The Forum

November 2006 Guild of Metalsmiths Vol. 8, No. 11

Invitation to forge pioneer-era cooking utensils or tools for exhibit at Wright County Historical Society

Guild member Chris Wilson brought up a situation at the last meeting atChuckar Water Jet. If Guild members would make some pioneer era COOKING utensils or tools, and allow the Wright County Historical Society in Buffalo, MN to display them, then the WCHS will keep Paul Hubler's shop mockup on display for a while longer.

The museum wants a few items which have been hand-crafted and would be reflective of pioneer kitchens.

Chris says she will document and label whatever is brought to the December.meeting and deliver these items to the museum. She also agrees to bring them back to the next meeting after this exhibit ends. The displays are well done, with items secured. Separate agreements will be mailed by the museum to all who provide items for display. Please include your complete mailing address with the item label as well as the name of the metal worker if it was not yourself, and an estimate of the value of the item.

Contact Chris if you have questions: Chris@ChrisWilsonStudios.com

For those of you who haven't been around the Guild for a while, Paul Hubler passed away several years ago, but was and is famous for his talents and contributions to the Guild. Our highest Guild award carries his name, along with Ollie Juare's name .

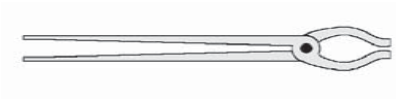
The Guild owns some of Paul's tools and items which are currently on display at the Wright County Heritage Center, 2001 Hwy 25 North, Buffalo, MN 55313, 763-682-7323. If and when they terminate this exhibit, we will have to crate up these things and store them somewhere.

This is a chance to keep them on display for you and the public to see, if we can tie them into their new exhibit theme of COOKING. Obviously we know that blacksmiths would have made cooking items, from rough to fine.

If nothing comes to mind, thumb through an appropriate book for inspiration (check the GOM library), and forge out an item for this cause. Off hand I can think of: Knives, forks, spoons, ladles, pots, pans, pot racks, trammel, fireplace tools and boom, those handles for lifting the lids on a wood stove, pie safe with punched tin panels, light fixtures, wisk, spatulas, trivets, ash shovels/bucket .... there are many more possibilities.

Forum deadline for November: Monday, Nov. 20, 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, Nov. 20, 2006 to **Georgia Myers**, editor, by e-mail to:
forum@metalsmith.org
(e-mails will be forwarded to Georgia Myers), or to
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 or
gmyers@rconnect.com

Guild educational grants

There is grant money available for Guild members to study intermediate and advanced metal-working 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

Guild Video Review; T-8, 1992 Metalsmith Madness

Reviewed by Pete Stanaitis

Jack Brubaker, a professional artist blacksmith from Nashville, Indiana is the featured demonstrator in this 6 hour and 40 minute video. There are a few short segments on other subjects. The most notable of them is Keith Johnson demonstrating the hand forging of gun barrels.

This video was shot over the "Madness" weekend in September of 1992 at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. Although it will have broad appeal the anyone interested in blacksmithing, this tape will have a particular fit to those who would like to begin working metals other than ferrous. and those who have a production orientation. In fact anyone who saw Jack back in 1992 and thought about getting into other metals ought to review this tape now. It is loaded with information and ideas. The audio is very good and the anvil he uses has very little "ring".

After giving us a little personal background Jack gets into his demonstrations.

While demonstrating, he discusses general characteristics, forging techniques, applications, finishes and patinas for bronzes in general, aluminum bronze in some detail, copper, aluminum and stainless steel. He makes several projects, too.

All through the tape he gives us his philosophy of design with examples of how the process works within him. "The initial thing that gets you to make money is *Design*", Jack says.

No business can survive for long without customers and some way to get them to buy your product. Jack discusses marketing, customer base, wholesaling vs. retail sales, and pricing your work.

Jig & fixture design and use are very important to Jacks success. He covers them in some detail. Power hammers and other power equipment are in constant use in his shop. As he demonstrates on Bob Fredell's newly refurbished 25# Little Giant, he discusses power hammers, tooling and how he converted his shop from Little Giants to air hammers. As an example of power hammer tooling, he carefully describes a handy pair of combination drawing and tapering dies and explains how he uses them.

Later in the video, Jack shows a little over an hour of slides of his work with a lively running commentary. A very good segment! And later, while making a unique version of one of his trademark candlesticks, Jack gives an informative monologue on copyright law, punctuated with his own personal experiences.

This is a great tape for anyone who is in the production mode themselves or even considering it. Again, this video is over 6 hours in length. It should be seen in segments to get the most out of it.

Auction at Holiday Meeting Dec. 10

This year's conference was a great time for all, but during the cleaning up process we discovered a box of items that were intended to be included in the Saturday Night auction that had been missed. Rather than waiting until next year's conference, the Program Committee has decided to add some demonstrator items from the second day of the conference and donate these items to an auction to be held at the annual meeting on December 10.

Items included in the auction include:

* Tuition for a Little Giant Workshop at Little Giant Power Hammer (Nebraska)
* T Shirt
* Slitting Chisel
* Scrolling Tongs
* Tongs (5/16 x 2 ¼)
* Books
* Francis Wittaker – Beautiful Iron
* Francis Wittaker - My life as an Artist Blacksmith
* Alexander Weygers – Complete Modern Blacksmith
* Rauno Lehtonen Demo Pieces (see picture below)
* Clay Spencer Flatter/Fuller tool (see picture below)

So start setting aside those dimes now to bring to the December meeting and bid on these fine items.

