

# The Forum

July 2006



Vol. 8, No. 7

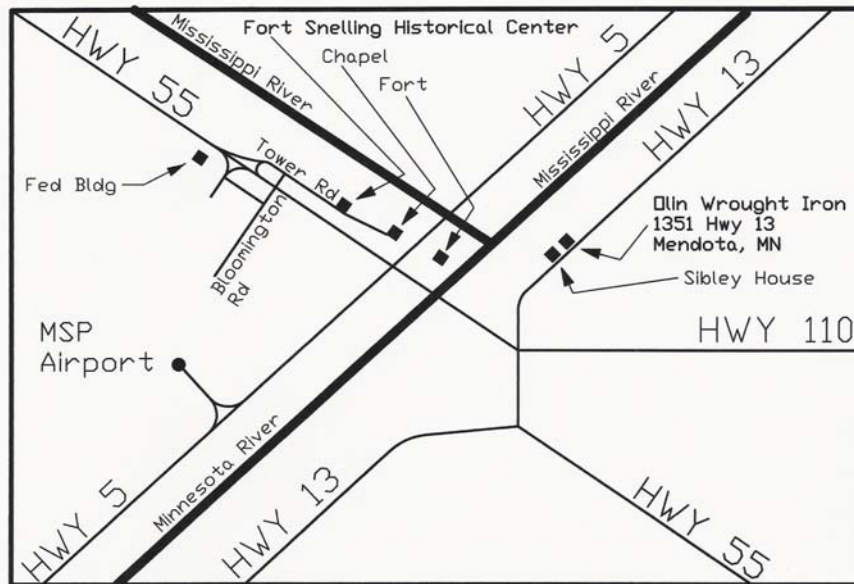
## August Guild meeting returns to Olin's Mendota shop

The August meeting of the Guild of Metalsmiths will be held at Dave Olin's shop in Mendota on August 9. This meeting will feature a corn feed with the Guild providing all the sweetcorn you can eat. If you consider yourself a master corn shucker, come early and lend a hand--you'll gain lots of experience! We'll also enjoy our traditional traditional potluck dinner, so please bring a dish to pass.

The featured demonstrator for this event is Tom Latane'.

The potluck dinner and corn feed starts at 6:30, general business meeting starts at 7, and Tom's demonstration will begin after the end of the business meeting.

## Map to Dave Olin's shop in Mendota



## Forum deadline for August: Monday, July 17, 2006

The deadline for The Forum is always the third Monday of the month. If you have activities that will be occurring in the next few months and wish to have them published in the next Forum, please send them by Monday, July 17, 2006 to **Georgia Myers**, editor, by e-mail to:

[forum@metalsmith.org](mailto:forum@metalsmith.org)

(e-mails will be forwarded to Georgia Myers), or to

[gmyers@rconnect.com](mailto:gmyers@rconnect.com)

or mail them to:

**Georgia Myers**  
**313 Dakota St**  
**Lake City MN 55041**



*The Guild of Metalsmiths, St. Paul, MN, publishes the GoM Forum monthly. It is intended as a tool to further our educational mission, to keep members up to date on current happenings, to publicize projects and workshops, a place for all members to express their opinions, concerns, learn more about each other—in short, to help us run our organization.*

*For address change, or to submit comments, please mail to:*

*The GoM Forum*

*Georgia Myers*  
*313 Dakota St*  
*Lake City, MN 55041-1869*

*or e-mail to*

*[forum@metalsmith.org](mailto:forum@metalsmith.org) or*  
*[gmyers@rconnect.com](mailto:gmyers@rconnect.com)*

## Guild educational grants

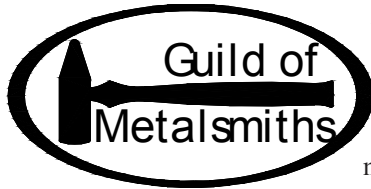
There is grant money available for Guild members to study intermediate and advanced metalworking techniques.

The Guild educational grant program is designed to bring new skills into the metalworking community. Participants are given money to pay for a portion of their expenses and are expected to learn some new or poorly understood skill, and then to share what they have learned with other members and the public through an article in our quarterly magazine, “The Metalsmith.” They’re also expected to lead a workshop on the topic (or other educational service approved by the board).

Application forms are available from the president or treasurer at a regular meeting, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Guild of Metalsmiths  
PO Box 11423  
St. Paul MN 55111

# The Madness is coming!



So, have you marked your calendar yet for the Fall Madness – the Guild of Metalsmiths Fall Conference? The conference will be held this year September 15 through the 17 at the Little Log House Power Show grounds, located six miles south of Hastings on Highway 61.

Friday night is the Gallery setup. Bring your best works to show off all of the great stuff you have made. This is a non-juried show; all items registered will be included in the gallery. If you have items that you showed in the past, please bring them again, since there are always new members each year for which the items will be fresh. If you cannot make it Friday night, gallery registration is open on Saturday also.

Friday night is the opening of the tailgate area. If you need to buy or sell some equipment, the tailgate sales area is a great opportunity to exchange those hard-to-find smithin' tools. Sales are open all weekend, but the best deals usually go early.

Saturday is the main event, with registration starting at 7:30 AM and demonstrations starting at 9 AM. This year we have two wonderful demonstrators – Clay Spencer (a legend in the world of blacksmithing) will be demonstrating using his new Tire Hammer. Rauno Lehtonen is coming from Finland to demonstrate sculptural pieces.

In addition to the demonstrators, other family activities for the weekend include Found Art creation, Altoid Tin Repousse, broom making, door hanger creation, hoola hoop rugs, and magnetic art. All of the family activities will be free of charge this year. If that isn't enough to keep you busy, browse the silent auction area to pick up that piece of steel you need or the other doodad you can't live without. And if you have an extra chunk of steel or a thingamajig you don't need, consider donating it to the silent auction.

And let's not forget the highlight of the conference, the Saturday Night Live auction. This is a major event of the year and provides you an opportunity to pick up some wonderful items for either your shop or your living room wall.

Now you may expect an opportunity to experience all of this would cost lots of bucks. Well, we will take it if you want to give it to us, but all we ask is a measly \$35 per family for the entire weekend or \$20 per family for a single day of the conference. Camping is available on the grounds for no charge except for a nominal fee if you connect your camper to the electricity.

More information will be coming shortly in a flyer that will be sent to all members.

— *Rich Herman*

Join the crowd at the Fall Conference...

## **Altoid Tin Repousse class - family activity!**

Tired of getting burned? Tired of lifting that heavy blacksmith's hammer? Come join Jesse Gavin and Jim Breczinski at the Altoids repousse family activity for some cold iron working at the Fall Conference both Saturday and Sunday mornings.

This still leaves you with time to enjoy the other activities and demonstrators. We have all the supplies and tools. All skill levels are welcome, and if you have never done Altoids repousse before we will help you the basics. Best of all it is a free activity and you get to take home the Altoids tin to show off what you made this year at the Fall Conference.

Location to be determined, so just follow the signs when you get there.

— *Jesse Gavin*

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## **Letter to the editor**

Many thanks to Myron Hanson for his recent article sharing the problem he had with his prostate. It prompted me to have my prostate checked. An elevated PSA was followed by a biopsy which indicated that I also had prostate cancer. So, in mid-August my prostate will also end up in dumpsterland.

Also, this is a good time to set the record straight on the candle holders that I brought to the Christmas Party for Show & Tell. They were all made by Bernard Heer.

— *Monty Bygd*

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## **2006 'Notable Mention Reference Book' is well known among Guild members**

"A Blacksmithing Primer" by Randy McDaniel was considered a 2006 Notable Mention Reference Book according to "Writers Notes Magazine."

Hobar Publications, a division of Finney Company, released the second edition of "A Blacksmithing Primer" in January 2004. Virtually every task beginning and intermediate blacksmiths must master is represented in this excellent book. Over 400 detailed drawings help increase comprehension levels. This is a reference manual that will be found lying open on the workbench more often than found on the bookshelf.

"Writers Notes Magazine" is an international literary magazine of stories, essays, poetry, interviews, and visual arts. Each year, "Writers Notes Book Awards" defines eleven categories of independent publishing excellence. Entries come from independent and small presses, self-published authors, and highly unique and short print runs.

The review on "A Blacksmithing Primer" reads, "While most of our readers won't be taking up the blacksmith trade anytime soon, they might want to take a whack at McDaniel's guide for the traditional metal forging trade."

# Frequently asked questions on demonstrating

— by Rich Herman

**W**e are entering the time of year when many opportunities are available to participate in a blacksmithing demonstration. If you have never participated in a demonstration event before, you may have lots of questions about how it all works. So here goes on my attempt to enlighten you.

**What is the purpose of the demonstration event?** The demonstration is an attempt to educate people that have never seen a blacksmith before. We answer questions and show the general public what we can do.

**Do I have to be a good blacksmith to help at the demonstration?** No, little or no experience is actually required to participate as a demonstrator. We always have some more experienced members there to answer the harder questions and to even provide a few tips to help you improve your skills. I have always learned from my opportunities to demonstrate.

**What should I bring?** Usually all you need to bring is your protective equipment (safety glasses, hearing protection, cotton clothing, leather shoes), a hammer, a few simple tools, and perhaps some steel (depending on what you are planning to make). It may be necessary to bring a lunch and some water, depending on what is provided for the demonstrators. Check with the coordinator before the event.

**What do I do?** This can vary depending on the event. You may participate in a large group project, you may assist one of the other demonstrators in a medium sized project, do a big project of your own, or do a bunch of small projects. It is usually a good idea to have several projects in mind and bring materials to do them. S hooks and steak turners are always good items to demonstrate.

**How do I get involved?** Each demonstration event has a coordinator, so contact that person and find out the exact details for that event.

## **What events are coming up?**

- Minnesota Zoo John Deere Days, July 22-23 (Rich Herman 651-322-1623),
- The Little Log House Antique Power Show, July 28-30 (Dick Carlson 651-437-3329),
- Almelund Power Show, August 11-13 (Carl Nordquist 715-866-8807),
- Nowthen Threshing Show, August 18-20 (Bob Fredell 863-389-5119)

(These are Guild-sponsored events)

## Guild membership update

### NEW MEMBERS

Joyce Kennedy  
13125 – 182<sup>nd</sup> St N  
Marine on St Croix, MN 55047  
651-433-2243  
joycelk@frontiernet.net

Shawn Colbert  
Jeff “Geno” Madden  
768 Aldro Lane  
Hudson, WI 54016  
715-386-7031  
jmadden@presenter.cpm

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Michele Lemoine  
1300 W. Medicine Lake Dr  
Minneapolis, MN 55441-4859

(Add these updates to your member directory!)

**Notice to members listed here:  
THIS IS YOUR LAST  
ISSUE of The Forum  
because you haven't paid  
your dues:**

ANDERSON	JULIE
BARTA	ROB & PETER
BAUER	RICHARD II
BECK	ROBERT
BELL	DANIEL
BERGSTROM	SUSAN
BUHAUG	MATTHEW
CARETTI	PAULA
CHILCOTE	DENNIS
CHRISTENSON	GAIL (KERRY OHNSTUD)
CHRISTIAN	GARY
COTTON	HOUSTON
DONELSON	JOHN & JAN
ECKHART	JOHN (HAL)
EDWARDS	RICHARD
EILERTSON	KEITH
FICK	HERB
FIEDLER	TOM
FJETLAND	ROBERT

FLORY	DANIEL & SONJA
FORD	LYNN
GIANFORTE	CARMEN
GLASER	CAPRICE
GRANNIS	ALBERT
GRIESE	JERRY
GUINDON	TOM
GUNDERSON	LANCE
HOGENSON	DONALD
HUTCHINGS	ROME
JACKSON	MARK
JOHNSON	KEITH
KASPARI	JACK
KNAEBLE	ALEX
LARSON	RODNEY
LUCHT	LARRY
MAGNUSON	MIKE
MCDONALD	JOHN
MCEACHRON	MARCIA
MEYERS	STEVE
MORIARTY	JOHN
NELSON	WILLIAM
NIETFELD	DICK
OLFELT-NELSON	BETH
OLSON	OMAR
PRIGGE	RICHARD
RINEHART	WARREN
SALINE	WAYNE
SCHMITT	PETER
SIGNORELLI	MARK
SONNEK	RICHARD
STANAITIS	RICK
STANAITIS	ROCK
STECKMAN	BRYAN
STRUBLE	TOM & DEBBIE
VENSEL	LARRY
VIRNALA	JAMES
WIEDENROTH	GENE
WILDE	ROBERT & AMY
WILMES	LINDA
WILSON & OLSON	CHRIS & GENE
ZITUR	KEN



The handled struck tools class at the school of horseshoeing on May 20, 2006 was a great success. Instructors were Jesse Gavin and Herb Fick. Students pictured above: (front row) Stan Bookout, Mike Kaschner; (back row): Don Halverson, Matt Steere, Don Hammer, Herb Fick, Dan Kaschner, Randy Tuttle, Not pictured Nick Heinen, Jesse Gavin.

Special thanks to Herb for twisting my arm into teaching this class and may he continue to do this service for the education committee.

— Jesse Gavin

### **September puukko knife class at Cannon River Forge**

Mike Blue will be hosting another trip to his Cannon River Forge by Kay Vikstrom from Finland. It is time to start scheduling classes for his visit.

