

The Forum



January 2012

Vol. 14, No. 1

February 8, 2012 membership meeting set

Oxygen Service Company at 1111 Pierce Butler Route, St. Paul, MN, 55104, will host the February 8 Guild membership meeting. They are an employee owned welding supply company and will offer a safety presentation/oxyfuel seminar by welding instructor Pam Lesemann.

There will also be a plasma cutting demo and if time permits, a wirefeed demo with the opportunity for members to actually try out the equipment. The retail store will also be open.

They didn't specifically mention any 'deals' that will be available in the store, but they usually treat us well. OSC was one of the companies that donated to the fall conference auction.

So don't forget to mark your calendar now and meet on Feb. 8 at 6:30 pm at OSC for the first TGoM potluck of 2012! The business meeting will follow the potluck, with demos following that.



John Adams, long-time Guild member, is 2011 recipient of the Juaire-Hubler award, TGOM's highest honor.



2011 Juaire-Hubler award earned by John Adams

At the 2011 annual meeting, and as one of the final duties of an outgoing Guild of Metalsmiths president, Rich Herman was proud to announce that the 2011 recipient of the Juaire-Hubler award. John Adams, long-time Guild member, was nearly speechless as he accepted the tribute and the plaque at TGOM's December meeting. "I didn't think it was possible," John simply said.

The award is presented annually to a Guild member who has given of his or her time and knowledge of the skill and art of metalsmithing.

The December meeting was the final one for Rich Herman as president. A newly-elected president, Al Olson, will take over that post for 2012. Below is the slate of officers who will serve in 2012.

President: Al Olson
Vice-President: Rick Wessling
Treasurer: Mike Fratallone
Recorder: Chris Rand

Newly elected (or re-elected) to the Board for TGOM are:

Marty Hicks
Martin Pansch
Jim Moenck

They will serve on the board for 2012 along with Roland Sigurdson, Gordon Barr, Darryl Ponder, and Rob Murray.

See page 4 for more details and photos from the annual meeting.

Forum deadline for February: Monday, Jan. 16, 2012

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, Jan. 16, 2012 to Georgia Myers, editor, by email to:

gldmyers@embarqmail.com

or mail them to:

Georgia Myers
413 W Dakota St
Lake City MN 55041

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Badger Blacksmiths meetings

Our contact information is as follows:

President: Brad Hegge

715-983-2131

heggeco@trivest.net

Newsletter editor: John Grump

715-835-0894

johngrump@att.net

Lake Superior Metalsmiths

Lake Superior Metalsmiths (LSM) meet the fourth Saturday of the month. Potluck at noon with meeting to follow.

Contacts are:

Norm Groehler, President, 715-399-8151

normanwgroehler@centurytel.net

Jim Sage, Vice President, 218-525-7265

sageforge@cs.com

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. The Northern Minn. Metalsmith's website is www.nmmetalsmiths.org

Central Minnesota Blacksmiths (CMB)

Meet on the first Monday of each month

Pot Luck followed by demo

Locations are different every month so please call or write for info

Contacts are:

President: Ken Zitur

1-320-746-2557

ken@kensiron.com

Brian Johnson

16777 Co Rd 75 NW

Clearwater MN 55367

1-320-558-6898

New Members

Todd & Angie Epp

David Williams

Monticello, MN

Jay Westwater

St Paul, MN

Randy Mcpeck

Minneapolis, MN

Beginning Blacksmithing Classes Feb. 18 and 19, 2012

In these beginner class you will learn the basics:

- √ Shop safety
- √ The correct tools used for blacksmithing (large and small),
- √ Proper hammer techniques (drawing out, curling, notching, twists, and hot punching)
- √ How to start and maintain a coal forge
- √ Proper stance
- √ Basic forging skills
- √ Shop layout and so much more.

Cost is \$100 for the 2 day class. Class time 9 - 4 each day.
Ken Zitur, instructor, Avon, MN.

