



Samuel Yellin Blacksmith Day 15 October 2005



Two Devils Forged by Samuel Yellin in 1912. These heads are on display in Clare Yellin's Office, as a reminder of her grandfather Samuel Yellin and his nickname, **Devil with a Hammer in his Hand.**

By Clare Yellin & Allen Dyer

All photographs courtesy of Clare Yellin, Samuel Yellin Metalworkers.

BGCM is hosting Samuel Yellin Blacksmith Day this October 15th in Baltimore. From the 1920's until his death in 1940, Samuel Yellin and his craftsmen forged 1000's of iron studies such as the two devils gracing this month's cover. The two devils, originally forged to demonstrate and show off the talents of the Yellin Forge craftsmen, continue to serve as faithful shop mascots that watchfully perch just above the desk¹ of Clare Yellin².

See *Two Lucky Devils* Page 3

IN THIS ISSUE	Page
President's message	3
Magic from Fire	
Registration Form.....	5
Samuel Yellin Blacksmith Day....	7
BGCM's 20 Anniversary	
Chain Link Project.....	8
Railing Project.....	9
Forging Leaves	10
ABANA Grill Projects.....	14
The Blacksmith's Computer ..	17
Historic Forge Calendar	19
BGCM Events Calendar	21

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.

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* 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
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Deadline for Nov/Dec Issue: 1 October 2005

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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.

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President's Message

What a busy summer! Fortunately this has included forge time. I demonstrated at the Farm Museum for several events and the Living History Camp. This opportunity gave me a lot of forge time to work on my own projects as well as lantern holders for the Farm Museum. The hot days went by fast with help and conversation from Henry Shirley, William Judge, and Mark Judge. Thank you to everyone else who has manned the forge at all the summer's events. If you want to volunteer let Kevin Thomas or I know. We can help get you started.

The forge rehab is still progressing. The last chimney pipes have been ordered, the last 2 forges are ready to be installed, and the workday will be scheduled. We need to work around the Blacksmith classes.

Other exciting news to the forge rehab has been counter tops donated by the Marble Source. The black granite (yes, granite) counter tops were donated and installed thanks to Ray Neubauer. They are a fine addition to the Gichner Room.

Mark October 15th on your calendar to demonstrate at the B&O Railroad Museum and attend "Magic from Fire" at the Bank of America. You will find more information in the newsletter. Try to forge a piece for the sales table or auction and receive 50 percent of the total. This could subsidize the "Magic from Fire" registration fee. Express your artistic side and forge a table centerpiece to be displayed and auctioned (if you so choose) at the event.

Elections for the 3 at-large Board Members are in November. If you are interested in running for the board or know of someone who would benefit the guild please inform one of the guild officers. This is your chance to influence what the guild does. Please step up to the opportunity to serve a 2-year term as a Board Member.

Keep the forge lit,

Ted McNett

Two Lucky Devils from Page 1

Each devil was forged from a 1" x 3 ½" wrought iron bar. Prior to the forging of the gothic style Satan heads, one end of each bar was upset to provide additional mass. The devil head sticking out his tongue is 3 ½" wide x 4" in height and on a bar 26" long. The devil head baring his teeth is 4" tall by 3 ½" wide and on a bar 25" long. Each weighs about 20 pounds and, for display purposes, are pinned together atop Samuel Yellin's personal anvil, as shown in the photo at the right.

Birthing devils at Yellin's Arch Street Studio in Philadelphia started in the library. The Yellin craftsmen would pour over reference books on metalwork and architecture from previous centuries and then they would look in the studio museum where Samuel collected works purchased from European metalworkers. After looking at the works done in the past, Yellin draftsmen would make a full size shop drawing



that could be pinned to wall and referred to while forging the three dimensional study in iron.

Samuel Yellin organized the Arch Street Studio as an atelier — which means a workshop or studio especially for an artist or designer. Many reference books on metalworking, architecture, and art in general were available. Employees were expected to study the work by the great masters done centuries previous. Learning was an integral part of production.



Samuel Yellin forging at his anvil.

The “Samuel Yellin, Metalworker” business was organized into eight departments: Design, Forging, Repousse, Assembly, Polishing, Installation, Wrought Iron Maintenance, and Office. Yellin also brought to his business organization the ideas behind the old guild system in which he had apprenticed as a 12 year old in Poland. There were different levels of blacksmiths and, to some extent, each employee would have a specialized job. Yellin, however, expected everyone to know something about everything done at the studio. A blacksmith would learn something about drawing and drafting and draftsmen would learn something about hand forging, etc. Arch Street Studio was a learning merry-go-round.



Samuel Yellin at work in his office.

Even as America and the emerging industrialized world turned more and more to assembly lines that reduced the need for craftsmanship, Samuel Yellin knew what he was doing was significant and needed to be communicated. Thus, he hand forged iron studies (such as the two lucky devils on the cover) for craftsmen to see and learn from as well as for the general public to see what can be done with metal by the handwork of man. Two lucky devils — a lasting record of hundreds of purposeful hammer blows by master craftsmen; testament to the labor of man.

¹ The two devils temporarily roost in the Rosenbach Museum & Library, Philadelphia, as a lingering part of the *Devil with a Hammer in His Hand* exhibit. <http://www.rosenbach.org/>

² Clare Yellin, granddaughter of Samuel Yellin, continues the family business and safeguards the Yellin legacy of creative metalworking. <http://www.samuelyellin.com/>



Magic from Fire

The Artistry of Samuel Yellin



A Celebration of the works of American Blacksmiths emphasizing the works of Samuel Yellin and highlighting the contributions of African-Americans to American Blacksmithing.

Registration Form

Seating Limited to 200 — Advance Registration Required

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail this form with a check for \$65 payable to “Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland” to:

Judy Heinekamp, Registrar, 4202 Deer Park Road, Randallstown, Maryland 21133.

Registration fee (\$65) includes the following activities in the elegant Banking Room of the Bank of America Building at 10 Light Street in Baltimore City: a tour of Samuel Yellin metalwork by Clare Yellin, a lecture on the contributions of African-Americans to American blacksmithing by Dr. John Vlach, a buffet dinner including beer & wine, a slide show of Yellin metalwork presented by Jack Andrews, and an auction of hand forged metalwork by regional and internationally renown blacksmiths. Scheduled to start Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 4:15pm.

Magic from Fire is a public domain event and attendees may be photographed and interviewed by members of the press. *Magic from Fire* is also an integral part of the 2005 *Baltimore Architecture Week* and *Samuel Yellin, Blacksmith Day*. To take advantage of other programs offered October 15-22, see **www.aiabalt.com** and **www.bgconline.com**.

Rev. 6/27/05

Samuel Yellin Blacksmith Day Activities

By Allen Dyer

Samuel Yellin, (1885–1940) has been called the “Dean of American blacksmiths” and the Blacksmiths Guild of Central Maryland is commemorating Yellin’s contributions to the architecture of Baltimore with demonstrations and educational programs at the B&O Railroad Museum and lectures, tours and a slide presentation in the lobby of the Bank of America Building on 10 Light Street.

Saturday, October 15, 2005, 10 am to 4 pm, at the B&O Railroad museum.

