

# Pennsylvania Striker



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

January 2012

*Next Meeting Date: Saturday February 11*

## Stan Newcomer's - Mount Joy, PA

The next PABA meeting will feature JW Stekervetz. JW will demonstrate several styles of blade design and construction with single steels, the creating of pattern welded steel, methods of heat treating and final knife assembly.

JW Stekervetz has been a blacksmith and knife maker for 16 years. He is the smith for LaForge Weapons in Manheim, PA. LaForge specializes in weapons designed from history, doing most of its sales through Renaissance Faires in Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. They provide combat ready blades for various theatrical stunt performers and historical re-enactors across the country as well. Most of the stock items from LaForge are created using the stock removal method. As the smith for LaForge, JW brings old world methods together with the modern and creates hand forged knives, swords and tools, which are uniquely one of a kind. From June through October he can be found doing bladesmithing demonstrations at several venues including the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire where he combines his skills with hard work, a little History and several bad jokes to entertain hundreds of people each day.

He'll be more than happy to answer any of your questions to the best of his ability and will have several finished pieces on hand. <http://laforgeweapons.com>

Hot dogs, sauerkraut and baked beans will be served for lunch

IMD item - handled trivet (cooking trivet)

Hope to see you all Feb. 11

Stan and Carolyn

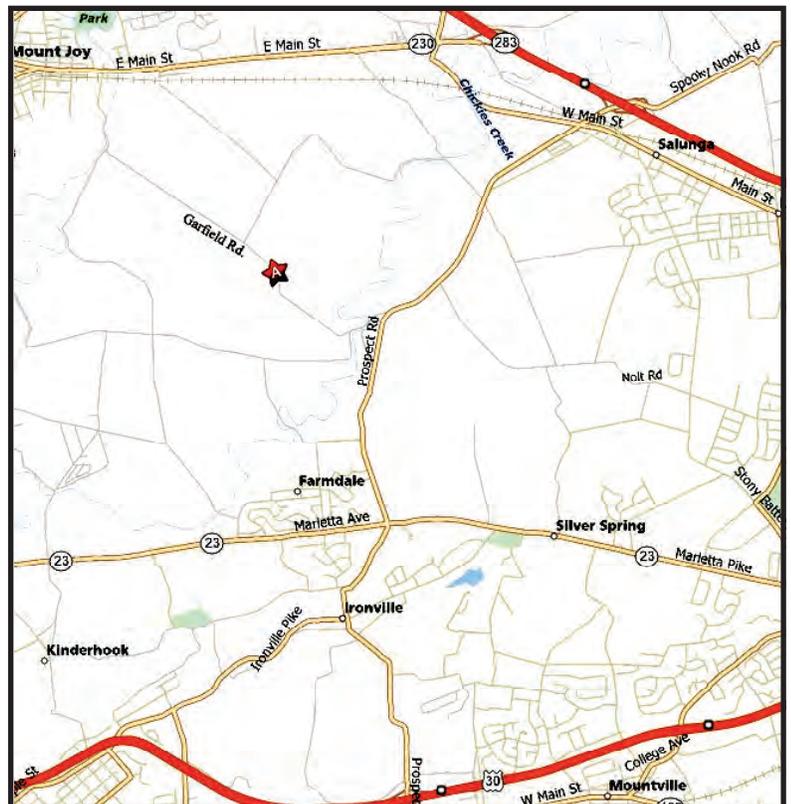
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### DIRECTIONS

*From Lancaster Area - Rt. 283 W - Take the exit toward Salunga - Turn left at Spooky Nook Rd - Continue onto Prospect Rd - Turn right at Garfield Rd, about 1 mile.*

*From Harrisburg area - Rt 283 E toward Airport/Lancaster - Take the exit toward Salunga - Turn right at Spooky Nook Rd. - Continue onto Prospect Rd - Turn right at Garfield Rd, about 1 mile.*

Stanley Newcomer  
1036 Garfield Rd  
Mount Joy, PA 17552  
717-653-4148



# Presidents Message

I was forging this past week and made a mistake. I was distracted by a thought while forging on the 110lb power hammer and miss-hit. The piece flew out of my hand and almost hit me. Now I won't say this hasn't happened to me before but I did note that my reaction time was a bit slower and my focus a bit wider than a few years back. Such is life but it got me thinking... how much more I respect the older smiths I know. This profession isn't too easy on us and as over time we trade our energy and agility for wisdom and method. I feel a bit like I am in the middle now.

As I look around the membership I see a pretty good representation of young and old and yes, middle aged. This is a great strength in our group. Many crafts are bemoaning the lack of young people in their ranks. I think it would be equally as terrible to have a lack of any age group especially the old guys! Do me a favor this next meeting and take the time to chat with someone NOT your age, or even close. In the meantime, practice your flying hot metal avoidance skills... and you focus. I know I will!

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting and as always, let me know if you have any questions or concerns for the board.

*Andrew Molinaro,*  
*Andrew@artisansoftheanvil.com*  
*570-476-7950.*

- 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 \$25 per calendar year. Contact a board member for an application.  
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## Committee Leaders

**Iron in the Hat Chairperson** - Ann Lee  
**Equipment & Maintenance** - *Volunteer wanted*  
**Publication Contact** - Keith Eckman  
**Safety Equipment** - Herb Moyer  
**ABANA Affiliate Contact** - Doug Learn  
**Library** - Carolyn Newcomer  
**Event Hosting** - Jon & Ann Lee  
**Kutztown Liaison** - Dave Fisher  
**Election & Farm Show Committee** -  
Martin & Schelly Reynolds  
**Web Master** - Jerry Yetzer

*Thanks to the following  
people or groups for their  
contributions and/or  
assistance to the newsletter.*

John Lee  
Luke Schultz  
Eric Cupper  
Mark Zagursky  
Andrew Molinaro  
Steve Gensheimer  
Jeff McComsey  
Sarah Awckland  
Carolyn & Stan Newcomer  
Martin & Schelly Reynolds  
*I apologize if anyone was missed, it  
was not my intention.*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2012 PABA Calendar

### April 7th Tim Bradford's - Pleasant Gap, PA

IMD item - folding knife- size as desired but it must fold.

### June 2nd To be Determined

IMD item - hook and a separate nail to hang it with (not a one piece drive hook)

### August 11th & 12th, Blacksmith Days - Kutztown

IMD item - at least one foot of chain with a fitting at each end- a hook, ring, or similar item.

### October 6th - Artisans of the Anvil

(Andrew Molinaro) - East Stroudsburg, PA

IMD item - a set (two) of bending forks at least one of which must be hand held.

### December, Gallery Meeting - Paradise, PA

IMD item will be a ceiling hung candle chandelier for at least two candles.

### Forging on the River Conference at The Metal Museum, March 30 – April 1st, 2012

Conference features Alfred Bullermann of Freisothe, Germany - <http://www.bullermann.de/>

Haley Woodward - <http://haleywoodward.com/home.html> -

Colby Brinkman of The Austin Metal Authority - <http://www.austinmetalauthority.com/>

Conference registration - Students, \$80.00 for the three days. Non-Student Registration is \$100 before March 1, 2011; \$135 after Feb. 28, 2011. One \$80 companion ticket may be purchased with each full registration. ALL MEALS ARE INCLUDED in the conference fee, so this is a huge bargain. You may enroll online at <http://www.metalmuseum.org> through the online store.

Also, please consider donating to the Saturday night live auction, which will be attended by some of the biggest collectors in the mid-south. The proceeds of the auction will go to support The Metal Museum and its unique programming, including the 2013 Forging on the River Conference.

To learn more visit <http://www.metalmuseum.org/FOTR> or contact - Holly Fisher

Project Coordinator, National Ornamental Metal Museum  
374 Metal Museum Drive  
Memphis, TN 38106  
901.774.6380 ext. 207  
[holly@metalmuseum.org](mailto:holly@metalmuseum.org)

### NJBA spring meet in Layton, New Jersey hosted by Peters Valley craft center. Saturday, April 14

Demonstrator Sam Salvati demoing blade smithing and edged tools. Material selection and a synopsis of metallurgy will be discussed. Dick Sargent Department head of Peters Valley blacksmithing will demonstrate joinery tooling for the power hammer and some simple and unique hand tools for the anvil.

The teaching studio at Peters Valley is equipped with nine forges and anvils plenty of room for people to play during the day. Hoping you'll all come, don't forget to bring something for iron in the hat we are also encouraging PABA and NEB members to attend. This should be a fun Saturday for everyone tailgating encourage.

For more info contact:

Dick Sargent, Dept Head Blacksmithing  
Peters Valley Craft school  
Layton, NJ 07851

### TOUCHSTONE CENTER FOR CRAFTS 2012 Spring Hammer In May 5-6.

Demonstrators are Bob Parks and Dick Becker. ALSO Richard Shepherd has donated a Big Lick treadle hammer (value \$1,800). With each registration for the Hammer In, attendees will be entered into a raffle to win the hammer. "Winner must be present to claim prize at the close of the event."

Contact- Stefanie Glover - Operations Manager  
Touchstone Center for Crafts  
1049 Wharton Furnace Rd.  
Farmington, PA 15437  
724.329.1370 Phone  
724.329.1371 Fax  
[www.touchstonecrafts.org](http://www.touchstonecrafts.org)

### The 2012 ABANA Conference Rapid City, South Dakota July 18-21, 2012

for Registration Form  
ABANA Central Office  
JoAnn Bentley  
259 Muddy Fork Road  
Jonesborough TN 37659-4813  
[www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org)  
(423)913-1022

# Gallery Event

It seems like forever since the gallery meeting, all the holidays in between make it feel like a lot long then it actually was. The event, for those of you that missed it, was very

good as always. Members brought a great variety of projects and interesting items to show off. The food... what can I say, nobody went home hungry! This year we even managed to have a short demonstration of tong making at the end of the day. I believe Andrew and Steve worked on a set and showed a few techniques and design ideas.

This meeting is probably the best overall group membership meeting.... Members all stay in one place, its quiet inside and we can get ideas and suggestions for the upcoming year. Here are some of the items that were discussed. If you'd like to comment on any, please send a note or talk with one of our board.

-We have a new Board Member - Mike Awckland has volunteered with only minor arm twisting.

-Sarah Awckland has offered to fill the much needed Secretary position.

-Herb Moyer will be taking care of the safety equipment items for our meetings.

-Luke Schultz has started a Facebook page, allowing anyone with a computer to take a look at what's happening in PABA. Please read the article on page 6 for more info.

**MANY thanks to these members that have offered their time to benefit the group!**

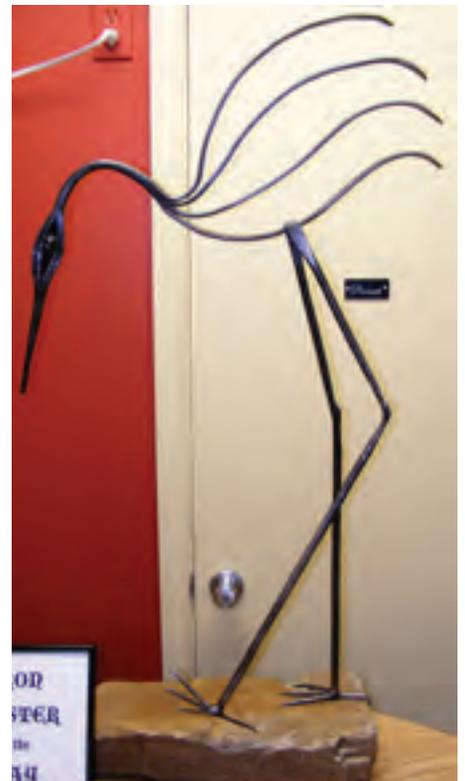
-Other items discussed were; the purchase of additional hats/shirts for sale to membership, the possibility of a door prize at meetings, several ideas for future meeting demonstrations and the possibility of hosting foreign smiths to demonstrate or teach classes for our members and other regional groups.

The Iron Master of the Day contest (animal figures) had several entries, you can see a picture of Tim Suter's Squirrel moving toy and Martin Reynold's Heron below. Steve Wietcha & Mike Awckland won with the Dragon they made.

The Conestoga Wagon Box that was created by Stan Newcomer, with assistance from Phil Trabel and Jerry Polizzi at Kutztown this year, was won by Gale Livelsburger. Thanks again to Stan for heading up this project to help raise money for PABA and those of us that bought tickets for the raffle.



I spoke with Steve Genshiemer about an interesting display playing on a laptop. Stephen Eshelman's father-in-law owned a house with a large variety of Samuel Yellin iron work inside. The house is currently on the market for sale but he is willing to take small groups through it to view the impressive fixtures and hardware. Contact Stephen at 610-558-3088 or [seshcape74@yahoo.com](mailto:seshcape74@yahoo.com) for more info.





Here are a few of the various items people brought to display. A few people were selling products as well. James Nelson had some nice leather items and Robert Eggerling had a variety of Damascus and blades out. He also has a contact for Buffalo horns and hide if anyone has interest. Please take note if you have items you regularly sell that others in the group may have need of, please send me your info for a classified ad.



# PABA On Facebook

PABA has joined the social media craze with a page on Facebook, titled “PABA PA Artist Blacksmiths' Association”. The “page” format (as opposed to a group or personal profile) was chosen because it allows for anyone with Internet access, even if they are not registered with Facebook, to view the site. This provides us with free exposure to millions of Internet users around the world. The page will not only be a valuable tool to attract new members and promote the club, but it will be a great way to promote blacksmithing in general.

For PABA members, the Facebook page allows for “real-time” communications, a means to share information and stay current on upcoming meetings and other events. Those signed up to the page can post videos, pictures, links to other sites on the Internet or just post comments or questions. The page was created a couple months ago and as of early January we're closing in on 30 members. Most are PABA members, but there are several people who joined the site from outside of Pa, including a guy from Australia and one from Nova Scotia. Imagine the learning and sharing of ideas and info that can take place when we're communicating with metalworkers from around the globe. We also have links on our site to other Facebook sites of interest, like ABANA's page, other affiliate pages and PABA members' business pages.

