

The Forum

March 2012



Vol. 14, No. 3

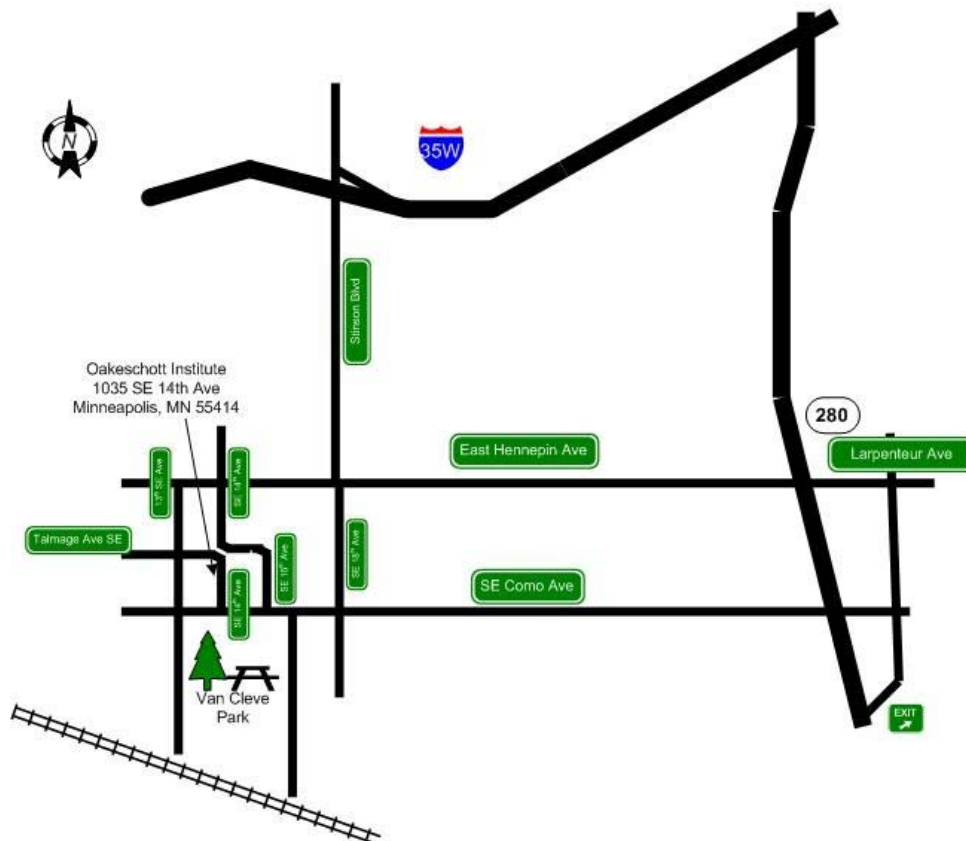
April 11 TGoM meeting to highlight discoveries of blacksmithing significance at recent Fort Snelling dig

The April 11 membership meeting will be a presentation by Tom Sanders, a Guild member, who was instrumental in developing the interpretive program at the Historic Fort Snelling blacksmith shop.

In the 1970s an archeological dig was done and many artifacts were discovered in the blacksmiths shop. Tom was then part of the five year project to analyze what was found and begin to tell the story of who those soldier blacksmiths were, how the shop was set up, and what was made.

Tom has a background in archeology and blacksmithing, specializing in ancient technologies with a focus on native Americans and early American immigrants. He will share with us what was discovered at the Fort-Snelling blacksmith's shop and what we can learn from what was found.

We'll gather for this meeting **at Oakeshott Institute** at 1035 SE 14th Avenue in Minneapolis (map below) for our traditional potluck supper at 6:30 pm. The business meeting follows, and then sit back to listen to Tom Sanders share what was learned during the five-year archeological dig. Should be fascinating, people! Susan Wood, meeting champion, suggests we all wear warm clothing, as the heat may not be turned on in the building. Visit the Fort Snelling website here: <http://www.historicfortsnelling.org/>



Forum deadline for April: Monday, March 19, 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, March 19, 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

Our neighborhood of smiths

UMBA

Visit <http://www.umbaonline.ning.com> (NEW WEBSITE!)

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Never return them to library - www.umbaonline.ning.com

Badger Blacksmiths meetings

Our contact information is as follows:

President: Brad Hegge

Newsletter editor: John Grump

715-983-2131

715-835-0894

heggeco@triwest.net

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

Note: The NMM Spring Conference is April 28 & 29 near Park Rapids. Contact Keith for details and registration information.