Blacksmiths will be forging and explaining their work step-by-step at three forges in the train museum courtyard. In addition, a series of short educational programs will offered in the educational building of the museum and hand forged works by regional blacksmiths will be available for purchase. Gate admission is \$12.

Saturday, October 15, 2005, 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm, at the Bank of America Building, 10 Light St.

Magic from Fire - The Artistry of Samuel Yellin

The lobby and mezzanine of the Bank of America Building is decorated with ornamental ironwork from Samuel Yellin’s workshop. Samuel’s granddaughter, Clare Yellin, will conduct a guided tour of Yellin’s works and Dr. John Vlach, of George Washington University, will lecture on “The Contributions of Afro-American Smiths to America.” As the sun sets, Dr. Jack Andrews, author of “Samuel Yellin: Metalworker,” will give a slide overview of Yellin’s works around the country. Hand forged artwork by prominent blacksmith artisans will be available via silent auction. “Magic from Fire” is a catered buffet dinner, event with advance registration of \$65.00 per person required. A registration form has been included in the newsletter on following page.



“Magic from Fire” Table Centerpiece Project

By Allen Dyer



A pair of
Devil Heads
Forged by
Samuel Yellin

The operations plan for BGCM’s October 15, 2005 *Magic from Fire – The Artistry of Samuel Yellin* celebration includes a sit-down buffet banquet catered by Sascha’s. The banquet tables will be 60" in diameter, covered with a linen tablecloth and feature centerpieces hand forged by guild members.

The following are guidelines for those guild members interested in providing sweat equity to support the *Magic from Fire* event:

1. Centerpieces should sit flat and not fall over if the table is slightly jostled.
2. Height and width of each centerpiece should be 6 to 12 inches.
3. The footprint of each centerpiece should be at least 6 inches front to back and no more than 12 inches front to back.
4. Unless otherwise specified by the creator, live flowers will be added to, or woven around, the centerpiece by Sascha.
5. Each centerpiece should bear the touchmark of its creator and the year created.

The centerpieces will be returned or, at the option of the creator, may be entered into the auction at the end of the evening and may include a reserve price. The net proceeds (some auctioneer commission is expected) of each item auctioned will be split 50/50 between the Guild and the creator.

If you are interested in creating a *Magic from Fire* centerpiece, please bring your completed creation to the September guild meeting at Carroll County Farm Museum. If you have any questions, please contact:

Allen Dyer aldyer@lawlab.com

410-531-3965

BGCM's 20th Anniversary

Next year will mark the guild's 20th Anniversary. To help mark this occasion, two forging projects have been established. One is a railing that is needed to complete the forge rehab. This project is described on the following page. The second project is a Chain Link project and is described below. IF you have other ideas and suggestions on how the guild can celebrate our 20th anniversary, bring it up at the next guild meeting or contact one of the board members with your idea.

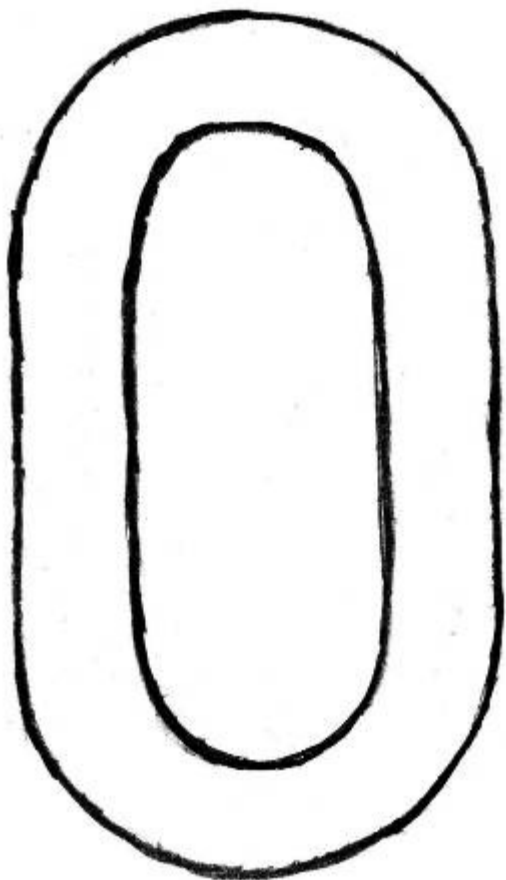


Chain Link Project

by Bill Clemens

This project is open to all current and former members of the guild. Each member is asked to forge a chain link that will be joined with others that are submitted.

The completed link should be approximately 2 1/2 inches wide and 4 1/2 inches long as shown below:



The link as shown above, was forged from 10 inches of 1/2 inch round material. We encourage everyone to forge weld the link, but to insure maximum participation, the link may be welded using any method. To increase your decoration possibilities, you may start with stock other than 1/2 inch round as long as the completed link is 1/2 round at both ends, its finished length is 4 1/2 inches, and there is sufficient space at each end to allow the 1/2 inch round connecting link to pass through.

The links should be signed by the maker and can also be decorated. The only restrictions are that the two curved ends of the link should remain 1/2 inch round and that the outside dimension of the completed chain link length should be 4 1/2 inches and width should not exceed 3 1/2 inches.

The completed link should be cleaned but no permanent finish applied as the links will be exposed to a forge fire as they are joined together. The link may be lightly oiled or waxed to prevent rusting until it is added to the chain.

The completed chain will be unveiled at Blacksmith Days next May 2006. After Blacksmith Days, the chain will be displayed in BGCM's Shop at the Carroll County Farm Museum.

If you are going to submit a link, please submit it before 1 May 2006. Links received after this date will be included in the chain but may not be added to the chain prior to its unveiling at Blacksmith Days.

If you have questions or are planning to make a link, contact:

Bill Clemens

newky2@dejazzd.com

(570)568-2158



Railing Project

By Ted McNett

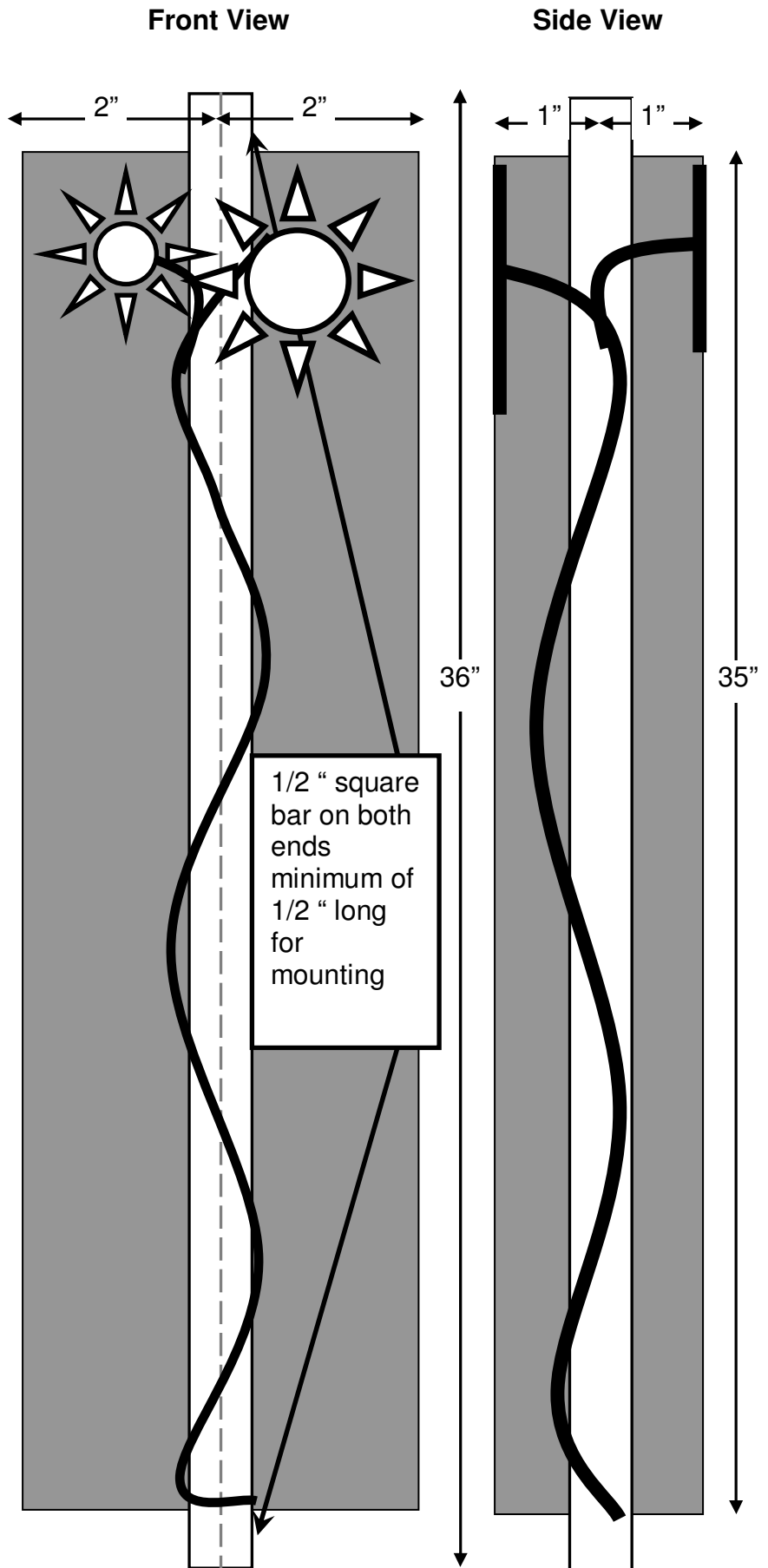
This project was derived from the Historic Forge Railing project that was done about 10 years ago. The railing will separate the two forges located at the old wall. The height difference in the floor has created this opportunity. The total railing length is about 12 feet. A ten foot section from the back wall to the ramp and a 90 degree turn that is 2 feet long going down the ramp. A solid 1" square corner post will be used at the bend and the end of the ramp. We will also need a wall plate or bracket to attach the railing to the back wall.

For this project you will forge a 36 inch long picket that is 1/2" square on both ends. The picket can be no wider than 2 inches from the vertical centerline on each side. No part of the picket may extend, front to back, further than 1 inch from the centerline. You could forge up to a 4 inch diameter medallion or ring centered on the picket. Be creative and push your abilities.

You may make more than one picket. The second picket will be used if space is available. We need a total of 30 pickets for the 4 inch spacing between pickets.

When you complete a picket please contact:

Ted McNett
tedneck@aol.com
717-646-9839

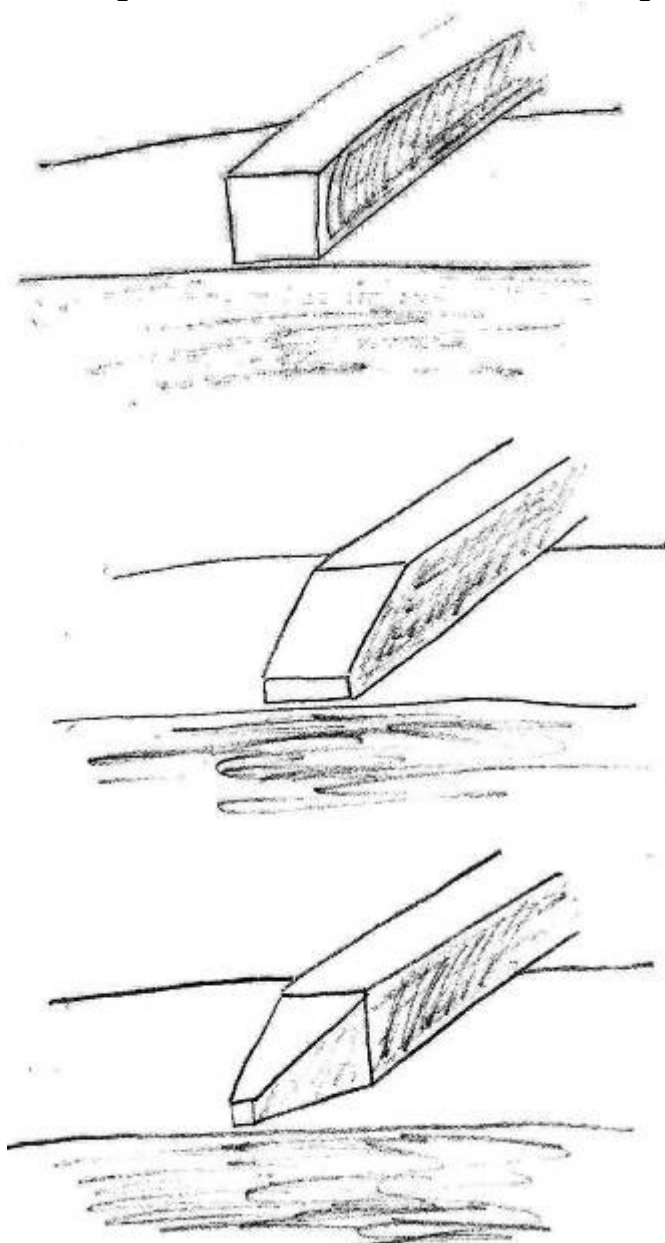


Forging Leaves

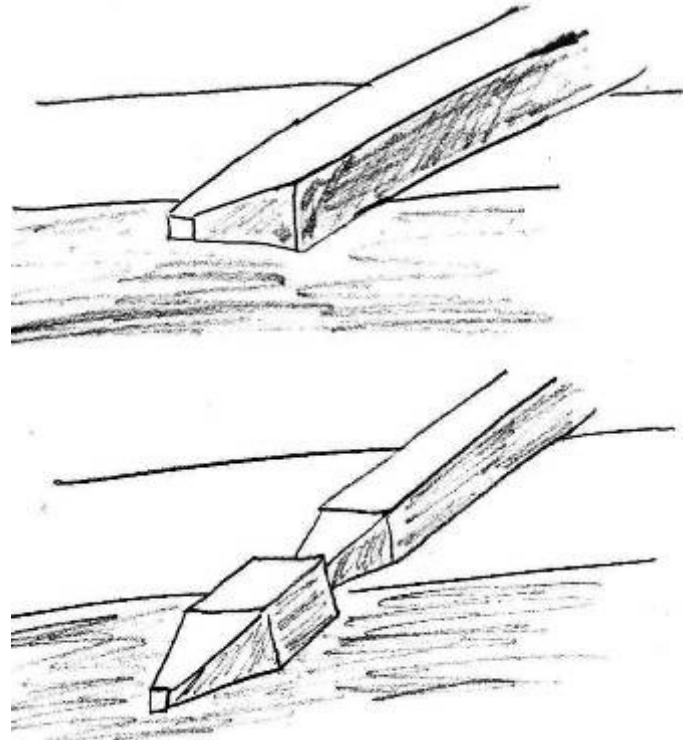
By Bill Clemens

There are many techniques for forging leaves. I'll show one basic technique for forging a basic heart shaped leaf and then discuss variations and techniques for making other leaves. The basic technique shown here is for a folded leaf. This technique makes a leaf that is full of life and has a central vein created by the fold which appears very distinctively on both the front and back of the leaf.

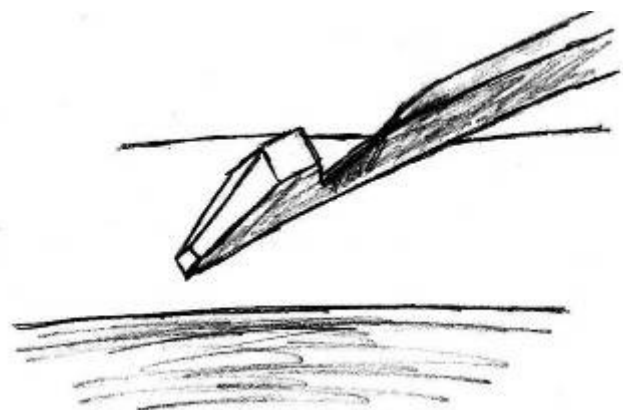
The first step is to forge a mass on the end of a bar that will become the basic leaf shape. Start with a square bar and forge a short tapered point from 2 sides as shown in the following drawings:

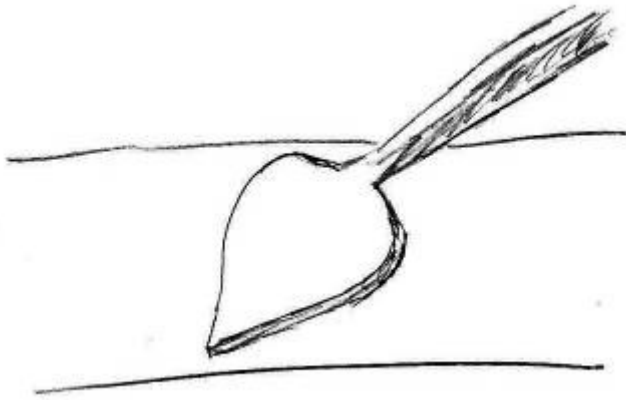


You now have a bar that is tapered towards one corner of the bar. With this point facing upward, extent the bar over the far edge of the anvil. How far depends on the size and shape of the leaf you want. For a heart shaped leaf on on a 1/2 inch square bar this should be the taper plus 1/2 to 3/4 inch of the bar. With half faced blows isolate this mass and form a long taper behind it that will become the stem. Turn the bar 90 degrees with the point still up and repeat as shown in the following drawings:

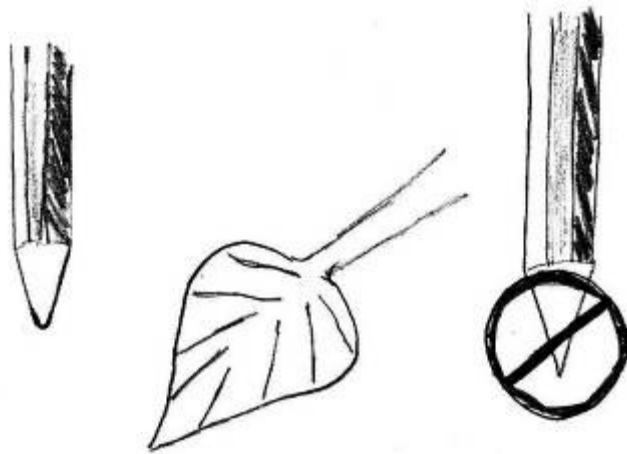


Next hold the bar on the diagonal with the point and stem on the anvil and hammer flat to form the basic leaf shape. First with the flat face of the hammer and then with a rounding hammer or peen (ball or cross) to refine the leaf's shape and until the leaf is 1/8 to 1/16 inch thick. Also refine and round the stem near the leaf.

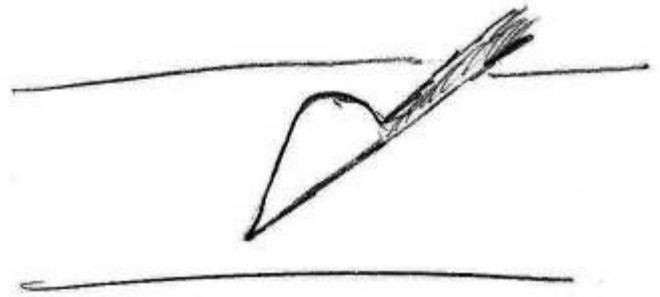
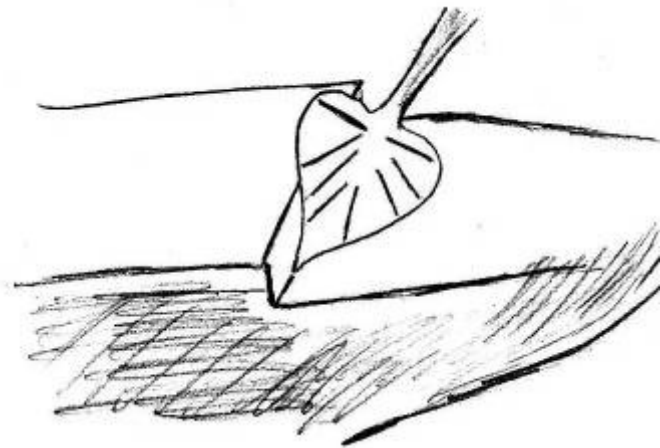




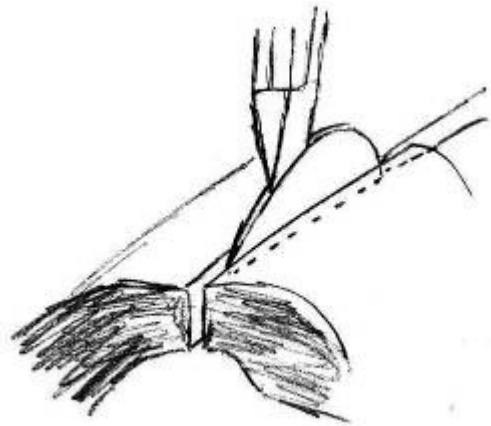
Next lay the leaf flat on the anvil and add the secondary veins to each lobe with a dull (NOT SHARP) chisel as shown here:



