

# 19th Annual Blacksmith Days

## May 19 - 20, 2007

at the  
Carroll County Farm Museum  
Westminster, MD



Featuring

**Dorothy Stiegler**

**Becky Little**

**Nick Vincent**



**Sutter Creek, California**

Flowers in Bronze  
Using More Than 1 Striker

**Nova Scotia, Canada**

Decorative Mobiles  
Power Hammer Tooling

**Union Bridge, Maryland**

BGCM Founding Member  
Production Tools and Jigs

### Other Demonstrations

- Bladesmithing .....**Dave Morgan**
- Brass Casting .....**Walter VanAlstine**
- Iron Kiss Hammers ..... **John Larson**
- Repousse .....**Kerry Stagmer**
- Leather Work ..... **Marvin Shipley**
- Carving .....**Teddy Gregor**
- Mountain Men **Bill Chestnut**  
"Tall Tales" ..... **& Mark Haines**
- "Sheep to Shawl" .....**Fiber Artists**

### Forged Items Contests:

1. Flower
2. Knife

### On Site Forging Contest

**Forged Iron Auction 4:30PM Saturday**

### Admission:

\$30.00 In Advance

\$40.00 At The Gate

**(Includes Lunch Sat & Sun)**

**(Sat Dinner \$8.00 Extra In Advance Only)**

### Public Welcome

Enter from 12:00 to 5:00PM

for the Regular Farm Museum Entry Fee

## **Dorothy Stiegler**

Over the past 32 years Dorothy has been forging steel or bronze. Lately it has been bronze, type 655. In the last three years she has run nearly 50,000 lbs of type 655 Bronze through Stiegler Metal Design, a 2 man shop with one very accomplished apprentice. All they have left is one 5 gallon bucket of scrap after turning that tonnage into railings, doors, gates, lighting, sink bases and hammered bar tops. They specialize in rivets, mortise and tenon. It looks old, it feels old. Shel lives in Sutter Creek CA. and does high end forgings for those with discretionary income. Most of her work is in Pebble beach and Palo Alto, CA. She works with her partner in all things Erik Lander and her apprentice Jake Hill.

## **Becky Little**

With well known blacksmith John Little for a father, Becky was exposed to blacksmithing at an early age. She studied philosophy at King's College but rediscovered an interest in metalwork while searching for a career that could be both physically and emotionally satisfying. An apprenticeship with her father in 2002 developed into part-time self-employment, working beside John in his shop. In 2005 they demonstrated together at CanIron V, which brought such international legends as Paul and Heiner Zimmermann, Fred Christ and Christoph Friedrich amongst others. Becky was invited by the Zimmermanns to Germany to learn and help in their shop. Becky jumped at the chance and spent the next year in Europe, learning a great deal about work, design, business and life from this warm family. From there, she continued her learning at the shop of Oskar and Andy Hafen and was able to visit many other shops and attend conferences in Norway and Germany. Now back in Nova Scotia she is ready to launch her full-time blacksmithing career with gusto. Greatly influenced by her father's work and by contemporary European smiths, Becky is exploring modern forging aesthetics and design to find her own way.

## **Nick Vincent**

Nathan's Forge is owned and managed by Nick Vincent, a professional blacksmith with over twenty-four years experience. He has trained under some of the country's leading blacksmiths including Peter Ross and Ken Schwarz of Colonial Williamsburg. His work has been featured in national magazines and newspapers and he has pieces contained in private collections across the nation. Mr. Vincent has been a major contributor to the blacksmithing community since his entry into the field. He frequently teaches and demonstrates blacksmithing techniques, is an active member of several regional and national blacksmithing organizations, was one of the founders of the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland in 1986 and is the immediate past-president of the Mid-Atlantic Smith's Association.

### **Bladesmithing**      **Dave Morgan**

Dave began knife making in 1997, making knives by stock removal. Seven years ago Dave met a blacksmith Walter VanAlstine and from that day on he was hooked on blacksmithing. Dave teaches knife making classes at Carroll County Farm Museum and is a member of the American Bladesmiths Society, the Blacksmith Guild of the Chesapeake, and the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland (BGCM). Dave has helped fund the guild's educational activities by donating a handmade knife to every "Iron in the Hat" and one of his high profile knives to the "Blacksmith Days" raffle for the last four years. Dave loves to share his enthusiasm with everybody.