Rauno Lehtonen demo pieces

Tire Power Hammer Workshop Under Consideration

At the Madness there was a lot of interest expressed in the new Tire Power Hammer demonstrated by Clay Spencer. This hammer is based on a design developed originally by Ray Clotz as one of the entries in the Junkyard Hammers competition. Ray did further refinements to the original design and Clay Spencer has taken the result to demo around the country for various groups. Many of the groups he has demonstrated for have taken Clay up on his offer to help in the assembly of a group of hammers in a workshop. At this time, over 90 of these hammers have been built around the country and additional workshops are planned for the near future.

The hammer being built is like the one pictured (picture is courtesy of the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association) and is similar in design to a Little Giant style power hammer. The weight of the hammer head is about 50 pounds and the whole unit weighs approximately 800 pounds. The hammer operates using a 1 HP 110 volt electric motor connected to a 20 amp circuit. The upper and lower flat dies are bolted onto the hammer and the operator can use various spring tools utilizing a square hole tool holder mounted beside the lower die. The spring tools used have a stem welded on the bottom of the spring that drops in the hole, similar to dropping a spring tool into a hardy hole on top of a regular anvil.

Members interested in participating in the hammer-building workshop have to be willing to participate in the assembly work and help find parts for the hammer. Preliminary work will be done on a couple of weekends to do cutting and layout of simple parts. Final assembly will be over a 3-day weekend with the help of Clay Spencer. Total cost for workshop will be approximately $900-$1200, depending on how good we are at scrounging parts for the hammers and members will each take home one of these hammers.

The schedule for workshop dates and payment terms are yet to be determined.

If you are interested or would like more information, contact Rich Herman at racherman@frontiernet.net or call at 651-322-1623. Names and contact information are being collected, final details and an opportunity to register for this workshop will be provided to those interested.

New members

Mark Boe
Steele County Ironworks
559 Phelps St
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-455-0120
sci@11.net

Wayne Axelson
7244 Elliot Ave So
Richfield, MN 55423
612-869-8777
hectron@black-hole.com

Joseph Rud
5712 W 39th St
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
952-920-5092

Bryan Carlson
1814 Pleasant St
Lauderdale, MN 55113

Address changes

Gary Hill
50569 – 218th Pl
McGregor, MN 55760-5592

Melanie Ewing
6300 Highway 169 N
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428-1835

Subject: **Pure Iron sample request**

Wagner Companies has put up a Pure Iron sample request form online. Please direct anyone requesting a sample to this page. Wagner Companies will then ship them a sample once we receive material in June.
http://www.wagnercompanies.com/domains/wagnercompanies/files/form/PureIronSample.aspx

You can also get to the link by clicking on it from the Pure Iron page within www.wagnercompanies.com

— Rome Hutchings

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, 135 DVD-Rs $5 each $2 postage lifetime rental

Central Minnesota Blacksmiths meeting schedule

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

Lake Superior Metalsmiths

Lake Superior Metalsmiths (LSM) meet the fourth Saturday of the month at noon from October through April. The meetings are potluck at noon 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

Central Texas Blacksmiths

To read their online newsletter, go to
http://balconesforge.org/newsletters/aug06/aug06.pdf
If that does not work, then just head to www.balconesforge.org and the newsletter section is easy to find.

Vancouver Island Blacksmiths Assoc.

Here is the link to the Vancouver Island Blacksmiths Assoc newsletter for August: http://viblacksmiths.com/newsletters/viba_august_2006.pdf

Goings on...

Events in November

- Nov. 4 & 5, Forge Welding Class at MN School of Horseshoeing.
- Nov. 8, Guild board of directors meeting, Myron Hanson's in Eagan.
- Nov. 11, 2nd session Beginning Blacksmithing A Class

Events in December

- Dec. 2, 3rd session Beginning Blacksmithing A Class•
- Dec. 10, Guild holiday membership meeting, CSPS Hall, St. Paul, no details yet.
- Dec. 16, 4th session Beginning Blacksmithing A Class

Odds 'n Ends

All Beginning Blacksmithing Classes filled

All beginner's blacksmithing classes are filled. If you wish to be put on the B or C waiting list, please call or email Gordon Barr.
Phone: 952-894-4821
Email: agbarr@aol.com

Notice about Guild discounters

If you use the Guild discounters, be sure to update your list from the website table at http://www.metalsmith.org/index-discount_v2.htm

Thank You!

Dear Guild Members,
Thank you! We loved the flower bouquet that you sent us on our wedding day.
Roland and Stacy Sigurdson

News from Tunnel Mill...

We had a great weekend at the Fall gathering, with a record number of attendees, and all had a good time.

We just finished a class with Tom Latane' on some grave marker and embellishment techniques, and we are planning a two-part class in April & October, 2007 with Tom. The project will be a chest.

We already have a number of interested potential students. If interested, give us a call at 507-289-5246.

Also in the works, a cooper hammered vessel class.

— John and Carol Adams