

Pennsylvania Striker

Dedicated to the preservation, sharing and expansion of the Artist-Blacksmith's skills



July 2026

Next Meeting Date: Saturday, August 1st

Blacksmith Day at Old Dry Road Farm, Wernersville, PA

PABA will have its 13th annual Blacksmith Day, the first Saturday in August at Old Dry Road Farm. Volunteers are needed to make the day a success. We'll need help supervising the public as they try their hand at forging, or lending a hand in the kids area and show them how iron and clay are forged similarly. ***If you are able, please come early and help with setup!*** Contact Will Smith with any questions. After all day helping with the public and participating in the forging contest; we'll still need help at the end to get everything loaded and the site cleaned up. Please hang around and help. Public hours are 9AM - 4PM.

Tailgating and Public Sales near the barn in the designated area. \$20 table vendor fee for public sales payable to Old Dry Road Farm. - **Food Vendor for breakfast and lunch!** Iron in the hat in the barn.

Please contact PABA VP William Smith, 717-480-7686, wsmithpa@aol.com - if you have any questions or would like to offer help.

Iron Master of the Day item: Sharp Edged Device

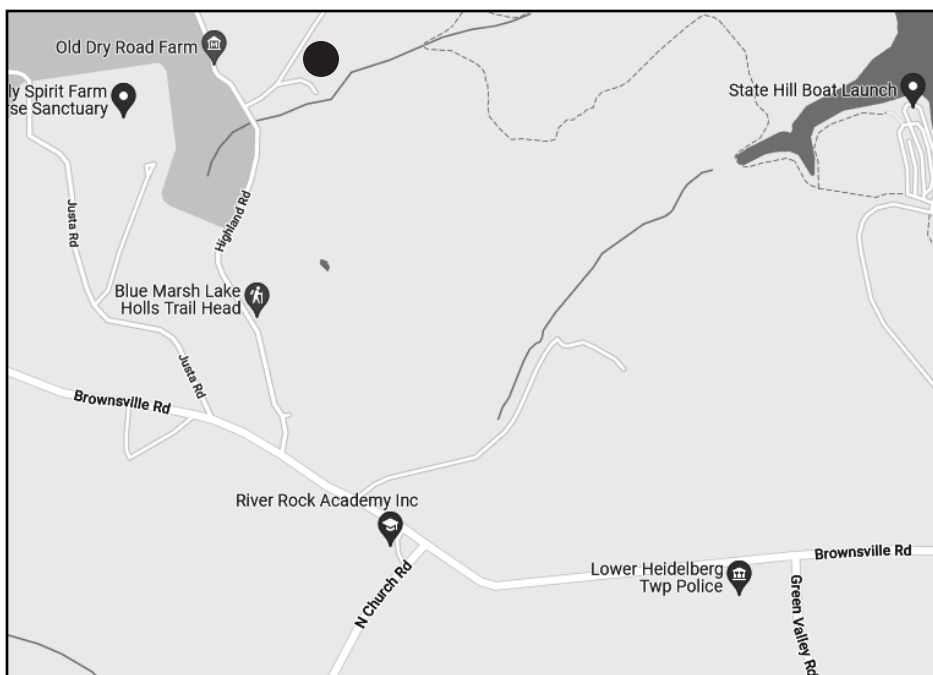
The forging contest will be: A set of two decorative bolt heads. Teams of two with a time limit.
(More contest info inside.)

This is a great day to show off blacksmithing to the public. Bring your friends!

Old Dry Road Farm is located west of Reading near Blue Marsh Lake
202 Highland Road, Wernersville, PA.

From the East (Reading)
Follow US-422 W (W Penn Ave)
-Turn right onto Green Valley Rd
-Turn left onto Brownsville Rd *Look for Yellow Old Dry Rd Farm Sign and the PABA Anvil*
- Turn right onto Highland Rd

From the West
Follow US-422 E
-Turn left onto Bernville Rd
-Turn right onto Brownsville Rd
Look for Yellow Old Dry Rd Farm Sign and the PABA Anvil
-Turn left onto Highland Rd



PABA Contacts

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- The Pennsylvania Striker is published bimonthly by the Pennsylvania Artist Blacksmith Association, Inc. (PABA), an affiliate of the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America (ABANA). Unless otherwise noted all text content is by the editor and all artwork is by Mark Smith.

