

The Forum










November 2013

Vol. 15, No. 11

TGoM annual holiday meeting just around the corner!

Join us for our Guild of Metalsmiths annual holiday meeting on Sunday, December 15.

-  No demonstrations,
-  No tours,
-  Always Show and Tell,
-  Maximum social enjoyment,
-  Huge potluck,
-  Elections, and
-  Awards.

What more could you ask for on Any Given Sunday? Where? CSPS Hall on corner of West 7th St. & Michigan St. in St. Paul. When? Sunday, Dec. 15. Some will show up at 11 downstairs for a bevie, some will show up at noon to help set up, the rest will filter in around 1. As always - Just Have Fun. Happy Holidays!



December is time for new faces on TGoM's Board of Directors and committees

December will once again bring us elections for the Executive Committee and Board of Directors positions within the Guild of Metalsmiths.

- Every member is invited to become involved and to run for election.
- If you are interested in running for a position, please contact any member of our Executive Committee or Board of Directors. The web page below identifies the members currently holding these positions. Executive Committee members serve for one year and Board members serve for two years.

<http://www.metalsmith.org/about/officers-and-committees/>

To get in contact with one of these persons, you can find their personal contact information on the membership roster located within the Guild's web forum in the "members only" section. Follow this link and log on:

<http://www.metalsmith.org/phpbb/viewtopic.php?f=143&t=162>

We'll have awards!

Last year Mary Fredell and Tom Latane' were honored with awards. Mary received the President's Award, given occasionally to members who further the cause of TGoM. Tom received the annual Juairé-Hubler Award. Come to this year's December 15 meeting to see who will be recognized for 2013!



'Guild gear' is here!

Have you found your wardrobe woefully bereft of hammer or anvil-themed shirts? Have you been sipping a mug of your favorite French Roast coffee and thought, "You know, this would taste a lot better if my mug had the logo of my favorite metalworking 501C3 organization?" Well, friends, now you can do something about it.



The Guild has opened a "store" on Café Press, a website where you can set up your logo to be printed on shirts, mugs, glasses, and other goods for purchase. It allows us to make Guild merchandise available to the membership without the major outlay of cash and volunteer effort needed to sell them in a more traditional way. The Guild gets a small amount of money on each item, but mostly it is a way to make things readily available. There are currently two images available. One is our tried and true Guild logo with an improved, slightly rounded peen. The other is an anvil-in-an-anvil (double anvil) design made and donated by Chris Rand. Going forward, if people come up with additional original designs they would like to see available, it will be easy to add to the store. Here's the link to the online store:

<http://www.cafepress.com/TheGuildofMetalsmiths>

Our neighborhood of smiths

UMBA

Visit <http://www.umbaonline.ning.com>

UMBA DVD-R library

125 different titles

\$5 each, \$2 shipping per order

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

Badger Blacksmiths meetings

Our contact information is as follows:

President: Jim Tweet
715-557-5236

jtweet01@yahoo.com

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:

Charley Brown, President, CharleyRB@charter.net, 218-428-7906

Dave Hanson, Vice-President, Daveforge1@aol.com, 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. The Northern Minn. Metalsmith's website is www.nmmetalsmiths.org

Central Minnesota Blacksmiths (CMB)

Meet on the first Monday of each month. Potluck 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, November 2013

Joshua Matushin, Minneapolis, MN

Allan Schmidt, St Ansgar, IA

Edward Rapacz, Minneapolis, MN

Doug MacQueen, Cleveland, OH

Jason Kopinski, Cottage Grove, MN

Mark Van Dale, Golden Valley, MN

Corey Sass, St Paul, MN

Terrence Galvin, St Paul, MN

Elden Russell, Forest Lake, MN

Timothy George, Grand Rapids, MN

Ronnie Langel, Minneapolis, MN

Jeanine Post, Bloomington, MN

Japanese swordsmith to visit U of M in November

Taro Asano, a Japanese swordsmith from Hasima, will visit the Art Department at the U of MN during the week of November 3-8. He will participate in the building of a traditional Kodai clay tatara and smelting Magnetite iron ore on Wednesday, November 6. The smelt will be in the courtyard of the East Building, Regis Center for Art from 7 AM - 6 PM

Taro will then make a presentation on Thursday, November 7 at 7 PM in the Influx Auditorium, East Building of the Regis Center for Art, 405 21st Avenue South, West Bank campus U of MN Minneapolis, MN 55455. The presentation is free and open to the public. He is bringing several katanas with him. His English is good, and he will be accompanied by Allen Rozen, a smith from Toronto, who has been arranging Taro's workshops in Canada and the US.

Wayne E. Potratz, Professor and Scholar of the College
612-625-0021 <http://www.ironwain.com>

Smithsonian Institution Call for Entries!

The Smithsonian Institution is having a craft show in 2014. More info is available at the link below:

<http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1101903933417-222/Qwest-7.pdf>

TGoM can now accept Paypal, most major credit cards for annual dues payment

Mike Frattalone and Darryl Ponder have worked together to add a "Buy Now" button to the "Membership" page of our main website. See: <http://www.metalsmith.org/membership/>

This means the Guild can now accept Paypal and most major credit cards, in addition to paper checks, for the payment of annual dues. This should make it more convenient for members to pay dues.

If you have questions as to when your membership expires, that information is listed as part of the membership directory found on the online web forum in the "members only" section. Follow this link to log in:

<http://www.metalsmith.org/phpbb/viewtopic.php?f=143&t=162>

Make a pair of Poz-style tongs - Class is now FULL! Saturday, December 7, 2013, 9:00 am to 5:00pm

Instructor Darryl Ponder will be taking names for a waiting list. Contact him below.

Darryl Ponder
18320 Byrnwood Lane
Minnetonka, MN 55345

or email him at:

darrylponder@earthlink.net



Handled Struck Tool Class Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013 is full! Start time: 9 am to 5 pm

Instructors: Jesse Gavin, Dave Gavin



Wire Inlay Class Nov. 2 is now full!

All 2013-2014 Beginners Blacksmithing Classes now full!

Join the Guild After You Join the Guild

Members are needed to step forward and volunteer to help steer the direction of The Guild of Metalsmiths (TGoM). Everyone is welcome. There are many committees and activities where even small amounts of help are beneficial. You don't have to be a leader or chairperson to join.

Please consider using your talents or learn a new one by joining a committee. No input is too small. You can take on as much or as little as you feel comfortable. With more people, our individual loads are smaller



The following committees welcome your help.

Education – help choose and set up classes, steer the direction of teaching, collect and cut steel for classes, contact potential instructors for classes, be an instructor yourself, assist other instructors.

Program – organize meetings, conference, special events, threshing show, and zoo demos. Create program brochures, flyers, and handouts. Label and mail info to members.

Finance – help balance books, collect money from classes, payments to individuals for Guild purchases

Member Services – maintain membership list with new people and renewals

Publicity – create brochures to get the word out, determine how to advertise ourselves

Long Term Planning – help guide the Guild in the direction most beneficial



The Guild bylaws document states it very well...

“Membership is open to anyone accepting the purpose and bylaws of TGoM and paying the annual dues. A strong organization is composed of members who are actively involved. They give back to the organization as well as receive from it. All members are encouraged to contribute of themselves on at least one occasion a year. This includes but is not limited to being an officer or board member, serving on a committee, helping plan an event, setting up a demonstration site, leading or helping teach a class, or contributing to the publications.”

TGoM's annual holiday meeting is coming up on Sunday, December 15. Please volunteer either at that meeting or any time before. Contact one of our officers or board members. They're listed on our website here:

<http://www.metalsmith.org/about/officers-and-committees/>

TGoM member shares vanishing, rare blacksmithing skillset

On Saturday, October 26, 2013, veteran TGoM member and experienced professional blacksmith Dick Carlson shared a demonstration of sharpening five plow lays and forge welding a point on one lay. Unfortunately, an invitation to watch this historic process at Dick's studio, Flint Rock Ridge Forge near Hastings, was given with very short notice and resulted in small attendance. We thank Bob Brown for the photos below. Watch for Bob to post a YouTube video of Dick's demonstration soon.

The skill of plow share point sharpening is a vanishing art due to the difficulty of finding a skilled blacksmith. Dick Carlson retains his professional blacksmithing skills and practices them every day in his studio.



The photo above shows Dick Carlson drawing out an edge on one of his fifty pound Little Giant power hammers.



The photo above shows a finished plow share, edge and point restored, ground, and polished.



Photo at left shows the shop in Miesville, Minnesota in which Dick spent many years of his early blacksmithing career.

We got website statistics!