****Please call MaryLou Zitur to reserve your class spot****
320-746-2557

Note: This information is provided as a service for our members. Members may submit items for sale and upcoming events that are considered relevant to our group, and they will be published as space permits. The Guild of Metalsmiths is not responsible for these items or events.

Blacksmith Demonstrators Needed

The City/Chamber of Morton will be hosting Birch Coulee Days on Aug. 31-Sept. 1-2 of 2012. We are looking for individuals to demonstrate blacksmithing. Call 507-697-6912 for details.

From:

Shirley Dove

mortoncityhall@mchsi.com

Struck Tools Workshop

Date Saturday, March 17

Time 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Instructor: Jim Scott

Cost: \$45

Class size: 8

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (map below)

The day will include: **preparing a punch, slitting chisel and drift.** These are normal length hand held tools without handles. We will be hand forging as individuals. Material used will be GM automotive coil spring stock, presumed to be 5160 alloy.

You will need: **your pet hammer, hearing and eye protection and proper clothing.**

For this class students should have some previous forging experience.

For background, go to the meetings and ask those who have participated in the past. They seem to be quite enthusiastic. Many of the Guild members have participated in the beginning blacksmith classes. I believe the best opportunities for follow on training are the preparation and restoration of tools, which requires a basic comfort with heat treating struck tools.

Jim will offer this comfort in a one day workshop at the Minnesota School of Horseshoeing on March 5.

The stock and expertise is supplied by Jim. Arrangements made by Herb Fick.

Register for this class by sending a check for \$45 written to The Guild of Metalsmiths to:

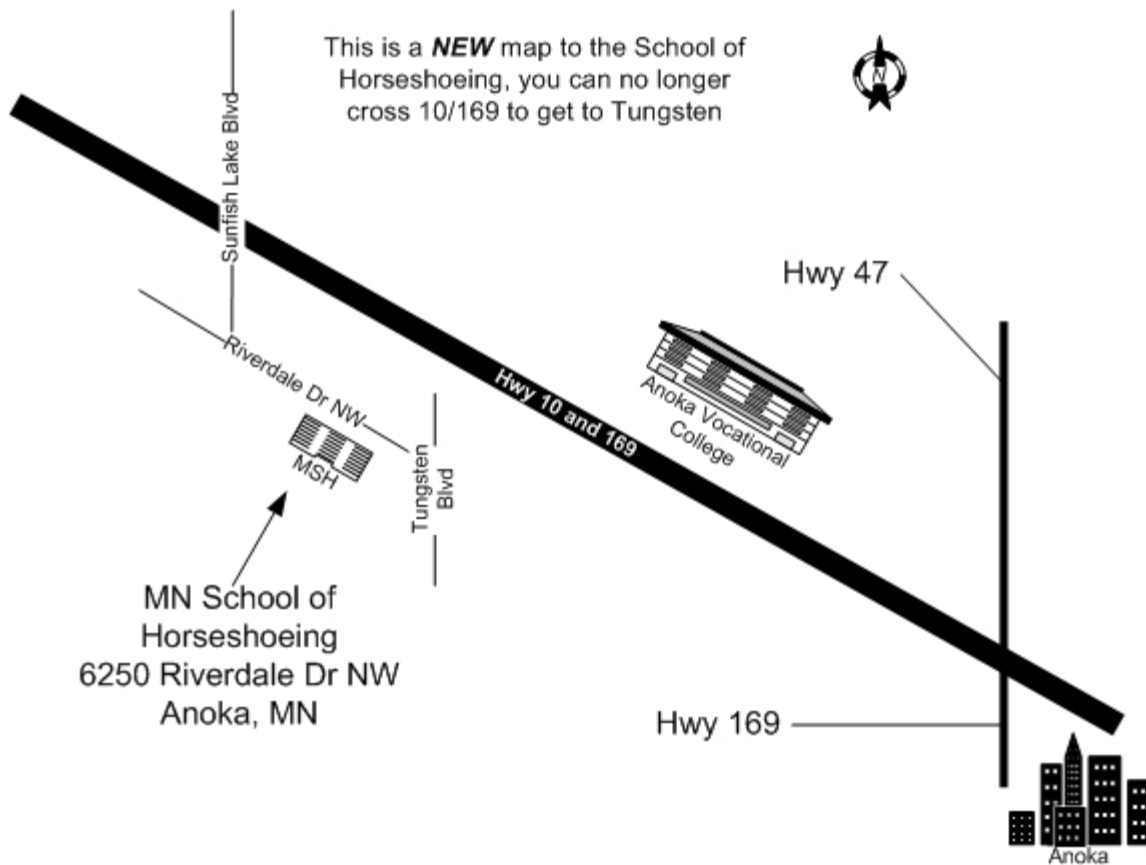
Herb Fick
519 East Eighth Street
Northfield, MN 55057-2508