Membership is open to anyone interested in blacksmithing. Dues are \$30 per calendar year. Contact a board member for an application.

- PABA makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein but assumes no liability in case of error or changing conditions. Any business relations or other activities undertaken as a result of information contained herein or arising therefore are the responsibility of the parties involved and not the Pennsylvania Artist- Blacksmith's Association, Inc.

Committee Leaders

Iron in the Hat Chairperson - Gary Rhoads

HELPER NEEDED

Equipment & Maintenance - Randy Barlip

Publication Contact - Keith Eckman

Safety Equipment - Herb Moyer

ABANA Affiliate Contact - Doug Learn

Library - John Kauffman & Martin Reynolds

Event Hosting - Paul Huf

Facebook Monitor - Luke Shultz

PABA CALENDAR 2026

October 10 - Andrew Molinaro's, Clearfield, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Plant Hanger

December 12 - Gallery, Paradise, PA
Iron Master of the Day Item:
Holiday Item

UPCOMING EVENTS

**MITTANY ANTIQUE MACHINERY
ASSOCIATION, INC
52nd ANNUAL FALL SHOW
SEPTEMBER 10th - 13th 2026**

LOCATED AT PENNS CAVE & WILDLIFE PARK
Centre Hall PA
Sarah Campbell Lane
<https://www.mittanyantique.org/>

Admission: \$10.00 per day or 4 DAY PASS: \$25.00
Senior Citizens Day - Thursday \$5.00 (62+)
Military, Active and Veterans FREE on Friday
Kids age 12 and under FREE
FREE PARKING

**Blacksmith Weekend
Fenimore Farm & Country Village
5775 State Highway 80
(Lake Road)
Cooperstown, NY 13326
September 26 @ 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
<https://www.fenimorefarm.org>**

Let PABA know about your events.

Help advertise and show off what you do!

Articles and Shop Tips

The Striker is always any shop tips you may have and if you have a project or an item that you make... Share a "How-To" article with PABA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Cambria Iron Conference Inspired by the Past – Forging to the Future September 12, 2026 Center for Metal Arts, Johnstown PA

Our mission for this space is to make it available for the greater forging community to use as well as appreciate and this annual conference is our first major effort towards that goal. Lots of care and consideration goes into our demonstrator selection process with focus always on safety professionalism. Secondary to that and at the core of what we are trying to accomplish for that space is to facilitate creative large-scale forging.

We hope you will join us this year to celebrate this shop's new life and all of the restoration work CMA has embarked on. It's very exciting to see what all the different sculptors have created in response to the forging possibilities here and the beautiful historically significant environment that is Johnstown, PA. Come join us during our annual gathering to meet and interact with blacksmiths of all walks of life and backgrounds and experience a new artist's interpretation of "industrial arts" in a true sense of the words.

Early Bird Conference Tickets Available now!
Please follow CMA at centerformetalarts.org,
[@centerformetalarts](https://centerformetalarts.org) and 814.418.0419 for
information on registration.
<https://centerformetalarts.org/events/conference/>

Southern Ohio Forge and Anvil (SOFA) Quadstate Roundup

<https://sofablacksmiths.org/quadstate/>
**Miami County Fairgrounds, 650 N County
Road 25A, Troy, OH 45373**

September 25 & 26 - 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Quadstate includes two days of demonstrations and three days of tailgate sales of all types of blacksmith related items. It is held annually the fourth weekend of September at the home of SOFA on the Miami County fairgrounds in Troy, Ohio. Camping and food available on site. Experience the largest gathering of blacksmiths in the US!

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026,
3:00 – 9:00 P.M.**

**Tickets- \$30 at the gate - under 18 are free.
Festival of Combustion
Join Rivers of Steel at the Carrie Blast
Furnaces!**

801 Carrie Furnace Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA

Demonstrations by blacksmiths, glassblowers, welders, and metal fabricators and more. Tours and activities for all. After dark, check out a glowing ceramic reveal, followed by fireworks!

Rough and Tumble Black Smith School Oct 24th & 25th.

Start time 9:00 am both days.

Saturdays class we will make two candle holders. Class will be led by John Sturgis. Sundays class will be a trammel and will be led by Dave Kauffman. Participants must be a member of Rough and Tumble.

10 students max per class - Cost \$50

Email: jcsturgis@verizon.net
4997 Lincoln Highway East, Kinzers, PA 17535
<https://roughandtumble.org>



2026 ABANA Conference Bentonville, Arkansas November 11-14, 2026

Location: Benton County Fairgrounds located at 7640 SW Regional Airport Blvd., Bentonville, Arkansas 72712. It is just 4 miles from the Northwest Arkansas National Airport (XNA). The fairgrounds include ample room for parking, tent camping, RV hookups, and plenty of space for all conference activities.

<https://abana.org/2026conference/>

June at the Gray's Farm

This was PABA's first time visiting Brad's shop and farm. Brad and his family were great hosts. There was lots of room in the shop and they provided an excellent lunch for attendees. Many thanks for all the hard work they did to make the meeting a great time for our members.

Leon Golder was our featured demonstrator At Brad's shop. He is the a member of the NY Designer Blacksmith's Southern Tier Region. Leon talked a bit about the museum where he works. He's the resident Blacksmith for the Cooley Blacksmith Shop at the Heritage Village of the Southern Finger Lakes in Corning NY. Leon was also in charge of having the shop moved and restored on the museum grounds.

Leon primarily demonstrates and teaches using a variety of traditional blacksmithing methods. At our meeting he



worked on a door latch and door hinges. He talked about different tooling he uses, forge welding, and the typical shapes and styles of early hardware.





I thought the adjustable base of this anvil stand could be useful. It has a welded steel frame and you add wood blocks to get the height you wish.



Several nice items were brought for the Iron Master contest. Andrew Molinaro was the winner with his textured cabinet and door handles.

Forging Contest at Blacksmith Day

The Contest is to forge two matching decorative bolt heads from two standard 15/16th hexagon bolts. Bonus points during the judging for a matching pair, and the matching pairs will place higher than bolts that don't match.



PABA will provide the propane forges, anvils, vises, tongs, bolsters for holding the bolt on the anvil, and of course we will provide the bolts.

Sign up on the day of the event; we'll start at approximately 10:30.

There is a limit of only 15 spots for teams of two people. You must be

a PABA member to enter the contest, however, you can join on the spot. Each team gets to preheat their bolt. A twenty minute timer starts when the bolt is first pulled from the forge. After everyone is done we will have judges make their decision privately.



Brad Gray's example

PABA Member Opportunities

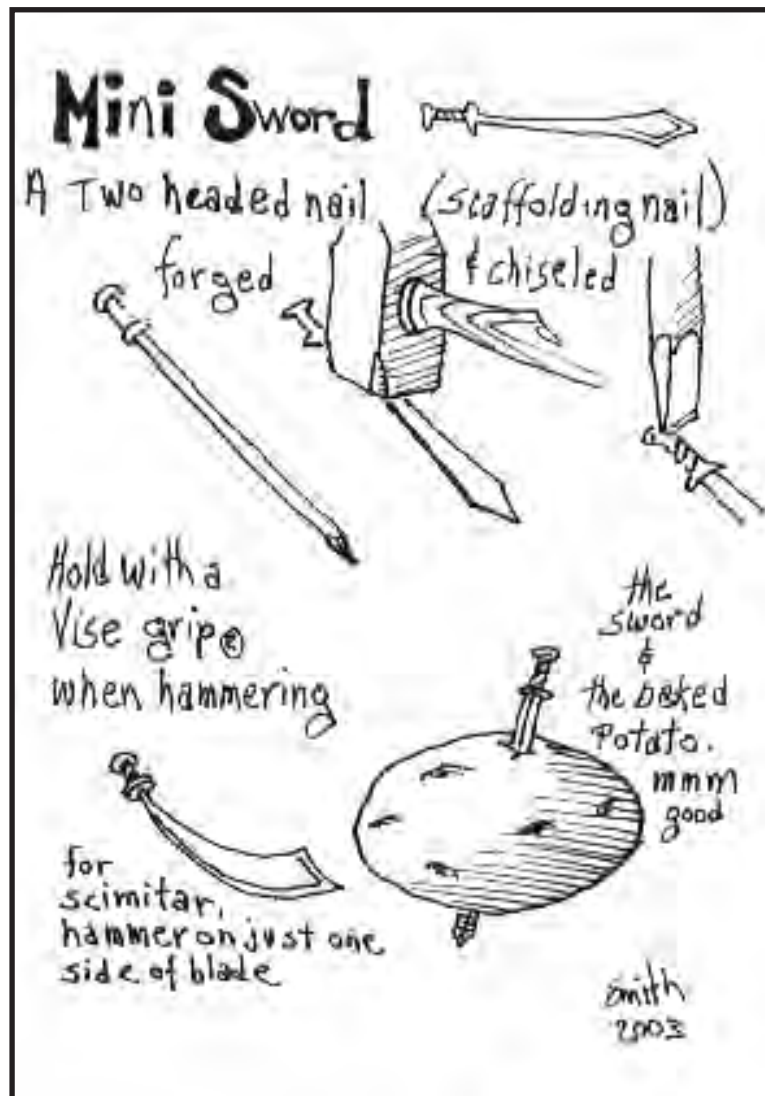
Some of you may remember or know of the Green & Mengel tools and collection. Unfortunately both Eric and Steve have passed away some time ago. The family is preparing to clean out the remaining items they have. PABA has been asked to help organize the sale. The proceeds will go to PABA and the Williamsburg Blacksmith Shop.

Keep an eye out for more information or requests to help. This could be a good opportunity to acquire some tools or equipment and also help out our group.

Social Media Committee Member Needed

PABA is looking for a person to manage and grow our Social Media presence. Currently we have our newsletter and website plus our Facebook group and page. Luke Schultz has been managing our Facebook areas for many years but has expressed a desire to hand it over to another person that could possibly expand into other sites and more actively promote our group. Also at some point the Striker may go primarily digital. That could mean an expansion of our website to offer more content to our members.

If you have experience or are willing to help in these areas, please let a Board Member know.

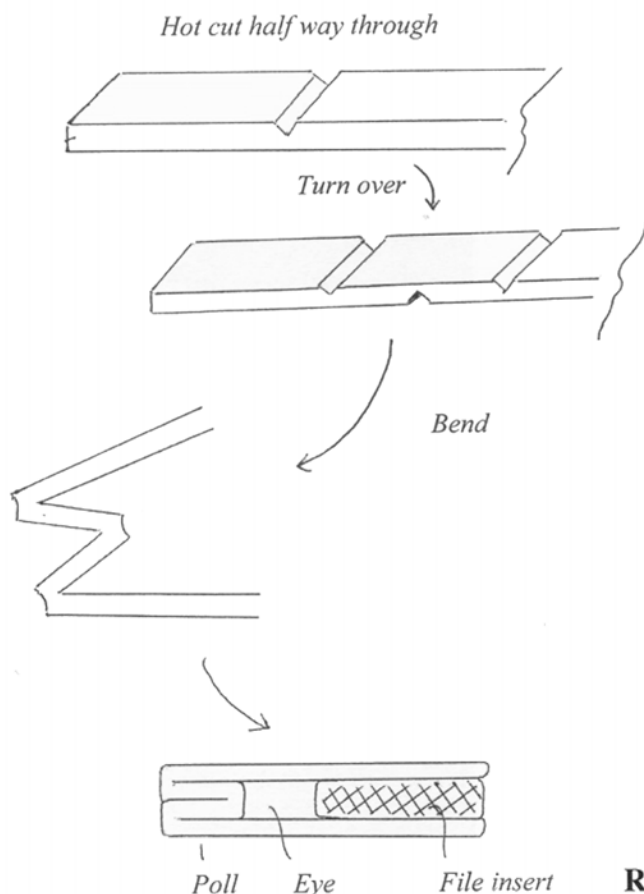


Poll Hatchets

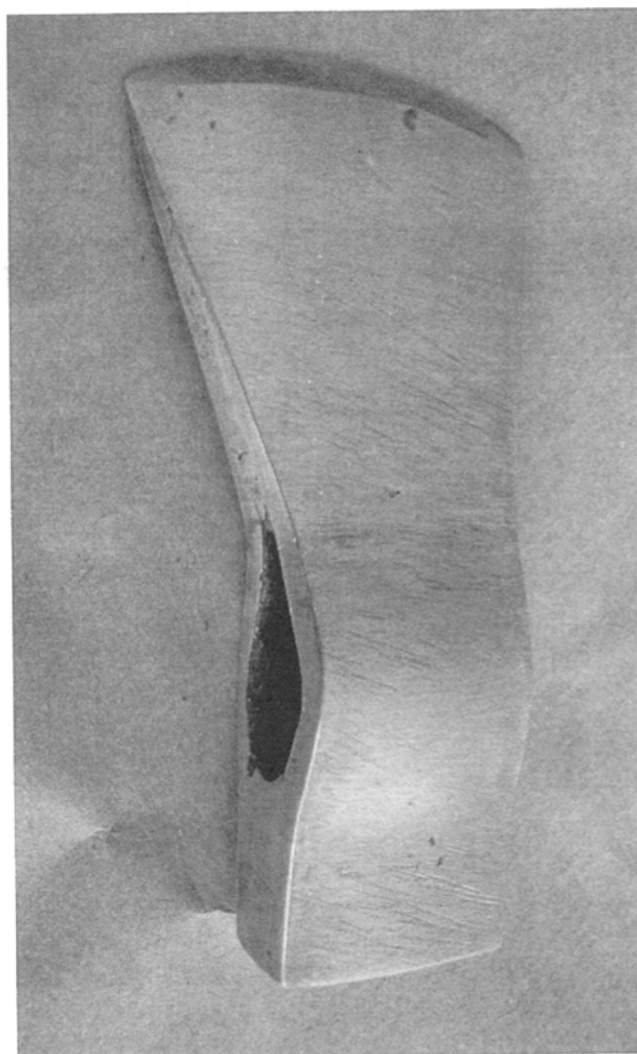
*Drawings, photos and text by:
Steve Anderson, a MABA member*



Stock size: 1/4 x 1, 1/4 x 1-1/4, 1/4 x 1-1/2 or 1/4 x 2



The Anvil's Horn



Because there are so many different styles of hatchets, to determine the original stock length needed and to decide the measurements for the second set of hot cuts, pick one style you like and use those proportions for the poll, eye and blade.

Forge weld the poll and blade, shape, drift eye, grind and temper.

- Grind edges instead of forging to maintain the tool steel center.
- When tempering, quench the bit to within 3/4" of the eye, then let the residual heat in the poll draw the temper to blue/straw.
- If you already have a drift or axe handle made, make the eye to match.

Reprinted from Michigan Artist Blacksmith Association
The Upsetter, Sept/Oct 2010

Contrasting Steels for Pattern Welding

The Anvil's Horn

From Pep Gomez' Demo notes

Bright lines:

L-6 is a high nickel content carbon steel. It is commonly used in sawmill band saw blades, but not always. It can be purchased in round stock. It combines well with carbon steel for a highly reflective, high contrast billet. L-6 is known as an extremely tough steel and adding it to the billet will only enhance the performance.

15N20 is the Swedish version of L-6. It can be bought in thin stock from Kelly Cupples and is an excellent steel with consistent quality.

ASTM 203E is a nickel bearing low carbon steel. It is commonly used in making up fittings, but can be used as the low carbon element in Damascus blades. Nice contrast and high reflectivity. You can buy this in sheet from American Alloy Steel Houston, TX 1-800-231-3502.

Nickel for the brightest contrast. Pure nickel is often used. I do not recommend it for blade steel. Nickel is a carbon blocker and in the finished billet the soft nickel layers will typically end up on the edge and affect performance. It is best used in fittings for really high contrast, or in architectural/decorative metalwork.

Dark Lines:

The dark lines in Pattern welding come from the low alloy carbon steels. You can get colors from light gray to dark black by varying the carbon content; the lightest being regular hot rolled low carbon. Adding low carbon to the billet will lower the overall carbon content of the finished piece of steel and you need to take it into account as you construct your billet if it is to be used for a knife.

Some of my favorite carbon steels to use in Damascus are:

1095 is a good knife steel and has a slightly higher beginning carbon content and contrasts nicely with 15N20 or L-6

1084 has slightly lower carbon content and is more forgiving in the heat treat. 1084 Makes a good blade steel and is easy to weld but has become increasingly difficult to find.

5160 is an oil hardening steel and has been called fool proof steel because it is very forgiving while forging and heat treating. A lot of makers really like this steel. I don't use it much, but not a bad choice, especially due to how easy it is to find (leaf and coil spring).

52100 is an alloy steel, and once you learn how to heat treat and forge it, it has exceptional qualities. It is not for the novice and you really need good controls for proper heat treating, but is worth the effort in terms of performance. It is easy to find in junkyards as bearings and bearing races.

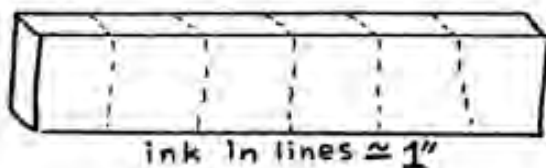
W-2 forges nicely and heat treats well. It has added vanadium and is a fine grain steel. The only problem is they don't make it any more or at least I can't find it, so it isn't readily available.

O-1 is a common tool steel. It is sensitive to heat and will crumble if overheated, but by the same token can be welded cleanly at lower temperatures.

There many other steels that are possible combinations for making Damascus including some stainless and powdered metals. One consideration when you are combining different steels is their forgeability. If one steel moves easily under the hammer and another one does not, their weld will shear when you attempt to draw them out. A lot of the stainless steels have this problem and it should be taken into account.

COLD SHAPING HINTS : Shaping over a hole with a mallet (leather or aluminum) to prevent marring the metal bar... from Doug Kluender

METAL BAR



ink in lines $\approx 1"$

- KEYS :**
1. Using the inked lines on your metal bar, hammer from the center & hit out to your desired form.
 2. First hammer the line marks, then hammer in between.
 3. The closer the blows of the hammer, the smoother the curve.



HIT METAL BAR VERTICALLY

HIT OVER THE HARDY HOLE

OR



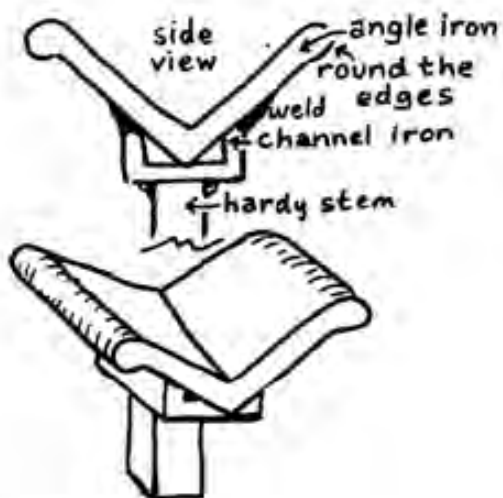
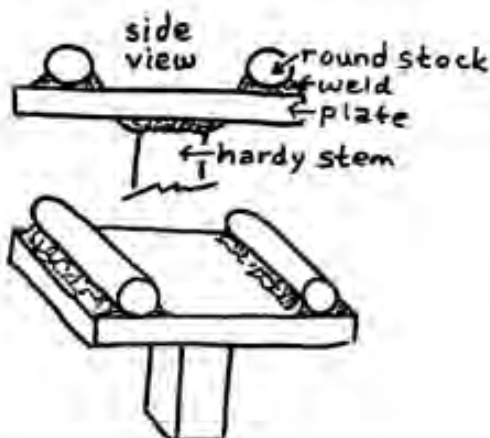
HIT METAL BAR HORIZONTALLY

OR



COMBINE HITS TO MAKE A COMPOUND CURVE

OTHER FORMS TO HIT OVER:



illustrations by d.w. harvey
computer & photography by b.mekharvey

Member Offered Blacksmithing Classes

Allen Schaeffer • Furnace Creek Forge • Beginner Blacksmithing Classes • Learn the basics one on one
484.651.9402 • www.FurnaceCreekForge.com

Dave Fisher • Blacksmith Classes • Fisher Forge • 572 Saint Michaels Rd. Hamburg, PA 19526
610-504-8060 • fforge@early.com - **Classes w/Dave Fisher through the Hamburg Area Arts Alliance**
610-562-3106 hamburgarts@verizon.net - \$190 (4 classes)

Derick Kemper • Damselfly Forge • Phone - 410-937-4244 • Email - Damselflyforge@gmail.com
<https://www.damselflyforge.com/blacksmith-classes>

Drunken Smithy • Blacksmithing Classes • 2236 Lebanon Valley Mall • Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17042
(717) 833-4105 • forge@drunkensmithy.com

Martha Moore Westbrook • Jewelry & Metalsmithing Classes • caersidi@earthlink.net • 610-730-6216
Goggleworks Center for the Arts, Reading PA: www.goggleworks.org
The Baum School of Art, Allentown, PA: www.baumschool.org

Regional Blacksmithing Classes

Adirondack Folk School - www.adirondackfolkschool.org • P.O. Box 2 • Lake Luzerne • NY 12846 • 518-696-2400

Appalachian Center for Craft - 1560 Craft Center Drive • Smithville, TN 37166 • 931-372-3051 or 615-597-6801
www.tntech.edu/craftcenter/workshops/

Augusta Heritage Center - augustaartsandculture.org • 100 Campus Drive • Elkins, WV 26241 • 304-637-1287

Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland - Carroll County Farm Museum • Westminster, MD • 410-386-3881 or Karen -
ksjones@carrollcountymd.gov • <https://www.bgcmonline.org/classes>

Bryn Athyn College - www.brynathyn.edu/departments/building-arts • 2945 College Drive • Bryn Athyn, PA 19009
267-502-6000 • jkline@brynathyn.edu

Cedar Lakes - <http://www.cedarlakes.com/craft-workshops/> • HC 88, Box 21 • Ripley, WV 25271 • 304-372-7873

Center for Metal Arts - www.centerformetalarts.com • 106 Iron St • Johnstown, PA 15906 • 814.418.0409

Clifton Forge School of the Arts - www.cfsota.org • 518 Church Street • Clifton Forge, VA 24422 • 540-862-7275

Floyd Center for the Arts - www.floydartcenter.org • 220 Parkway Lane, South • Floyd, VA. 24091 • 540-745-2784

John C. Campbell Folk School - www.folkschool.org • 1 Folk School Rd • Brasstown, North Carolina 28902
1.800.FOLK.SCH (365.5724)

Ms Caitlin's School - 26 West All Saints St. - Frederick, MD 21701 - www.mscaitlinsschool.com
301-246-2248 - to schedule an appointment - Info@mscaitlinsschool.com

National Ornamental Metal Museum - www.metalmuseum.org • 374 Metal Museum Drive • Memphis, TN 38106
901-774-6380 or 1-877-881-2326 • info@metalmuseum.org

New England School of Metalwork - www.newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com • 7 Albiston Way • Auburn, Maine 04210
207-777-6211 Toll Free 888-753-7502 • dglaser@newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com

Peters Valley Craft Center - www.petersvalley.org • 19 Kuhn Road • Layton, NJ 07851 • 973-948-5200

Penland School of Craft - penland.org - 2687 Conley Ridge Road, Bakersville, NC 28705 - 828-765-2359 - info@penland.org

Randy McDaniel, Classes, author of "A Blacksmithing Primer" • 1044 Spielman Road, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411
rams4g@msn.com - www.blacksmithschoolwv.com

Rochester ARC + Flame Center - www.rocafc.com • 125 Fed Ex Way • Rochester, NY 14624 • 585-349-7110

Touchstone Center for Crafts - 1049 Wharton Furnace Rd • Farmington, PA 15437 • 724-329-1370 or 800-721-0177
www.touchstonecrafts.org/workshops • info@touchstonecrafts.org **50th Year Special Events!**

Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing - 200 West Twelfth St. • Waynesboro, VA 22980 • 434-960-9718 • www.vablacksmithing.org

CLASSIFIEDS

Eggerling Damascus - Specializing in Mosaic Blade & Bolster Material

Robert Eggerling 610-682-6836 - www.eggerlingdamascus.com

Andrew Reist - Oak Lawn Blacksmith Shop

717-925-9310 - oaklawnblacksmith@gmail.com - Anvils, Swage blocks and other Blacksmith tools.

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/OakLawnBlacksmithUS> or <https://www.facebook.com/OakLawnBlacksmith/>

SUPPLIERS

Reese's Coal- Blacksmithing Coal - 53 Church Road - Quarryville, PA 17566 - 717-786-3375 (please call for hours)

Elligson Trucking - Freeland, MD 21053 - Blacksmithing coal - 410-357-5720 - <https://elligsontrucking.com/index.html>

Martin's Ag Service - Blacksmith Coal - 717.354.4996 - 338 Grist Mill Rd, New Holland, Pa -

Coopersburg Bagging - 551 Springfield Street, Coopersburg, PA - 610.282.2376. Normally sells coal by the ton, but sometimes has less than ton lots in 50# bags.

Fisher Coal Co. - English Center, PA - 570-337-5764 - Blacksmith coal sales

Mellinger Elvin E. & Sons - Blacksmith Coal - 117 Long Lane, Lancaster, PA 17603 - 717-464-3822

Reifsniders Ag Center - 7180 Bernville Rd Bernville, PA - 610-488-0667 - Blacksmithing coal

Weaverland Valley Coal - 170 Ranks Church Rd, New Holland, PA 17557 - 717-4454488

Blacksmithing Books - Blue Moon Press - Blue Moon Rd, Huntingdon, PA 16652 - 866-627-6922 - www.bluemoonpress.org

Metalworking Books - The Astragal Press - 5 Cold Hill Road - Mendham, NJ 07945 - 973-543-3045 - www.AstragalPress.com

Kayne & Son Custom Hardware, Inc. - Blacksmiths Depot - 100 Daniel Ridge Rd. Candler NC 28715 - (828) 667-8868 - www.blacksmithsdepot.com

GTS Gas - Gas & Welding Supplies - gtsgas.com- locations all over PA and the country - 1-800-942-1148

KEEN Compressed Gas Co. - Welding supplies & equipment. - Wilmington, DE - 800-533-6427 - www.keengas.com

SAHD Metal Recycling & Sales - www.recycleyourmetal.com

1045 Lancaster Avenue, Columbia, PA 17512 - 717-684-8506 - dan@recycleyourmetal.com

Steel and Metal Liquidators LLC, - www.shopmetal.com - 407 Old Airport Rd. - New Castle, DE 19720 - 302-322-9960 & 1584 Bunting Street - Pottsville, PA 17901- 570-391-0141

Rivets - Various sizes and metals, also screws and other fasteners. R. J. Leahy Company, 1475 Yosemite Avenue, San Fransico, CA 94124 - www.rjleahy.com • Phone 1-800-514-4106

Larry Zoeller - Forge building info and Supplies. Phone: 502 439-0812 - Zoeller Forge, 7509 Geswein Rd., Lanesville, IN 47136 zman59@earthlink.net - <http://zoellerforge.com>

Custom Forge Aprons - FORGE-APRONS.com - (575) 313-4650 - 1373 S. Powell Dr., Kanab, UT 84741

Page Belting Company - 104 High Street - Boscawen, NH 03303 - www.pagebelting.com - leather belting and gaskets

Brown Engineering Co. - 2135 North 13th Street, Reading, PA 19604 - brownengco.com - 610-929-0909 - Distributer of mechanical parts, lubricants and supplies.

Cattail Foundry - 167 W. Cattail Road Gordonville, PA 17529 - Amish owned metal foundry. Produces castings from nearly any pattern or part you supply.



1370 New Danville Pike
Lancaster, PA 17603

2026 Dues - \$30 per year.

*PABA Membership is good for the **household** you don't need one for each person.*

*Thanks to the following for
their contribution or assistance
to the Striker.*

Brad Gray
Will Smith
Paul Huf
Rick Cooper

*I apologize if anyone was missed,
it was not my intention.*

www.paba-site.org



PABA-PA-Artist-
Blacksmiths-Association

PABA Membership Application 2026 (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31) \$30

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____ E-mail _____

Do you have any particular skills (welder, accountant, carpenter, doctor) that may be helpful to the group or membership? _____

Please circle your skill level... Beginner Intermediate Advanced Professional

PayPal option - Pabapaypal@gmail.com

Make Checks payable to PABA. Send completed application and \$30 (one year) to: Lenka Votrubova - 1023 Old Penfield Rd, Clearfield, PA 16830

PABA USE

Cash _____ Check # _____ PayPal _____

New Member \$30 _____ **New Member after June** _____ **Renewal \$30** _____

June-Dec. price \$15 _____ 2026