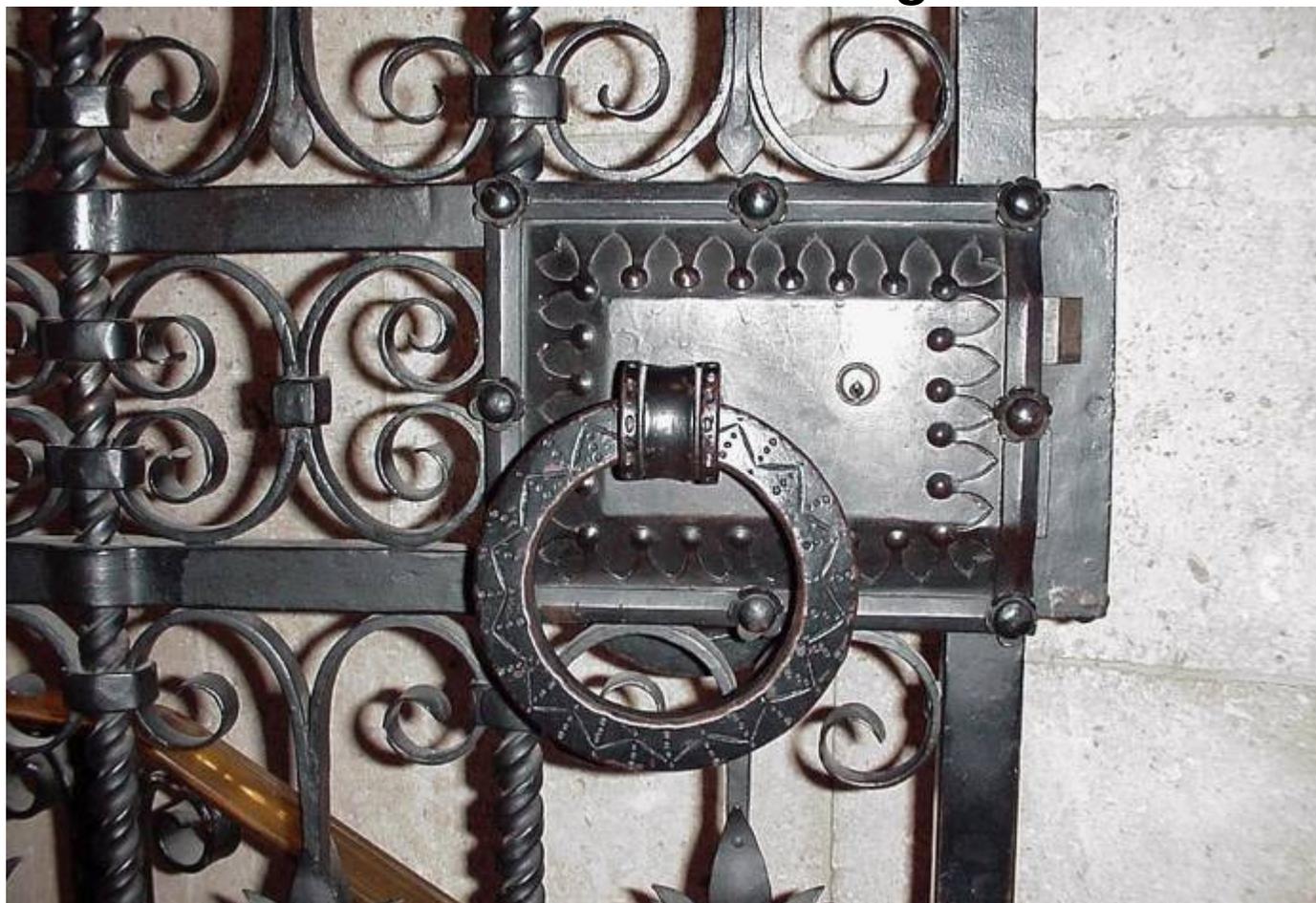




BGCM Plans Samuel Yellin Event At The Bank of America Building in Baltimore



Detail of Yellin Gate Handle at Bank of America Building, 10 Light Street, Baltimore

Samuel Yellin Tour, Workshop, and Banquet on October 15, 2005

By Allen Dyer and Russell Bateman

Have you ever visited the fabulous Samuel Yellin work in the Bank of America Building lobby & mezzanine at 10 Light Street near Baltimore's Inner Harbor?

We recently had the opportunity to be guests of the Bank of America for a behind the scenes private tour. As with so many great works of art, this work must be seen and touched in its natural environment to be fully appreciated. Photographs even

Samuel Yellin Page 3

IN THIS ISSUE.....Page

President's message 3

Bill Gichner Hammer -In..... 4

Cable Damascus Knife Class..... 5

BGCM 2004 Awards..... 5

Blacksmithing on the Internet 6

Library News 8

Building a Coal Forge Part 2 . 10

Video Course Review:

A Blacksmithing Primer 11

Heat Treatment Book Review... 15

BGCM's Blacksmith Days..... 17

BGOP's Spring Fling..... 18

The Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland, Inc.*

BGCM is dedicated to preserving and promoting the art and craft of hand forging iron. The guild meets monthly to share blacksmithing information and techniques at the Carroll County Farm Museum, Westminster, Maryland.

BGCM Officers

President **Ted McNett**
(717) 646-9839 tedneck@aol.com

Vice President **Bob Nagle**
(717) 646-8306

Secretary **Charles Struble**
(410) 871-2168 CStruble@gaf.com

Treasurer **Judy Heinekamp**
(410) 922-1246 judy529@qis.net

Board Member **Mark Judge**
(410) 848-1929 judgefam@msn.com

Board Member **Allen Dyer**

Board Member **Ken Strosnider**
(410) 751-7762 mountainviewforge@hotmail.com

BGCM Committee Members

Awards Committee **Albin Drzewianowski**
(410) 848-0731 dski1045@qis.net

Blacksmith Days Chairman **Dick Smith**
(301) 309-2289 rsmith@lofstrand.com

Blacksmith School Administrator **Ted McNett**

Forge Masters

CCFM **Walter VanAlstine**
(301) 725-4826 waltervanalstine@juno.com

Jerusalem Mills **John Larson**
(410) 592-5058 jolarson@comcast.net

Eastern Panhandle **Dave Merceruio**
(304) 263-2970

Historic Forge Volunteer Coordinator.. **Kevin Thomas**
(410) 848-4869 kbt62@direcway.com

Librarian **Kevin Thomas**

Assistant Librarian **Judy Heinekamp**

Guild Web Master **Ross Hughes**
(410) 519-0653 rhughes@intergate.com

Newsletter Editor **Bill Clemens**
(570) 568-2158 newky2@dejazzd.com

Newsletter Editors Emeritus..... **Albin Drzewianowski**
Judy Heinekamp

Scholarship Committee **Judy Heinekamp**
Ross Hughes

BGCM Yahoo Group

Administrator **Albin Drzewianowski**
To join: BGCM-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
To participate: BGCM@yahoogroups.com
To leave group: BGCM-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Guild Website www.bgcmonline.com

* BGCM is a non-profit 501c3 educational corporation founded in 1986 and incorporated in 1995 and is an affiliate of the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.

The **HAMMER & TONG**

BGCM's newsletter is published bimonthly. We welcome and encourage you to contribute articles, book reviews, trip reports, or just your thoughts on blacksmithing. One of the main purposes of the Guild is to promote the exchange of information and ideas associated with blacksmithing. We are glad to publish classified ads to assist members in the sale of blacksmith related items, or to help locate wanted tools, anvils, steels, etc. Ads must be renewed for each issue.

Submissions may be sent to the editor:

Bill Clemens 160 2nd Street, New Columbia, PA 17856
e-mail: newky2@dejazzd.com

Deadline for March/April Issue: 1February 2005

All original articles printed in this issue are placed in the public domain unless the author states otherwise. Anyone using items from this newsletter is requested to give credit to the author and **The HAMMER & TONG**. For reprinted or quoted material the copyright restrictions of the originator apply.



Blacksmithing, involves Fire, Hot Steel, Hammers, etc.

It is not an activity to be taken lightly.
Safety and caution must always be in the forefront of any blacksmith's mind before they pick up a hammer and begin hitting Hot Metal.

Safety Rules

1. **Wear eye protection** at all times in the shop area.
2. Know location of first aid kit and fire extinguisher.
3. Turn on exhaust blower before lighting the forge.
4. Turn off blowers on forges when not heating iron/steel.
5. Do not knock hot coals/embers on the floor.
6. Advise when preparing a forge weld by yelling: "**WELDING**".
7. Dress ends of steel.
8. Obtain permission from Forge Master before using power tools.
9. Maintain and leave an orderly work area.
10. Return unused coal to the coal bin.

Please observe these safety rules when working in the Guild's forge areas

BGCM, its officers and its members assume no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, fitness, proper design, safety or safe use of any information contained in this newsletter and disclaim any responsibility or liability for damage or injuries as a result of its use.

Guild Address

Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland, Inc.

P. O. Box 593,
Randallstown, MD 21133

Guild Telephone Number **(410) 386-9150**

President's Message

As I write this I am gazing out my window at my smithy **watching the** predicted one-inch of **snow pile up** to 3 or 4 inches. This is **my favorite type of day to forge** because you really "can't" go anywhere. I hope the cold and snow has not kept anyone from their forge. Remember to preheat your anvil before you forge and empty the slack tub when you are finished.

These are exciting times for BGCM. **The forge rehab is steadily progressing.** The center wall has been partially removed. The back wall is paneled and insulated. The closet is framed and paneled. The steel rack has been moved. The forges are all built. The concrete work is finished. The chimneys and hoods will be in soon. The membership has made all of this possible. I am always impressed at the skills that our members possess.

Thank you to all who have helped keep the progress moving. It amazes me how much work we can get done. The next workday will be announced on the BGCM yahoo group or let me know if you want to help.

Jim Fifer has done the electrical work, **Allen Gartrell and Bob's Welding** ordered and sheared the plate and angle iron for the forges, and **Walter VanAlstine** found tubing for the forge legs and steel rests as well bringing in a cement mixer. **Special thanks for the anonymous tax-deductible donation of \$500.00** towards the forge rehab project.

I welcome Allen Dyer to the Board of Directors. Allen is also chairing an event to highlight local work of Samuel Yellin. If you are interested in helping with this event please contact him. (aldyer@lawlab.com)

Kevin Thomas has volunteered as **librarian and the historic forge coordinator.** If you are interested in demonstrating at the historic forge please let him know (kbt62@direcway.com). If you are unsure ask to demonstrate with another experienced member. This is a great opportunity to work at the forge. If you have never forged with a bellows it is a real treat.

Blacksmith Days is quickly approaching. Send in your pre-registration form today. This will be another great event. Read more details in the newsletter. If you have not made an item for the **50/50 auction** please consider it. This auction is **open to the public**, you may set a minimum bid, and you get 50 percent of the total.

**Keep the forge lit,
Ted McNett**



Samuel Yellin from Page 1

fail to convey the magnitude of the work as a whole in this unique cavernous, stately banking facility.

The lobby & mezzanine of the Bank of America Building is, in effect, Baltimore's Samuel Yellin Museum and this October 15th BGCM members may have the rare opportunity to exclusive access to this "museum" for the better part of a day.

At the January BGCM meeting the membership discussed the possibility of a Samuel Yellin Tour & Workshop that would provide participants with an increased appreciation & knowledge of the work of

Samuel Yellin, create public domain information about the role of blacksmiths in the creation of functional art, and create common interests and memories. In addition, Walter Van Alstine, Sr., Bill Clemens, Tige Davis, Ken Strosnider, Tem Beachley, George L. Hughes, and Ted McNett promptly volunteered to serve as docents and instructors for a workshop that would use blacksmith punches and clay to introduce members of the general public to the creation of Yellinesque creatures.

In light of the interest expressed at the general meeting, the BGCM Board voted to investigate the concept, cost, spaces, transportation and overall planning. As a result, the Samuel Yellin

Event steering committee/group was formalized and they are currently brainstorming and planning using a Yahoo groups list (BGCM-Yellin). The Yellin Event steering committee discussions are archived, placed in the public domain, and available for review at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BGCM-Yellin/messages>

Probably the most significant development since the January meeting was the announcement by Bank of America Liaison, Grant Cole, that the Bank of America Building lobby & mezzanine is available on October 15, 2005, a day when Clare Yellin, granddaughter of Samuel Yellin, is available to speak about Samuel Yellin and his art. In addition, Jack Andrews, author of Samuel Yellin, Metalworker, will present a public domain slide show of Samuel Yellin's wrought iron work and Richard Wattenmaker, Smithsonian Director of Archives of American Art and author of Yellin in Context, has expressed interest in participating if his schedule permits.

The Blacksmiths' Guild of the Potomac is offering their extensive experience in organizing events by acting as a sounding board through BGOP Liaison Bill Wojcik. To help pay for event expenses, an auction of blacksmith art is planned and, to start the ball rolling, Jim "Wally" Wallace, the Director of the National Ornamental Iron Museum in Memphis, TN, has pledged a forged object for the auction. Support for BGCM's planned Samuel Yellin Event is widespread.

If you have suggestions or want to volunteer to help in some way, please contact one of the steering committee members: Allen & Tamara Dyer, Russell & Valerie Bateman, Jack Andrews, Bill Clemens, Mike & Jean Christianson, Albin Drzewianowski, Judy Heinekamp, Ted McNett, Clare Yellin, or Bill Wojcik.



25th Annual Bill Gichner Hammer-In

By Albin Drzewianowski

The 25th Annual Bill Gichner Hammer-In was held the weekend of January 8-9, 2005. It was a truly bittersweet event. The Bill Gichner

Hammer-In has now become the Bill Gichner Memorial Hammer-In.



The featured demonstrators from the Czech Republic were Freddy Habermann Jr. and his wife Vera. Both are classically trained European blacksmiths. The highlight of their demos had to be the team striking: Freddy leading with a hand hammer and Vera following blow for blow with a sledge hammer, sometimes the 10-pounder. It was almost musical to listen to them work.



It was especially impressive when we found out that Vera is the mother of 7 and in her late 40's. You would never know it to watch her swing a striking hammer.

The most touching moments were when Mack Beale and Nol Putnam gave their tributes to Bill Gichner. Mack reminisced about 30 year and eighty thousand miles of road trips he had taken with Bill and Peter Happney. Nol read the eulogy he had prepared for Bill's funeral.



Seeing Bill's empty chair in the front row of the demo area was a constant reminder of our loss.



Dave Morgan's Cable Damascus Knife Class

By William Judge

It was a cool October morning as eight eager students arrived ready for Dave Morgan's Cable Damascus Knife class. Dave Morgan was assisted by Ted McNett, the guilds school coordinator.

Dave and Ted had already prepared the stock needed for the class. Each student was given a piece of cable approximately eight inches long. The cables had been welded to a piece of half inch square bar stock eighteen inches in length, to provide a handle.

It was explained by Dave that an electric blower on your forge is preferred because of the steady constant air flow required for proper forge welding. We paired up in two man teams at each of the schools four electric blower equipped forges.

Dave then demonstrated the proper technique for welding the cable. First the cable was heated to a yellow orange at which point the cable was untwisted to allow proper fluxing. After opening the cable up, it was wire brushed clean and fluxed. We took another heat going up to a yellow-white color. The cable was twisted closed as tight as possible wire brushed again, fluxed and heated back to a yellow white.

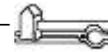
Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland

Then we hammered along the cable in a spiraling pattern completing the welding process. Several of us learned how quickly you can go beyond a welding heat to burning your stock.

The cables were forged to a flat bar, cut halfway through then folded over and welded again. The process is repeated until the desired number of layers is reached.

At that point each student was left to forge his blank into a knife of his choice. After forming the blade (grinding and sanding) the blades were hardened and tempered. The blades were finally cleaned up and soaked in an acid solution to bring out the pattern of the steel.

All in all it was a great class. I would recommend it to others that are interested in improving their knife making skills. The skills needed for the class are forge welding, basic knife making, and patience. I would like to thank Dave for teaching the class and for the deer chili. I would also like to thank the Guild for allowing me to attend this class on a Guild scholarship.



BGCM 2004 Awards

By Albin Drzewianowski

At the Annual BGCM Holiday Party, held on Saturday, December 11th, 2004, Guild members were honored for their contributions to the club. In addition to the MAGIC ANVIL AWARD, two new awards were presented for the first time: The Exceptional Service Award and The Marshall Crumbacker Award.

The Magic Anvil Award is the Guild's highest honor. It goes to those BGCM members who have made outstanding contributions to the Guild.

Bill and April Clemens - Despite living way up north in central Pennsylvania, Bill and April have been major supporters of the Guild. During the recent political shake up, Bill volunteered to stand for election as President of the Guild. He worked to smooth over the "troubled waters" and bring some tranquility back to the Guild's Executive Board. Also, Bill has made a significant effort to get blacksmith technique demonstrations at each monthly

March/April 2005 **HAMMER & TONG** 5

meeting. This often means that he is the one doing the demonstration. Bill pushed for and supported the "trade item" program at Guild meetings. Now that Bill has stepped down from the Presidency, he has accepted the equally demanding job of Newsletter Editor. April co-chaired and (co-cooked) the Saturday night dinner for the 2003 Blacksmith Days. Finally April must be recognized for being so understanding and supportive of all of Bill's Guild involvement despite the fact that they have been in the midst of a whole house renovation of their "this old house" in New Columbia, PA.

The Exceptional Service Award (a new award this year) recognizes Guild members who have made exceptional contributions to BGCM. It is especially intended to recognize Guild members who have already received the MAGIC ANVIL AWARD and continue to have a major impact on the success of the Guild.

Janet Edson - In spite of living all the way down in Fredericksburg, VA, Janet is one of the mainstays of the Guild. She has made and donated beautiful quilts for our Blacksmith Day Auctions. Janet headed up food service for the 2004 Blacksmith Days. When she comes to the monthly meetings, she always brings a major contribution to the potluck lunch and something for the iron-in-the-hat. In past years, she has gone to great lengths to help decorate for the Annual Christmas Party.

Judy Heinekamp - Despite immense family obligations, Judy simultaneously filled two of the Guilds most important and time consuming jobs: Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, not to mention being the de facto Assistant Librarian. (As a former Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, I know how much work each of those jobs entails.) And those jobs are year round, every month, there is work to do, deadlines to be met. Judy also contributes a lot of time to the preparations for Blacksmith Days and the Christmas party.

Dave Morgan - In just a few short years Dave has become one of the Guild's best knife makers. He made possible the knife making demonstration by Rob Hudson at the 2004 Blacksmith Days. Along with Janet Edson's quilts, the knives that Dave has donated to

Blacksmith Day Auctions and to monthly iron-in-the-hats are significant moneymakers for the Guild. Also, Dave has assisted and taught a number of knife making classes in our Blacksmithing School. Knife making classes are among the most popular classes.

The Marshall Crumbacker Award was created to recognize those Guild members who have contributed to the success of the demonstrator program in the Farm Museum's Historic Forge.

Jim Fifer - In 2004, Jim accepted the job of being the coordinator for the Historic Forge, and he REALLY took the job seriously. He instituted a number of innovations to improve the entire demonstration experience for the Guild members who spend time in that forge, educating the public about blacksmithing.

Bob Nagle - I don't have the exact numbers, but I don't think that anyone else has put in more hours in the Historic Forge than Bob. In spite of often being on-call with his "day job". Bob drives down to Westminster and is one of the mainstays when it comes to manning the Historic Forge. Also, Bob always brings a large display of hand forged iron to display to the public just what exactly a blacksmith makes, not just horse shoes.

Finally, the Executive Board usurped the authority of the Awards Committee and went behind its back to present a **Magic Anvil Award** to the Awards Committee Chairman: **Albin Drzewianowski**. For once I was almost speechless. Totally surprised me. Thank you.

The accomplishments listed above are just "the tip of the iceberg". Each has donated untold hours of effort in support of the Guild. These awards are important. We need to publicly acknowledge those Guild members who go the extra mile to make this club the success it has become.

If you know someone who should be recognized for their contributions, please pass the information on to the Awards Committee or an Executive Board member. Also, if you would like to be on the Awards Committee just let an Executive Board member know. This Committee of one is always looking for help.

Albin Drzewianowski Receives The Guild's "Magic Anvil" Award

By Judy Heinekamp



As the saying goes, the cobbler fixes everyone's shoes, but his own children go barefoot. This applies to a member of our guild. As the person responsible for setting up the Guild's award program and the chairman of the committee, he has missed being the recipient of an award. Therefore, the board of directors decided to take matters into their hands and rectify this situation. We are pleased today to present to Albin Drzewianowski the Magic Anvil award.

Albin has been the guiding light of our guild for many years. The guild was founded in 1986, and while Albin was not a charter member, it wasn't very long before he began attending meetings and becoming involved. For several years Albin served as editor of the Guild's newsletter. As Editor Emeritus, Albin has continued contributing to the newsletter with his columns and articles on blacksmithing. As many of you know, ABANA affiliates regularly exchange newsletters. One of the purposes of this practice is to disseminate as much information about blacksmithing to as many blacksmiths as possible. So it is not unusual to see an article published one month in a newsletter and the next month you'll see the same article in 40 other publications. Albin's contributions to "The Hammer & Tong" have appeared in innumerable other chapter newsletter and possibly his article on coal has appeared in every chapter newsletter.

But Albin's contributions don't stop there. Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland

Albin and Bob Morris were the two members most responsible for the Guild's successful blacksmith school. Albin served as administrator for the school for several years. He personally helped to build those forges that the Guild will soon be replacing, and most recently, he is part of the forge rehab committee responsible for updating and upgrading the guild's forging area.

Albin started teaching beginning blacksmithing in his own forge. Many members have benefited from Albin's beginner's classes. In the old days, a beginner's class cost \$30 and you received a copy of "The Edge of the Anvil". Many have taken Albin's beginning blacksmith class. You know and can attest to the breadth of his knowledge of blacksmithing and his commitment to seeing that it is taught safely and responsibly.

Albin served as the guild's treasurer for several years. Albin is the one who is responsible for the guild having a budget. His leadership and foresight have helped to keep the guild on a good financial basis.

Of all the official positions that Albin has held in the guild, perhaps his most important contribution is the unofficial position of guru. If he doesn't know the answer to the question or problem, he knows where to go to find the answer. He knows and remembers what the guild has done in the past. The cry "Ask Albin" is frequent.

His generous donation of his time and talents has been the difference many times between success and failure for a Guild project. There is no one more deserving of the "Magic Anvil" award.



Ornaments Exchanged at the Holiday Party

Library News

By Judy Heinekamp

The Library has recently added several new publications, a videocassette, and DVD's to its inventory. These books, DVD's and videocassette will be available for check out at the next Guild meeting.

A Heritage in Iron

by Rafael Routson

A book about several students of Francis Whittaker and the beautiful, functional ironwork these modern artisans forged for two ranches in southwest Colorado.

A Blacksmithing Primer

--A Course in Basic and Intermediate Blacksmithing

by Randy McDaniel

A three DVD set that serves as a companion video to the "A Blacksmithing Primer" book. Almost 6 hours long, the DVD's cover topics in the same order as the book, with lots of well-edited footage and close-ups of forging techniques.

Each DVD can be checked out separately to permit wider access by guild members.

Disk 1 begins with tools and works through hammer blows, fire starting & management, drawing a taper, upsetting, hooks and a flesh fork.

Disk 2 begins with a three tine fork, how to do a spark test, heat treating, forge welding, strap hinges, tongs and nails.

Disk 3 continues with more forge welds, twisting, scrolls, jigs, and animal heads.

Ed Note: See **A Blacksmithing Primer Video Course** Review by Allen Dyer in this issue for more details of these DVD's

Forged Animal Heads with Bill Epps

A DVD on how to make Dragons, Long Horn Steers, Rams, and a Horse head on a Horseshoe.

A Catalogue of Tools for Watch and Clock Makers

by John Wyke of Liverpool
(Donated by Albin Drzewianowski)

The John Wyke Catalogue of Tools shows the implements that were commercially available for clock and watchmakers in the eighteenth century.

Alan Smiths' Introduction outlines the background of the clock and watch tool trade in eighteenth-century England and presents the first detailed biography of Wyke and his partner, Thomas Green, describing their importance as English eighteenth-century tool and watch-part manufacturers. The catalogue's engravings illustrate a complete range of horological tools. This book provides a thorough understanding of the structure of the early clock and watch trade.

The Blacksmith; Ironworker and Farrier

by Aldren A. Watson

(Donated by Bob Nagle)

This book describes the tools and techniques of the blacksmith, portraying the role of the blacksmith as hardware maker, farrier, and village handyman. Methods for fullering, upsetting, and welding wrought iron are clearly explained, as well as the construction of latches, ice tongs, chains, and a wealth of iron fittings.

Yankee Iron, The Story of the Eastern Malleable Iron Company

by Jack Weeks

(Donated by Bob Nagle)

Published by The Eastern Malleable Iron Company. Pictures and text describe the founding of the company and its impact on the region.

Gunsmith of Williamsburg

The Story of a Master Craftsman

Distributed by Colonial Williamsburg

(Donated by Bob Nagle)

A video dramatization that takes you back to a time when every able-bodied man in America was required by law to have a serviceable weapon and an adequate supply of gunpowder and shot in his home. The gun was a vital part of life in colonial Williamsburg, and this docudrama demonstrates the loving care that went into the making of each weapon.

There are several books and tapes that have been checked out and are long overdue. Please check around your shop and home and see if you have a book or tape that belongs to the Guild. Books and tapes can be returned at the Guild meetings, to any board member, or mailed to the Guild's post office box.

Letters will be mailed in March to members who have books overdue. A period of amnesty for fines for overdue books and tapes will be extended through the end of March to those members who have overdue publications. Take advantage of this offer and **BRING THOSE BOOKS BACK!** Thanks.

For your convenience, the following are the library policies and procedures:

Library Policies and Procedures

- 1.** A current membership badge is required to check out library books.
- 2.** Materials may be checked out for a one-month period or until the next regularly scheduled Guild meeting/event. If a book or video is checked out at other than a Guild meeting or event, you have four weeks to return the item. Books may be returned to any Executive Committee member, or mailed to the guild P.O. Box.
- 3.** A fine of \$0.20 per book/video per day will be charged for overdue Library materials. A member will not be able to check out any additional books or videos if there are any outstanding fines. A member will not be able to renew their Guild membership if there are any outstanding fines.
- 4.** In the event that library materials are lost, the Guild is to be reimbursed for the replacement cost of the library material. If the book or video cannot be replaced, i.e., it is no longer available; the fee will be \$50.00.
- 5.** Money collected as fines will be used to purchase new library books and videos.



Blacksmithing on the Internet

By Albin Drzewianowski

With each month the resources available on the INTERNET increase. This includes blacksmithing. But at the same time, we also see some old favorites leave the INTERNET. At the end of December, we saw the end of KEENJUNK.COM. Neil Winnikov who had started the web site about 10 or so years ago is fast approaching his 85th birthday, and found his time and energy flagging, also his technical helper has become mired down in paying projects, and so Neil had decided to close down KEENJUNK. "Sparky" a blacksmith in New Zealand, stepped up and created a replacement web page that looks very much like the original. Most of the regular contributors have found their way back. So if you were someone who either participated or lurked on KEENJUNK, then the replacement is:

<http://www.forgemagic.com>

If you are interested in building or just understanding how power hammers work, then you might want to monitor FORGEMAGIC. Our own John Larson is one of the regular posters on that site and he has started up a "discussion/seminar group" on the designing and building of a "utility hammer" (power hammer that runs off of an air compressor). See the posting on Jan. 29th at 17:47 to get an introduction to building your own power hammer. John has done a lot of research and development into how an air powered hammer works, especially the valving which seems to be critical to getting the most out of a hammer.

Dave Mudge, Magic Hammer Forge in Louisiana, has started a blacksmithing educational web page at:

<http://www.metalsmithinghow-to.com/>

This looks like it may have potential to become a good source for blacksmith information.



Beginner's Corner

By Albin Drzewianowski

Building a Coal Forge Part 2 - The Air Supply

OK, we are half way there. We have roughly a bowl shaped depression to hold the burning coal. In the bottom of the depression is a tuyere, which allows us to blow air into the fire with out the coal falling down into tuyere. The air can be introduced from the side or from the bottom. A side draft tuyere or side draft forge (not to be confused with a "side draft flue" which is used to remove smoke from the forge) is the older system and is preferred if you are using charcoal. The negative aspect of a side draft is that the air nozzle tends to burn up. Traditionally, this problem was alleviated by having a nozzle within a water jacket to cool the air nozzle and keep it from burning up. For a hobbyist, the solution is to have an easily replaceable nozzle, probably made from stainless steel. The traditional American coal forge is bottom draft. Since the air enters at the bottom and heat travels up, you don't have the same heat issues as in a side draft tuyere.

What are we going to use to deliver the air? You have two basic options: a manual system: hand cranked blower or bellows; or an electric powered blower. A common question is: Can I use an air compressor? The answer really is no. We are looking for volume, not pressure. I suppose, that somewhere there are some smiths using an air compressor for their coal forges, but it really is not a practical solution.

In my opinion, especially for beginners, nothing beats a hand cranked blower or a bellows. You will burn up less steel, consume less coal, and really learn fire management with a manual air supply. Unfortunately, these are not easily obtained by the beginner. It is possible to build a bellows; the plans are available in a number of books. It is basic woodworking. The only really difficult part is applying the leather (or naugahide) and the trick there is to make a paper pattern first and cut the leather based on the paper pattern. The down side of the bellows is that it takes up a lot of floor space. The one in the Historic Forge at the Farm Museum is about 4' by 6',

that is 24 square feet of floor space lost. Colonial Williamsburg and Furnace Town have their bellows mounted up in the rafters to save space at floor level. This has the disadvantage that there is a long tube with bends to deliver the air to the forge. The longer the tube and the more bends there are, the more loss of efficiency in air delivery. The Historic forge has the optimum system, the nozzle comes straight out of the bellows into the tuyere, very short run, no bends.

A hand cranked blower is the best option (for the beginner, IMHO). The problem is that they are hard to come by. It seemed to me that somewhere in the last year or so, I had seen/heard of a company again making hand cranked blowers with aluminum housings, instead of the traditional cast iron, but I could not find the reference. So, you are stuck with locating a used blower. There are different size hand crank blowers. Initially I had a small one that was originally made for a rivet forge and I found it undersized for my table-sized forge. I was able to trade up to a Champion 400 size and that works very well. When looking at one of these hand-cranked blowers, you want one where the handle turns smoothly. Once up to speed and you stop cranking, the handle should go around for a couple of revolutions before coming to a stop. Also, it should be quiet, mine is quite noisy (but then I am wearing earplugs when I work, so noise is not so much of an issue for me). You may find an old one that is frozen up, i.e. the crank does not turn. This may be because of congealed grease and dirt; and it can be made operable by liberal use of solvent to dissolve the grease. However, if the gears are broken or damaged, it is almost impossible to get replacement gears or parts.

You have many options when it comes to an electric air supply. There are many air sources that you can scrounge up: hair dryer, vacuum cleaner, blower from a forced hot air furnace, squirrel cage blowers. Use your imagination. There are various blowers available through mechanical and farm supply companies. Once you have the blower, you need to be able to control the air blast. The best way to do this is with an air gate. This gives you very exact

control on the amount of air going into the fire. Air gates are available from wood worker supply companies, as they are used in sawdust collection systems. Many have used rheostats to speed up and slow down the blower's motor. For the most part these do not work as well as an air gate. When you change the speed on a rheostat, it takes 10s of seconds for the fan speed to change. With an air gate the change is immediate. If you do decide to go the rheostat route, try to get one intended for a ceiling fan. It will be more heavy duty than the ones that are used with light fixtures. Also be advised that some motors do not do well with rheostats. The major blacksmith supply companies sell blower assemblies but they tend to be on the expensive side.

Now, regardless of whether your air supply is manual or electric, you need to connect the air supply to the tuyere. I have found the best solution is the aluminum flexible vent pipe as used for clothes dryers (sold in hardware stores). It is available in 3" and 4" diameters. It comes all squished together accordion style and you just pull it out to the length that you need. The plastic dryer vent tubing could be used, but you need to watch out for heat close to the tuyere. You might find yourself melting it. So have a good long pipe come out of the tuyere and then connect the plastic vent pipe to that. The air supply could be connected using steel pipe, but that would be a lot more work. As with the bellows the fewer bends and the fewer acute angles the better.

Finally, you can incorporate the best of both worlds. You can have as forge that has BOTH a hand crank and an electric powered blower. The air supply to the tuyere has a "Y" with a butterfly valve that allows the air to come from one of two sources. This way you can use the electric blower as you are getting your fire started, but then switch to the hand cranked blower for greater control while forging.

Next chapter of The Beginner's Corner:
Coal Fire Management

If you have any questions about what has been presented in the BEGINNERS' CORNER or have suggestions for future topics, send them in and I will answer them in the next

issue. What do the novice blacksmiths out there want explained in excruciating detail??



A Blacksmithing Primer Video Course

Reviewed by Allen Dyer

A Blacksmithing Primer — A Course in Basic and Intermediate Blacksmithing by Randy McDaniel (a 3 DVD companion video to the book of the same name). 2004. Produced by Love of Art Productions, 4609 Swiss Ave, Dallas TX, 75204. Price: \$140.

Epic Journey — Plain spoken Randy McDaniel fills the screen, says "Let's get started" and six hours later you know you've been on a long journey! Randy calmly moves from building a coal fire and describing types of hammer blows through making (a partial list) hooks, flesh forks, chain, slit chisels, hinges, tongs and animal heads.

You may think watching A Blacksmithing Primer takes quite a bit of time but, when you pick up your hammer to take the same journey in your smithy, you'll find every hour of A Blacksmithing Primer expands to days of journey. But, what a trip! A Blacksmithing Primer is the Odyssey of blacksmithing videos.

Master the Basics — Randy's "plain explanations" flow from his quiet authority and rigorous approach to the teaching of blacksmithing skills. After warming the viewer with a coal fire, Randy focuses on hammer blows: full face, half face, edge, back face, & shearing. You may want to immediately re-watch the hammer blows section before proceeding to the projects because for the next six hours Randy uses these terms to pound home simple, accurate descriptions of the blacksmith's craft. Define your terms and stick with them—an excellent instructional technique.

Randy deconstructs each new project into the basics: fire maintenance, hammer blows, forge welding, hardening and tempering. But with each project, the basic steps combine in different ways to produce newer and fancier work. The message: "Keep it simple—don't complicate it—just use the basic steps."

The Eye Hears — Randy's video presentation of
March/April 2005 **HAMMER & TONG** 11

the techniques and projects previously covered in the book version of *A Blacksmithing Primer* makes vivid the tricks and tips that lie almost hidden in the text of the book. For example, I changed the way I tighten and loosen my post vice after watching Randy describe and demonstrate the “always down” technique. I had read the words and looked at the illustration previously but seeing the “always down” technique at the same time I heard the words finally clicked for me: The more senses that are engaged, the more powerful the memory.

Safety in Practice — I confess amazement at the cleanliness of Randy’s smithy (could this just be Hollywood special effects wizardry?) and admire Randy’s meticulous attention to safety throughout the entire six hours. Not only does Randy follow safe practices, he voices out-loud what he is doing—and why he is doing it—driving home to the viewer the importance of eye protection, putting away the hardie, etc. See if you can catch Randy starting to work without eye protection.

Direct Access — The DVD version of *A Blacksmithing Primer* also contains a menu at the beginning of each disc that permits direct access to specific techniques and projects (see below). Read a chapter in the book then use the DVD menu to directly access and watch Randy’s demonstration. *A Blacksmithing Primer* is the next best thing to actually being at the forge with a master smith.

Practice, Practice, Practice — Throughout the journey Randy encourages the viewer to accept that everyone can master the basic blacksmithing steps. Be confident. Understand that a lot the blacksmith’s craft is a state of mind—if you think you can’t forge weld, guess what, you won’t forge weld. Most importantly, boldly follow the one path to self-confidence—practice, practice, practice.

Instructor Background — In 1972 Randy McDaniel began his blacksmithing career in the historic forge at the Carroll County Farm Museum under the tutelage of Marshall Crumbacker (affectionately known as “Mr. Mac”). Several years later, Randy took a three week workshop at Peter’s Valley Craft Center from the man Randy considers the best instructor in the profession—Santa Fe blacksmith Frank Turley. A few years later, Randy was able to work with Ivan Bailey in Savannah, Georgia. All the while Randy sought out and attended various hammer-ins and ABANA conferences. Finally, Manfred Bredhol (one of Germany’s master smiths) baptized Randy as a master smith at Ivan Bailey’s forge in Georgia using a traditional European ceremony involving fire, water and black soot.

Production Values — The DVD version of *A Blacksmithing Primer* should be added to your

A Blacksmithing Primer DVD Scene Selections

Disc 1		Disc 2	Disc 3	
Tools	Drawing a Taper	Three Tine Fork	Other Forge Welds	Scrolls
Anvil	Adjusting Used Tongs	Spark Test	Loop End-Poker	Ribbon End
Coal Forge		Slit Chisel	Loop-Twist	Fishtail
Post Vise	Drive-In Wall Hook	Heat Treating Metal	Handle	Snub End
Tongs	Screw-In Wall Hook	Hardie	Hear Weld	Hey Penny
Hammers	Upsetting	Chain & Forge	Basket Handle	Leaf End
Tool Rest	End of Day Fire	Welding	Braided Handle	Scroll Jigs
Hardies & More	Second Day Fire	Strap Hinge	Fire Maintenance	Animal Heads
Step Vise	Flesh Fork	Bean End	Other Forge Welds	Special Tools
Shop Floor Layout		Spade End	L-Weld	Dragon
Shop Safety		Pintle	T-Weld	Mouse
Hammering		Making Tongs	Bird’s Mouth	Ram
Hammer Blows		Quickie Tongs	Faggot Weld	Ram Hinge
Metals		Nails	Jump Weld	Human Head
First Fire		Striker	Twisting	Other Tooling
Heating the Metal		Other Forge Welds		Demonstrating
Rivet Forge		The Loop Weld		Wrap Up

blacksmithing library not just for the content that Randy McDaniel delivers non-stop for six hours but, also, for the excellent video production values. Ron Hardy (a member of the North Texas Blacksmith Association) and Alan Lefebvre of Love of Art Productions produced A Blacksmithing Primer with unobtrusive video expertise and loving care.

In early 2004, Ron & Alan flew to Randy's Dragonfly shop in Pennsylvania for five long (8am—9pm) days of two camera shoots. They then returned to Texas where the two spent a month and a half using Adobe's Premier Pro non-linear video editor to cut 25 hours of raw footage (a third of a terabyte) to a lean 6 hours. Finally, scene selection menus, captions, labels and occasional quizzes were added. Love of Art Productions' final cut of A Blacksmithing Primer gives testament not only to Randy McDaniel's mastery of the blacksmithing craft but also to the 40 years of Ron and Alan's joint videographic experience.

Ordering Info — A Blacksmithing Primer (DVD - \$139 VHS - \$129) is distributed by Teaching Tapes via the web at: www.teachingtapes.net or via email: tapeguy@teachingtapes.net or via phone (toll free): 1 (877) 866-3688. Teaching Tapes also carries 28 other blacksmithing videos but I recommend novice smiths start with A Blacksmithing Primer.

There is a VHS version of A Blacksmithing Primer (which I didn't view), however, I recommend purchase of the DVD version because of the useful DVD menus (direct access is not possible in the VHS format). A Blacksmithing Primer is a course in blacksmithing, not just a how-to-do tape so you will be returning again and again to review portions of the video as you progress through the projects. DVD menus greatly shorten the time spent locating the relevant scenes. So, even if you don't have a DVD player, the scene selection menus of A Blacksmithing Primer provide more than sufficient justification to upgrade to a DVD player—especially since low end DVD players now cost less than half the price of this video.



How to Make Better Blacksmithing Demonstration Tapes: Tips from Ron Hardy

by Allen Dyer

The author expressly places this work in the public domain. Please acknowledge original publication in The Hammer & Tong: Newsletter of the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland.

Most guild libraries have a collection of blacksmithing demonstration videotapes of events from years past that offer new guild members a chance to benefit from earlier guild educational programs. Most guild libraries also have a few professionally made videos (in either videotape or DVD) such as Jerry Hoffman's Blacksmiths Journal series and Love of Art Productions' A Blacksmithing Primer. The difference in production values between the two types of videos is painfully obvious. Ron Hardy (a blacksmith and one of the principals of Love of Art Productions) offers the following video production tips for guild members who want to dramatically improve the quality of their blacksmithing demonstration videos.

There is no substitute for years of professional videographic experience but immediate improvements can be made to guild demonstration videos by: 1. Using two camera shoots and close-up shots; 2. Using a separate mike for the demonstrator; and, 3. Editing "dead time" from the source tapes.