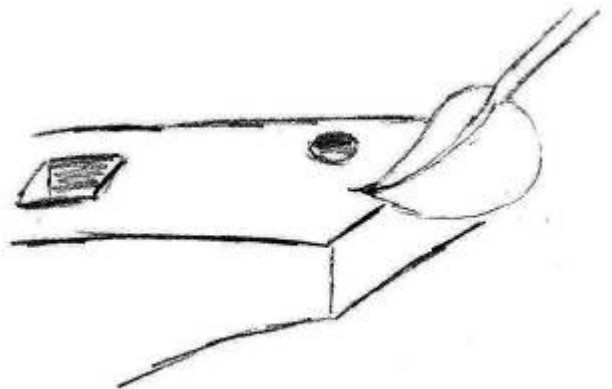
Now fold the leaf in half, with the veins on the inside. Start with the leaf on the step of the anvil and light blows in the center. Then move to the face of the anvil and complete the fold flattening the leaf completely as shown in these drawings:



Now heat the leaf and clamp approximately 1/8 of the fold securely in a vise. Begin opening the leaf using a SHARP chisel, being careful not to mar the leaf with the chisel or to drive it into the fold at the vise, as shown here:

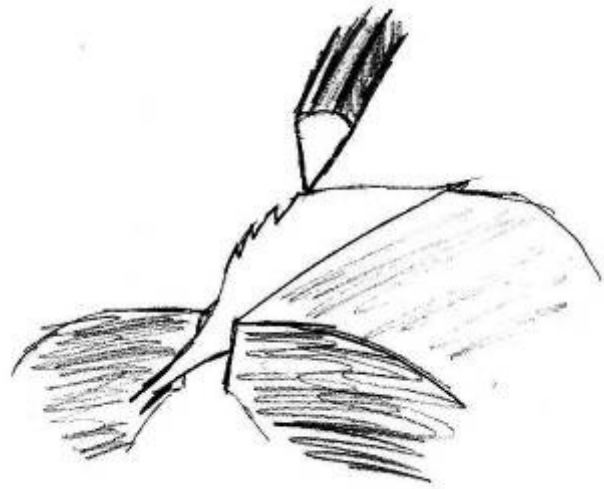
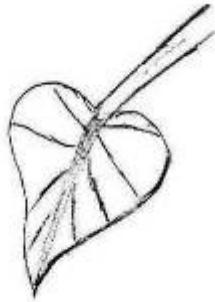


Finally complete the opening of the leaf using a ball or cross peen hammer on the heel of the anvil, rocking the leaf up and down slightly to curve the folded vein slightly as shown here:



The final shaping of the leaf can be done using the face, step and horn of the anvil with light blows and or on a block of wood to protect the veins. The leaf shape can also be adjusted using a small pair of tongs or scrolling tongs.

Here is a drawing of the completed leaf:



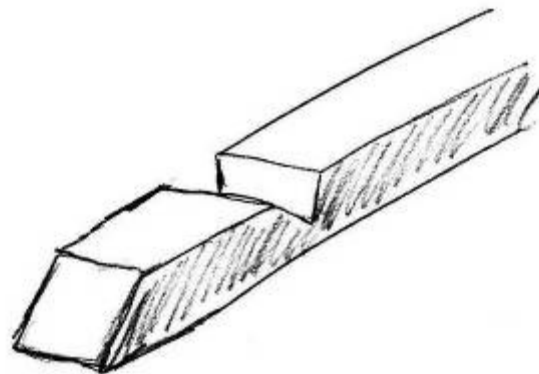
A variation of this leaf is to form it without the secondary veins. A block of wood and ball peen hammer can be used to texture the lobes of the leaf after the leaf is unfolded. Here is a drawing of this style leaf:

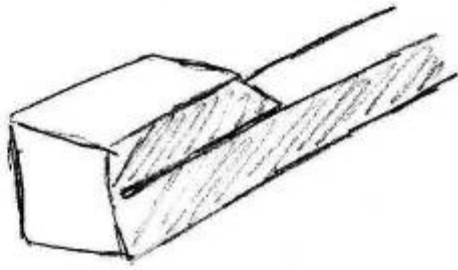


Even on a thick leaf these serrations can be quite sharp. Before making a serrated leaf, consideration should be given as to where the leaf will be used. A serrated edge would not be good on a key ring for example, as the serrations would easily snag and wear on pockets. In any case care should be taken to file and/or sand the serrated leaf edges to remove and burrs and to soften the sharp edges.

Another method that can be used to form the mass needed to forge a leaf is to increase the mass on the end of smaller stock by folding it back on itself and doing a fagot weld as shown below:

Another variation to this and other leaves is to make a serrated edge on the leaf. This works best if the leaf thickness is not less than 1/8 inch. Place the flat leaf in a vise before the secondary veins are added. Use a sharp chisel to add serrations along the edge of the leaf as shown here:

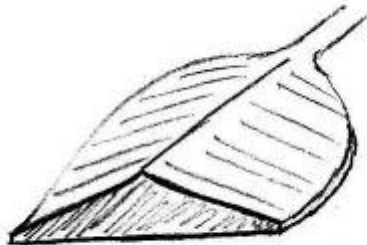




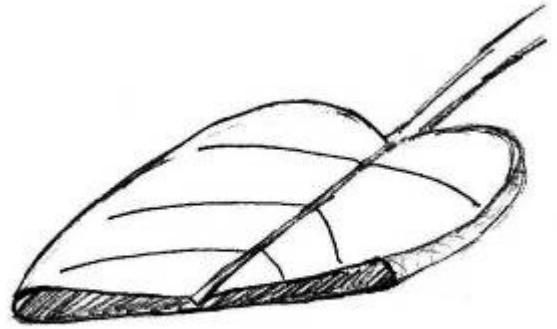
The bar is cut approximately 3/4 of the way through and then folded back. Flux before closing and welding the overlap. Once welded, the end is tapered as before and the stem formed. Then proceed as described above.

Another consideration in making leaves is their cross sectional thickness. For a medium sized leaf made from 1/2 square stock as described above, this is not an important consideration but on very small or very large leaves it can become important.

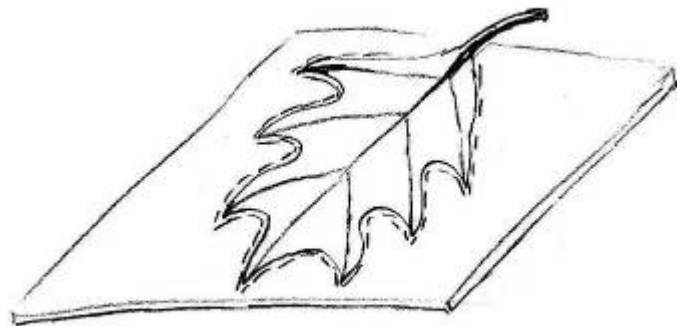
First for small leaves to look good the edge must be quite thin. If the leaf is forged to a uniform thickness, the leaf is quite thin and can be difficult to vein or to heat in the forge without burning the edge. For small leaves it is often better to thin the edges while letting the center of the leaf to remain thicker. This is shown in the following drawing:



Similarly, a large leaf needs to have appropriately thick edges to look good. If the leaf is forged to a uniform thickness it will require additional material and may be excessively heavy for a particular application. The center of large leaves can be forged thinner than the edge and it will look good while weighing less and requiring less material as shown here:



Large leaves with multiple lobes, such as oak and maple leaves are often formed by cutting them out of sheet steel and then veining them and forging them to bring them to life and add three dimensional shape. Often these leaves are made by tracing around an actual leaf. The leaf is then cut out using a chisel, torch, plasma, or laser cutter. The various methods of cutting will require more or less effort to file and sand the edges clean before the leaf can be veined and forged.



If you need to make a large number of leaves, you can make a pattern by tracing a leaf on sheet metal to make a pattern. In this case it's best to make 4-5 patterns from different leaves to provide variation in the leaves you make.

Finally, you can use tools other than a hammer or a chisel to form and texture leaves. Shown below is a long narrow leaf with a central vein made with a chisel and then the smooth shaped lobes are made by using a short section of large round rod with a handle to create the lobes and texture the surface of the leaf.



The next time you're outside, pick up a leaf and consider how you might forge one like it, or better yet, pick up several different leaves and head to the forge and make an example or two of each type leaf.



This effect is enhanced and made easier by first forging the leaf with a cross section that is thicker in the middle and thinner on the edge, as was shown for the small leaf above.



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June, 2005

Hello! This month I would like to tell you about three very exciting and unique aspects of the 2006 ABANA

Conference in Seattle, Washington! One is "**Iron-In-The-Hat**" another is the "**Affiliate Grill Project**" and one is the "**Member's Grill Project**". And here to tell you about these projects is Tom Clark. Take it away Tom!

Lenny Ledet and I will once again conduct "**Iron-in-the-Hat**" for the 2006 ABANA Conference set for July 5-8, 2006 in Seattle! You can again look for big items, both in tools and other objects donated by the membership to be included in this program that raises money for the ABANA Scholarship Fund. Items will

include the BAM box with a special selection of tools and an Ozark Pattern Anvil complete with stand and tools. That's just the beginning! Members and ABANA Affiliates are encouraged to donate items to this "**Iron-in-the-Hat**" program. We especially want handmade tools but anything will be appreciated. All items can be turned in during registration or given to me in advance. We will have hourly drawings for items.

One of the goals of the 2006 ABANA Conference is to strengthen the link between ABANA and its members and affiliates. This link can be reinforced by project participation. There will be an "**Affiliate Grill Project**" as well as a "**Membership Grill Project**". The project will use ten inch (OD) diameter rings made of 1/4" x 1" flat stock, bent on edge 1/4" x 1", hot rolled or cold rolled flat. The ring should be perfectly flat and 10" in diameter. The space in the center of the ring may be used to express your ideas in iron. In order to properly mount your work, please do not drill any holes or violate the space beyond 1/2 the width of the ring. Each affiliate may submit one "Ring" of their choice for the "**Affiliate Grill Project**" and all work will be done by traditional methods, i.e forge welding, collars, rivets, etc.

For the "**Membership Grill Project**", any ABANA member may submit a ring. The same dimensions for the rings apply, but the sky's the limit with regard to type of joinery, i.e mig, tig, bailing wire, etc. The rings may be submitted directly to me or can be brought to or shipped to the conference site. Shipping address information will be available soon. Rings completed early may be shipped directly to Tom Clark for photo opportunities and advertising prior to the conference. Details will also be available on the ABANA website at: www.ABANA.org and the conference website at www.ABANASeattle2006.com.

Contact Information:

Tom Clark
Ozark School of Blacksmithing Happy Forging!
20183 West State Hwy. 8
Potosi, MO 63664 Dave Mudge
573-438-4725 School Affiliate Liaison Member Services Division
573-747-8648 Cell Chairman Internet Committee
573-438-8483 Fax 985.735.0049
tclark@ozarkschool.com davemudge@abana.org

Beginner's Corner

By Albin Drzewianowski

Well, I have pretty much run out of topics for the "Beginner's Corner". So this particular column will be put on hold until I get some more ideas for topics to cover. If you, as a beginner blacksmith, have a particular topic you would like to see covered, give me or the newsletter editor a shout and we will see just what we can come up with.

(If you have any questions about what has been presented in the BEGINNERS' CORNER, send them in and I will answer them in the next issue. Also, looking for future topics for THE BEGINNERS' CORNER. What else would the "wannabe" blacksmiths like to see explained in excruciating detail??)



Shop Tips

By Albin Drzewianowski

A while back, I made the suggestion to use different size pieces of PVC pipe as a way to store your files (Fig. 1.). I have been doing that. However, I have started using another system as well. I take the file and a piece of thin cardboard that is as long as the working section of the file. Then I roll the file up in the cardboard and tape the sheath shut using duck-tape (Fig. 2.). You want a snug fit so that the file does not just slide out. I then put a band of electrical tape around one end to indicate which end is the top of the sheath (some files are tapered, so it helps to always use the same end of the sheath as the top). The one concern I have is whether or not using the cardboard like this will promote rust, since, I assume, that cardboard is hydroscopic like newspaper is. Time will tell.

The PVC pipe in a bucket or a box works good in the shop, but the individually wrapped files fit nicely into the toolbox. Also, I found that sometimes I would have 2 or 3 files on the workbench and they ended up lying on top of each other. The important thing here is to protect the teeth of the files from hitting other steel while being stored or not in use. I used to

just keep them all in a single box, all rubbing against each other. Now when I buy a new file, the first thing I do is make a cardboard sheath for it or get an appropriately sized piece of PVC pipe.

Another possible system is to make a roll up file holder like they have for wrenches and chisels. Using heavy cloth, denim, or a light canvas, sew a series of pockets, one for each file. I intend to try this for my small files.

Speaking of files, I am in the process of building up a all inclusive set of "new" files. (In case you haven't tried it, new files cut so much better than the old flea market files I have been using these past years.) My goal is to have a bastard, first and second cut for each file type in 4", 8" and 12". I am looking at doing this for mill (rectangular), square, half-round, and round files. I have found that having the right size file for the job works so much better. So I watch the sale catalogs and when I see one of the types/sizes that I am looking for on sale, I get a trio of the better quality American made files. I have heard that the German and Swiss made files are the best, but I can not afford those, and never see those in the sale catalogs.

For the beginner's: I have found that the half-round file is the single most useful file to have. It has a flat side for filing flats, a round side which is good for filing curved surfaces and a sharp edge for getting into tight space, corners, etc. So if you are just going to have a few files then I think half round in bastard and first cut and in a few different sizes/lengths, is the way to go.

SHARPIE METALLIC: Fine Point: Silver metallic ink for marking dark surfaces.

I bought a four pack at Office Depot for \$4.79. Initially they seemed to work pretty well. However, I found that before long the tip started getting pretty ragged. It did not seem to stay a "FINE POINT" for very long. I think that the tip needs to be made from a harder material. As things stand right now, I will not be buying any more of these. If you are careful with them, looks like the tip may last as long as the ink does, but in regular use in a blacksmith shop, it doesn't look like they will hold up. Too

bad, because the silver metallic ink does show up very nicely on hot rolled and forged steel.