### **Brass Casting**      **Walter VanAlstine**

Walter was born New York State, but moved to Germany after World War II. Walter has fond childhood memories of waking up to the sounds of the blacksmith shop across the street. He returned to Maryland in 1953. In his efforts in the 1970's to melt and cast aluminum, he acquired the equipment to forge iron. He relied on old books to discover the mysteries of blacksmithing and then 16 years ago went to a meeting of the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland. Walter hasn't missed a guild meeting since. As the guild's forgemaster, Walter quickly involves new members in blacksmithing. Walter and his son, Bucky, operate the Dutch Forge and teach the BGCM Basic Knife Making Class.

### **Leather Work**      **Marvin Shipley**

Marvin was raised on the family farm in south Carroll County. He was told that if you use your mind and hands to make something, you will never be hungry. Both his father and maternal grandfather were very talented with their hands and his shop teacher from 1947 thru 1953, taught him projects in metal, wood, leather. Facing the draft, he married his high school sweetheart and enlisted in the U. S. Marines. While overseas he started making knives. He uses the stock removal process completing them using stainless steel or nickel silver hilts, phenolic or sandbar stag handles, and a sheath of leather finished with dye or neats foot oil. With his wife's indulgence, Marvin developed a knife and sheath that he is very proud of.

### **Iron Kiss Hammer**      **John Larson**

John has been manufacturing air hammers since 1996. John is also forgemaster and demonstrates blacksmithing at Jerusalem Mills a satellite forge of BGCM. In addition to manufacturing hammers, he does welding and fabrication. This is a second career for John, after retiring from being a Professor of Economics at Loyola College in Baltimore. John has been blacksmithing for about 12 years and has been a welder, fabricator, and machinist of hot rods since high school. John has vivid memories of visiting village blacksmith shops with his dad in the 1950s in rural Minnesota. John says his biggest passion is to make the best air hammer on the planet.

### **Repoussé**      **Kerry Stagmer**

Kerry Stagmer has been making knives, swords, and armor more than twenty years. Kerry developed a simple, resilient, attractive blade that is the basis of all swords he produces. Baltimore Knife and Sword has evolved to include armor, sculpture, and sterling, gold, and platinum jewelry inspired by that found in Renaissance portraiture. Kerry's carefully researched work has appeared in many venues: in movies, performances at Renaissance festivals and theatres all over the United States. His hand-chased jewelry pieces take an average of thirty hours to complete and chase. His raised and repousséd work is even more intensive. Increasing awareness among both artists and the general public of these dying art forms has become the focus of much of his time in the last few years.

## Carving **Teddy Gregor**

Ferenc "Teddy" Gregor, a first generation Hungarian-American, residing in Maryland, began carving in 1987, utilizing natural materials, such as wood, horn, fossil ivories, and stone. He is self taught using both old and new technique in various mediums and styles. In 1996, he was commissioned to complete the carving for the National Cryptological Memorial, "THEY SERVED IN SILENCE". Well known for his carved handle custom knives, his small scale carving is considered a world class carver by collectors. In 1998 he was awarded "Best Presentation for Custom Knives" at the Chesapeake National Knife show, by his peers.

## Mountain Men/ Fur Trappers "Tall Tales"

## Bill Chestnut / Mark Haines

Bill Chestnut - Colonial Period Fur Trapper Mark Haines - Maryland Loyalist (accompanied by two others) Bill, Mark and friends will be dressed in colonial period costumes and will have camps set up. They will be demonstrating cooking and other skills including a tomahawk throw as they relate tall tales of days gone by.

## " Sheep to Shawl"

## Carroll County Fiber Artists

Watch as a sheep is sheared, wool is spun, and a shawl is woven all in the same day. They needed a day to do it -- and the Blacksmith Days seemed very appropriate. The Carroll County Fiber Artists has an active membership of about 30 people, and lots of them will be spinning and carding and weaving throughout the day.