Contact Herb with questions:

herb@phyque.com

507 663 0569

507 649 1611 (cell)



Festive TGOM annual meeting!

Members and families of The Guild of Metalsmiths gathered on December 12 to celebrate the holidays, elect new slates of officers and board, and bestow a tribute to one deserving member.

John Adams received the Juare/Hubler award for his continued support and contributions to TGOM's mission of educating the public about metalsmithing. See page one for photo.

The new slate of officers for 2012 is Al Olson, President; Rick Wessling, Vice-President; Mike Frattalone, Treasurer; Chris Rand, Recorder. Members warmly thanked Rich Herman for his years of service as TGOM's president. On behalf of TGOM, Rob Murray presented Rich with a hand-forged hammer as a token of appreciation.

TGOM board members for 2012 are:

Marty Hicks
Martin Pansch
Gordon Barr
Roland Sigurdson
Darryl Ponder
Rob Murray
Jim Moenck



In addition to thanks for his years of service, outgoing president Rich Herman (left) was presented with a hand-forged hammer on behalf of TGoM by Board member Rob Murray.



Guild members examine the many exhibits on the "show and tell" table during the Guild's annual meeting on December 12, 2011.

The Guild welcomes proud new blacksmiths after beginner classes finished

The last class for the A session of Beginning Blacksmithing was December 3. The curriculum for this year incorporated the ABANA Controlled Hand Forging series adopted by the Education Committee, so in addition to a learning experience for the students, it was also a learning experience for the instructors to ensure the skills were all presented in the same way.

When you encounter any of the new blacksmiths, please take the opportunity to welcome them into the Guild.

These classes would not be possible if not for volunteer instructors Rick Herman, Rick Wessling, Larry Wasmund, Jim Peterson, Steven Olivo, and Wayne Olson, who did a great job.

— Al Lindholm



New blacksmiths

(l to r) Nick Audet, James Goetting, Mike Follet, Grant Stromgren, Teresa Lhotka, Marcus Lhotka, Joshana Anderson, and Noah Keyes



Program Committee shares their activities

Hello again, here is another brief view into the program committee. This month's meeting was a little quieter than last, maybe because nobody brought sweets? As usual we went over the upcoming meetings. February and April are pretty much set up (details elsewhere here in the Forum).

A number of committee members are planning on going to the ABANA conference in Rapid City in July (it will be my first time to one).

There was a lot conversation on having an occasional themed meeting, one topic was all about Jigs, fixtures and tooling (what defines what, and what are peoples favorites in their shops). Another topic that brought a lot of discussion was forging and finishing stainless steel. I was unfamiliar with the term for the finish resurfacing called "passivation", it apparently can put out some significantly risky fumes (good to know). It also seems to be something you really have to set up for, being you need hot acid to do it. One other idea that came up was issues with working silicon bronze, no specific health concerns were brought up but it seemed there are clear differences in how it is worked though no in-depth discussion immediately followed.