((Do you have a useful SHOP TIP that makes your smithing easier, more organized, etc? Why not share it with the rest of the GUILD. Send it in. If necessary, we will re-write and make drawing if needed. And of course, we will give you credit for making the suggestion. afd))

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.



Safety Tip

Remember:

You Can Walk with a Wooden Leg

You Can Eat with False Teeth

But...

You Can't See with a Glass Eye!

**Always
Wear
Your
Safety Glasses**



The Blacksmith's Bookshelf

By Albin Drzewianowski

Title: A BLACKSMITH'S CRAFT:

The Legacy of Francis Whitaker, Volume 1.

Author/Illustrator: George Dixon

Publisher: Blue Moon Press, Huntingdon, PA 2004

144 pages, index, profusely illustrated.

George Dixon describes this book as a compendium of processes, tools, patterns and tips. Volume 1 covers the basics: the blacksmith shop, tools, processes, joinery, scrolls, quatrefoils, and animal heads. Volume 2, which should be published in the next year or two, will cover many individual projects, to include: fixtures, chasing, die making, leafwork, railings, repousse, etc.

This book is a tribute to Francis Whitaker. It includes many of his quotes: "Art is long; Life is short; Get going!" It also has pictures of some of the pieces that Francis had done in his lifetime. George had collaborated with Francis Whitaker on the layout and contents of this book, just before Francis died.

I have to say that, in my opinion, this book is not for the rank beginner. Randy McDaniel's or Jack Anderson's books are better suited for someone who is just starting off. However, once one of those books has been absorbed, "A BLACKSMITH'S CRAFT" would be a good next book to acquire.

George does an excellent job of describing the tooling and processes of blacksmithing in both text and drawing. A lot of fine points and nuances of forging are presented and deserve close reading and study.

I am looking forward for when Volume 2 is published.

Available from BLUE Moon Press, Blue Moon Rd, Huntingdon, PA 16652
<http://www.bluemoonpress.org/> 866-627-6922



BGCM New Members

By Judy Heinekamp

The Guild 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.

Mark A. Michalski
(410) 581-7921
307 Kendig Drive
Owings Mills, MD 21117
Chippewa29@aol.com

Philip Heath
4600 S-Four Mile Run Dr., #942
Arlington, VA 22204
(703) 671-3134



Membership Dues Increase

By Judy Heinekamp

The Board of Directors voted to increase membership dues beginning calendar year 2006. The Board feels the raise is justified due to increased costs for the newsletter and postage, facilities, present and future improvements and cost of outreach. This increase will take effect January 1, 2006. Individual membership dues will increase to \$25.00 per individual and family membership dues will increase to \$30.00, for the calendar year.

If members pay their dues for 2006 in the calendar year 2005, they can take advantage of the current dues. Anyone paying their dues before December 31, 2005, can pay at this year's rates, which are \$20/Individual and \$25/family.

If you have any questions, contact me at:

(410) 922-1246

or via email at: judy529@qis.net.

Judy Heinekamp, Treasurer



The **HAMMER & TONG**

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It's been a long hot busy summer for me. I'm looking forward to cooler weather and more time at the forge this fall. If you're looking for ideas to forge there's lots of opportunities, with Samuel Yellin Days in October, BGCM's Chain link and Railing projects, ABANA's Ring Project and our monthly trade items. Don't forget Christmas and start forging those Christmas presents now.

By the time you read this I will be attending or will have returned from Canlron V. It's being held in Nova Scotia this year and I'm looking forward to good forging and good seafood. I'll present my experiences in an upcoming issue and at the September Guild meeting.

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

The HAMMER & TONG by:

Albin Drzewianowski
Allen Dyer
Judy Heinekamp
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.



The Blacksmith's Computer

By Albin Drzewianowski

BLOGS: One of the more recent phenomenons on the internet is "blogging". A BLOG is an online diary or journal. A BLOGGER is someone who writes and maintains a BLOG. BLOGGING is the act of writing such an on-line journal. So you have someone who starts a "BLOG", posts it to the internet and then those who read it can comment on what the "BLOGGER" has written. (It is alleged that politically inspired BLOGS played a significant role in last year's presidential election.)

Recently I have been lurking on John C.'s BLOG: <http://truepathsmithing.blogspot.com/>. As John describes it: *"A continuing rant on the state of art forging in the USA. Anvil, Forge, Power Hammer and tongs along with wrought iron design and the foibles of those who MIG weld are fair game. Comments provided by a loyal few."*

John C. was trained as a farrier and has worked as a blacksmith. Currently he teaches engineering in Central Virginia. If you were a participant on the old KEENEJUNK list, you may remember him. Many characterize him as a real "purist". He is a strong advocate of "Constant Volume" blacksmithing which is reflected in his BLOG.

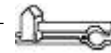
John pontificates on various topics: tongs, anvils, tools steels, etc. He has strongly held feelings and states them in no uncertain terms. Than his loyal band of followers and hecklers comment on what he has written. He posts a new entry every couple of days and says that he has about 50 people a day visiting and reading his BLOG. Not only is it sometimes entertaining, but he does raise many topics that each of us as blacksmiths should think about, whether we agree with him or not.

George Dixon (publisher of "The Artist-Blacksmith Quarterly Magazine) also has a BLOG: <http://artist-blacksmith.blogspot.com/>. *"Art & Blacksmithing; thoughts and observations on design, business, history and process as they relate to the world of the artist-*

blacksmith trying to make a living and grow in the 21st century. Blacksmithing is not defined by time period or motif, blacksmithing is defined by process alone."

George does not seem to post to it very often. However, what he has written so far is worth reading and thinking about.

Should you find other blacksmith BLOGs, let us know and we will publish their addresses also.



A Letter from David Merceruo

David Merceruo
P.O. Box 2477
Martinsburg, WV 25402
(304) 263-2970

Dear B.G.C.M.

The Eastern Panhandle Blacksmiths will be holding monthly meetings at the L. Norman Dillon Farm Museum on the 1st Sunday of each month from 1pm-5pm.

The first meeting, held in July, was comprised of discussions on shop improvements. Plans include installing a line shaft to power the drill presses and other equipment. The project during this meeting was a 1-1/2" flatter.

Mike Luke is a farrier with 20+ years of experience and a civil war re-enactor. He is planning a horseshoeing clinic using methods from the mid-1800's. Also on the agenda is a knifemaking seminar. The dates of each will be announced when they have been set.

The next meeting will be on August 7th. Directions to the Museum: Take I81 south to exit 16W (towards Hedgesville/Berkeley Springs). Turn left at the 4th traffic light. The Museum is on the right.

Safe Hammering,
Dave Merceruo



BGCM 2005 Historic Forge Volunteer Calendar

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

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

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

JULY							AUGUST						
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
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27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Gray Shaded dates are
School Tours 9:30 AM -2PM

Black Dates are Events
Listed Below

Cross Hatched dates are for
Union Mills Forge

To Volunteer Contact :
Kevin Thomas
(410) 848-4869
email..... kbt62@direcway.com

25-28 Apr .. Traditional Arts Week
30 Apr..... Flower &Plant Market

1 MayFlower and Plant Market
7-8 May Civil War Living
History Encampment
21-22 May Blacksmith Days
4 Jun Spring Muster
Antique Fire Show

4 Jul..... Old Fashioned 4th
9-10 Jul Common Ground
Music & Art Festival
9-10 Jul Civil War Camp
Ice Cream Social
11-15.....Living History Camp
18-22.....Living History Camp
25-29 JulLiving History Camp
6 Aug. Old Fashioned Corn Roast

9-11 Sep Steam Show
17-18 Sep Maryland Wine
Festival
1-2 OctFall Harvest Days

2-4 Dec..... Holiday Visit
3 Dec..... Poinsettia & Greens
Festival
9-11 Dec..... Holiday Visit

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.

24th Annual Early American Wrought Iron Conference

Sat and Sun September 10-11, 2005

Delaware Agricultural Museum
866 North DuPont Hwy
Dover, Delaware 19901
(302)734-1618

Sponsored by
The Mid-Atlantic Smiths Association and
The Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village

Demonstrators:

Zachary Noble - a rectangular frame using a different method of forged joinery at each corner including one inspired during the demonstration

Chris Winterstein - Two basic methods of working with volume in forging bar stock and ways to move around in space without filling it up.



Samuel Yellin Blacksmith Day

15 October 2005

See details on Pages 1 and 3-7

Registration Form Page 5



Jacksonville Center for the Arts Blacksmithing Classes

The Jacksonville Center for the Arts offers blacksmithing classes at the first residential craft school in Virginia this summer. They are Virginia's first residential craft school. Their first session of classes commenced June 3rd. They are offering several blacksmithing classes this summer. For more detailed information, please visit their website at:

www.Jacksonvillecenter.com.

Fees:

Week long courses for non-members:	\$350
Weekend courses for non-members:	\$210
Week long courses for members:	\$300
Weekend courses for members:	\$180

They also have catered meals from local restaurants for breakfast, lunch and dinner choices for very reasonable prices. They have partnered with local B&Bs, lodges, motels, etc. to provide housing accommodations at reduced rates for students of the School.

Sep 16-18: **Jessie Ward**

Introduction to Blacksmithing

Sep 30-Oct 2: **Curtis Coates**

Decorative Interior Iron

Oct 14-16: **David Tucciarone**

Blacksmithing from the Beginning

Oct 28-30: **Dale Morse**

Tools and Tricks of the Trade

Nov 11-13: **Elmer Roush**

Introduction to Tooling



BGCM 2005 Blacksmith Events Calendar

2006

JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28					
30	31												
Fancy Hook							Something with a Heart						
MARCH							APRIL						
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Garden Tool							Bar-B-Que Tool						
MAY							JUNE						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
BSD Contests – Grille - Sculpture							Flower						
JULY							AUGUST						
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													
Animal/Wizard Head							From a Railroad Spike						
SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER						
				1	2	3							1
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					
From a Horseshoe							Leaf						
NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
		1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Boot Scraper							Ornament						

8-9 JAN Gichner's Hammer-In
16 JANBGCM Meeting

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

Mar .. No Furnace Town Joint Mtg
20 MarBGCM Meeting
16-17 Apr.....BGOP Spring Fling
24 AprBGCM Meeting
25-28 Apr.....CCFM Traditional Arts
25-28 Apr ...4 Day Beginner Class
30 Apr-1 May Cable Damascus
7-8 May..... Gichner's "Yard Sale"
13 May.. Sober Collection Auction
13-15 May.....Touchstone/PAABA
14-15 May Beginners Class
21-22 MayBlacksmith Days

4 Jun..... PABA Blacksmith Day
10-11 Jun.. Rough & Tumble BSD
18-19 Jun.... Intermediate Class
26 JunBGCM Meeting

17 JulBGCM Meeting

21 AugBGCM Meeting

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

3-4 Sep..... Traditional Joinery
10-11 SepWrought Iron Conf
25 SepBGCM Meeting

8-9 Oct..... Intermediate Class
15 October..... Magic From Fire
16 Oct.....BGCM Meeting
29-30 Oct..... Beginners Class

5-6 Nov Blacksmith Christmas Show
12-13 NOV..... Basic Knife Class
20 NovBGCM Meeting

10 Dec BGCM Holiday Party
10-11 Dec .Forge Welding Class

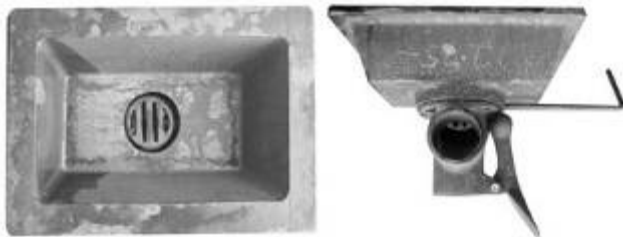
Jul ABANA Conf(Seattle, WA)



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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/>



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Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland

50 Lb Bag \$6.00

Available at:

Monthly Guild meetings and Open Forge Nights
Or Contact any Board Member

ROBERTS OXYGEN



KURT BECHTEL

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

ROBERTS OXYGEN COMPANY, INC

TEL: (410) 840-0400

96 JOHN STREET

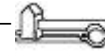
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WESTMINSTER, MD 21157

CELL: (443) 506-0924

EMAIL: kbechtel@robertsoxygen.com

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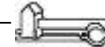
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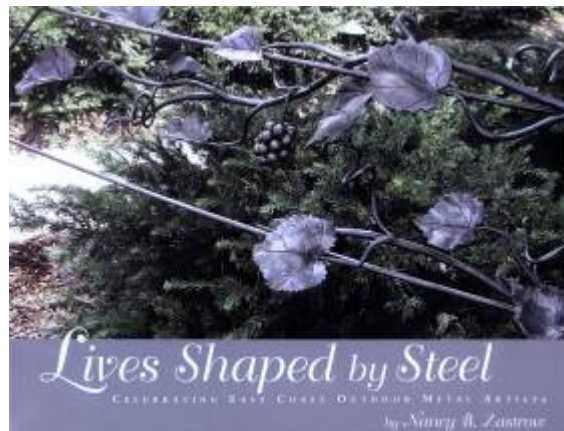
Phone: (410)840-9623

E-mail: stansburytree@aol.com



Lives Shaped by Steel

By Nancy B. Zastrow



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

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



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 are published on the Historic Forge Volunteer Calendar in this newsletter. If you are interested please contact:

Kevin Thomas

(410) 848-4869

Email: kbt62@direcway.com

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

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

Dick Peeling (717)359-5520



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 September 25, 2005

Demonstration:

Bill Clemens..... Leaf Making Techniques

Trade Item: Something from a Horseshoe

Sunday October 16, 2005

Demonstration:

Bill Clemens A Traditional Joinery Boot Scraper

Trade Item: A Leaf / Item with a Leaf

BGCM Open Forge Evenings

There is a monthly Open Forge, on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6-9 pm.
If you want to come forge check the guild phone message to confirm the Forge will be open

Thursday September 8, 2005

Thursday October 13, 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.**

* Dues increase (\$25 Individual \$30 Family) effective on
1 Jan 2006

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**