## Silent Auction Saturday/Sunday

Attendee's may consign blacksmithing/metal working tools and equipment Consignments subject to 20% auction commission and Maryland sales tax (5%) will be charged. Include list/description of items to be consigned with registration

## Portfolio and Forged Items Display Tables

Bring examples of your work and/or portfolio to network with other smiths and show the public. The Farm Museum is open to the Public from 12:00-5:00PM on Saturday and Sunday when they may observe Blacksmith Days activities

## Forging Contests Rules - Consider Submitting Your Entries to the Auction

### Knife from Recycled Materials

#### Judges - Stacy Aplet and J. Neilson

1. Blade must be forged from "recycled" item(s). Examples: saw blades, motorcycle chain, railroad spike, etc. "Cut-offs" /drops of steel stock are not considered recycled material for this contest.
2. Handle must be recycled also: Wood from a firewood pile, old fencepost, old barn, blue jeans etc. Stabilizing or surface treatments will be allowed.
3. Guard and/or pin stock may but does not need to be recycled material.
4. Use of recycled materials should be evident on the completed knife, or evidence of the use of recycled materials must be provided by the entrant to the satisfaction of the judges. In process photos clearly showing the forged blade with an unforged end still attached submitted along with this unforged cutoff is acceptable evidence.

5. The spirit of this contest is to make a knife using recycled materials. Keep this in mind when selecting materials and forging your knife. The contest judges decision regarding questionable material use will be final.

### Flower(s)

#### Judges

#### Dorothy Stiegler, Becky Little & Nick Vincent

1. Forge Flower(s) of your choice. The Flower(s) may be separate or incorporated into a forged item
2. Must be made entirely by the person entering them
3. Items will be judged by the Demonstrators on both their artistic and technical forging characteristics

### On Site Forging Contest

Come prepared to test you forging Skills!  
Rules will be announced the day of the contest.

### Knife Contest Judge

### Stacy Aplet

Stacy is member of the American Bladesmith Association residing in Norfolk, Virginia. He was taught to work with his hands and head at an early age by his grandfather, physicist Leland Johnson Stacy. Born in 1950, he is married, father of three with two grandchildren. Stacy is a Kilt wearing Scotsman, and President, Saint Andrew's society of Tidewater. He has been a Goldsmith/ Jeweler since 1975.

### Knife Contest Judge

### J. Neilson

J. Neilson is a fulltime knifemaker and American Bladesmith Journeyman Smith from Wyalusing, PA. He and his wife Tess manufacture some of the finest custom knife and sheath combos available. J. performs the bladesmithing and Tess does all of the leather work. J. and Tess' work have been featured in Blade Magazine and Tactical Knives Magazine and he won both "Best Damascus Knife" and "Best Hand-Forged Knife" at the 2006 Ohio Classic knife show.

### On Site Forging Contest

### Chris Holt

Chris started forging in Wales in 1999 working with master blacksmith Ronnie Pitt. He came to the US for the bladesmithing school and journeyman program. Chris spent three weeks at the Bladesmithing School; three months as a journeyman with Bob Bergman, Bill Epps, Ric Furrer, and Greg Campbell; and two years working on architectural and industrial forging at Black Rose Forge (some \$200,000 commissions). Chris also recently earned a registered nursing degree (RN). Chris is the president of Chesapeake Forge Guild at Kinder Farm Park near Annapolis. Chris enjoys teaching blacksmithing when he can.

# Eye Protection Required to Watch Demonstrations - Please Remember to Bring Yours

## Saturday, May 19

8:00 AM Gates Open Continental Breakfast (Tailgaters set up at 7:00AM)  
**8:00 AM - ????** **Tailgating** (Sales of Tools, Books, and Blacksmith's Equipment)  
 9:00 AM - NOON **Demonstrations**  
**9:00 AM - NOON** **Forging Contest – Chris Holt**  
**NOON - 1:00 PM** **Lunch - Iron-in-the-Hat Drawing at 12:30** (Tickets on sale til 12:15)  
 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM **Demonstrations**  
**NOON - 4:00 PM** **Forging Contest – Chris Holt**  
 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM **Judging and Awarding Prizes for All Forging Contests**  
**4:30 PM - 5:30 PM** **Live Auction of Forged Items**  
 5:30 PM - ????