If you have Internet access and have not already done so, sign up for Facebook and “like” (which means to join) our PABA page. The easiest way to find our page is, once you're on Facebook, put PABA in the search bar at the top of the page and it comes up as the first one listed (or you could put “facebook paba pa artist blacksmith association” in a search engine, like Google, and it will be either the first listing or very close to the first). And please tell others about the site – the more members we attract, the larger our PABA family will grow. If you have any questions about the site, or how it is administered, please contact me at [Bernvilleironworks@gmail.com](mailto:Bernvilleironworks@gmail.com), call 610-488-7622 or post it on the site.

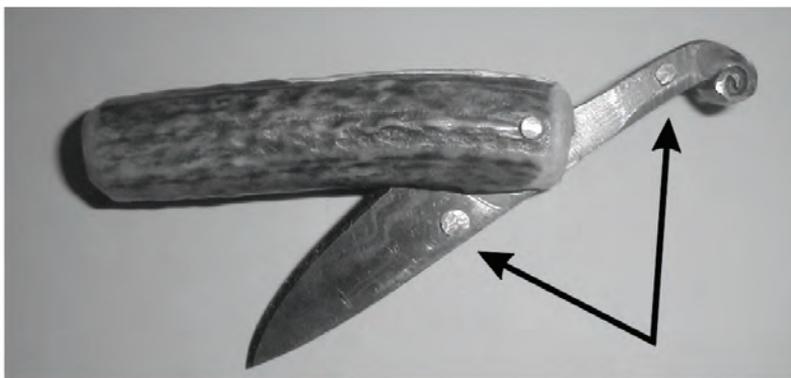
*Luke Shultz*



**Editor’s Note on “how-to”** - Usually I find a variety of “how to” articles for the IMD project each time.... or at least I try to. This time around I failed to find a trivet “how-to” with a long handle that could be used for cooking. I found a few examples of handled trivets so I included the pictures at least.

The same went for April’s folding knife. A lot of knives but few folding ones. I’m requesting someone in our membership produce a nice article for me for ANY of the projects this year?



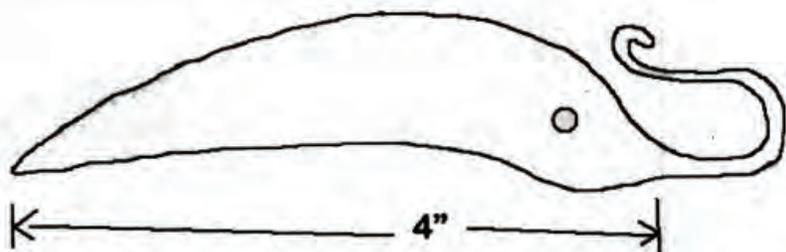


## Primitive Folder

by Steve Bloom

*Hint* - Add copper rivets to act as “locking” mechanism. Set them until they just drag on opening & closing.

## Chinese Clasp Knife by Don Drake



The original purpose of this knife was to hang from a cord around the neck of Chinese fishermen. The pointed end of the handle was used to enlarge the vent of the fish before inserting the blade. There are other options for the hooked end of the handle that would be far less hazardous to the wearer such as rolling up to a ball or another curl or even just cutting it short to a blunt tip.

Blade material 3/8" garage door spring

Handle material 1/16" sheet per dimensions given

1. Draw end of spring to a short point (this becomes the knives tip)
2. Forge approx 4" of spring material to the thickness of a quarter at top of blade as you thin out at blades edge

3. Draw out to a 3" fine taper and curl for thumb grip and hanging loop
4. Cut handle material from 1/16" sheet steel
5. Form into cone but leave enough of an opening for the blade to fit into (try rolling the hot steel around a punch held in a vise)
6. At this point you can decide to match the handle to the blade shape or vice versa
7. Flatten ends of handle where pivot pin will go and then determine where to place pin holes in blade and handle.
8. Harden & temper the blade before putting the edge on it
9. Rivet with soft steel pin and peen over ends (an 8 penny nail works well)

# MEMBER INFO & EVENTS

## WEBSITE Offerings

This link was sent by Mark Zagursky, who demonstrates at the Amish Farm & House near Lancaster, PA. A local news station visited and filmed a short interview with him. Its a fun video if its still available. If you don't wish to type the link, try the Fox43.com site and search for "Amish Farm and House". You should be able to find it. <http://www.fox43.com/videobeta/e674d3be-d209-440d-bb1e-8ccb768c40d5/News/5-2-AMISH-FARM-HOUSE-1>

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[www.feblacksmith.com/links.htm](http://www.feblacksmith.com/links.htm) - This page has links to international smiths listed by their country.  
Jon Lee

### HELP NEEDED

Delaware College's A-Day celebration, the last weekend in April Doylestown PA. Unfortunately I will not be able to demonstrate this year because of a family commitment. If anyone is interested in stepping in and doing so, please contact me as soon as possible so I can get the student organizer in contact with you.

Thanks  
Doug Learn  
215.489.1742  
[cjfdlearn@verizon.net](mailto:cjfdlearn@verizon.net)

**If you demonstrate at events or show at craft shows, please inform a PABA Board member. We get many requests each year for "Blacksmith Needed"**

### Farm Show 2012

Attendance this year at the Farm Show was an all time record. More people were invited to the next meeting in February than ever. I guess we will see how many actually do show up. This event has to be the best exposure for PABA and blacksmithing than any other event we do. Quite a few members stopped by to say hello, (or just to harass us).

Special thanks to Dave Fisher for the use of his booth display. Thank you to the following people who helped during the Farm Show. Stanley New-comer, Mark Zagursky, Rich Keene, John Fee, Keith Eckman, Jeff McComsey.

Thank you,  
Martin

### Little Giant Power Hammer Seminar

**Please join us March 16-18, 2012 for our annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar!**

This 2 ½ day class is a hands-on format. You will help transform a 25 LB Little Giant hammer from functional but sloppy condition into a well tuned, quiet, hard working hammer. Sid Suedmeier, owner of Little Giant, will share all his knowledge and experience gained from working with Fred and from 20+ years of repairing and rebuilding Little Giants.

An old style 25 LB Little Giant will be rebuilt during the class, and a new style machine will be on hand to demonstrate proper assembly and adjustment of both styles.

The class is held in our shop in historical Nebraska City, Nebraska. No experience is required to attend this class. The class costs \$95, refundable up to 7 days prior to the class; advance registration is required. We limit the class to 25 participants. The class starts at 9 AM sharp on Friday, and usually ends Saturday evening. The schedule runs Sunday until noon in case we encounter any exceptional problems in rebuilding and to answer remaining questions.

Need more Information? Please call or email if you have any questions, or prefer to register by phone. You can reach us at 402.873.6603 or [lgiant@windstream.net](mailto:lgiant@windstream.net)

Little Giant is located at: 420 4th Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

### Blacksmithing Classes



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March 2012

**Next Meeting Date: Saturday April 7**

## Tim Bradford's - Pleasant Gap, PA

An early spring this year means the last time you'll likely be able to see snow is your trip to Tim's... So get prepared for a nice drive to western PA. It's an Easter weekend event, if you want to dress like a bunny, feel free.

Martin Reynolds offered (honest, we didn't twist his arm) to demonstrate some of the processes involved in making the Heron that he entered in the Iron Master of the Day at our December meeting.

Our host Tim and Herb Moyer attended a forge welding class with Randy McDaniel last year and they have offered to work on a demonstration as well. Tim was the winner of one of the PABA Grants, which is what he used to take the class.

Tim will be hosting, giving a demonstration and he has already written an article about the class for the newsletter. I'll put this bluntly - Tim is an outstanding member of this group with his participation and attendance. I'd like to thank him for many years of being a member. This year we'll be asking for Officer positions in the group... How about a few different people jump up and say YES when asked?

OK, off the soap box and back to the meeting information. Meeting starts at about 9:00am but we usually start a few late at this one due to the longer drive for most people. Please remember a few extra dollars for IITH and if history stays true, the scrap yard next door will be open. The Iron Master of the Day item is a folding knife of any size but it must fold. See you all there!

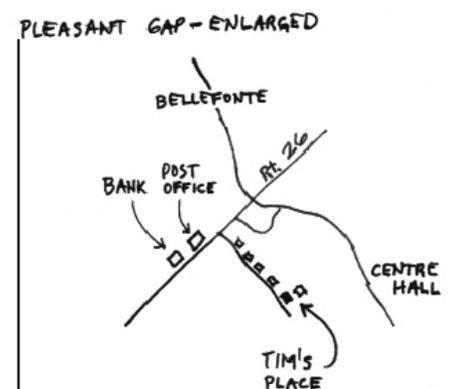
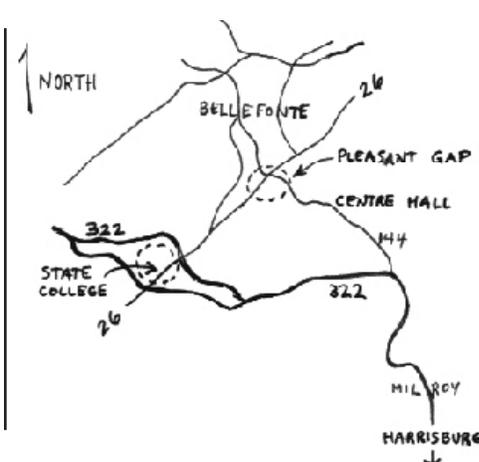
*Note - I'm hoping to have the Membership Directory available at this meeting. Also check out the classifieds and suppliers. Tim has a few items for sale and he also gave me a new Coal supplier.*



**From Eastern PA:** Take 322 toward State College. Get off at Rt. 144 to Centre Hall. Stay on 144 over mountain to Pleasant Gap. Make a left on Rt. 26, second street on left is Tressler St. Tim's house is # 136 on the left hand side.

**From State College:** Take Rt. 26 to Pleasant Gap its the first right after the bank and post office.

Questions or lost? Tim 814-359-3095  
GPS info - 136 Tressler St.  
Pleasant Gap, PA 16823



# Treasurer Resignation

In August I will have completed a second term as Treasurer which will be my last as treasurer. I am available to help someone with the transition and to sign the books over. It was discussed that we should have two signers ( Pres. and Treasurer, etc) on the checking account which is a good idea and I can be available now or when we have elected a new Treasurer, as the board designates. I was happy to serve PABA in this position but I feel it is time to relinquish the duties and pass them along to another PABA member. As per agreement in the PABA by-laws I have forwarded this resignation to the Secretary and the position needs to be filled with undue haste so as not to duplicate a situation as before with a long vacancy (Secretary). At the end of the term I will pass the books to the President as per the terms in the by-laws.

Sincerely,  
Jeff McComsey

## Editor's Rant

The following was part of a private email Jeff sent to me. I wanted to include part of it as a follow-up to his resignation as PABA Treasurer effective in August.

*I hope we can find an equal or better treasurer. I think you should put a blurb in the Striker to help us find a replacement. Finding volunteers is a struggle to say the least. Hopefully someone will step up and come forward. Being a volunteer in Scouting and other organizations has helped me to understand the logistics in what I am doing. If I don't walk away at the end of the term I would be in this position forever. Cold, Hard, Fact!*

*Thanks, Jeff*

We need more of our solid membership base to step up and offer help. I think we all realize everyone is busy and may not think they have the time to help out or take on the extra responsibility. You're wrong if that's your thought process for not wanting to get involved. Recently things have been made even easier since we've included a Board meeting at each Hammer-in. That means no extra travel if you plan to attend anyway.

I've personally been thinking that ten years as the Editor could be long enough for me... That means I *may* give it up next year. My skills as a smith are far from good so I doubt I'd run for President or VP, I think a person with solid skills should always be the head of the group.... However, I don't know if I'll run for a Board position or not but I do know if I plan to come to the events... I'll plan to help out in some way with PABA.

*Keith Eckman*

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Martin & Schelly Reynolds

**Web Master** - Jerry Yetzer

**Facebook Monitor** - Luke Shultz

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Jeff McComsey  
Steve Gensheimer  
Steve Eshelman  
Carolyn & Stan Newcomer  
Tim Bradford  
Doug Learn  
Ann & Jon Lee  
Don Plummer

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



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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IMD item - hook and a separate nail to hang it with (not a one piece drive hook)

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## BLACKSMITHS' GUILD OF THE POTOMAC

### 17th Spring Fling April 20-22, 2012

Friday 3pm thru Sunday Lunch  
Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds  
890 West Main Street  
Berryville, Virginia 22611

\$60 for the entire weekend per person (children under 16 are free). A \$15 per person late fee will apply after April 2, 2012.

Fee includes these meals: Friday - dinner  
Saturday - continental breakfast, lunch & dinner  
Sunday - continental breakfast & lunch  
Arrive early for Friday night Dinner & Discussion with demonstrators

[http://www.bgop.org/2012\\_SF\\_invite.pdf](http://www.bgop.org/2012_SF_invite.pdf)

[http://www.bgop.org/2012\\_SF\\_registration.pdf](http://www.bgop.org/2012_SF_registration.pdf)

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Touchstone Center for Crafts

1049 Wharton Furnace Rd.

Farmington, PA 15437

724.329.1370 Phone

724.329.1371 Fax

[www.touchstonecrafts.org](http://www.touchstonecrafts.org)

## The 2012 ABANA Conference

Rapid City, South Dakota

July 18-21, 2012

for Registration Form

ABANA Central Office

JoAnn Bentley

259 Muddy Fork Road

Jonesborough TN 37659-4813

[www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org)

(423)913-1022

*Please let the Editor know of any upcoming events.*

# Stan & Carolyn Newcomer's

I wasn't sure what to expect when PABA was invited to watch a knife making demonstrator. The bio on JW Stekervetz stated he's a weapon/knife maker for several renaissance fairs and uses the stock removal method for a lot of his work. I had bad visions of watching a person grind for hours... However I was pleasantly surprised by the variety of techniques he used during the day-long demonstration.

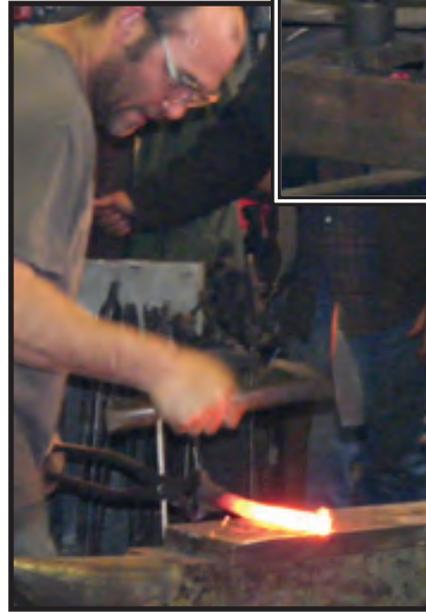
All total JW hammered out three knife examples using different material for each. JW gave the audience a nice show and a lot of helpful tips or tricks he uses while working. The day started with a simple knife. If you do any demonstrations and are thinking about creating a knife during one, he recommended a simple twisted handle with a single blade.

After that he created a pattern welded cable knife. For his cable knives, JW pointed out the variety of steel in cable is very good for decorative patterns. When welding the cable into a single piece, after fluxing, make sure to twist the cable even tighter before the weld starts. This removes extra unwanted debris and scale.

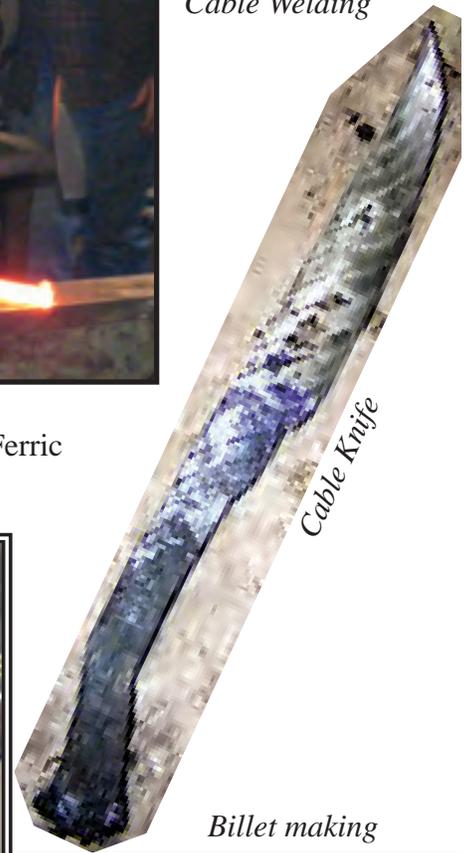
As a fanali, he made a layered billet damascus knife. Starting off with eight layers tack welded together with a handle welded on as well, he proceeded to hammer and fold it several times. The finale billet ended up being 64 layers. If anyone wished to test his pattern etch... JW uses 50/50 Ferric Chloride and Coke.

Several items were discussed at the member meeting and then again at the board meeting directly after. Our June meeting will be held at Historic Bethlehem Forge. The August meeting at Kutztown will be held officially on Saturday with the option for volunteer members to come up and demonstrate for the public on Sunday. Also PABA will be purchasing hats and license vanity plates to sell to membership.

We had a great showing for the Iron Master of the Day contest and some very interesting items on the display table as well. The trivets ranged from small sizes made from bronze to the larger sizes with spinning plates. One made by Allen Schaeffer was made for a museum I believe. Congratulations to Clarence Heffner for winning with his handled trivet/broiler). A note on this IMD item... Don Plummer was kind enough to offer to work up an "how-to" and you'll be seeing that in an upcoming newsletter edition.



*Cable Welding*



*Cable Knife*

*Billet making*





Above/Left - IMD items & winner, Clarence Heffner  
Right - Displayed JW knives

I know I really enjoyed the meeting and the excellent demonstration by JW Stekervetz and I'm fairly sure everyone there did as well. Special thanks to Stan & Carolyn for having us at their home. Thanks as well to Martin & Schelly and all the others that helped our hosts prepare lunch, you can't beat grilled hot dogs & fresh made sauerkraut on a chilly winter day!

## IRON IN THE HAT



Helmet by Andrew Molinaro



The Grill Master of the Day  
- Schelly Reynolds

<u>Item</u>	<u>Came with</u>	<u>Left with</u>
Candle Holder	unknown	Ben Suhaka
Pliers & Screwdrivers	Clarence Heffner	Tim Bradford
½" Square Rod	Tim Bradford	Clarence Heffner
Bender	Stan Newman	Jerry Polizzi
S 7	Tim Suter	Jon Lee
Fittings	Stan Newcomer	Martin Reynolds
Spikes	Brad Gray	Stan Newcomer
Games	Rocky Schneck	Jon Lee
Horseshoes	Brad Gray	Tim Suter
Tie Wire	Tim Suter	Clarence Heffner
Gloves	Rocky Schneck	Ben Suhaka
2 Right Hand Gloves	Stan Newcomer	Phil Trabel
Cable	J.W.	Martin Reynolds
File Handles	Dave Boyer	Andrew Molinaro
Fork	Randy McDaniels	Ben Suhaka
Air Cylinder	Stan Newcomer	Scott Farmer
Book	Ben Suhaka	John Sweeney
Crystal	Ben Suhaka	Jon Lee
Damascus	Larry Donnelly	Tim Suter
Beeee'z Wax	Tim Suter	Clarence Heffner
Copper	Stan Newcomer	Keith Eckman
¼" Round Rod	Tim Bradford	Keith Eckman
Bee's Wax	Jeff McComsey	Andrw Molinaro
Beeee'z Wax	Tim Suter	Brad Gray
4140	Tim Suter	Bob Lesutis
Twisting Wrench	Jeff McComsey	Phil Trabel
Tractor Chains	Stan Newcomer	Martin Reynolds
Lanterns	Rocky Schneck	Phil Trabel
Big Ladle	Martin Reynolds	Doug/Ginny Thayer

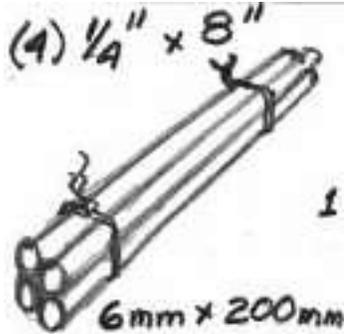
# Twisted Basket Hook

Demonstration By Jim Wilson (Paw-Paw)

Courtesy of Jock Dempsey, [www.anvilfire.com](http://www.anvilfire.com)



Before I start the demo, I want to give a couple of credits. The basic idea for this hook came from Torin. Like every cook, I flavored the stew a little bit to make it mine, but the idea started from a picture of a hook that Torin had done. Jock did all the sketches that I'm going to use.



Start with 4 pieces of 1/4" round Hot Rolled Steel 8 inches long.

Bundle them together as shown. You can use tie wire as shown in the graphic, or a hose clamp works well, too.

Either forge weld the ends into a bundle or cheat as I did and use the mig welder.

Scarf the end of two pieces of 7/16" square HRS. Also scarf the end of the bundle.

Jump weld the 5" pieces of 7/16 to the bundle, one on each end.

Here again, you can use the mig, or do a forge weld.

After you have them welded, clean the welds up with a grinder or a rotary file in the Dremel, or a file.

Use a chisel to extend the line from between the pieces of round stock down onto the flats of the Square Stock. This'll make blending them easier later

Now cut two inches off the end of the square stock, so that you have a 3 inch piece on each end of the bundle. You can do this before you clean the welds up if you want.

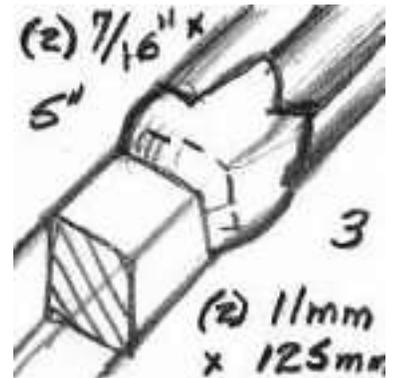
Heat the bundle and twist it TIGHT.

Now draw out the ends and form the rat tail hook. Make sure you have the hooks facing in the SAME direction.

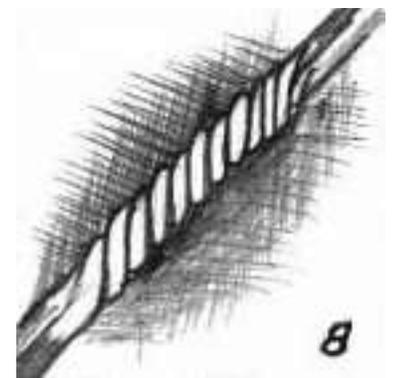
Once the hooks are formed, re-heat the bundle and UNTWIST it till the hooks face in opposite directions and it looks good to you. I twist the shank of the hooks. When you do this, make sure the twist goes in the same direction as the twisted bundle.



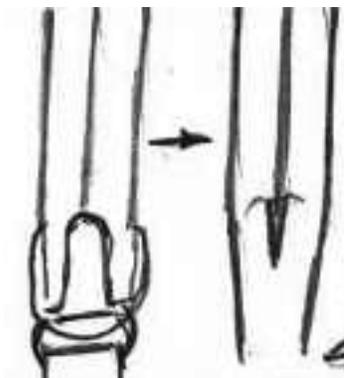
2



3



4



5



6



7

And VOILA! One Basket S Hook!

# MEMBER INFO & EVENTS

## HELP NEEDED

Delaware College's A-Day celebration, the last weekend in April Doylestown PA. Unfortunately I will not be able to demonstrate this year because of a family commitment. If anyone is interested in stepping in and doing so, please contact - Doug Learn - 215.489.1742 - [cjfdlearn@verizon.net](mailto:cjfdlearn@verizon.net) or Tyler Morton - [mortontw1324@delval.edu](mailto:mortontw1324@delval.edu) -- ASAP

Stephen Eshelman's father-in-law owned a house with a large variety of Samuel Yellin iron work inside. The house is currently on the market for sale but he is willing to take small groups through it to view the impressive fixtures and hardware. Contact Steve at 610-558-3088 or [seshscape74@yahoo.com](mailto:seshscape74@yahoo.com) for more info.

**If you demonstrate at events or show at craft shows, please inform a PABA Board member. We get many requests each year for "Blacksmith Needed"**

*While not directly blacksmith-related, those who are already counselors my want to add this, or start fresh.*

## Requirements for the Boy Scout Welding merit badge:

1. *Do the following:*
  - a. Explain to your counselor the hazards you are most likely to encounter while welding, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, or lessen these hazards.
  - b. Show that you know first aid for, and the prevention of, injuries or illnesses that could occur while welding, including electrical shock, eye injuries, burns, fume inhalation, dizziness, skin irritation, and exposure to hazardous chemicals, including filler metals and welding gases.
2. *Do the following:*
  - a. With your counselor, discuss general safety precautions and Material Safety Data Sheets related to welding. Explain the importance of the MSDS.
  - b. Describe the appropriate safety gear and clothing that must be worn when welding. Then, present yourself properly dressed for welding—in protective equipment, clothing, and footwear.
  - c. Explain and demonstrate the proper care and storage of welding equipment, tools, and protective clothing and footwear.
3. Explain the terms welding, electrode, slag, and oxidation. Describe the welding process, how heat is generated, what kind of filler metal is added (if any), and what protects the molten metal from the atmosphere.
4. Name the different mechanical and thermal cutting methods. Choose one method and describe how to use the process. Discuss one advantage and one limitation of this process.
5. *Do the following:*
  - a. Select two welding processes, and make a list of the different components of the equipment required for each process. Discuss one advantage and one limitation for each process.
  - b. Choose one welding process. Set up the process you have chosen, including gas regulators, work clamps, cables, filler materials, and equipment settings. Have your counselor inspect and approve the area for the welding process you have chosen.
6. After successfully completing requirements 1 through 5, use the equipment you prepared for the welding process in 5b to do the following:
  - a. Using a metal scribe or soapstone, sketch your initial onto a metal plate, and weld a bead on the plate following the pattern of your initial.
  - b. Cover a small plate (approximately 3" x 3" x 1/4") with weld beads side by side.
  - c. Tack two plates together in a square groove butt joint.
  - d. Weld the two plates together from 6c on both sides.
  - e. Tack two plates together in a T joint, have your counselor inspect it, then weld a T joint with fillet weld on both sides.
  - f. Tack two plates together in a lap joint, have your counselor inspect it, then weld a lap joint with fillet weld on both sides.
7. *Do the following:*
  - a. Find out about three career opportunities in the welding industry. Pick one and find out the education, training and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why the profession might interest you.
  - b. Discuss the role of the American Welding Society in the welding profession.

*Doug Learn*



# Pennsylvania Striker



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

May 2012

**Next Meeting Date: Saturday June 2nd**

PABA has been invited to have its next meeting at the reconstructed 1750 Smithy at Historic Bethlehem. The shop is a restoration of the Smithy, built on the original 1750 foundation. The Smithy is one of 20 historic buildings that Historic Bethlehem Partnership preserves year-round.

Ed Land will be demonstrating and giving a history of the Smithy. Ray Anthony may demo as well an expect to see a few of our members assisting who normally demonstrate at the smithy.

The curators from the Moravian will be bringing over a few historical metal-smithed items from the collections for us to look at during the day. In addition there will be a tour available at the waterworks. This will be the 250th anniversary of the waterworks, reputedly the first such system in the US.

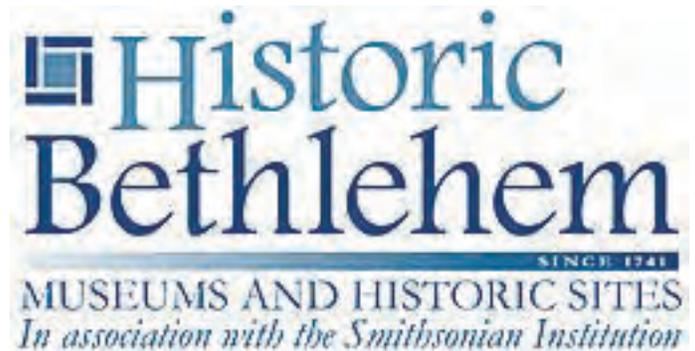
There are plenty of places and areas to explore around the downtown and historic places. Please bring your family and friends along to enjoy!

<http://historicbethlehem.org>

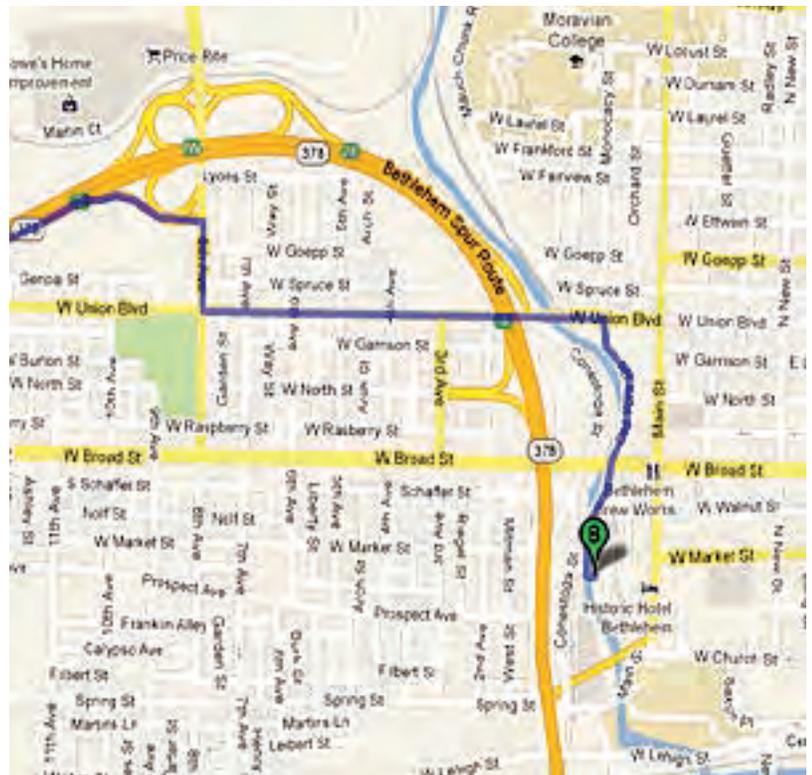
IMD item - Hook and a separate nail to hang it with (not a one piece drive hook)

Lunch - Brown bag or local shop

Expect to enter Historic Bethlehem from Old York Road and plan on parking at the Luckenbach Mill at the bottom of the hill (approx. 700 Old York Road, Bethlehem, PA). Those who are tailgating and the handicapped should plan on parking at the smithy itself. Tailgaters will probably be pulled up on the grass in front of the building.



photos - Paul S. Bartholomew



# Presidents Message

Wow, we get to visit the historic Bethlehem forge in Bethlehem PA! I am pretty excited about this and hope to see you all there. As a source of steel for most of the US throughout the industrial revolution, this place has a history tailored for us. Large portions of the old plant still remain, the waterworks will be open, nearby Banana factory which houses artist and a glassblowing shop, historic downtown Bethlehem, shopping and a million more things. Maybe a hotel is in order?

Our ironmaster of the day will be a hook with handmade nails to mount it with. This is designed for ALL to feel comfortable participating. If you are just starting out then a hook is a great project. If you are a long time experienced smith then you can stretch your skills on a complex version. Either way, we would sincerely like to see a great turnout for this. I look forward to seeing at least 20 on the table. Good luck and have fun.

I would like to end my message with an encouragement. In the last year I have been exposed to a whole slew of smiths doing really wonderful works from all over the world. It is wonderful to see, a little intimidating but definitely it has expanded my abilities. Seeing so much talent and ideas being placed on the internet for viewing is inspiring at the least. I see these as opportunities to learn and grow in smithing. There are many smithing events this summer to participate in. The ABANA conference (revised to be more financially friendly) will host a lot of talent, including one of my favorites Claudio Botero. If you are in PABA to learn and develop your smithing, now is a better time than ever before to use these opportunities to expand your abilities. Make use of it and always feel free to call or email anyone in the organization.

*Andrew Molinaro*

## Committee Leaders

**Iron in the Hat Chairperson** - Ann Lee

**Equipment & Maintenance** - *Volunteer wanted*

**Publication Contact** - Keith Eckman

**Safety Equipment** - Herb Moyer

**ABANA Affiliate Contact** - Doug Learn

**Library** - Carolyn Newcomer

**Event Hosting** - Jon & Ann Lee

**Kutztown Liaison** - Dave Fisher

**Election & Farm Show Committee** -

Martin & Schelly Reynolds

**Web Master** - Jerry Yetzer

**Facebook Monitor** - Luke Shultz

## Helsinki - Three Blacksmiths



*Thanks to the following people or groups for their contributions and/or assistance to the newsletter.*

Jeff McComsey  
Steve Gensheimer  
Phil Trabel  
Elaine Hardenstine  
Tim Bradford  
Randy McDaniel  
Andrew Molinaro

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

## MEMBER INFO & UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2012 PABA Calendar

**August 11th & 12th, Blacksmith Days - Kutztown**  
IMD item - at least one foot of chain with a fitting at each end- a hook, ring, or similar item.

**October 6th - Artisans of the Anvil**  
(Andrew Molinaro) - **East Stroudsburg, PA**  
IMD item - a set (two) of bending forks at least one of which must be hand held.

**December, Gallery Meeting - Paradise, PA**  
IMD item will be a ceiling hung candle chandelier for at least two candles.

#### **The 2012 ABANA Conference Rapid City, South Dakota July 18-21, 2012**

for Registration Form - ABANA Central Office  
JoAnn Bentley - 259 Muddy Fork Road  
Jonesborough TN 37659-4813  
www.abana.org - (423)913-1022

**Saturday, June 16, 2012**

#### **The Jacobsburg Historical Society invites PABA members to a Hammer In at the Boulton Historic Site, in Northampton County.**

The Hammer In runs concurrent with our signature event, Boulton on the Bushkill, the bicentennial celebration of the Boulton Gun Works. Highlights include a market faire and fur trade-era rendezvous. Additionally, both the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum and John Joseph Henry House and grounds will be open. **PABA member Tom Turtzo is the contact for the Hammer In.** He can be reached at tturtzo@aol.com or 610-392-4984. If interested in participating in the Market Faire, please contact the Society at 610-759-9029. (Items should be colonial through Victorian eras.)

Lyndsey Brown Frigm, Executive Director  
Jacobsburg Historical Society  
www.jacobsburg.org

- 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 \$25 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.

I received a call from Sonya Degenhardt. She wanted to thank PABA members for their thoughts and concern for Gene. The surgery to remove the oral cancer went well; he's doing good and starting to get back to normal.

### Member Input Request

*I thought I'd share this from Randy McDaniel to see if any members are interested in something like this and/or if anyone has better info on an eastern PA supplier.*

I recently got back from the Spring Fling in Virginia and made a good contact for our group. I met the two men from West Virginia that are supplying forging coal for the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland in Westminster, MD. It's sewel coal and what BGCM has been getting is pea size coal as they bag it up using a grain auger and the larger size wouldn't go through the auger. I have burned this for years and it is an excellent coal, very consistent in size and quality with no dirt or slate. It is very hot and cokes up well. I prefer the nut size, but the pea size is still good. Much better than anything I've found around here. I just got 2 bags of the nut coal from this supplier but haven't opened it up yet.

In talking with this supplier they said they will either deliver pea coal or nut coal depending on the time of the year and they can either bring 3-1/2 to 4 tons in a pull behind trailer or 21 tons in a tractor trailer. This would be loose not bagged. Of course the more you get the cheaper it is. I didn't get prices from them but BGCM is getting the 21 tons and selling theirs for \$7.00 a 50 pound bag to their members. This is as a service to their members, not a money making venture. Near here the price is \$8.00 plus a 50 pound bag and it's terrible stuff.

As I keep hearing complaints about the quality of the coal around here, (eastern PA), or just not being able to get it at all, I didn't know if PABA would want to some how be involved in selling coal for our members? We certainly have the money, but finding a place to store it would be another issue. If interested let me know and I'll pass on the contact information.

*Just wanted to add that I did open up the nut coal bag and it is not all the same size as the pea coal is. It is from fines to large nut size. I did find 2 pieces of slate in a 50 pound bag. It's good and hot, cokes up well, but does burn up fast. Not the best I've ever burned but better than what I've found around here. Thanks! Randy*

Please let the Editor know of any upcoming events. If you demonstrate at events or show at craft shows, please inform a PABA Board member. We get many requests each year for "Blacksmith Needed"

# Tim Bradford's

The weather was beautiful, you would never have guessed it was April in Pleasant Gap. The holiday weekend Hammer-In at Tim Bradford's was slightly less attended than usual, however it was ever bit as enjoyable.

Tim opened up the meeting with a show-and-tell of several projects, items/tools of interest and a few books he's found interesting or helpful to him. One item that maybe a handy idea was his new welding table. It's made from a heavy duty steel road grate. He also wanted members to know about the **Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair on Aug. 23 - 30, 2012 in Centre Hall, PA ~ (814)364-9212.**



After Tim's introduction, Martin Reynold's gave us an excellent demo on how to deal with hecklers and rowdy crowd members! All joking aside, he did an interesting demo on the fabrication elements of a heron sculpture. The heron had various forge welded pieces that he prepped ahead of the meeting and then showed us how he cold bends the body shape and how the eye is formed.

After an excellent lunch, provided by Tim and his family, he showed off a few more items including a anvil tool made for tapering pipe. It had been planned for Tim and Herb



Moyer to show the group some forge welding from the class they took with Randy McDaniel, however, Herb couldn't make the meeting. Tim requested that Steve Gensheimer show a demo on tong making instead.

*Below* - The V-shaped tool to help form hollow pipe.



Right - A helmet created by Bill Pursel, using an article from another groups newsletter.





Despite Steve saying that he wasn't sure why we wanted a tong demonstration... He showed the group a lot of very useful techniques that applied to more than just tongs. Since we forced him to do the demo, Steve said he'd do it if Tim worked along side and made the other half.

Please take a look at the next page for the handy little anvil tool Steve uses to make the tong shaping easier. If you note from the picture to the left, he places a wedge of wood in the hardy to secure the tool tightly in place.



Steve uses a power hammer to do the drawing out of the reigns, however it can be done by hand as well. The stock starts as 3/8 x 1 x 8" long. Half of the material is the reigns and the other the usable end. He marks 1", then 1 3/8" and another 1" for the tip, the center and then the joint. After the basic shape of the handle and end is formed, he suggested making a scratch or chalk line down the center of the tip to help as a guide for chiseling the groove. It was noted as well; both sides of the tong are the same. There are no right or left sides. The offset of the ends are done after the it's is finished and riveted together.

A few other notable ideas from the meeting... Pine tar is excellent for handles to help with grip. If you do multiple bends or curves on the anvil horn; make a chalk line to show the best spot to get them all to match closer.

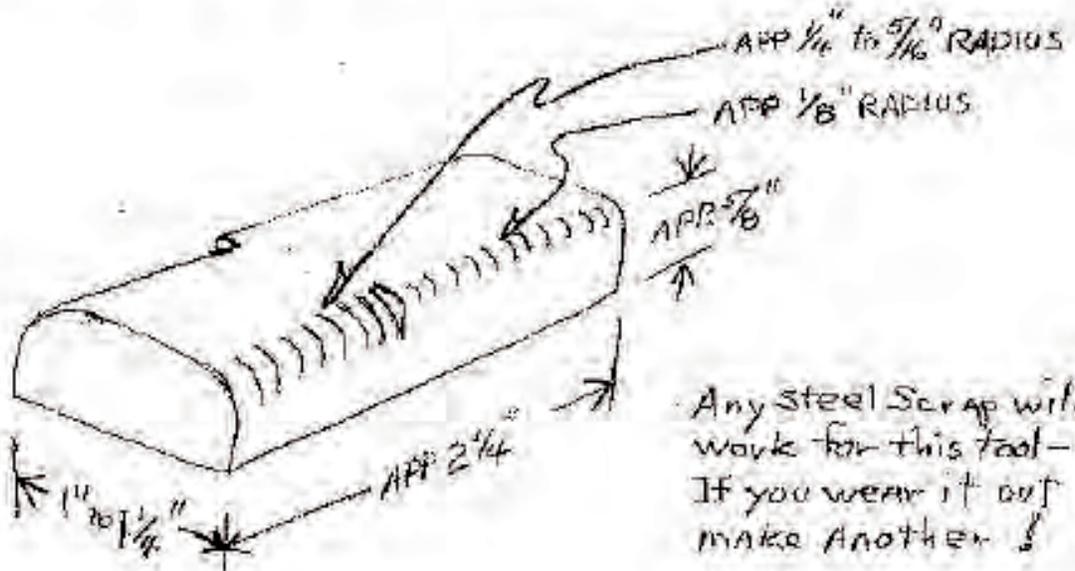


Thanks again to Tim Bradford and his family for hosting PABA. Many thanks as well for the people that ran the event and entertained us with demonstrations.

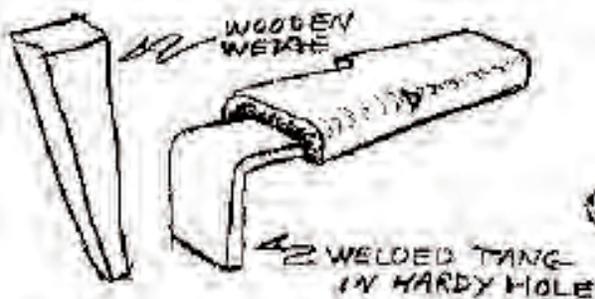
Below - The folding knife IMD winner was Tim Suter with his deep etched chainsaw chain bladed & heat colored titanium handle.



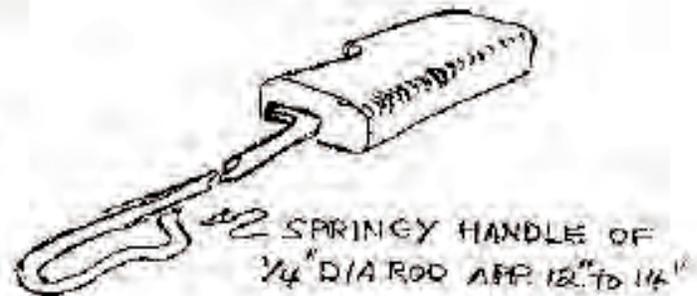
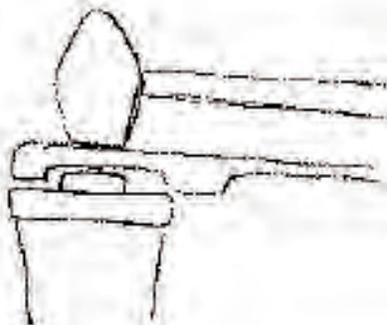
A simple tool for setting down Tong joints, developing the thinned area of bolt tongs, or any similar half on/half off operation in the middle of a bar.



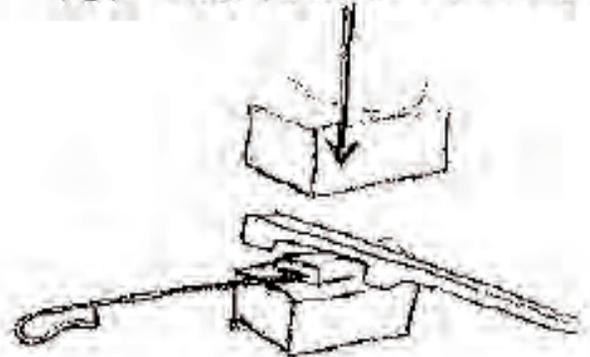
Any Steel Scrap will work for this tool - If you wear it out make Another!



For the Anvil



For the Power Hammer



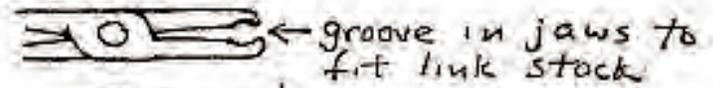
I made my first tool like this in a power hammer class taught by Steve Parker, He learned it from Clifton Ralph, and you can find a similar tool in Lilloa if you look back that far. Share Your Knowledge - Steve Gensheimer

# Making Chain

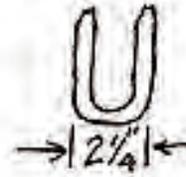
Joel Clark

## (A) Special Tools -

(a) Make or modify tongs



(b) "U" tool to clamp in vise and use to shape links. 10"-12" length of 3/4" round bar. Taper about 1" of each end and bend in U shape

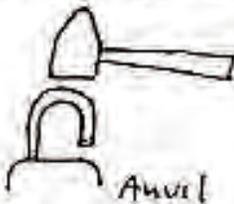


(B) Material - 3/8" round bar cut in 7" lengths.

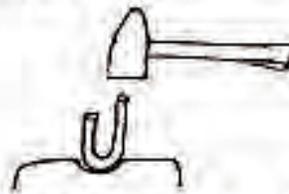
## (C) Method -

(1) Heat middle of 3/8" x 7" bar and bend <sup>to</sup> form beginning link 

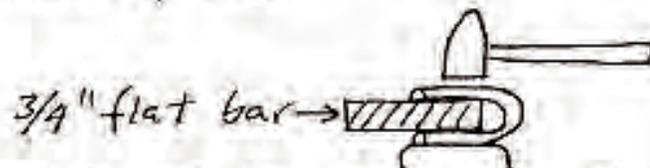
(2) Even up ends if uneven



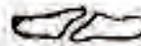
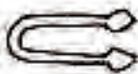
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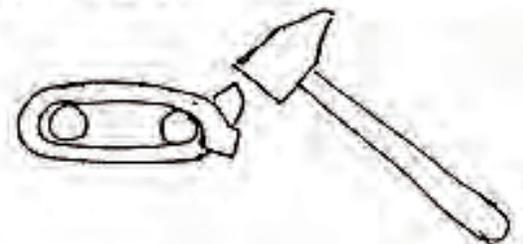
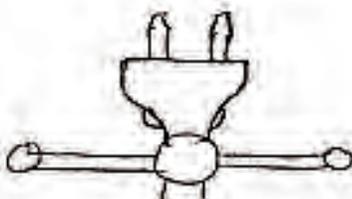
(3) I use a piece of 3/4" thick flat bar to space and straighten arms of link.



(4) Reheat and scarf ends of link on anvil. I scarf one end then turn over the link and do the other so the scarfs will mate when joined.



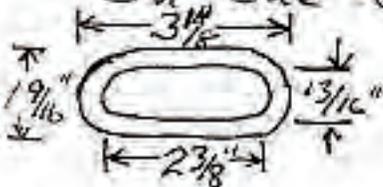
(5) In the same heat the scarfed ends are bent to overlap using the "U" Tool Clamped in Vise.



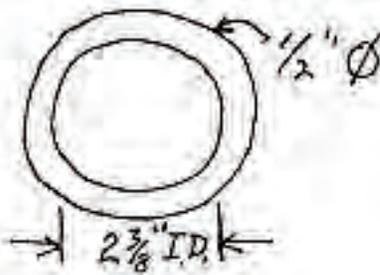
⑥ Flux and weld. Start weld on face of anvil and finish on horn and/or "U" tool. If necessary, reflux and finish weld in second heat. While still hot, true up link on "U" tool.

⑦ Make 2 links, then join with another. Make chain in 3 link segments, then join segments. After a few feet of chain is completed, moving it from fire to anvil becomes awkward, and is facilitated by using a hook to suspend the chain from overhead.

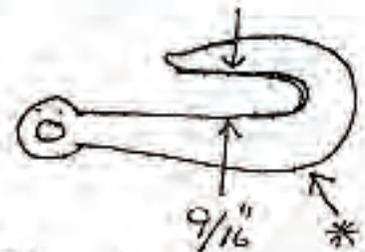
⑧ One way to finish chain is by forging a ring on one end and a hook on the other.



Approximate link dimensions.



Suggested ring size.



This hook can be passed thru ring and also used as a grab hook on links

\* Cross section



## EDITOR'S NOTES

I don't know about the rest of you but with the early warm weather this spring nothing has slowed down or given me a moment to catch my breath! I want to thank all the people that sent info in to me this month... some even beat my email asking for some.

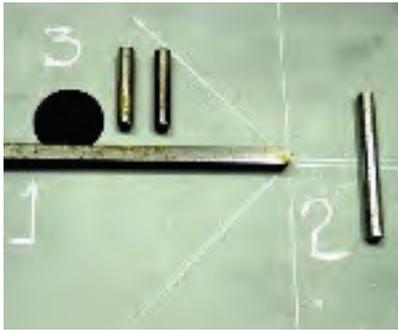
I'm trying to get the "how-to" articles out for at least a month in advance. This will hopefully give membership a little more of an idea what's coming up and a little more time to try and make the item for the meeting. I have a large "how-to" that was put together by Don Plummer that I'd like to use later this year. He wrote a nice piece on the broiler/trivet we had as our IMD item in February. Since it's a few pages in length we'll have a thicker issue that month.

If anyone that reads this could please make note to send me events or any local class info. I've been getting a few more requests for info and I have very little to give out.

Thanks  
Keith Eckman

# Tom Nelson's Scrolling Fork by Jim Carothers

By making the basic scrolling fork handle from square or rectangular bar, you have a good surface to grip the tool in a vise. By attaching the pins as shown and keeping the welds flush with or below the top and bottom surfaces of the handle you have a guide to help keep the scroll flat as it is formed. By using different spacing of the two pins you can work different size stock into a scroll or bend.



Getting the fabrication started.

Item 1- 1/2" square bar (or 1/2 x 3/4 ) by about 12" long

Item 2 - 1/2" round bar x 4-1/2" long (use 4-3/4" long if using 1/2 x 3/4 for the handle)

Item 3 - 2 pieces of 1/2" round bar x 2-3/8" long (use 2-1/2" long if using 1/2 x 3/4 for the handle)

Begin by beveling the top and bottom surfaces of one end of the handle stock as shown. Make the bevels about 3/16" by 45 degrees. This will allow you to get a good weld that can be ground and filed flush. Fit and tack weld as shown; the top of the pin is 2" above the handle.



Complete the welding of the first (long) pin to the handle. Grind and file the weld flush with the top and bottom surfaces of the handle. Next bevel both of the side pins for welding. Do not grind the bevel too far down the pin; 3/16" will be plenty.



I used a piece of 2" square tubing to hold the sub-assembly of the first pin / handle for welding on of the side pins. The square sawed end of this 2" tubing gave me a surface to set the side pin against – a fit

up aid.



In this photo a piece of 3/8" square bar will be used to set the spacing of the scrolling pins. The second scrolling pin will be spaced using a 1/2" square bar.



If you are going to do small scroll work, I suggest you use 1/4" and 3/8" for the spacers. In fact, you may want to make up several of these scrolling forks with various pin spacings from 1/4" to 1/2" or more. Don't be tempted to weld pins on both ends of the handle though; the second set of pins on the same handle get in the way of forming a scroll.



This what the tool looks like after welding on the first two pins. The welds have been filed flush with the top of the handle. The spacing is 3/8".

The second pin has been fit and tack welded. The spacing is 1/2".



After fit up and tack welding, I clamp the spacer between the pins to hold the works in line for final welding. As shown here, this is the 1/2" spacer.

The business end of the finished fork.



# Pennsylvania Striker



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

July 2012

**Next Meeting Date: Saturday August 11<sup>th</sup>**

**\*MEETING LOCATION CHANGE\***

**AUGUST at Andrew Molinaro's in East Stroudsburg, PA**

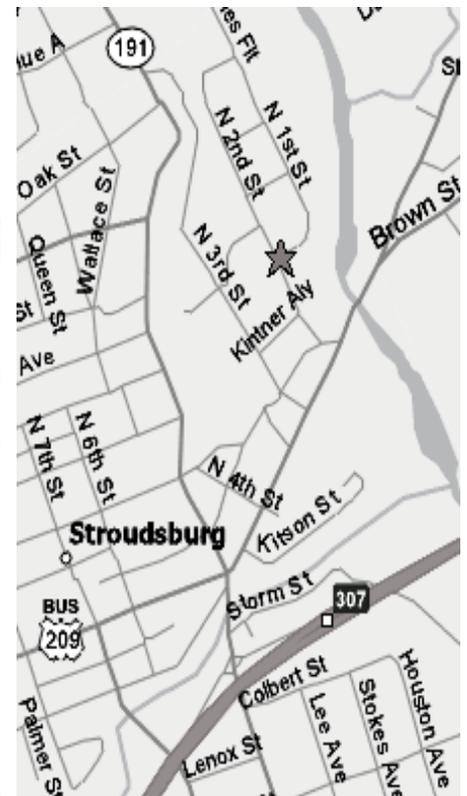
There were some issues with the location so the meeting for August has been moved to Artisan's of the Anvil in East Stroudsburg. If you'd like to know more please see the letter from PABA VP Steve Gensheimer inside. Nothing else has been altered. The meeting will still feature a forging contest and other great demos from PABA members.

This year's forging contest will be two pieces of 1/4" by 3/4" steel bar 5" long and two soft 3/16" by 1" rivets. You must join the two pieces of flat stock together in any form you desire modifying it as you wish in the process. More information on the contest can be found on page 7.

Meeting starts at the usual time and lunch is brown bag or local restaurant. IMD item - at least one foot of chain with a fitting at each end- a hook, ring, or similar item. Don't forget Iron in the Hat items and a few extra dollars.

**\*\* AUGUST ELECTIONS • President • Treasurer • Board of Directors \*\***

Artisans of the Anvil is just north of Interstate 80 at 40 N. 2nd St. Stroudsburg, PA 18360. You can exit Rt. 80 at exits 305 - 307 and follow the maps on this page. Call 570-476-7950 if you have problems



# Presidents Message

Hello again everyone! I have a lot to cover in this message but let me first start by saying that we will miss our 2 members who have passed away this last month. Thank you Bob and Buzz for your time, energy and ideas. You will be missed.

For those of you who were able to attend the ABANA conference, good for you and we will be hitting you up for info next time we see ya. Sounds like it was a great time for all and from what I have seen of the many FB postings was a great experience for those who made it.

In regards to blacksmithing events, I encourage you to make the trip up to my shop this Saturday 11th. A lot of exciting things are going on here and I want to share it with you all.

You may or may not know that my whole shop will be closed the third week in August. We have been asked to be the Artist in residence at the annual Forum preceding the Haifeston International Blacksmithing Festival. This takes place in the Czech Republic at Helfstyn Castle. My shop has been honored with making a sculpture that will go on permanent display at the castle and represent American smithing. I believe we are the first Americans to be given this opportunity in the 31 years of festival history (please let me know if we are mistaken) and we are extremely honored by the request. As such, the whole shop is going to be hyped up and preparing for our trip. Also, we have many interesting and complicated jobs in the shop for your inspection. Aside from sharing this with you I see an opportunity to get feedback and advice from you all about what we are doing. Plan on making it a day because I will be here till at least 5. Maybe we will end it with a slideshow of the iron displayed last year at Helfstyn.

As you know we have an item for the Iron Master of the Day that looks to be quite interesting. Add to that the competition item and we have the makings of a great day at the shop. I hope you all can attend and look forward to seeing you.

Andrew

*Thanks to the following people  
or groups for their contributions  
and/or assistance to the  
newsletter.*

Steve Gensheimer  
Stan & Carolyn Newcomer  
Doug Learn  
Jeff McComsey  
Randy McDaniel  
Andrew Molinaro  
Joel Clark

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

## Committee Leaders

**Iron in the Hat Chairperson** - Ann Lee  
**Equipment & Maintenance** - *Volunteer wanted*  
**Publication Contact** - Keith Eckman  
**Safety Equipment** - Herb Moyer  
**ABANA Affiliate Contact** - Doug Learn  
**Library** - Carolyn Newcomer  
**Event Hosting** - Jon & Ann Lee  
**Kutztown Liaison** - Dave Fisher  
**Election & Farm Show Committee** -  
Martin & Schelly Reynolds  
**Facebook Monitor** - Luke Shultz  
**Web Master** - Jerry Yetzer

## MEMBER DEMONSTRATIONS

Stan Newcomer  
Sunday August 26 Artists Alley Manheim PA 1-5  
Saturday and Sunday Sept 15&16 Old Fashioned Susquehanna Field  
Days Rt 441 Bainbridge PA 10-4  
Monday-Friday Oct 8-12 Manheim Farm Show Manheim PA  
afternoon and evening demos

- 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 \$25 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.

## 2012 PABA Calendar

### October 6th - LOCATION CHANGE

Awkland's - Quakertown, PA - THANKS to the Awkland's for offering on short notice!

IMD item - a set (two) of bending forks at least one of which must be hand held.

### December, Gallery Meeting - Paradise, PA

IMD item will be a ceiling hung candle chandelier for at least two candles.

### August 27th and 28th, Seafarer's Weekend

Historical Cold Spring Village - [www.hcsv.org](http://www.hcsv.org)  
Cape May NJ.

There are some great displays of boats made in the bay area of Cape May county. Some darn realistic pirates with accurate and authentic weapons. Please come and enjoy the blacksmithing (NJBA members on hand) and the beach. This is a particularly great location to have people experience blacksmithing first hand.

### Carroll County Farm Museum- BGCM September 7, 8, & 9 Steam Show Days

The Mason Dixon Historical Society presents antique farm machinery, steam and gas engines, and antique cars on display. Working demonstrations include saw milling, shingle sawing and branding, baling, threshing, and grinding. Flea market, food for sale and hayrides.

### BLACKSMITH HAMMER-IN & TOOL SWAP At the Red Mill Museum Village Sunday, September 9th, 10:00am - 4:00pm

- This event is hosted by the NJ Blacksmith's Association, under the direction of association trustee, Eric Cuper, and our own resident blacksmiths Dave Ennis and Robert Bozzay.

- The day's activities will center at the Museum's Blacksmith Shop where local blacksmiths and the New Jersey Blacksmith's Association, will have members on hand to demonstrate and sell their work. Tool dealers and collectors are invited to tailgate, sell and swap their smithing tools and accessories. We are currently registering blacksmiths and tool collectors.

- Admission for the day's activities is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$5 for children (6-12). Free for children under 6, museum members and for NJBA members. Included in the price is admission to the Museum's historic buildings and exhibits. The Red Mill Museum Village is located at 56 Main Street in Clinton, NJ. For more information, or to register call the Museum at (908) 735-4101.

### Nittany Antique Machinery Association 38th Annual Fall Show Sept. 6,7,8 & 9

Penns Cave - Centre Hall, PA

Featuring Oliver Tractors and Equipment

Daily Admission \$5.00 - 4 Day Pass \$15.00 - Sr Citizens - (Thur Only) \$3.00 | Children under 12 - Free - Free Parking

*Tim Bradford may be demonstrating*



SOUTHERN OHIO FORGE & ANVIL

## QUADSTATE

SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2012

*The dates are set and final details being worked out. Mark your calendars and make your plans to attend another great SOFA QUADSTATE!*

*This year's Gallery Feature:  
"Must have at least two moving parts"*

### Blacksmith Day Saturday, September 29 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Celebrate the Ellicott City Fall Fest by joining members of the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland at their forges on the B&O Plaza.

### Appalachian Blacksmiths Association Annual Fall Conference October 6-7, 2012

at Cedar Lakes Park (near Ripley, WV)

Demonstration: A Smorgasbord of Smithing' -- ABA members will do one-hour demos at the main forge. The other forges will be available for hands-on work and team projects.

Plus: Iron-in-the-hat and Auction of donated ironwork.

Bring your tools, ear protection and safety glasses. We'll fire up the forges on Friday and Saturday nights. Tailgaters welcome.

FEE: \$15.00 or donate hand-forged work piece to the auction.

*Please let the Editor know of any upcoming events. If you demonstrate at events or show at craft shows, please inform a PABA Board member. We also get many requests each year for "Blacksmith Needed", please let us know if you have interest to help.*

# Historic Bethlehem

PABA members that attended the June meeting at Historic Bethlehem experienced an excellent meeting. Several good demonstrators and helpers created a variety of items. The location as well as the weather were great.

Ed Land was our host for the event with Ray Anthony and Phil Trabel demonstrating as well. Tom Turtzo came later in the day as put on a demo too. The day would not have gone as easy for the demonstrators without the strong arms of Jake Molinaro who assisted with bellow pumping and various other items all day.

Ed gave attendees a brief history lesson of the reconstructed shop and the trades that would have worked in it. He then hammered out a few typical early American projects throughout the day that smiths would have produced; a wall hook, a fire place meat turning hook and a patch knife.

Ray Anthony and Phil Trabel worked simultaneously on opposite ends of the forge. Ray showed how he creates a small cross out of precut pieces of square stock. He even offered people a few blanks so they could try it out for themselves. Later in the day Ray created a folding fireplace Trivet. Phil in addition to helping with others as a striker, created a wall hook and nail for the IMD contest.

Towards the end of the meeting time Tom Turtzo stepped in to show off a variety of spring swages he uses. Fish tail waves, dragon scale, rope lines for twisting and leaves for finishing ends all were demonstrated for the crowd. Special thanks to the strikers that helped during the day, especially Jake Molinaro who probably now has larger biceps from pumping the bellows most of the day.

Tours of the 250 year old restored water pumping station were offered to those that wished to take a walk around the grounds. Various metal artifacts from the town were on display at the Smithy as well. The curators and volunteers that work at Historic Bethlehem deserve a big thank you for hosting a great meeting.



*Top, Ed giving one of his demos & two of the items he made  
Lower, Ray working on the trivet & the finished items*





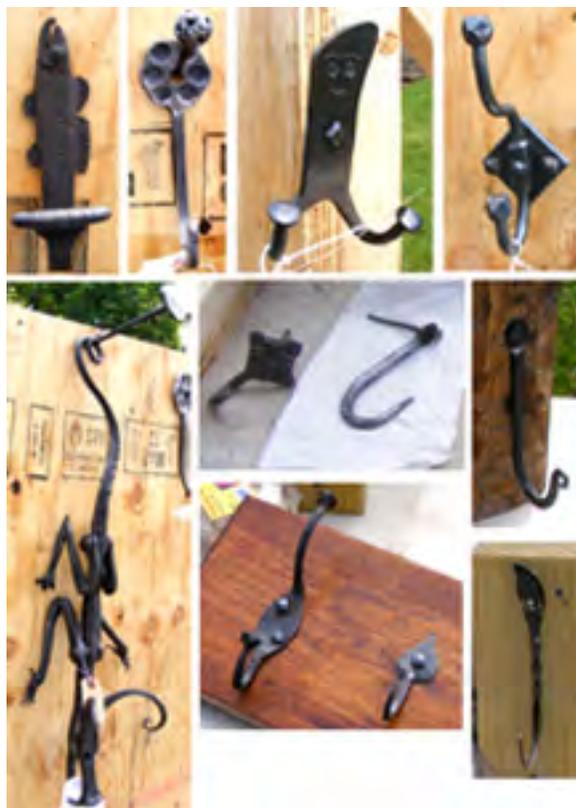
Left, Phil working on a hook - Right, Tom, Phil & Jake hammering on a design swage & below some of the finished items.



PABA had a typical membership meeting after lunch and went over some ideas for the future of the group and what we would be doing at Kutztown (that's all changed now). Our Iron Master of the Day contest, a hook and nail, had one of the best turnouts in awhile. The winner was Andrew with his dragon hook.

The Directors meeting took place at the end of the day and several ideas for PABA's near and long term future were talked over. Items brought forward for the near future included the purchase of new safety items and collecting all the PABA owned items and buying a enclosed trailer to hold them all. The trailer purchase was approved and we will be placing the bleachers, safety items, some equipment items and IITH tables in it. A plan is in place to have those items hauled to each meeting, so we will always have them when they are necessary.

Here are items of note that the Directors are be asking membership to help with or give ideas on. Please think on these items and bring your thoughts to the next meeting. *How can PABA attract new members? Would adjusting the meeting times to start later and/or end later in the day help or hurt attendance? The group had discussed not being at Kutztown next year (official now) instead, having a possible event with other groups that could include hosting Smiths from over-seas.*



*If you want to be a bigger part of PABA and help direct it's future... Please consider running for one of the positions up for election at the August meeting.*

Left, compilation of the variety of hook/nails for the IMD project - Right, Andrew with the winning hook.



# OBITUARIES

## **Howard E. "Buzz" Glahn, Jr. - (April 18, 1942 - July 13, 2012)**

On Friday, July 13th, Buzz ended his battle with lung cancer. He was 70. Born in Somerset, PA he got his nickname from his hospital nurse, the fiancé of noted WWII ace pilot, Lt. Col. Boyd "Buzz" Wagner. This set the stage for his own heroic life.

The only child of the late Howard E. and Barbara (Lambert) Glahn, he moved to Berks County as a child and resided there the rest of his life. He attended Conrad Weiser Schools, Hartwick College, York Junior College, and American University. He served for 6 years in the Special Forces during the Vietnam-era.

After early jobs as a caddy, bowling pin setter, lifeguard, and pool hustler, he followed in his father's footsteps becoming a journeyman lineman for IBEW Local 126. Mid-life, he left linework to attend California Poly-Technical and became a farrier. It was through this new career that he met his wife, Connie (Constance Morin). He returned to linework but continued his passion for the forge, becoming a blacksmith and craftsman of note.

A Journeyman in every sense of the word, he was an active member of multiple Artists, Blacksmith, and Farrier's Guilds. He travelled the country extensively following jobs, storm breaks, national meetings and conventions, horse shows, rodeos, and the call of the wild.

Buzz was a colorful, complex, and simple man whose business card included tiger-taming, bar-emptying, revolution starting, and uprising quelling. He was a loving husband, devoted father, faithful friend, tireless patriot of the working man, and a defender of the down-trodden. He was a one-of-a-kind mold-breaker who touched the lives of many and will be deeply missed by those who loved him.

He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, a host of family considered friends, and friends considered family. They are too numerous to mention, lest anyone be omitted, but you all know who you are.

Not one for tradition, he has asked not for a funeral, but a celebration. The epic event will take place the weekend of Sept. 22nd and details will be announced.

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## **Robert Mark Pasley, Glenwood, Maryland, died July 15, 2012.**

He was born August 22, 1931 in Sycamore Valley, Kansas to Sidney Charles Pasley and Ethel Wilson Pasley, who preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife of 27+ years, Mary M. Elefsiades Pasley.

He graduated from high school in Garnett, Kansas, in 1949. He attended Kansas State University where he received a bachelor of science degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1953. He served in the U.S. Army until 1956, after which he moved to Marion, Kansas, where he began an exemplary 32-year career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

He married Eleanor George in 1954, they had six children. They were divorced in 1983, she preceded him in death in 1998. He was an active and enthusiastic member of the Howard County Living Farm Heritage Museum and the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club, the MD, VA, PA and WV survey-ors assoc's, the Central MD and PA blacksmith guilds, and the PA Nut Growers Assoc.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sisters, Barbara Thomas of Clinton, KY, and Patricia (Jim) Dexter, Columbia, MO; one son, George, of Ketchikan, AK; five daughters: Lynn (Dan Cantrell) of Seattle, WA, Merry Lu of Lebo, KS, Eva Baseley (Jim) of Thurmont, MD, Jacqueline, of Silver Spring, MD, and Yvonne (Richard) Thomas of Gaithersburg, MD; eight grandchildren: Brande Hall, Lucas and Sam Baseley; Meghan and Emma Thomas, Jessie and Tyler Hall, and Devon Cantrell.

Gifts in Bob's name may be given to Howard County Living Farm Heritage Museum or Ketchikan Presbyterian Church.

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## **Charles "Ray" Noble, 73, Of Oriole, died Friday, July 6th.**

Born in Oriole in 1939, he was the son of the late Charles and Charlotte Hickman Noble. "Ray" worked as the Service Manager for Elliott and France Heavy Equipment, and volunteered his time working as the Blacksmith at Furnace Town. He was a member of the Furnace Town Foundation, the Tuchahoe Steam and Gas Association, the ABANA Association and he served in the National Guard.

"Ray" is survived by two sons, Wade "Onion" Noble, of Oriole and Brian Noble and his wife Cecelia of Eden. Also Surviving are his brother Hal Noble of Salisbury and his Sister Valarie Watson of Laurel, Delaware.

Preceding him in death were his parents and his wife Patricia McCracken Noble.

Contributions in Ray's memory can be made to The Coastal Hospice at PO. Box 1733, Salisbury Md. 21802.

# August's Forging Contest

Since last year's forging contest at the Kutztown meeting was such a success we decided to do it again this year. Though we have moved the meeting location we'll still be challenging you to compete against your fellow members in a test of some simple skills and your inventiveness.

This year you will be given two pieces of 1/4" by 3/4" steel bar 5" long and two soft 3/16" by 1" rivets. You must join the two pieces of flat stock together in any form you desire modifying it as you wish in the process. You have to use all of the flat stock and you must also use the two rivets though not necessarily to make the joint or joints. You may cut the rivets to a shorter length if desired and discard the shank waste. The resultant piece can be decorative or functional. Each competitor will have thirty minutes to complete the challenge and the winner will be selected by a group vote like the Iron Master of the Day is. Think about it, plan something great for the competition, and take part! The winner will take home a pair of bolt tongs made to grip the flat stock used in the competition and a punch for the 3/16" rivet holes.

*Steve Gensheimer*

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## An Explanation of The August Meeting Change

For many years the Pennsylvania Artist Blacksmiths Association has been holding one of our meetings at the Heritage Center in Kutztown. The University owned facility has always been very generous in letting us meet there when we wished for board meetings and has allowed us to use the facility for our Blacksmith's Days events in the years past. For the last few years we have been holding our meeting there during August in conjunction with the Old Time Plowboys Club. I spoke to our past Vice President Dave Fisher who used to coordinate that meeting and he confirmed that our move to August to join with the Plowboys' event was at their suggestion. Last year I had spoken to Larry Knerr (the Plowboy's then new President) back in January and to the Kutztown facility in July but when we arrived to set up we were moved from the area near the barn where we would normally meet to the area in front of the restrooms. This was to make room for a car show they had planned for Saturday evening. Despite the surprise move we set up and had a good event with demonstrations, a forging contest, and public involvement. The car show the Plowboys had planned never really materialized as rain moved into the area. We considered striking all of our tents and equipment on Saturday evening given the weather forecast but when asked the Plowboys told us they were going ahead with their Sunday program anyway so we left everything set up too. I arrived a bit late on Sunday Morning after a trip to the hospital with a family member only to find that they had given up with the rain and closed down. The intrepid members that braved the storm on Sunday morning then got to take down and pack everything up in torrential rain. While we were welcomed and watched by many of the Plowboy's members and visitors we certainly did not get that feeling in our dealings with the event planners last year.

This year when I contacted Patty Fransden of the Kutztown facility about our event she asked me to coordinate with Larry Knerr of the Plowboys. I emailed him with our plans and to let him know we did not need any special facilities modifications or services. The note I got back certainly indicated that we were not particularly welcome to take part in the weekend as far as they were concerned. I spoke to Andrew and we decided to contact as many board members as we could to make a quick decision about our participation. Many of the members may not realize that setting up our event there each year requires a couple of days tearing apart shops and loading trailers with tools, anvils, and forges before the event and then setting everything back up also in addition to the time spent picking up and returning canopies and bleachers. We came to the conclusion that it was simply not worth it to go to all that trouble when we were not wanted at the event.

Andrew has agreed to move his meeting date and hold our August meeting at his shop instead of at Kutztown. This despite the fact that two weeks later he will be leaving for the Czech Republic and a prestigious artist in residence stint. (The first American smith to do so too). Mike Awckland will hold the October meeting at his shop. We should all thank him for taking on that additional responsibility on such short notice to help out the club.

If any of you have concerns or problems with us cancelling out of Kutztown this year please vocalize them to me. I'm the source of the suggestion that we cancel and nobody else should be blamed. I have forwarded the emails between myself and the Plowboys to Keith if he wishes to publish them. The Heritage Center at Kutztown itself has not in any way suggested that we are not welcome and should not be blamed either. As noted at the beginning they have been and continue to be very generous to our group.

*Stephen Gensheimer*

# Membership Directory Correction

name and email correction

Dale Ziegler

drziegler@hotmail.com

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## Member Input Request - Coal Information

Coopersburg Baggage, just below Bethlehem, bags coal (or anything else you want bagged), and will do a complete load or sells it by the ton when they have a spare ton (processes ~3 truckloads a week). I bought a ton from them last year for less per bag than Randy was talking about (last issue) for 'at cost'. High quality stuff and all the same size (either nut or pea) and not much fines.

Eric Cuper tried to get enough people committed to do a truckload last year, and did not get enough people to make it work.

*Doug Learn*

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*Here's a website for metal smiths trying to find a place to sell their work. The info was sent to me by Doug Learn who knows the site master, Karen.*

Hi! My name is Karen LeBov-Keeler, and I'm the owner of the on line business, Vulcan Artistic Creations, LLC. I'm excited and honored to announce that Marian McKinney is our Featured Artist. In addition, we are celebrating her BEAUTIFUL new line of earrings and bracelets/cuffs.

The Mission and Vision of Vulcan is to celebrate and promote the metal arts through our "virtual" gallery where guests can view unique metal work, learn about metalsmithing, and purchase high quality pieces. We want to build and maintain a reputation as an energetic and professional sales and marketing organization for the metal arts, promoting metalsmiths with business, sales, and marketing operations. We wish to be nationally recognized as an outstanding "virtual" art gallery with unique offerings.

We have five goals:

- To identify and present to the public metalsmiths whose works are unique and of high quality.
- To have a variety of quality metal art available for sale, including the opportunity to order commission pieces.
- To provide business operations, sales and marketing support for metalsmiths, freeing them to focus on their creative endeavors.
- To broaden the public's knowledge of the metal arts.
- To create a community of metalsmiths and interested members of the public.

### About Us

Vulcan Artistic Creations, LLC is based in Memphis, Tennessee. Memphis is also the home of the National Ornamental Metal Museum. Through our connection to this unique museum, we have had the honor and privilege of meeting a variety of metalsmiths from around the country whose creativity and artisanship is truly remarkable. Their passion for their work along with their closeness as a community is the inspiration behind Vulcan Artistic Creations, LLC.

Vulcan Artistic Creations, LLC

111 South Highland Street, #366

Memphis, TN 38111

Email address: keeler@vacmetalart.com

Please visit us at: [www.vacmetalart.com](http://www.vacmetalart.com) and/or "Friend" us at: [www.facebook.com/vacmetalart.com](http://www.facebook.com/vacmetalart.com)

## Making Chain

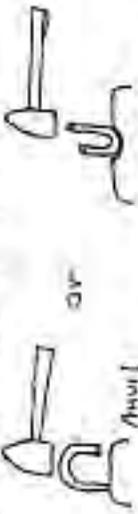
### A Special Tools -

- ① Make or modify tongs  
 groove in jaws to fit link stack  
 about 1/2"

- ② "U" tool to clamp in vise and use to shape links.  
 10" x 12" length of 3/4" round bar taper about 1" of each end and bend in U shape  


- ③ Material - 3/8" round bar cut in 7" lengths.

### C Method -

- ① Heat middle of 3/8" x 7" bar and bend to form beginning link  
 or  
 Anvil  
 ② Even up ends if uneven

- ③ I use a piece of 3/4" thick flat bar to space and straighten arms of link.  


- ④ Reheat and scarf ends of link on anvil. I scarf one end then turn over the link and do the other so the scarfs will mate when joined  


- ⑤ In the same heat the scarfed ends are bent to overlap using the "U" Tool clamped in vise.  




## Joel Clark

- ⑥ File and weld. Start weld on face of anvil and finish on horn and/or "U" tool. If necessary, refile and finish weld in second heat while still hot, true up link in "U" tool.

- ⑦ Make 2 links, then join with another. Make chain in 3 link segments, then join segments. After a few feet of chain is completed, moving it from fire to anvil becomes awkward, and is facilitated by using a hook to suspend the chain from overhead.

- ⑧ One way to finish chain is by forging a ring in one end and a hook on the other  




Suggested ring size



Approximate link dimensions

This hook can be passed thru ring and also used as a grab hook on links  
 \* Cross section  




## August Iron Master of the Day Chain Project Idea



# Pennsylvania Striker



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

November 2012

*Next Meeting Date: Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>*

## PABA Gallery - Paradise PA

If you've been a member of PABA for more than a year or two... You know the drill. December is the annual PABA Gallery meeting in Paradise, PA. There is plenty of room for tailgaters outside. We also have loads of space inside to set up items you've made for sale or just display. This is a great meeting to catch up with other members and share what you are doing with them. Please invite friends and family to stop by for a visit.

There is a membership meeting after lunch, if you have any concerns or ideas for PABA for the 2013 year and beyond, please speak up. As always with an organization like ours, we're looking for members to step up and fill positions that are necessary to the group. If you don't feel qualified for those, perhaps you may feel comfortable helping at a meeting demonstration next year.

**Lunch is a covered dish. If you are able please bring an item to share with the membership.** If you need an idea use this list: Last names beginning with: A-G Salads • H-N Main Dish • O-T Appetizers • U-Z Deserts • Drinks will be provided.

Don't forget to bring all those items for Iron in the Hat. The Iron Master of the Day item is a ceiling hung candle chandelier for at least two candles.

The following day on December 9th, several PABA members, Robert Eggerling, Byron Mellinger, Randy McDaniel and possibly others will be taking part in the 26th Annual Chesapeake Knife Show, at the Crown Plaza in Timonium, Maryland. This is one of the biggest one day knife shows on the east coast. If you're interested in knives, swords, daggers, knife materials and parts this is the place to be.

More information at [www.knifeshows.com](http://www.knifeshows.com)

### UPCOMING HELP REQUEST

Pennsylvania Farm Show  
Jan. 5-12

We always can use extra people to sit at our booth. Contact Martin Reynolds

610-383-4753

[mreynolds50@yahoo.com](mailto:mreynolds50@yahoo.com)

for more information

***PLEASE PAY YOUR 2013 DUES before the END of the YEAR***

**Directions:** The Paradise Community Center is located just off Route 30, on Londonvale Rd. in Paradise, PA - 9 miles East of Lancaster



## President's Message

Greetings to you all from a shop full of scrolls and leaves. I am working through the rush of fall (get it by Christmas) orders and feeling the pressure. It has been a busy year and as we look forward to our gallery meeting I can't wait to see you all there. I see evidence all-around of the resurgence of Blacksmithing, most notably Facebook. Evidence too of the PABA membership getting busy and making great things. Our gallery meeting is our opportunity to share our work and see what others have been up to.

Our IMD item is a ceiling hung chandelier with at least two candles. Think of it! A ready-made gift, shared with friends weeks before Christmas. Sounds like Steve did us all a favor this year. Participation is guaranteed to make someone in your family really happy and make you look really great! I have design ready and time set aside...Well really there is no time. We have to make time...Right?

Lastly, I want to thank you all for being members and participating in our group. All of this is voluntary and I want you all to know how much I appreciate your membership. If you have advice or recommendations please share with me via email or a call. Anything we can do to improve PABA is important to us. Every time I see the members at the meetings, I see interesting new things being shared and discussed. Our goal is to preserve, share and expand blacksmithing skills. I think that our meetings are our best road to that goal and I thank you for being part of it.

*Andrew Molinaro*



## Committee Leaders

**Iron in the Hat Chairperson** - Ann Lee  
**Equipment & Maintenance** - *Volunteer wanted*  
**Publication Contact** - Keith Eckman  
**Safety Equipment** - Herb Moyer  
**ABANA Affiliate Contact** - Doug Learn  
**Library** - Carolyn Newcomer  
**Event Hosting** - Jon & Ann Lee  
**Kutztown Liaison** - Dave Fisher  
**Election & Farm Show Committee** -  
Martin & Schelly Reynolds  
**Facebook Monitor** - Luke Shultz  
**Web Master** - Jerry Yetzer

*Thanks to the following people or groups for their contributions and/or assistance to the newsletter.*

Andrew Molinaro  
Steve Gensheimer  
The Awcklands  
Stan & Carolyn Newcomer  
Don Plumber  
Eric Cuper  
Randy McDaniel

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

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# MEMBER INFO & UPCOMING EVENTS

## PABA CALENDAR 2013

**February 9** (*second Saturday*)

Stan Newcomer's Mt Joy, PA

**IMD Item:** Turning Spatula

**April 6** (*first Saturday*)

Tim Bradford's Pleasant Gap, PA

**IMD Item:** A spring fuller for anvil use

**June 1** (*first Saturday*)

Eric Cuper's Easton, PA

Joint meeting with NJ Blacksmiths

**IMD Item:** A Wood Chisel simple or elaborate- any size but it must be sharp and work

**August 3** (*first Saturday*)

Old Dry Road Farm near Blue Marsh Lake, Reading PA

*Our public demo and education day.*

Demonstrators will be needed, a forging contest will be held, tailgating and sales of forged work will be allowed.

**IMD Item:** A Froe to split wood - welded or punched eye

**October 5** (*first Saturday*)

Artisans of the Anvil Andrew Molinaro Stroudsburg, PA

**IMD Item:** A door catch- from a hasp to a thumb latch

**December 14** (*second Saturday*)

Gallery Meeting Paradise, PA

**IMD Item:** A Quatrefoil Panel, Ring or Square Shaped

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**Tuesday 1-1-2013**

**Hang-over hammer-in**

**9am till midnight** (yes it has gone that long)

*lunch and supper*

**This is a hands on hammer-in.**

The Awckland's

1650 Fennel Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

hollowbeech@verizon.net - 215-679-4863

**January 4,5,6**

9th ANNUAL

GICHNER MEMORIAL HAMMER-IN

Hutchison Brothers' Farm in Cordova, Maryland.

This year's demonstrator is Bill Roan.

<http://masametalsmiths.org/>

### Editor's Box

2012 is coming to a close and as always, I'm requesting PABA members to please forward me any ideas or information that is useful to the group.

This issue is filled mainly with one very well written "how-to" article from Don Plummer. I'll say a special thanks to him for putting the effort into it for the benefit of the group.

If I can tag along on that line of thought.... If you are planning to work on a project this coming year for one of the Iron Master projects, please take a bit of extra time and write a description of how and why you did the things you did. I'll happily edit it and publish it into the *Striker*.

I'm hoping that by early next year we have a redesigned website that will be a link from/too our current facebook site. One of my goals is to learn basic web design and to use that to update our current site.

All constructive ideas are welcome to help improve how we gain and communicate with members.

*Keith Eckman*

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*Please let the Editor know of any upcoming events. If you demonstrate at events or show at craft shows, please inform a PABA Board member. We also get many requests each year for "Blacksmith Needed", please let us know if you have interest to help.*

# October at the Awckland's

The October meeting was one of the more varied and demonstration packed events of this year. Four different demos took place; sand casting, donkey hoof trimming, hammer making and a combination of tool making and decorative leaf design rounded out the day.

One of our most experienced members (read oldest) Bill Pursel demonstrated with one of our youngest, Sarah Awckland on his method of small scale sand casting. Using a homemade wet sand mix and small casting forms they both produced a nice copy in just a short while. I know I messed up all my notes on the exact mixture he uses but I did find one that may be similar... 90% sand, 10% bentonite, and around 7% water by weigh. The sand is damp



but not overly wet. Tempering it over night helps to prevent steam bursts when hot metal is introduced. Again I have to admit I was following what was going on and not taking the best notes. In the future I hope to have Bill write a "how to" on the basics he uses. For now here two decent sites to view on the methods - <http://mypeoplepc.com/members/waygat/castingfoundry-lathe/index.html> - <http://www.foundry101.com/index.htm>.





After a brief break to clean up sand... Mike Awckland started his demonstration. At the SOFA conference he purchased several NASCAR axles out of a type of specialized steel that is rather hard and durable. With the help of Phil Trable and Jeff Mundy... and a whole lot of sweat and effort, they were able to produce two hammer heads. The effort required to hand punch/drift a handle slot in this steel was impressive. You can note in the pictures the size of the hammer Mike ended up using.

Have donkey will travel, or at least will trim hooves for PABA demo purposes. Tony, the Awckland's farrier offered to show meeting attendees how to work on a equine hoof. The family donkey loved the attention and we were all asked to come back in a few months so the next trimming could go as easy.





Andrew Molinaro was the last person to demonstrate during the meeting. He started off making a chisel and a fuller out of 5160 steel. These are the same pieces of steel Tim Suter brings for IITH. With a bit of advice and striker help from Doug Dayger and Steve Gensheimer, the tools were shaped, oil hardened and tempered. Andrew wanted to show us an Acanthus leaf. This type of leaf has been used as decoration for centuries. Shaping the leaf required

cutting the edges out and then fullering them to add dimension.... Hence the reason for the two tools he had made earlier.

Thanks again to Mike and Sarah for hosting the meeting. I believe I'm safe saying "a good time was had by all" (even the donkey)

*Photo Bomb  
courtesy of  
Eric Cuper*



## Making a rotating broiler. By Don Plummer

Our editor recently asked for some write-ups on making a trivet. This turned out to be a very timely request in that a trivet was the Iron Master Item for a recent meet. We had a great turnout and 8 or 10 participated in making a trivet. Only thing was, most of them actually made broilers. There is obviously much interest in both. As I have an early American Colonial broiler in my collection. I thought I would try to replicate it with some accuracy and do a write-up and photo journal in the process.

I believe this broiler dates to the 1760-1800 period. But who really knows for sure. These things are too easy to duplicate and folks have been copying them for a hundred and forty years. But I am pretty confident about the date of this broiler.



## Broiler griddle



and then there was Aught Wrought that the late Roger Duncan had produced for us. I have a bit of both and thought this an excellent opportunity to use some of the sheared Aught Wrought. Williamsburg bought about a ton of this sheared stuff from Roger's heirs. The other Aught Wrought stock was 1/4 x 3/4 and 1/4 x 1. All good stuff that works like the purest wrought iron.

Flatten and taper about 1/2" on each end for the forge weld. Heat and gradually hammer into a circle over the anvil horn, flattening occasionally on the face. Curve from one end halfway and then the other. Or make the circle over an anvil hardy as I did above. Doesn't need to be perfectly round at this point but bring the ends together for a nicely mated overlap. Flux and weld the



The revolving griddle averages about 13" in diameter. Times pi gives you a 41" radius and actual radius measures 41-1/4". So the stock for the perimeter is 41" x 1/2" x 1/8".

For an added level of realism you might want to forge this down from some other, larger stock. It was very unlikely a 1764 blacksmith had a strip of 1/2 x 1/8 to work with. More probably he might have worked it down from nail bar of about 1/4 x 1/4". I used some Aught Wrought about 3/8" x 1/4". Most of you may recall that in the past decade or so there were two significant attempts to replicate wrought iron through low to no carbon steel. First there was Pure Iron that Mike Schermerhorn brought in from Europe

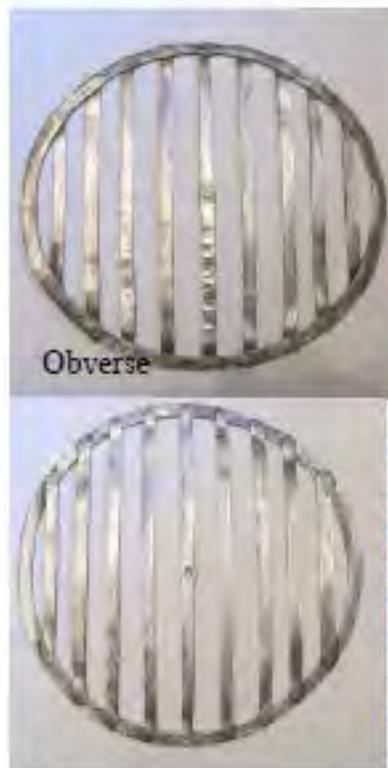
joint. I have heard there are unscrupulous blacksmiths out there who will first position the pieces with a tiny mig weld. I find such an activity blasphemous but feel it my duty to mention it so that you may watch for it and report them.

I heated what I could of the plate in the fire and got it fairly round over the bottom of my Wally Yater cone mandrel. Once it is close you can hammer it round cold over a barrel in your anvil hardy. You could also readily do it all cold on the anvil face and hardy barrel. Get it as close as your eye will let you. I chalked a circle on my steel topped bench to gauge to. The original is none too round.

There are 9 cross bars of varying lengths. These are  $3/8'' \times 1/8''$ . They were obviously placed simply by eye and the distance between varies from  $3/4''$  to 1 except for two on each outside edge. They are just  $1/2''$  from that edge. Since our roundness may have variances, measure, mark and cut each one such that after a flattened taper it will

I worked the bars down with my 14 year old original Old Blue I bought in Asheville, NC at the conference. I eventually doubled the size of the cylinder but the only other embellishments are the two pieces of crossed tape holding the alignment pins in place. It keeps on banging.

If you are working a bar to dimension the middle bar should be thicker and wider at the center to allow for the pivot hole punch. Punch with a thin punch and drift it out to size. Do this before you forge weld it in. There was no way to precisely confirm the pivot rivet hole size but I went with  $1/4''$ . I set my vise jaws at that dimension and punch through till the sides touch.



Flux and forge weld each bar. I started in the middle and worked my way out as I wanted some stability right off. I only have a small rivet forge that I use for demonstrating to use for coal fires. But it is more than adequate and helps me to keep a small, hot concentrated fire when I want to weld. The 18 forge welds took an hour and a half. The first nine took an hour and the other nine a half hour. There is no substitute for practice! Because it is flat on flat all of these welds popped nicely. I learned in the process to try and clean up the weld scale while there is still good heat from the weld. I did all of one side, dressed the fire up thoroughly and then the other. There was still much scale over all so I soaked it overnight in Sodium Bisulfate mixed one cup per gallon of hot water. The next morning it was bright and clean. Sodium Bisulfate is used to decrease the ph in swimming pools and reduce the overall alkalinity. Relatively harmless stuff.



Vinegar would have worked but not as well and taken much longer. You can clean this up now and apply whatever finish you might like. This original boiler has been slightly cleaned sometime in the last 100 years but there is still much evidence of melted fat.

## Handle, base and legs.



This is a more difficult bit of blacksmithing and will test your skills. It might be possible to do this with 3/4" x 1/4" but I recommend and used 1" x 1/4" of the Aught Wrought. You will need about 24" of this stock.

Begin with forging the handle end. Start by stepping back about an inch and leaving that for the neat little round finial at the end. Fuller down the stock to about 1/2" using a fuller or over the edge. Shape the handle to the form you want it. Then spread it at the edge of the anvil to about 1-1/4" at the widest.

Strive to maintain an even spread and nice ridge in the center. Make the same number of hits on each side. The ridge on the original is not perfectly centered all the way but give it your best shot. The ridge seems best defined and refined at a black heat. Many of these

ridges were later refined through some draw filing. It is important to position the piece on your anvil so that your light gives you the best definition of the ridge.

Neck down about an inch from the end of the handle and round the end nicely over the edge of the anvil to 1-1/2" and leave a well defined drop edge. The round is exactly the size of a silver dollar which I used to mark and file/sand to. If you don't have a silver dollar use two half dollars. Punch a 1/4" hole directly in the center. Don't put in the handle bend yet but forge about 6" to 1/2" x 3/16".



You should have at least 12" of stock left and a decision must be made: do

you want to weld on the stock for the legs or split the existing stock down the middle and shape them. Either way would work fine and there is no one correct procedure. As Randy McDaniel replied when I asked him which way to go: "All of the ironwork of that time period and all of the smiths of that time were not from the same country and so did not do everything the same way. Even today look at how we do scrolls by hammering them over the edge of the anvil and the British are known for using

top and bottom forks. They both result in the same thing. In so many items we see more than one way to do something. Sometimes it depended on the background of the shop, where they were taught, and other times it depended on the shop itself, how many people worked there, how skilled were they, what tooling they had, was a striker or power hammer available, etc. There are a lot of items that I make using forge welding because it is faster and yields a better product for me. Others would forge it out in a way where forge welding isn't required. Both



Demo piece done by Ken Schwarz, master smith at W'Burg. He hammers it from the back.

ways could be termed "traditional forging". In regards to the boiler, as I don't have a bandsaw that would work for that long a cut and doing it with a slit chisel would go fast, but the clean up of the resulting burr would take me so long, I would prefer to use the t-weld method."

I decided to try it both ways. I started splitting it hot with a chisel but as Randy pointed out it leaves a lot of burr that is difficult to get rid of so I cut it with my band saw. Leave about a 3/4" x 3/4" segment of the stock that will provide the location for the pivot rivet. Draw out two arms to 1/4 x 3/16" x 7". Take your time and work evenly and carefully. These will be the arms and legs. You should have enough stock left to forge a 1/4" x 1/4" x 3" leg on each arm. There is a small foot on each leg.

You will need to smooth out the center split and form the legs to matching positions. If I had not already forged the round finial on the handle end it would have given me a better surface to hammer the split end onto the anvil edge and later, over the horn. Now shape the legs evenly. I first bent them hot around the base of my WY cone. Next I forged the little feet on the ends of the legs. I forged them the wrong way...TWICE!



I also got to this same place by forge welding on the legs. First I fullered a 9" piece of 1" x 1/4" aught wrought at 5" and 6" and then cut it off at 10". Exercise some caution at this move. Particularly if you think you might want to have more children. Now draw out the two ends to 9" each. Forge down stock and make a semi-circle and



clean up nicely. Pieces scarfed and ready for welding. The welding did not come out as well as I hoped and I decided to finish with the sawed out legs.



The original piece has about a 3/16" washer between the handle segment and the broiler griddle. There is also what appears to be a thick piece of leather. Which doesn't make a lot of sense but nevertheless, it's there. I will bring it next time we are together and see what you think it is.

Now is a good time to put the bend and curve in the handle. One bend is essentially 90 degrees and the other a gentle curve back. Make sure the 90 degree bend allows your revolving.

griddle to clear all through its cycle. This bending is most conveniently done with some spot heating...like from an oxy-acet torch.

About the only thing left is to make the third leg. I forged that out of a scrap piece of iron and drew it out to 3-1/2" x 1/4" square. But check out your leg heights and make it appropriate for that. I drilled a 3/16 hole in the handle and filed the leg to 3/16 square. Then filed the hole to square. I don't like these legs to be able to ever turn. I locked the leg in the vise and headed it over.

Now spend some time looking at the handle/legs unit carefully. Make sure everything is setting even and level, no twists in the handle or leg, balances evenly with the griddle in position. It may take some tweaking but you should be able to do any adjustments cold.



You will need a 3/16" washer between the griddle and handle/leg unit. I cut and ground one out of a piece of 3/16 x 1" flat steel. Mark it, drill a 1/4" hole in the center and trim it as close and where you can. Then cut from bar. Now rivet it all together. If you get it so tight the griddle wont turn just heat up that center area and spin the griddle till all is loose.

I think once you have done a couple of these you should be able to finish it in 4-5 hours. By dent of serious effort I was able to get it done in just over five week.

*Regards to all. Don Plummer*

Reprinted from Ice Spring, 1998, edition of HOT IRON NEWS, a Publication of the North West Blacksmith Association

**HOT TIP;** by DON KEMPER, NWBA President

**BLUE HERON PLANT STAKE**

"AN OLDE...BUT GOODIE"  
STOCK -- 1/4"

1. DRAW 2" TAPER AT END
2. FOLD 4" OF END BACK ON BAR -
3. FLUX AND FORGE WELD 2" AT END -
4. REDUCE 1" OF END TO 1/2 BAR DIMENSION WITH HALF FACED BLOWS...FORGE END TO ROUND TAPER
5. USE EYE PUNCH, CENTER PUNCH, FULLER & WALKING CHISELS FOR EYES, NOSTRILS, EYE BROW, BILL, ETC.
6. HEAT... TWIST & SCROLL CREST, ROLL GRACE FULL BEND IN NECK
7. CUT OFF AT 18" (OR DESIRED LENGTH) AND TAPER END - APPLY FINISH - THIS MAKES A NICE INDOOR HOUSE PLANT STAKE... OR USE LARGER STOCK FOR FIRE PLACE TOOLS...OR??

**HELPFUL HINT...** "EYE PUNCH" IS EASILY MADE BY DRIVING THE HOT PUNCH ONTO A BALL BEARING OR A "BALL END PUNCH"... DRILLING THE DEPRESSION MAKES A POINTED EYE BALL... WHICH MAKES ADDING A CENTER PUNCHED "PUPIL" HARD TO DO! ALWAYS GRIND DOWN SIDES OF EYE PUNCH LAST... EASY TO COMPENSATE FOR SLIGHTLY OFF CENTERED DEPRESSION -