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

Brian Johnson

1-320-746-2557

16777 Co Rd 75 NW

ken@kensiron.com

Clearwater MN 55367

1-320-558-6898

Welcome, New Members!

Michael Picard

Robert Pappa

Blaine, MN

Robert Erickson

Mahtomedi, MN

Lecture: Learn how actual 1790 automaton was restored

If you have heard about or seen the academy award nominated movie *Hugo*, the mechanical figure in the movie is based on an actual automaton built by Henri Maillardet about 1790. In 2007 this automaton was restored to working order by Andrew Baron, a designer and restorer of vintage mechanisms. The Minnesota Clockmakers Guild is co-sponsoring a lecture by Mr. Baron detailing the process and issues involved in the restoration of this complex piece of machinery. Pencil in the evening of Friday, May 4, 2012 to join us for a most interesting presentation. Details on location and time will be available soon. Contact Susan Wood with any questions 612 727 1752.



For a quick look, go to the website of the Franklin Institute Science Museum, who owns the automaton at: www.fi.edu/pieces/knox/automaton/home.htm

Help Wanted!

Fine metalwork atelier, located in NYC area, wants to hire several highly skilled journeymen/craftsmen. We require a minimum of 5 years of practical experience in fine metalwork: forging, traditional metal assembly (tenons, mortises, rivets...). All types of welding, lathe, milling...practice is a must.

Our production ranges from stair railings, guardrails, doors with grilles, small metal furniture, light fixtures...in classical or contemporary style.

Please send with your resume and portfolio of your achievements to: Julien Legeard at julien.legeard@l-m-c.com, LMC Corp. 77 2nd Avenue, Paterson, NJ 07514.

Compensation: - Competitive base salary commensurate with experience.

Blacksmith Shop Open House

Ken and MaryLou Zitur, owners of Ken's Custom Iron, are having an open house on Saturday, March 17, 2012. They would like to invite everyone interested to come and tour their shop and introduce to you the KZ100 Power Hammer. The KZ100 Power Hammer is a 100lb utility hammer with steam hammer style linkage that Ken has recently built. Check out the KZ100 Power Hammer on their website www.kensiron.com. Everyone is welcome. The address is as follows:

Ken and MaryLou Zitur / Ken's Custom Iron

37634 Co. Rd. 9

Avon, MN 56310

(From interstate 94 take the Avon exit #153 and go North 5 miles.

They are on right side of the road, Fire #875).

320-746-2557 or Ken@kensiron.com

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.

Forging a Beaver Trap

Saturday, March 31 and

Saturday, April 28

Start time 9:00 a.m. both days

Cost: \$75 per student

Max class size: 8; minimum: 6

Where: MN School of Horseshoeing (map below)

Instructors: Tom Sanders and Martin Pansch

Class description: The double spring beaver trap was one of the staples of the fur trade. While the traps themselves are not as popular nowadays, they are still an excellent exercise in a number of blacksmith skills. Students will be expected to be able to slit, split, punch, drift, file, forge weld, shoulder, taper, forge spring steel to thin, uniform thickness, and temper steel by flashing (not the trench coat kind) and forge multiple parts that will fit together. In some steps students will find it advantageous to strike for each other. This class is for people with intermediate to advanced blacksmithing ability. The class will be two days roughly a month apart but even so students might have difficulty completing their trap entirely within the class time (read: some homework might be required). Join us in this deceptively complex project.

Bring: your favorite blacksmithing hammer, tongs for handling 5/8" square stock, 3/16" flat stock, a good selection of files, 1" slitting chisel, cutting plate, center punch, 7/16" round punch, small (3/16") square or rectangular punch, medium (3/4" or smaller) oval or round drifts, and flux. A 3/8" round spring fuller or top and bottom tool as well as a flatter and sledge hammer might prove useful, but there should be a couple floating around for your use.

Safety equipment: safety glasses and ear plugs are mandatory. Other safety equipment may include gloves, leather apron, cotton clothing, leather shoes.

Lunch arrangements: Either bring a bag lunch with you or money to dine at some of the fine eating establishments in the area.