After the meeting was officially adjourned two people got into a discussion of repousse' work and associated pitch and other useful materials.

There were undoubtedly other discussions I missed, but if you have any ideas or hoped for plans let someone know!

Pounding along,

Derrick Phillips, Program Committee member

Some notes on Jon Hankes, his contributions to The Guild of Metalsmiths, and to its members

Jon Jay Hankes, age 71, originally of Hastings, Minn., died December 19, 2011. He was a sweet and loving son, father, grandfather, and devoted friend. He opened his heart and extended himself to the world. Jeweler, blacksmith, glass blower, photographer, and masseuse, he was a master of everything he pursued.

Jon Jay touched the lives of many and he will be dearly missed by his children, Alicia, Jason, Jeremy, Billye, and the grandbabies, Xavier, Ruby, River, and Rylan.

Jon Jay's Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Hastings, Minn. on Tuesday, December 27, 2011. Several Guild of Metalsmiths members were in attendance. We roughly counted 14.



Jon joined the Guild of Metalsmiths in 1983. Pete and Sheri Stanaitis met Jon at his home at a Madness in about 1985. He was a wonderful jeweler. Pete bought a piece of silver and willow creek jasper for me at another madness at the U of W campus, River Falls. We became good friends and have many more pieces of his work. We have had an opportunity to know his family. Jon had the gift of hospitality and had a giving heart. He was also a caregiver who spent many years helping daughter Billye with her children, his grandchildren, and taking care two elderly aunts. He and his son Jason had a business together. His friend Tibor Kovacs said that he was a man of steel with a heart of velvet.

Jon taught classes for the Madness and always donated sterling silver Madness pins. The Guild education committee tapped him many times for classes, too. His Native American roots took him on a journey to make ceremonial drums, to have sweat lodge meetings and gatherings with friends at his St. Croix home.

Jon, you are loved and will be sadly missed.

From Sheri and Pete Stanaitis

Thoughts from Bob Walsh:

Jon was a very honorable man who pursued noble goals. Jon was all about doing the right thing.

Here is a Jon Hankes story:

Jon once owned what is now the Saint Croix Beach. Because it is/was a good swimming and tanning location, the public adopted the beach before Jon sold it to the county. When it was still Jon's, one day he was down at his beach. There were a number of young adults having a party on the beach. The young adults then migrated down the beach, leaving all their empty cans and trash on Jon's beach. Jon had a blanket in his car. He took the blanket down to the mess and put all the trash in the blanket. He then put the blanket with the trash in the trunk of his car. About that time, the partiers drove past him, so he followed them home. He then got out of his car and dumped all the trash in their front yard, explaining, that they had left their trash on his beach.

This was Jon. Jon had principles and was not afraid to do the right thing when it needed to be done. The world could use more people like Jon Hankes. Jon will be missed.

Sincerely,

Robert Walsh

News from Tunnel Mill

Tunnel Mill is located 85-100 miles south of the Twin Cities in the country five miles north of Spring Valley, MN on County Road 1.

Contact for class registration:

Carol and John Adams, 507-289-4189 or 507-289-5246

Email: jc-adams@msn.com;

Website: www.tunnelmillcrafts.com



2012 Upcoming Classes...

Tinsmithing, Kitty Latane', April 21 and April 22, 2012 (two one-day classes)

Come to Tunnel Mill and learn a century-old craft, Tinsmithing with Kitty Latane' from Pepin, Wisc. Design and make your one of a kind tin cookie cutter and other simple tin projects, including flour scoops and candle scones. In this one day workshop you'll learn traditional techniques for cutting, shaping, and soldering tin plate. \$65.00 per day plus \$15.00 material cost. Limit of 10 students. Class 9am to 5pm. Bring sack lunch.

Seventeenth Century Battle Axe or Hewing Hatchet, Tom Latane', April 20, 21, and 22, 2012

Students will forge an axe with a tapered rectangular eye socket. This shapely early form is made up of three pieces rather than the two used to produce an axe with a simple wrapped eye.

Parts will be forged to shape from 1/4" and 1/2" thick mild steel, forge welded together and further forged to refine. A high carbon steel bit will be welded between layers of low carbon steel, shaped, hardened and tempered. Students wishing to create a hewing hatchet may leave the blade thicker and less broad with the high carbon steel welded to one side rather than in the center of the edge. The low carbon body of the axe will remain soft enough that it can be decorated cold with punches (at home if there is not time in class) as the early ones were.

Class cost, time of day, and other details coming soon.



Crucifix Making Workshop, Bob Fredell, June 2 & 3, 2012

A number of years ago Bob saw Bernard Heer, a former Guild of Metalsmiths member who apprenticed in Switzerland, forge a crucifix. Having now made several himself, Bob now wants to share with others the making of a crucifix using this specific process. The 18 inch tall crucifix is made with one continuous piece of steel from the crown of thorns down to the base of the cross and up to the three tips of the cross. The participants need to have basic forging skills because the demonstrations will use modeling clay, not hot forged steel. Short demonstrations with modeling clay allows more time for the participants to work on the project.

The workshop is taught by Bob Fredell, a hobbyist blacksmith since 1981. Bob is a past president of The Guild of Metalsmiths during which time he emphasized blacksmithing education and established the Education Committee. Bob along with Pete Stanaitis established the present day Basic Blacksmithing Workshop, the Instructors' Workshop and wrote the Blacksmith Study Guide. You usually see him at Guild of Metalsmiths events with his lovely bride, Mary.



Cage head brace, Peter Ross, June 4, 5 and 6, 2012

Project to be determined, Peter Ross, June 8, 9, and 10.

Watch for more details coming soon.

NOTE: We have had quite of alot of interest in Tom Latane' and Peter Rosses' classes. Be sure to contact us and register if interested in a class, to secure your spot.

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Goings on...



A calendar of TGOM events at a glance

- All Education Committee meetings are the first Monday of each month.
- All Program Committee meetings are the third Thursday of each month.
- All membership meetings are the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, and October, except December for the holiday gathering. For most meetings a potluck meal begins at 6:30 pm and the business meeting begins at 7, with a demonstration or activity starting around 8 (times approximate).
- All board meetings are the second Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Potluck meal begins at 6:30, with meeting starting at 7 pm.

Events in January, 2012

- Jan. 7, Beginning Blacksmithing B1 class, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Jan. 11, Guild board meeting
- Jan. 14, Beginning Blacksmithing B2 class, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Jan. 23, Beginning Blacksmithing B3 class, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Jan. 28, Beginning Blacksmithing B4 class, MN School of Horseshoeing

Events in February, 2012

- Feb. 8, Guild membership meeting at Oxygen Service Company, 1111 Pierce Butler Route, St. Paul, MN 55104
- Feb. 11, Beginning Blacksmithing C1 class, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Feb. 25, Beginning Blacksmithing C2 class, MN School of Horseshoeing

Events in March, 2012

- March 10, Beginning Blacksmithing C3 class, MN School of Horseshoeing
- March 14, Guild board meeting
- March 17, Struck Tools Workshop, MN School of Horseshoeing
- March 24, Beginning Blacksmithing C4 class, MN School of Horseshoeing

Events in April, 2012

- April 11, Guild membership meeting at Oakeshotte Institute in St. Paul, MN.

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PO Box 11423
St. Paul MN 55111

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Address Service Requested

Your membership expires at the date & month next to your name. Please send your renewal dues to the above address.

January 2012

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Join The Bellows, our email discussion forum. Information at:
<http://www.metalsmith.org/bb/TheBellows.htm>

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.

The Guild of Metalsmiths on the web:

Visit our website at <http://www.metalsmith.org>

Looking for something? Try the search engine. On our main page, just below the index table, click on “Search this Site,” and enter your query.

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