Mike plans to have one class at his shop the weekend before the September conference, September 9 & 10. The purpose is two fold. It pays for Kay's trip here and allows him to attend the conference. Mike says, "He did that the first year he came to visit me and had the time of his life and would not miss the chance again. Plus his good friend, Rauno, is one of our featured demonstrators at the conference. Kay is an artist blacksmith in his own right. This allows us to have two blacksmiths from Finland for the price of one."

It should be a four day class like last year and include forging, heat treatment, handle, and leather. Price including materials will be \$150.

There was interest by several other groups. Mike has a tool box that can travel between classes with some essential things, and Kay will bring some with him for sale. Any class coordinators please contact Mike at [truthforger@hotmail.com](mailto:truthforger@hotmail.com)

Mike says, "I believe that larger international contacts between the Guild of Metalsmiths or any Minnesota group makes us all better for it."

(This is a non-Guild sponsored event)

# Opportunity to demonstrate at Nowthen Threshing Show August 18, 19, 20

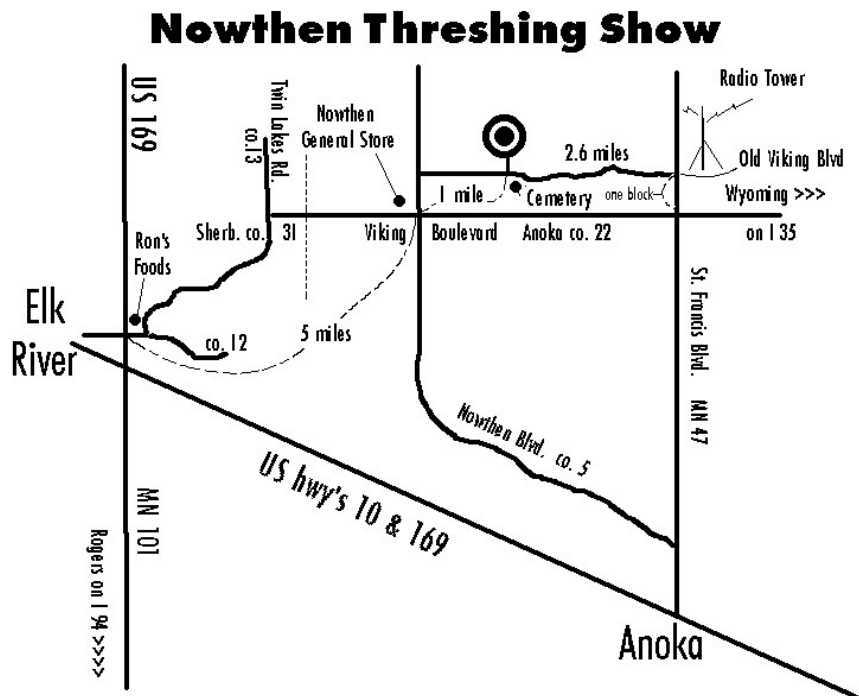
Try your hand at demonstrating your blacksmithing skills at the annual Nowthen Threshing Show, August 18, 19, 20, 2006.

Bob Fredell will pass out a sign up sheet and maps to the show grounds at the August 9 Guild meeting. If you can't attend the August meeting, come on up to the show anyway!

**Contact Bob Fredell for questions.**

Phone: 763-389-5119

Email: [bfredell@msn.com](mailto:bfredell@msn.com)



## Pictorial from June 14 Guild meeting at Cannon River Forge



Mike Blue shows off an example of a forged samurai sword.



Al Olson looks down as Mike Heintz from Century Industrial Sales hands the door prize for the evening, a set of sophisticated safety glasses, over to Dave Feterl.



A representative (2nd from left) from Century Industrial Sales demonstrates abrasives as a guest clockmaker, Pete Stanaitis, and Jim Scott watch.



Gordon Barr (left) takes over the duties of coordinating the Guild of Metalsmiths' beginning blacksmith classes from long-time past coordinator Don Halverson.

# FRIENDS OF THE GUILD OF METALSMITHS

THE GUILD OF METALSMITHS IS A 501C3 CHARITABLE TRUST, MAKING ALL CONTRIBUTIONS OR DONATIONS, TAX DEDUCTABLE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR LIST OF FRIENDS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR PRESIDENT, AL OLSON.

## **DISCOUNTS:**

The following companies are extending discounts to card carrying members of our organization. **You will need to ask for their Guild of Metalsmiths discount, and show them your membership card.**

### **Abrasive Resource**

1-763-586-9595, 1-800-814-7358, [www.abrasiveresource.com](http://www.abrasiveresource.com)

**Discount:** 25% discount for Guild members. Orders under \$100 must be called in to receive discount.

### **Fastenal**

1-651-452-7600, [www.fastenal.com](http://www.fastenal.com)

**Discount:** 10% discount on their published website prices, except power tools, whether you shop online or at a store, for Guild members.

### **Garelick Steel Company**

1-612-521-8857, 1-888-521-8857, [www.garelicksteel.com](http://www.garelicksteel.com)

**Discount:** 10% discount for Guild members.

### **Oxygen Service Co.**

1-320-252-5494, 1-800-252-3275, [www.oxygenservicecompany.com](http://www.oxygenservicecompany.com)

**Discount:** 15% discount on gases and most items that are not already marked as a sale item for Guild members.

### **Smith-Sharpe Fire Brick Supply**

1-612-331-1345, 1-866-545-6743, [www.ssfb.com](http://www.ssfb.com)

**Discount:** The quantity of product purchased dictates the normal "Level" of discount. Smith-Sharpe Fire Brick Supply is offering one discount "Level" better to Guild members. It will vary with types of products, but may average about 10%.

### **Toll Gas and Welding Supply**

1-763-551-5300, [www.tollgas.com](http://www.tollgas.com)

**Discount:** 10% discount on gases and most in-store items, for Guild members.

### **Mississippi Welders Supply**

1-800-657-4422 [www.mwsco.com](http://www.mwsco.com)

**Discount:** 15% discount on gases and most in-store items that are not already marked as a sale item or already at a discount from MSRP for Guild members.

**NOTE:** For more information, go to [www.metalsmith.org](http://www.metalsmith.org)

# Our neighborhood of smiths

*Check this page every month to see what's going on with our neighboring colleagues, and read about activities in their smithing groups.*

## **UMBA**

Visit <http://www.umbaonline.org/events.html>

UMBA library [www.umbaonline.org](http://www.umbaonline.org), 135 DVD-Rs \$5 each \$2 postage lifetime rental

## **Central Minnesota Blacksmiths meeting schedule**

Sat 7/8 Jeremy Knippel's Studio, 30488 Co Rd 3, Merrifield, MN, 218-765-4171

Mon 8/7 Ken Zitur's Studio, 37634 Co Rd 9, Avon, MN 320-746-2557

Mon 9/11 Brian Johnson's Studio, 16777 Co Rd 75 NW, Clearwater, MN, 320-558-6898

Mon 10/2 Al Garber's Studio, 2566 90th St NE, Monticello, MN, 763-295-4632

Mon 11/13 Russ Karasch's Studio, 640 Chinook Av SW, Avon, MN, 320-356-7125

Sat 12/9 Ken Zitur's Studio, 37634 Co Rd 9, Avon, MN 320-746-2557

## **Badger Blacksmiths meetings**

For information, call Don Hogenson at 715-265-4701 or email Richard Prigge at [rcprigg@centurytel.net](mailto:rcprigg@centurytel.net)

## **Lake Superior Metalsmiths**

Lake Superior Metalsmiths (LSM) meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. from May through September. The meetings are potluck at 6:00 p.m. at Dave Hanson's house, 5873 Taft Road, Duluth, Minnesota, 218-721-4572.

## **Northern Minnesota Metalsmiths**

The NMM meetings are the first Monday of the month. Often, but not always, at Keith Johnson's shop in Bemidji. Contact Keith for monthly specifics at [keith@greatriverforge.com](mailto:keith@greatriverforge.com)

## **Central Texas Blacksmiths**

To read their online newsletters, go to <http://balconesforge.org/newsletters/feb06/feb06.pdf> If that does not work, then just head to [www.balconesforge.org](http://www.balconesforge.org) and the newsletter section is easy to find.

# Goings on...



## **Events in July**

- July 5-8, ABANA Conference, Seattle WA
- July 19, Guild board of directors meeting (THIS IS A CHANGE!!)
- July 28-30, Little Log House Antique Power Show

## **Events in August**

- Aug. 5 & 6, Hammer-In at John Deere Historic Site, Grand Detour Illinois
- Aug. 9, Guild membership meeting, Dave Olin's shop in Mendota
- Aug. 11-13, Almelund Power Show
- Aug. 18-20, Nowthen Threshing Show

## **Events in September**

- Sept. 15, 16, 17, GOM Fall Conference, Little Log House

## **Events in October**

- Sept. 30, Oct. 1, Tunnel Mill annual get-together
- Oct. 11, Guild membership meeting, TBA
- Oct 12, 13, 14, Tom Latane workshop