Two Camera Shoots— One fixed camera set wide angle doesn't hack it—you can barely see what the blacksmith is doing with his hands. Two cameras are needed in order to capture the information that viewers require to understand the demonstrated blacksmithing processes. One camera can be set wide angle to capture where the demonstrator is working and talking but, most importantly, one camera should be close-up at waist level to capture the movement of the blacksmith's tools as the iron is being shaped.

Demonstrator Mike— Fire noise and audience talking is part of every blacksmith demonstration. Professional videographers

exercise absolute control over noise by filming without an audience and with special (i.e. expensive) directional microphones. That option is not available during your guild's Blacksmith Days demonstration but you can still minimize the surrounding "noise" by giving the demonstrator a separate mike. Purchase an inexpensive wireless mike from Radio Shack and put it on the demonstrator. The resulting audio will be far superior to relying on the in-camera microphone.

Video Editing— A two camera shoot means you will have to edit the two tapes together using video editing software on your computer. The Adobe Premier Pro editing software used by Love of Art Productions costs \$700 but Adobe offers Premier Elements home video software for \$100. Other quality home video editing software is available for even less.

However, just as owning a hammer does not make someone a blacksmith, owning video editing software does not make someone a video editor. Love of Art productions spent three man months chopping the 25 hours of A Blacksmithing Primer raw footage down to 6 hours. You can, however, easily chop out much of the "dead air" from your source footage. Eliminate wasted time when nothing is being said or done. You don't need to show metal heating up. Cut out the non-essential talking. Eliminate the non-essential and get your video down to the lean meat.

Other Tips from Ron Hardy—

Properly lighting the demonstration can improve your video by making it easier to see the facial expressions of the demonstrator. Professional lighting equipment is expensive but any type of lighting is better than nothing.

Spend time conferring with your demonstrator prior to the shoot. Organize what to shoot and make intermediate pieces ahead of time. This makes it easier to get from "point A" to "point Z" by skipping repetitive operations and saving shoot time.

Other Tips from Allen Dyer—

The video editing software you purchase will probably allow you to make copies of your

production on recordable DVDs as well as VHS. Seriously consider choosing recordable DVD as your format. Most guild members already have DVD players and, currently, the price for DVD players is below \$100.

Think about copyright issues. Do not take the default copyright status without thought. If you do nothing your production will be bound by copyright for what is, in effect, eternity. Does your guild want to contribute your work to the public domain either now or at some time in the future? If so, you, as the creator of the work, and the blacksmith demonstrator, as the performer of the work, must expressly state you are placing the works in the public domain. In the alternative, if your guild wants to try to sell your production for profit, you and the demonstrator can still specify, in writing, a fixed term for your copyright protection.



Shop Tips

By Albin Drzewianowski

I received a neat catalog in the mail recently: EASTWOOD Unique Automotive Tools and Supplies. It is intended for the serious car repair/restoration people, but it has a bunch of stuff that could be of great use to blacksmiths: an 18" square heavy leather bag, filled with sand for \$39.99 (very handy for repoussé work); the HENROB Oxy/Acetylene torch (only place I have seen it for sale, other than from company demonstrators at shows); sand blast cabinets and supplies; do-it-yourself powder coating systems and supplies; grinding and buffing supplies; welding supplies; a lot of auto-body hammers, that would also be of use to us blacksmiths; English wheel systems; a lot of sheet metal bending and cutting equipment; etc; etc.

East wood
263 Shoemaker Rd.
Pottstown, PA 19464

1-800-345-1178

www.eastwood.com

Do you have a useful SHOP TIP?

Something that makes your smithing easier, more organized, etc? Share it with the rest of the GUILD. Send it in. If necessary, we will re-write and make drawings. And of course, we will give you credit for making the suggestion.

Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland

Blacksmith Book Review

Taking heat treating to the next level

By Albin Drzewianowski

Title: **Heat Treatment, Selection, and Application of Tool Steels**

Author: Bill Bryson

Publisher: Modern Machine Shop Publications
Hanser Gardner Publications,
Cincinnati, OH 1997

ISBN: 1-56990-238-0
198 pages, 20 chapters and an index

If you want to get serious about heat treating, here is the book to raise you to the next level. Jack Andrews, in *THE NEW EDGE OF THE ANVIL*, and Randy McDaniel in *THE BLACKSMITH PRIMER*, have built the foundation. They have provided the basics. Bryson, an Advisor in Metals (AIM), starts the preface with the statement “*This is not a book about metallurgy, but a book that describes in simple terms what happens to metal during heat treatment.*” He states his goal and I believe he pretty well delivers it.

This book is actually written for tool room machinists that have access to high tech equipment, like time/temperature controlled furnaces, and use a wide variety of specialty steels; and for knife makers who take their “heat treating” very seriously. However, the average blacksmith who is making “blacksmith” tooling can still gain a lot from this book.

The book starts with a good, non-technical description of what steel is and what makes a tool steel. Next he talks about the equipment that would be used in a tool room heat treatment setting. Now we get to the heart of the book, in Chapter 5, he walks us through a very detailed, step by step, description of heat treating a piece of D2 tool steel. Chapters 6-13 then take each of the following steels: A2, A6, H13, S7, M2, 4140, O1, and W1, and explains how the heat treatment of each of them differs from the process described for D2. Chapter 14 covers the topic of “CRYOGENICS” in a heat treating setting. He includes a fairly basic do-it-yourself setup using dry ice, kerosene, and a Styrofoam freezer chest. This process will allow you to cryogenically treat your own tool

Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland

steel at a temperature of negative 120 degrees F/negative 84 degrees C.

Chapter 19 is especially useful. In it, Bryson describes how to select a tool steel to perform a particular job. There is an especially useful diagram which shows which of the various tool steels are best suited for general use vs. hot work vs. shock resistance vs. wear resistance. As blacksmiths we are most interested in the hot work and shock resistance characteristics. The steels that fall in to this range are: H21 (best for heat resistance), H19, H13, A8, H12, H11, S5, S1 S7 (best for shock resistance). This tells us that H11 or H12 are the best compromise between heat resistance and shock resistance. However, if heat resistance is paramount that H21 is needed and if shock resistance is most important in the tool, then S7 should be used. The only problem is that H11, H12, and H21 are not commonly mentioned as being “blacksmith friendly”. However, S7 and H13 are.

In Chapter 20, there are tables for about 45 different tool steels, listing their chemical composition, pre-heat temperature, quench temperature, and the ROCKWELL C obtained at various tempering temperatures. For example: O1 tool steel should have a pre-heat of 1200 degrees F.; quench at 1475 degrees F. As quenched O1 will give 66-ROCKWELL C; 300 degrees gives 63 down to a temper at 600 degree giving 54-ROCKWELL C.

If you are serious about your tool or knife making, then this book is a “must have”. It is very readable, with many charts and tables. Chapters 6-13 tend to be somewhat repetitive of the material presented in Chapter 5, but the differences are critical for the different tool steels.

I purchased this book from ENCO (a machine tool supply company), on sale for about \$25. (normally lists for \$31.95). AMAZON.com lists the book for \$34.95, but had someone selling new copies for \$24.93 in the new/used book section.



BGCM New Members

The Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland welcomes the following new members. Take a minute to look over the list and see if you find someone who lives near you. If you do, contact them and offer them a ride to the next meeting, invite them to your smithy, or just welcome them to the guild.

Ross & Melissa Sullivan (540) 775-2067
11548 Pine Hill Road forgelady@earthlink.net
King George, VA 22485

Gene & Sonya Degenhardt (717) 872-7530
271 Stony Lane degenhardt@mymailstation.com
Lancaster, PA 17603

Michael Awckland (215) 679-4863
1650 Fennel Road hollowbeech@enter.net
Quakertown, PA 18951-2005

Ralph Destefano (610) 582-3828
161 South Mill Street pollauto1@aol.com
Birdsboro, PA 19508

David Hammer (703) 620-9105
542 Valeview Dr. david.hammer2@verizon.net
Oakton, VA 22124

Dan Mincin (410) 442-1833
733 Weller Drive danmid@worldnet.att.net
Mt. Airy, MD 21771

James A. Leeson (410) 549-3879
1521 Woodridge Lane jlml141@aol.com
Eldersburg, MD 21784

Gregory Gilleland (410) 833-4576
4089 Louisville Rd. ggillel@aol.com
Finksburg, MD 21048

Tony Colafrancesco (443) 507-0518
3415 Lineboro Road colafran@yahoo.com
Manchester, MD 21102

Rick P. Johnson (703) 437-1829
2124 Monaghan Dr. wonderlust43@erols.com
Herndon, VA 20170



The **HAMMER & TONG**

E D I T O R ' S C O R N E R

This is my second issue. From what I've heard you liked the first issue, so I'll keep doing what I'm doing. So far it's been easy with the support and input that I've been getting. But after only two issues, I'm beginning to see the same names of contributors. I know there are others out there that have good ideas thoughts and information. How about taking the time to write it down and send it to me so it can be shared with the rest of the guild members.

And I'm sure there are some out there that don't like the changes I've made or have ideas on how I can make the next issue even better. I need to hear from you too. I'll do my best to put out a quality newsletter that meets your needs but to do that I need to know what you want. I also ask you to take the time when you attend a blacksmithing event; read a book on blacksmithing; or just have some thoughts on smithing to send me a note with a picture or sketch and I'll put it in the newsletter.

I wish to acknowledge, with gratitude the contributions made for this issue of

The HAMMER & TONG by:

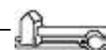
Russell Bateman
Albin Drzewianowski
Allen Dyer
Judy Heinekamp
William Judge
Ted McNett



This Space reserved for you contribution to:

The HAMMER & TONG

Send your article in today, and don't worry this space is designed to expand to fit whatever you send in.



Upcoming Events

In addition to BGCM's Blacksmith Events Calendar, as we get closer to the time of the events, we will provide more details. When you attend these events, remember it is considered common courtesy to bring items for the Iron-In-The-Hat raffles and auctions. It is the money raised by the raffles and auctions that make these hammer-ins possible. Don't forget your safety glasses. Also, if you attend an event, please consider writing up a brief description of your experience and/or taking some photos to share with the rest of the Guild and send it to the editor.



First Aid Tip

By Albin Drzewianowski

Have you noticed that when you need to use a band-aid, the average one does not stick on very well when blacksmithing? Invariably you get a cut on a fingertip, or other spot where band-aids just don't want to stay stuck. I have found that the BAND-AID SPORT STRIP, made by Johnson & Johnson, stays on where other band-aids end up falling off after a short while. It is wider and it seems to have a more durable water/sweat-resistant adhesive allowing it to hold up under the adverse conditions of working in the smithy.



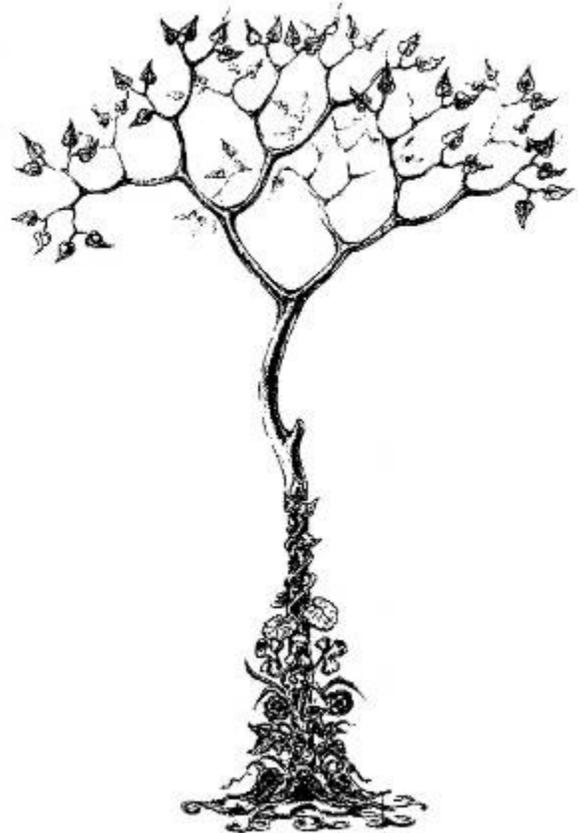
BGCM's 17th Annual Blacksmith Days

May 21-22, 2005

Featuring Luc Fiedler and Iron Masters Forge



Luc Fiedler's Demo Pieces



Iron Masters Demo Piece

Need more information or want to help? Contact:
Dick Smith, Blacksmith Days Chairman
rsmith@lofstrand.com (301) 309-2298



Forged Iron AUCTION!



**Saturday Evening 21 May 2005 at 7 Pm
Carroll County Farm Museum Westminster, MD**

This is an opportunity for you to see what the public thinks your forging is worth and to make a profit too. Submit items that represent your best work and you'll get 50% of the winning bid. Not sure the public will want to pay what you think your work is worth? Then set a reserve price on the items you submit. If no one bids above that price the item will be returned to you after the auction. We're working on advertising the auction to the public. You can help by submitting items (or high quality photos of them) as soon as possible so we can use them in promoting the auction to the public. **To submit items contact:**

Dick Smith rsmith@lofstrand.com (301)309-2298

Bill Clemens newky2@dejazzd.com (570)568-2158
Or any BGCM Board Member



12th Annual Forging on the River

The River Bluff Forge Council is hosting the 12th annual **Forging on the River** at the **National Ornamental Metal Museum** on the bluffs of the Mississippi River in Memphis, March 18th through the 20th. Pre-registration cost is only \$70 for the full weekend.

Scheduled demonstrators are **Japh Howard, Alice James and Jim Wallace**. Festivities begin on Friday evening with a slide show.

For more information about conference, see www.rbfcmemphis.com If you have questions, Bob Rogers can be reached at 901-278-7826 or BOBR@prodigy.net

Blacksmiths' Guild of the Potomac 13th Annual Spring Fling

16-17 April 2005
Fairfax Wildlife Club
Warrenton, Virginia

Demonstrators:

Pete Renzetti West Chester, PA
Bon Vivant Creator of Masterful Metalwork

Tom Latane Pepin, WI
Premier Craftsman in Traditional Ironwork
(Medieval to Colonial)

J.J. Roberts Manassas, VA
Engraver of Firearms and Knives

Colonial Williamsburg Smiths Williamsburg, VA
Colonial Blacksmithing/ Gunsmithing

Forging Contest:

Task: Rework an existing hammer head, old or new, to create a new tool that can be used to your advantage

Rules: Newly remade tool can be designed for any use, and that use must be described on an attached label or tag. Head must be on a handle! Item must be made/forged during 2005 by signing artist, and entered in contest by that artist.

Judging Criteria: Overall appearance, aesthetics, originality, functionality, technical execution and compliance with the rules will be considered. The item judged most worthy of a prize shall be the winner, taking the \$100 prize.

Pre-Registration is a Must!!!!

\$50.00 /person

You can find a copy of the compete Flyer and Application on the BGCM Yahoo Site. I scanned the copy I got and put them in the photos section in a folder labeled Spring Fling Application. If you view and save the full size version it will print out so you can use it. Remember to print, complete, and mail **both** pages of the application.



BGCM 2005 Blacksmith Events Calendar

JANUARY						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Fancy Hook

FEBRUARY						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Something with a Heart

8-9 JAN..... Gichner's Hammer-In
16 JAN.....BGCM Meeting

20 FEB.....BGCM Meeting
 26 FEB. Dan Boone's Pasture Party

MARCH						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Garden Tool

APRIL						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Bar-B-Que Tool

Mar... No Furnace Town Joint Mtg
20 MarBGCM Meeting
 16-17 Apr.....BGOP Spring Fling
24 Apr.....BGCM Meeting
 25-28 Apr.....CCFM Traditional Arts
25-28 Apr ...4 Day Beginner Class

MAY						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

BSD Contests – Grille - Sculpture

JUNE						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Flower

21-22 May..... Blacksmith Days

4 Jun.....PABA Blacksmith Day
26 JunBGCM Meeting

JULY						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Animal/Wizard Head

AUGUST						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

From a Railroad Spike

17 Jul.....BGCM Meeting

21 Aug.....BGCM Meeting

30 Aug-2 Sep..... CANIRON V

SEPTEMBER						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

From a Horseshoe

OCTOBER						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Leaf

10-11 Sep.....Wrought Iron Conf
25 SepBGCM Meeting

16 Oct.....BGCM Meeting

NOVEMBER						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Boot Scraper

DECEMBER						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Ornament

5-6 Nov Blacksmith Christmas Show
20 NovBGCM Meeting

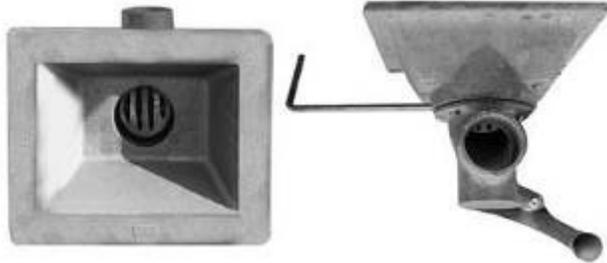
10 Dec BGCM Holiday Party

2006

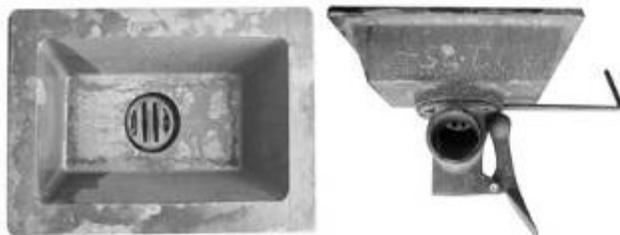
JulABANA Conf(Seattle, WA)



FIREPOTS



GENERAL PURPOSE FIREPOT \$255 + S/H



KNIFEMAKERS FIREPOT \$275 + S/H



PORTABLE ROUND FIREPOT \$215 + S/H

For More Information/Availability Contact:

Bob "Ironmonger" Cruikshank

1495 W. Possum Rd

Springfield, OH 45506

ironmonger40@woh.rr.com

(937) 323-1300

<http://www.creativeironforge.com/>



Blacksmith Coal

Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland

50 Lb Bag \$6.00

Available at:

Monthly Guild meetings and Open Forge Nights

Or Contact any Board Member

Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland

ROBERTS OXYGEN



KURT BECHTEL

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

ROBERTS OXYGEN COMPANY, INC

96 JOHN STREET

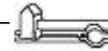
WESTMINSTER, MD 21157

EMAIL: kbechtel@robertsoxygen.com

TEL: (410) 840-0400

FAX: (410) 840-1912

CELL: (443) 506-0924



STONEMILL PLUMBING & HEATING

**24 HOUR
EMERGENCY
SERVICE**

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

PUMPS-BOILERS-WATER HEATERS

NEW CONSTRUCTION & SERVICE

e-mail: stonemillglh@aol.com • www.stonemillplumbing.com

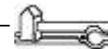
(410) 848-7661

GEORGE L. HUGHES

Fax: (410) 848-8872

Master Plumber #12916

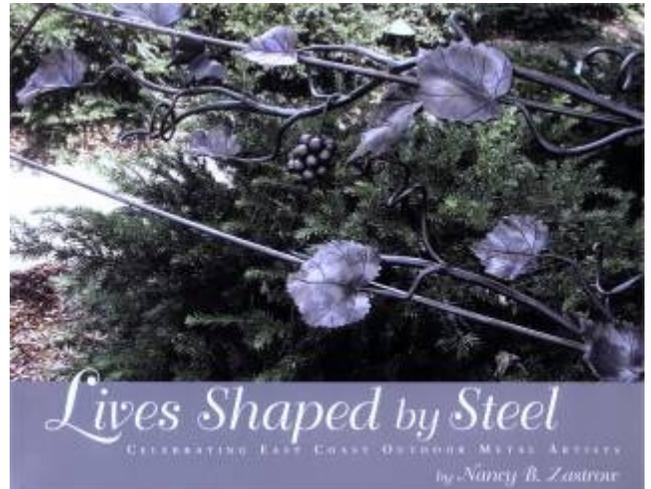
Cell: (443) 375-7359



Lives Shaped by Steel

Celebrating East Coast Outdoor Metal Artists

By Nancy B. Zastrow



Metal art can bring life to its surroundings. A gate or railing may so perfectly adorn a garden or building that the place would seem bare and ordinary without it.

This book is about that kind of metal and the artists who dream it and create it. Interviews with East Coast artists tell how they started, what inspires them, and how they meet the challenges of the work. Color photos show examples of gates, railings and fountains that beautifully complement their settings. These smiths love what they do, and do it against all odds, leading and leaving lives enriched.

<http://www.ironartists.com/Homepage.htm#>

March/April 2005 **HAMMER & TONG** 21

Open Forge

Check the Guild's telephone number (410) 386-9150 to see if there will be an Open Forge



Carroll County Farm Museum 2005 Calendar of Special Events

Apr 25-28 Traditional Arts Week
May 7-8. Civil War Living History Encampment
May 21-22 Blacksmith Days
Jun 4.. Spring Muster and Antique Fire Equipment
Jul 4 Old-Fashioned July 4th Celebration
Jul 9-10 Common Ground on the Hill's
American Music & Arts Festival
Jul 11-15, 18-22, 25-29.... Living History Camp
Sep 9-11 Steam Show Days
Sep 17-18 The Maryland Wine Festival
Oct 1-2 Fall Harvest Days
Dec 2-4, 9-11 Holiday Tours

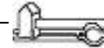
Demonstrators for the Museum's Historic Forge are needed for the above special event dates as well as anytime the Museum is open. To volunteer contact:

Kevin Thomas (410) 848-4869



2005 Dues Are Due

Membership dues for the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland are for the period January 1 through December 31. If you are unsure of your dues status, check the mailing label on the envelope containing this edition of the newsletter. If it shows 2004 our records indicate your dues haven't been paid and it means this will be your last newsletter. A renewal form can be found on page 22 .



Union Mills Homestead Looking for Blacksmith Demonstrators

The Union Mills Homestead, located just north of Westminster on Rt. 97 is looking for blacksmiths to demonstrate in their historic forge. Rules of conduct and dress are pretty much the same as in the Historic Forge at the Farm Museum. Event dates will be published in future newsletters. If you are interested please contact:

Dick Peeling (717)359-5520

There is more information about Union Mills at their web page:

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



LIABILITY RELEASE

I understand that blacksmithing and other metal work are inherently dangerous activities and agree to attend and participate in any and all **BLACKSMITH GUILD OF CENTRAL MARYLAND** events at my own risk. Further, I agree to wear all required safety equipment including, but not limited to, safety glasses. I understand if I am not wearing said safety equipment, I may be asked to leave and agree to do so.

I release **THE BLACKSMITH GUILD OF CENTRAL MARYLAND, INC.**, its members and officers from liability should there occur an injury or accident while I am participating in any Guild sponsored activity.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

BGCM Guild Meetings

The Guild meets monthly in the Blacksmith School on the grounds of the Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 South Center Street, Westminster, Maryland. The school is **open at 9:00 a.m.** for open forging. **LUNCH: Potluck.** Please bring a hot dish, salad or dessert to share. Drinks and paper products will be provided. **Iron In The Hat** after Lunch, bring items of use to blacksmiths to donate and some money for tickets. There will be a **business meeting at 1:00 p.m.**

Sunday March 20, 2005

DEMONSTRATION:

Kerry Stagmer Repoussé

TRADE ITEM: Garden Tool

Sunday April 24, 2005

DEMONSTRATION:

Bill Clemens Joinery

TRADE ITEM: Bar-B-Que Tool

BGCM Open Forge Evenings

There is a monthly Open Forge, on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6-9 pm.

Note: Until the Forge Rehab is complete Open Forge evenings will be used to work on the Rehab. An effort will be made to keep several forges available for members who don't have their own, but if you want to come forge check the guild phone message

Thursday March 10, 2005

Thursday April 14, 2005

BGCM Inclement Weather Policy

If Carroll County, Maryland, Schools have been closed for Thursday or are already closed for the next day, Friday; then OPEN FORGE is cancelled for that Thursday night

If the winter weather seems bad or threatening on the day of a meeting or open forge, or if it has snowed on the weekend, we may have to cancel since the Farm Museum is closed to the public during the winter and often the County does not plow out the Farm Museum until Monday.

Call the BGCM phone number, 410-386-9150, to check if the event has been cancelled.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ - _____ Email : _____

New Member Individual Check if you are you a member of ABANA

Renewal Family (list ages of dependant children _____)

Read and Sign liability release statement on reverse side of this form

Dues : \$20 - Individual / \$25 - Family

Membership dues are for the period:

January 1 through December 31

Includes a subscription to the Guild's bimonthly newsletter, **The HAMMER & TONG.**

Make checks payable to Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland and mail with completed and signed application form to:

**BLACKSMITH GUILD OF CENTRAL MARYLAND
P. O. BOX 593
Randallstown, MD 21133**