

The Forum

February 2010



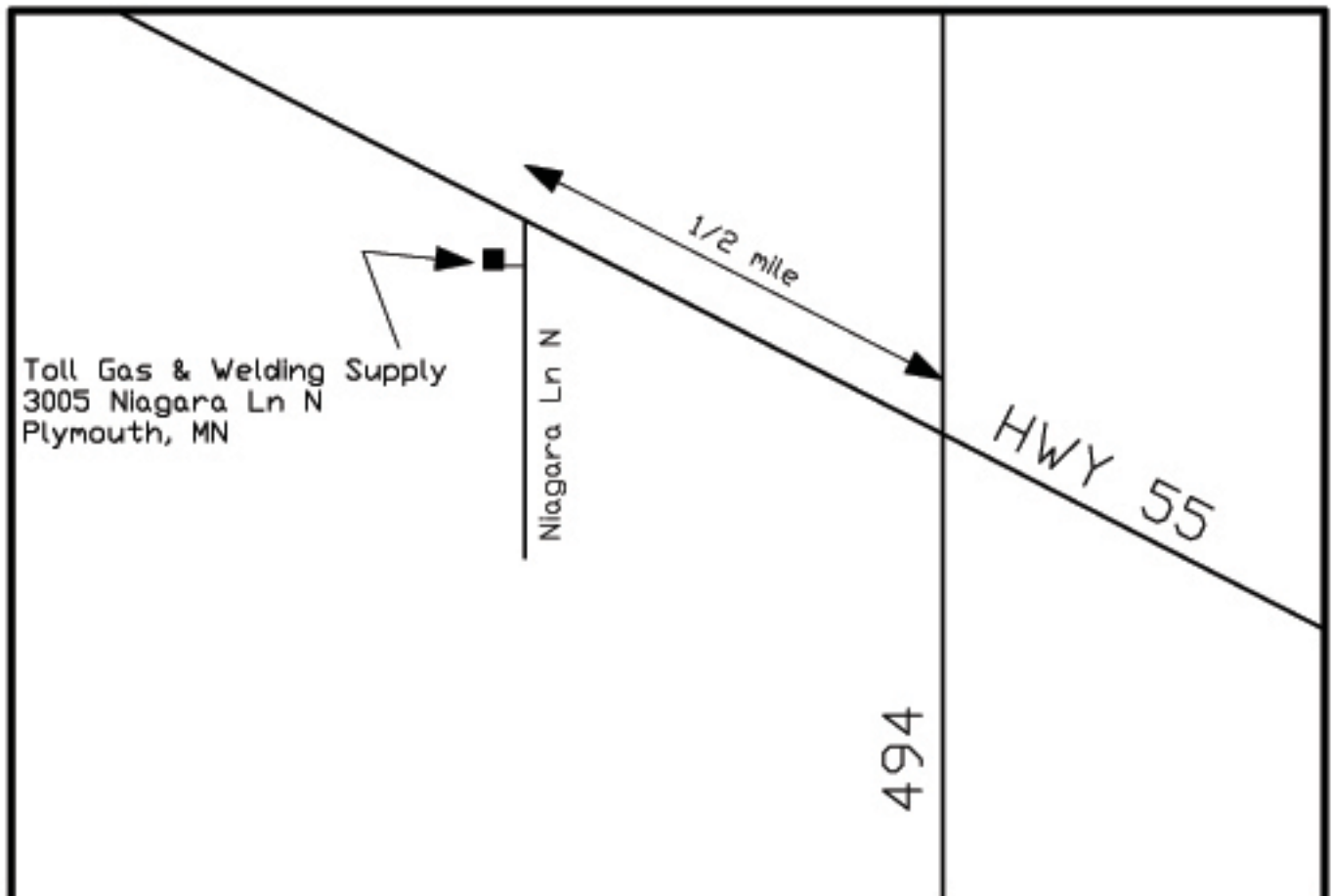
Vol. 12, No. 2

Meet your fellow Guild members at Toll Welding on Wednesday, February 10

Be sure to check your calendar to see that you've remembered to mark Wednesday, February 10 as the next Guilding meeting date. We'll gather at Toll Gas & Welding Supply in Plymouth, where you'll be treated to various demonstrations by vendors who will bring their talents and supplies to the venue. You'll have a chance to look them over and purchase or order if you wish. Some discounts will be available too.

Arrive by 6:30 pm for our first potluck of 2010. Bring your newest forging creations for show and tell. Nothing is too small or inconsequential. You will be sure to either learn something new or help another member do the same!

Our host will be Bryan Steckman. See you there.



Forum deadline for March: Monday, February 15, 2010

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, Feb. 15, 2010 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.org/events.html>

UMBA DVD-R library

125 different titles

\$5 each, \$2 shipping per order

Never return them to library - www.umbaonline.org

Badger Blacksmiths meetings

Our contact information is as follows:

President: Ron Wendt

715-874-6141

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

2010 Officers:

Roger Cook, President

Phil Ylitalo, Vice President

Vicki/Larry Brittain, Treasurer

Julie Johnson, Secretary

Board Members:

Dave Grondin, Keith Johnson, Doug Swenson, Don Try on, Dan Yochum

NEW MEMBERS

Allen Turner

Albion NY

Invitation to enter jewelry exhibition for 2010-11

The Society for Midwest Metalsmiths would like to invite the members of your guild to enter METAL Inclinations2 International Juried Online Jewelry Exhibition for 2010-11. SMM would appreciate if you could post this information or distribute the information to your members.

METAL Inclinations2 International Juried Exhibition 2010-11 will include selections of the most exemplary fine metal art jewelry created by metalsmiths, silversmiths, goldsmiths and jewelers all over the world.

METAL Inclinations2 is sponsored by the Hauser & Miller Co. Refiners and fabricators and produced and presented by the Society for Midwest Metalsmiths, a non-profit organization with a mission to promote, educate and exhibit metalsmiths and jewelers.

DEADLINE: June 30, 2010

METAL Inclinations2 will debut on the Internet October 31, 2010 and continue for one year until October 31, 2011

Go to: <http://a.ocho.purlsmail.com> to download a prospectus.

Hand Held Struck Tools Workshop-**Waiting List Only!**

Date: Saturday, March 6

Time: 9 am to 4:30 pm

Instructor: Jim Scott

Cost: \$30

Class size: 8 - **CLASS IS FULL! WAITING LIST BEING HELD!**

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing

Description: Must have had Basic Blacksmithing Class. We will be making simple tools (chisels, punches, etc.) out of 5/8" diameter coil springs. We will heat treat them (anneal, harden, temper). Each person will make a couple tools and get them annealed before lunch. After lunch, we will finish shaping tools (grind, file, etc.) and then heat treat. Bring your ideas of what tools you might want to make. We will have some extra annealed tools, so everyone will have something to heat treat, if they don't finish theirs. The knowledge gained from this class will enable you to create or recondition any of a multitude of hand-held tools that you will need and use throughout your blacksmithing career.

Safety equipment: safety glasses & earplugs are mandatory

Other equipment: basic forging hammer, hammer for striking tools, gloves

Lunch arrangements: bag lunch or local restaurant. Be sure to bring along your designer water bottle.

Contact Al Olson with questions or to get on the waiting list: 2153 Fox Place, Mendota Heights, MN 55120, 651-683-0906

Iron in the Hat Tickets Available

One of the big events at the ABANA National Conference is the Iron in the Hat drawings. For those planning on attending, tickets are available at the conference, but if you are not going to be able to attend, tickets will be available at the next two Guild meetings.

This is a great opportunity to win some truly great blacksmith equipment, items to be raffled include a Clay Spencer Tire Hammer, the BAM box with "signature tools" or a new Nimba Titan 120 lb anvil.

To enter the raffle, see me (Rich Herman) at one of the next meetings and purchase tickets at \$1 each. Fill out your name and address on the back of the ticket, and place each ticket into one of the three envelopes, each envelope represents a drawing for one of the items so you can maximize your chances to win the specific item you desire.

At the conference the tickets will be added into the drawing, you do not have to be present to win. At the winners request, shipping arrangements will be made. Shipping charges will be paid by the winner. (I may be willing to help with the BAM box or the anvil, but it will cost ya! I don't think the tire hammer fits in my suitcase.)

All proceeds from the Iron in the Hat are used by ABANA for Affiliate member scholarships to help educate and train blacksmiths.

— Rich Herman

2010 ABANA Conference registration

The ABANA 2010 conference will be held at the AgriCenter International in Memphis, Tennessee. Opening ceremonies will be on Wednesday, June 2, 2010. Thursday through Saturday will be full days of forging demos and excitement ABANA style.

Registration for the ABANA 2010 Conference is moving on and we are expecting 600-700 to be in attendance! Call the Central Office or click on www.ABANA.org to download the registration form. Full conference registration is only \$235 for current ABANA members. But this is valid only for registrations that get to the ABANA Central Office by NOON on March 31, 2009. After that the rates will be going up.

MINUTES: The Guild of Metalsmiths Board of Directors, Jan. 13, 2010

Agenda – THE GUILD OF METALSMITHS, Board of Directors – January 13, 2010

Held at the home of: Myron Hanson, 4015 Dodd Rd.,
Eagan, MN 55123

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 by Rich Herman

Members in attendance: Herman, Frattalone, Rand,
Sigurdson, Mariette, Lindholm, Ponder, Barr, Hicks,
Pansch. **Missing:** Carpenter. **Guest:** Myron

**AMENDMENT / APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS
MEETING'S MINUTES:** Motion to accept by
Herman and second by Barr. Motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee-Mike Frattalone

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 1-13-10 BOARD
MEETING

DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE 12,593 (UP
1725 FROM 1-14-09)

REMAINING GRANTS 5,325

CASH TOTAL 17,918

EXPENSES SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING ON
11-11-09:

MEETINGS CSPPS HALL RENTAL 200

CONFERENCE 30

WORKSHOPS 1,118

AWARD PLAQUES (2ea. for 08 & 09) 215

FORUMS 2 EA 755

P.O. BOX FEE 45

METALSMITH BACK ISSUES 49

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS 12

TRAILER TABS 20

COAL DELIVERY from W. VA 2963

TOTAL EXPENSES 5407

TOTAL DEPOSITS 4921

COAL 12.2 TONS REMAINING

MEMBERS 293 (DOWN 2 FROM Jan 2009)

Annual statement was presented and reviewed. It is
available to any member upon request to Mike.

Education Committee -Dave Mariette

From last meeting - Dave has resolved the coal issue
with a positive outcome. Discussion of the recent
intermediate class and on the overall structure of the
classes. