stalks dry and tighten.

*Trim off even* →

Many broom makers leave the stalks attached and weave the final layer of stalks up the handle. To make the "spread" for flat brooms, about midway around the brush they wrap the twine four times, loosely. Then stitch the loose wrap using a needle.

A strong twine should be used. My wife's instructor said breaking of the twine sometimes happen.

The hardest part for me is the braiding. Good luck and practice makes perfect. Lets see some blacksmith tied brooms at the conference. Dave



*if you can't Tie Knot  
heat end of coat hanger  
and melt end of nylon  
cord "neatly"*



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

☐

James Johnston

☐

Keith Hicks

☐

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

(Must be willing to serve)

Send ballot to:

Ken Dettmer  
15721 S 250W  
Columbus, IN 47201

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 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Ballot  
Ken Dettmer  
15721 S 250W  
Columbus, IN 47201

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15721 S 250W  
Columbus, IN 47201

## Conner Prairie Forge Welding Class

March 23 (Saturday)  
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
\$130, \$120 members  
Minimum 6, 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+

## 2013 UPPER MIDWEST REGIONAL BLACKSMITH CONFERENCE

**JULY 19 THRU 21**

Location: Threshermen's Park, Pontiac, IL

The Project: Flowers. This can be individual flowers or as a group (for example a bouquet in a hand made vase).

The demonstrators are being lined up and will be announced in the next newsletter. The demonstrators will be announced on UMRBC.org.

Tail Gaiters are Welcome. Food will be available onsite. Camping available with onsite electricity.

**Come and enjoy the new flush toilets!**

**Look for more information in the next newsletter.**

### On Line Videos

The BBC has published some really good videos on you tube about blacksmithing and many other subjects that would interest the blacksmithing community.

Just click on "you tube" then Google "BBC Master Crafts" the list is extensive. You can even learn how to thatch your hut roof, work with green wood, build a spring pole lathe and yes, blacksmithing. Have fun, turn off the TV and spend some time in front of the computer screen.

Ted Stout





## **The *FORGE FIRE***

Newsletter of the  
Indiana Blacksmithing Association,  
Inc.

**Bill Kendrick** *Newsletter Editor*

1280 N CR 900 W  
Seymour, IN 47274

First Class Mail

Address Correction Requested  
If Undeliverable return to sender  
With original address legible

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### **Kelley Farms (Doc Ramseyer), Business Meeting**

March 16

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

### **Rocky Forge Blacksmith Guild**

April 20

**8525 West 700 South, West Point, In.**

From I-74, exit at Waynetown (9 miles west of Crawfordville). Take highway 25 north thru Wingate. Proceed north to the flashing light where highway 28 intersects with 25 at Odel. (The sign reads Odel on both sides). Continue north for 2.5 miles to county road 700 South, turn west (left) on 700 south, Ted's shop is the first building on the left.

From Lafayette follow highway 25 west to West Point. Proceed on 25 for 2.0 miles to road 700 south, turn west (right).

Please bring a dish to share