To register, send a check for \$75 made out to The Guild of Metalsmiths to:

Martin Pansch

8750 Yale Avenue

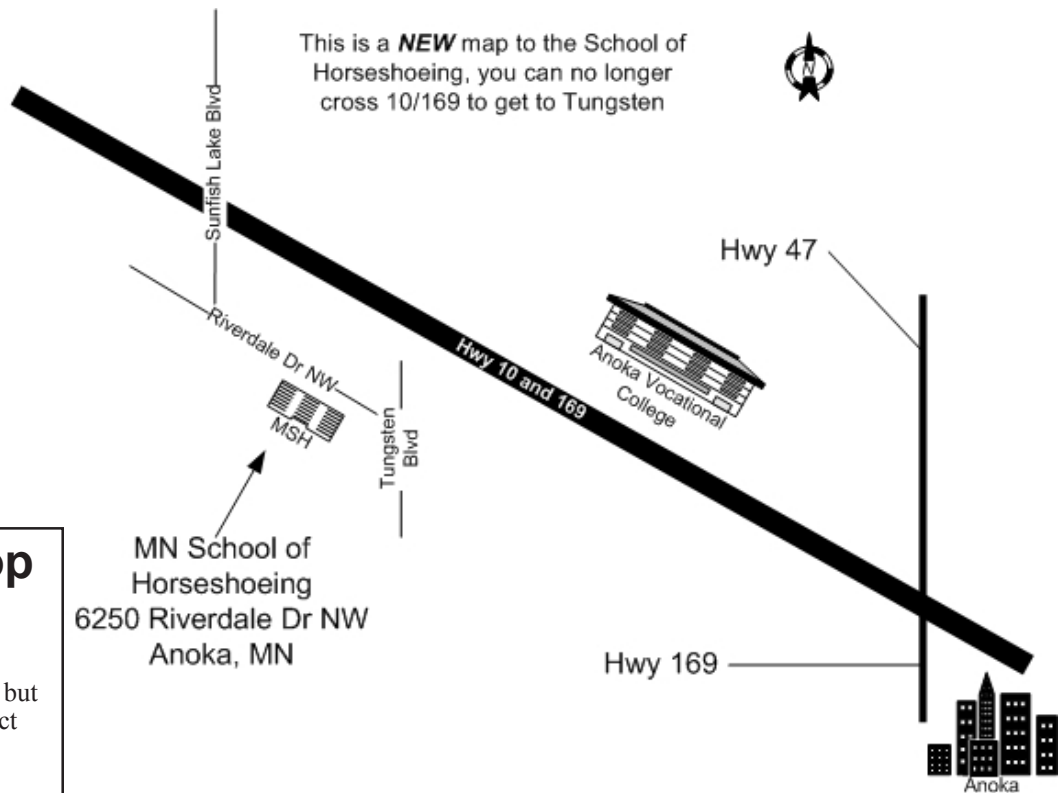
Young America, MN 55397

612-599-4762

blacksmithingyeti@gmail.com



Actual trap will have two springs.



Struck Tools Workshop - FULL!

Date Saturday, March 17

Herb Fick, champion, says this class is full but he's still taking names for a waiting list. Contact him at:

herb@phyque.com

507 663 0569

507 649 1611 (cell)

Introduction to Bladesmithing Class

Dates: April 21 and May 5 (2-day class)

Instructor: Paul Widenhoefer

Cost: \$100 per student



This is a class aimed at someone who is interested in making a knife, but hasn't had much experience yet. People signing up for this class should have completed the basic blacksmithing classes put on by the Guild, or the equivalent (please check with the instructor).

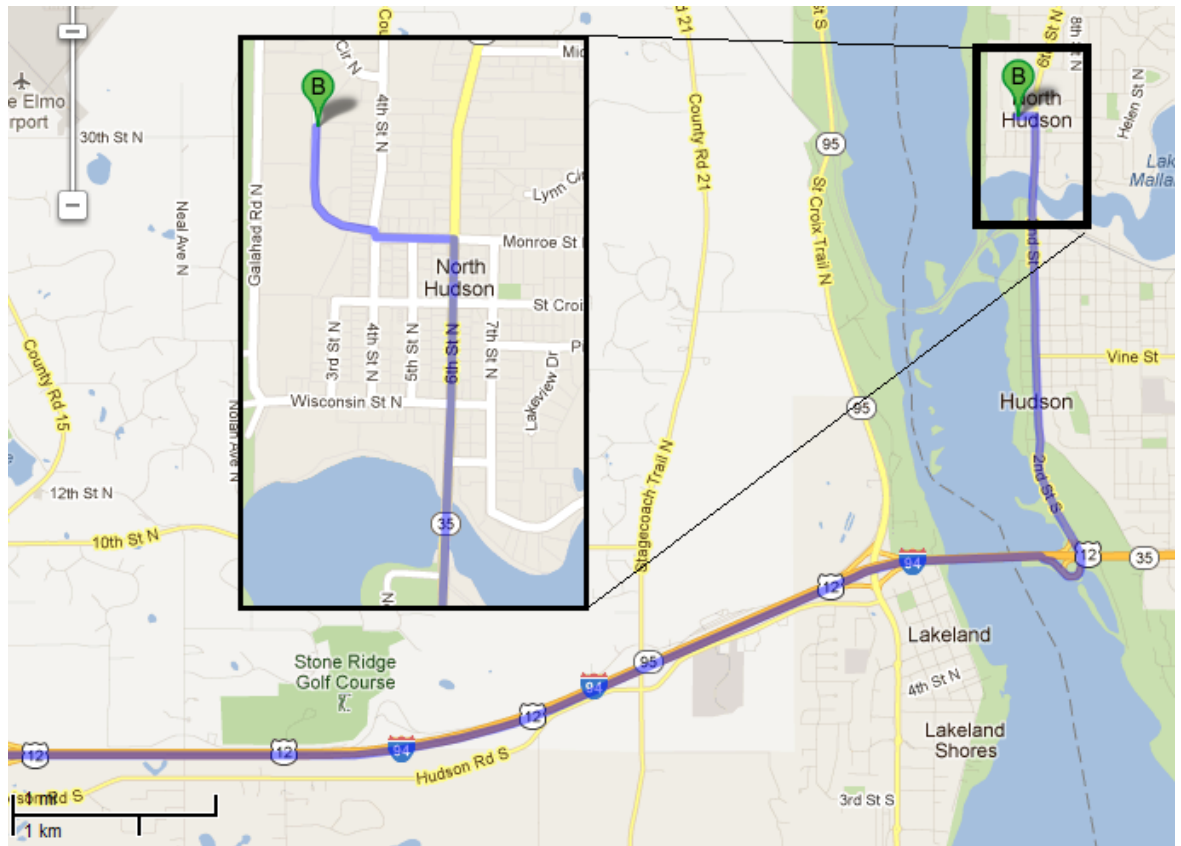
In this class we will go over: terminology of a blade, forging a basic blade shape, steel selection, basic chemistry of blade steel, heat-treating, grinding, hand and machine finishing, and sharpening. The goal of this class is to have everyone leave with a hardened blade and a basic grasp of steel selection, forging, grinding, heat-treating, finishing and sharpening for a basic blade. We will not be putting a handle on our blades in this class, but, time permitting, we will cover some ideas that people can bring home with them and try in their shops. We will be using 1 1/4" stock for our blades.

The class is two days long. The first day will be April 21 at the Minnesota School of Horseshoeing (map on page 4) and the second day will be May 5 at the shop of Nick Heinen at 220 Monroe Street North, North Hudson, WI (map below). Belt grinders and belts will be provided for the class. Please bring your own safety gear including cotton clothing, hearing protection, eye protection, and respirator for grinding. Forging equipment is also to be provided by the student including your favorite hammer, tongs (I prefer box tongs), and wire brush. Calipers, scribe and lay-out fluid or magic marker helpful, but not necessary during grinding/ finishing.

To register, send check for \$100 made out to Guild of Metalsmiths to:

Rich Herman
12553 Danbury Way
Rosemount, MN 55068

With your registration, please include your name, full address, phone number, and email address so we may contact you. Thank you.



Warming by the forge...

Well, another month has passed and although winter so far has been mild, as I am writing this the predictions are more winterlike for at least the next couple of days (snowy, not cold). The meeting of the Programs Committee was fairly lively with, as usual, strong feelings expressed. The feedback for the Oxygen Service Co. meeting that I heard about was good. Next up is obviously April, which I am looking forward to both for the location and the presentation. All seems to be in place for that, though we were informed the heat might not be on in the building. Susan expressed that Mr. Sanders is looking forward to the presentation. The next item was the June meeting and it is looking like it will be held at "the little log cabin" grounds but lots of other details need filling in. Plans are filling quickly for the August meeting which will be at Dan Pate's again for the corn feed (yea!!!). One thing that keeps popping up is what do we want to do for demonstrations for the regular meetings, so I put this out there for the membership. What would you like to see demonstrated at some upcoming meeting. If you have ideas; let someone on the committee, or the board, know, and we will try to figure out how it might work. One of the biggest constraints is time. The last major item on our schedule was, of course, the fall conference. This is going ahead well and though it seems a long way off, it will probably come all too quickly. The demonstrator contracts are being worked out and the other pieces are being set in motion. Just putting the info out there.