**Dinner in the Museum Barn (Pre-Registration Required)**  
 Demonstrators will speak briefly about their ventures into Blacksmithing, followed by informal discussion

## Sunday, May 20

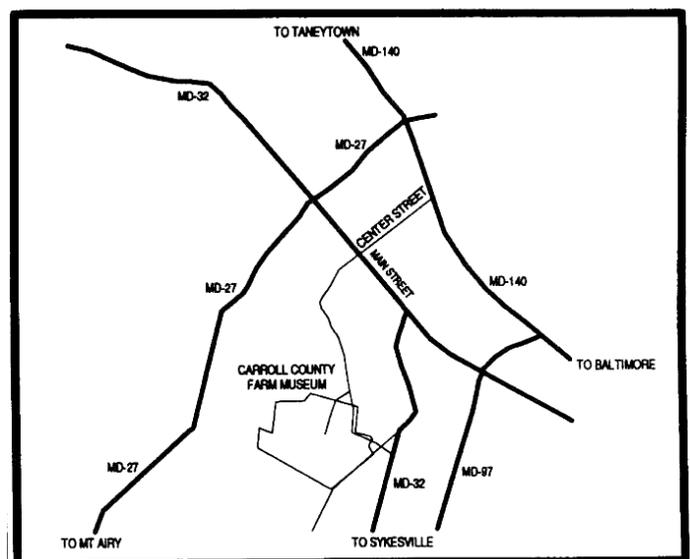
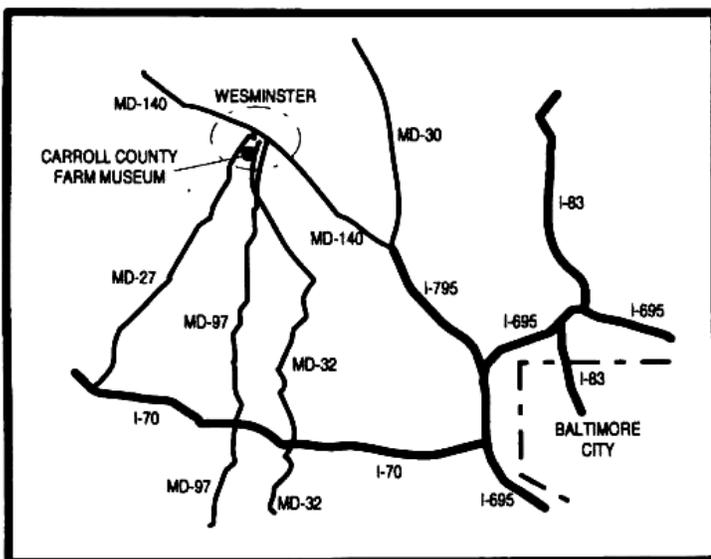
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**NOON - 1:00 PM** **Lunch - Iron-in-the-Hat Drawing at 12:30** (Tickets on sale til 12:15)  
 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM **Demonstrations**  
**3:00 PM** **Silent Auction Ends**  
**4:00 PM** **Raffle Drawings**

### Local Accommodations

May 19-20 is Preakness Weekend in Baltimore and McDaniel College Graduation in Westminster

**Make Room Reservations Early!**

<b>Best Western:</b>	451 Western Maryland College Drive Westminster, MD	(410) 857-1900
<b>The Boston Inn:</b>	533 Baltimore Blvd Westminster, MD	(410) 848-9095
<b>Days Inn:</b>	25 South Cranberry Rd Westminster, MD	(410) 857-0500



**For Additional Information Contact**

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**Check our website for updates and additional info: [www.bgcmonline.org](http://www.bgcmonline.org)**