Over the past month we had 1,380 people visit the Guild's website. These visitors were from around the world. Most visitors are from the United States (86.3%) and, as you would expect, most are from the Twin Cities area, but we had visitors from 53 countries in all.

- 🌟 The most active countries are: the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Australia, India, Argentina, Hungary and Norway.
- 🌟 The most active states are: Minnesota, Wisconsin, California, Texas, and Illinois.
- 🌟 The total number of registered users is currently 132.
- 🌟 We average 65 visits per day to the web site.
- 🌟 The top four pages viewed are: the home page, the main members gallery, the web forum index page and the education page.



All Guild members are welcome to register for full web forum access and should feel free to post questions, show off their works, or post links to interesting metalworking information. To register, go to our website at <http://www.metalsmith.org> and click on the "Web Forum" link at the top of the home page.

— Darryl Ponder, Publicity Committee Chair

Joint TGoM/MNWWG meeting in October was educational and really fun!



We gathered once again at the Minnesota Transportation Museum's Jackson Street Roundhouse in October for a joint meeting with the Minnesota Wood Workers Guild. Someone said there were at least 150 people at this meeting. Phenomenal!

In addition to the traditionally delicious potluck that left our guests in awe ("Do we always eat like this?"), we hosted three demonstrations by our own talented smiths. In the upper right photo, Bob Brown is describing how he forges nails.

The middle photo shows Paul Widenhoefer staging parts of a small carving knife, including heat treating, using a small propane forge.

In the bottom photo's "simple chest hardware" demo, Martin Pansch started out with a billowing puff of coal smoke, but eventually he succeeded in showing the woodworkers and blacksmiths what to do!

The Jackson Street Roundhouse has been an ongoing scene for a volunteer project by TGoM members Nick Heinen and Charlie Bateman (pictured below). Using their blacksmithing and welding talents, they've worked to restore historic railroad cars at the workshop there. Their modesty in owning up to these projects is huge, but fellow TGoM members are in debt to these two selfless guys for the work they've given to the Transportation Museum that has allowed us to meet in their facility more than once. And the future sounds bright for more! Thanks, Nick and Charlie!



Thank you...



To the The Guild of Metalsmiths:

Your kindness and generosity during the illness and passing of Carl Nordquist is sincerely appreciated by Carl's wife, Gail, and members of his family. Thank you to so many members who traveled to the funeral and for the memorial gifts.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!



Goings on...

A calendar of TGoM events at a glance

- Education Committee meeting dates vary. Contact Martin Pansch, chair, for the next meeting.
- 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 November, 2013

- Nov. 2, Wire Inlay class, Marty Hicks workshop. Class now FULL!
- Nov. 2, Beginning Blacksmithing A4, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Nov. 3-8, Japanese swordsmith at U of M
- Nov. 13, TGoM board meeting

Events in December, 2013

- Dec. 7, Poz Tongs class, MN School of Horseshoeing. Class now full!
- Dec. 14, Handled Struck Tools class, MN School of Horseshoeing. Class is full!
- Dec. 15, Annual TGoM Holiday meeting at CSPS Hall, St. Paul

Events in January 2014

- Beginning Blacksmithing B1, Jan. 4
- Guild board meeting, Jan. 8
- Beginning Blacksmithing B2, Jan. 11
- Beginning Blacksmithing B3, Jan. 18
- Beginning Blacksmithing B4, Jan. 25

All Beginning
Blacksmithing
classes are now
full.

ELECTRONIC FORUM

If you have not been receiving an email notification that The Forum is available, please verify that we have your correct email address. Contact Gordon Barr at agbarr@aol.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

Don't List Me
in the Directory

address - phones: home - work - fax - cell - email - web page
(circle items above you DO NOT want published)

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Primary phone: _____ Secondary phone: _____

All memberships are family memberships. Persons of all ages, professionals and hobbyists, are invited to join. We do not sell our mailing list.



Address Service Requested

**Forum deadline for December 2013: Monday,
Nov. 18, 2013**

The deadline for content in The Forum is always the third Monday of the month. Please send items to **Georgia Myers**, editor, by email to: gldmyers@embarqmail.com

The Guild of Metalsmiths on the web
Visit our website at <http://www.metalsmith.org>

Looking for something? Try the search engine. On our home page, at the top of the right sidebar, enter your query and click on "Search."

November 2013

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

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.

Note: Information in this publication 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.

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