— Derrick Phillips, Committee Member

Oxy Fuel Welding Workshop

Saturday & Sunday, May 5 and 6, 2012

9 AM to 4 PM each day

Registration: \$90 per person

Instructors: Myron Hanson and Bill Krawzewski

Held at Myron Hanson's shop in Eagan, MN (see map)

This course covers oxy fuel welding with an introduction to cutting and straightening. You should bring normal gear and safety equipment, and each student will be contacted on what else to bring.

The class runs two days and is limited to eight (8) participants. Cost is \$90 for the two-day class. Meals are available in the area, or bring your own lunch.

To reserve a spot at this Oxy Fuel Welding Class, send a check for \$90 payable to **Guild of Metalsmiths** to:

Jim Moenck

661 Dorland Road S

Maplewood, MN 55119

Email: jrmoenck@yahoo.com

Phone: 651-735-4461

1 Myron Hanson

Take I 494 to Dodd Rd/ MN 149 exit and go South, turn left onto MN 55 and turn right back onto MN 149.

Continue South to the sign that says Dodd Road and points right.

Turn right, cross the tracks and make an immediate left turn onto Dodd Road.

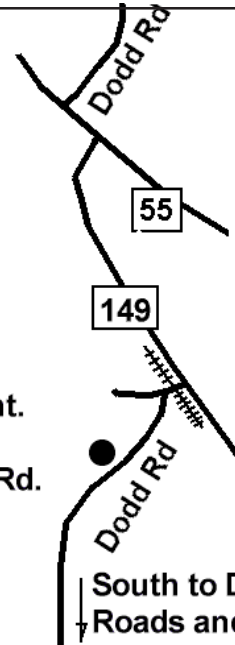
Myron's house is about .7 mi on the right.

Coming North on Dodd Rd from Cliff Rd its about 1.8 mi (~.75 mi North of Diffley Rd.

4015 Dodd Rd

Eagan, MN 55123-1612

Home phone: 651-454-3984



Hammer-Making Workshop

Date: Saturday, May 12, 2012

Time: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Instructor: Dick Carlson

Cost: \$45

Class size: 10

Location: Dick Carlson's Flint Lock Ridge Forge, Hastings, MN (map below)

Students should bring their favorite hammer.

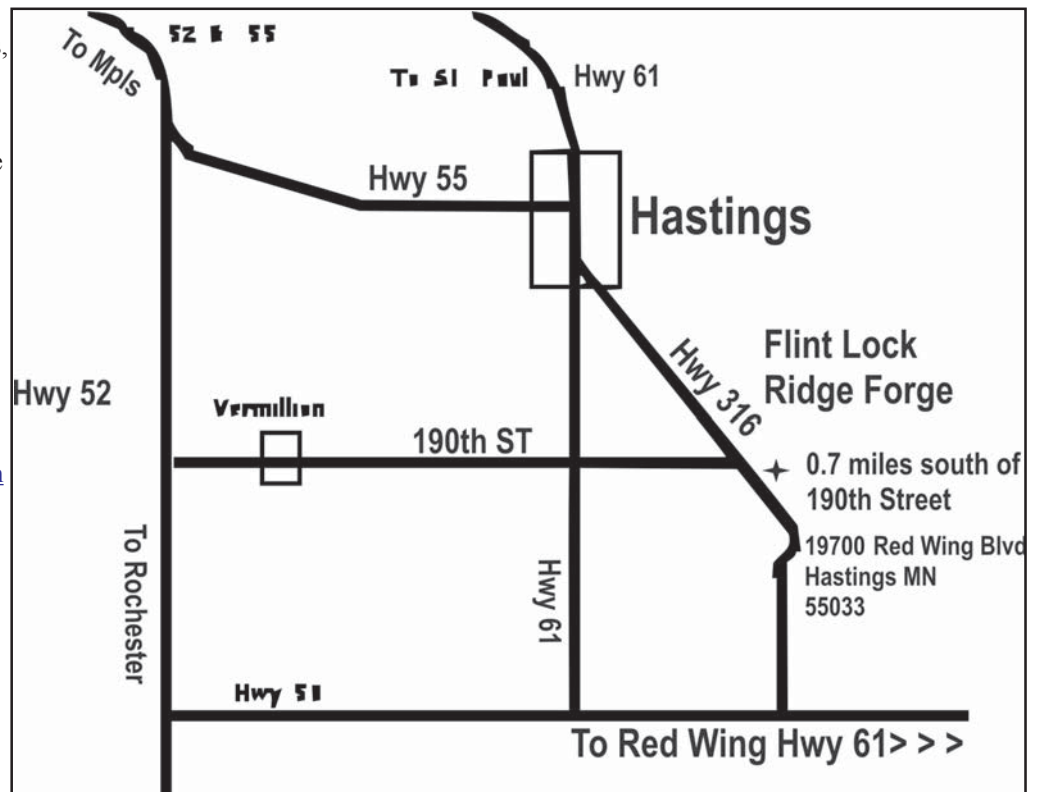
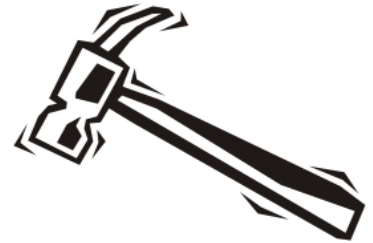
Safety glasses and ear plugs are mandatory. Other safety equipment should include gloves, leather apron (optional), cotton clothing, leather shoes.

Coffee and cookies will be available in the morning. Bring a bag lunch, or restaurants are also nearby in Hastings.

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

Dick Carlson
19700 Red Wing Blvd
Hastings MN 55033

Include your name, address, phone number, and email address. Contact Dick at 651-437-3329 or email blacksmith@onlinecarlson.com





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 Classes...

Tinsmithing, Kitty Latane', April 21 and April 22 (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

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.



Crucifix Making Workshop, Bob Fredell, June 2 & 3

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

The cage head brace is a traditional alternative to the more fragile wooden head braces found in many old carpenter's chests. In this class we will make an iron cage head brace you will be proud to use in your smith's shop or wood shop for years to come. This is a challenging forging, including upset corners, punched tapered holes, forging tenons, careful fitting, and cold assembly. We will cover a number of traditional skills to use at the anvil as well as good filing and fitting practices. The cage ribs can be made from a single piece or welded up at the anvil depending on the experience level of the student. As with many of these early tools, the opportunity to alter the basic design and add decoration is abundant. Here's your chance to dust off those old bits that have been waiting to go back to work.



Cage Head Brace

Scissors project, Peter Ross, June 8, 9, and 10

Students in this class will make a pair of scissors based on 18th century examples shown in the accompanying photo. The larger size is a full 12 inches long. These were originally used on fabric, but can be put to other uses as well.

The class will cover forging the basic parts, finishing the blades and handles, heat treating the blades, assembly and final grinding. This project can be approached from different skill levels. Students with less experience may elect to forge each blade of one piece, while more experienced students may choose to laminate each blade and forge weld the finger loops. There is ample opportunity for filed decoration.

Peter Ross is the legendary master metalsmith who spent 21 years as "master of the shop" at Colonial Williamsburg. Visit his website at <http://peterrossblacksmith.com/>

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



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.

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 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 - Class is full.
- March 24, Beginning Blacksmithing C4 class, MN School of Horseshoeing
- March 31, Forging a Beaver Trap class, part one, MN School of Horseshoeing

Events in April, 2012

- April 11, Guild membership meeting at Oakeshott Institute in Minneapolis, MN.
- April 21, 1st day Bladesmithing Class, MN School of Horseshoeing
- April 28, Forging a Beaver Trap class, part two. MN School of Horseshoeing
- April 28 & 29, Northern MN Metalsmiths conference at LIRPF Steam Show grounds 27 miles north of Park Rapids

Events in May, 2012

- May 5, 2nd day Bladesmithing Class, Nick Heinen's shop in Hudson, WI
- May 5 & 6, Oxy Fuel Welding Class, Myron Hanson's studio, Eagan, MN
- May 9, Guild board meeting
- May 12, Hammer-Making Workshop, Dick Carlson's Flint Rock Ridge Forge, Hastings, MN

ELECTRONIC FORUM

If you have not been receiving an email notification that The Forum is available, these may be the reasons:

1. We do not have your correct email address.
2. Your SPAM filter is not letting the following email address thru: Your GOM Forum is ready@mail.vresp.com

Join The Guild of Metalsmiths

Send \$30 dues to the address below. Please circle if you want to be listed in our membership directory and/or check items you don't want listed.

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

List Me
in the directory
but don't list
address - phones: home - work - fax - cell - email - web page
(circle items above you DO NOT want published)

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(optional items)
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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.

March 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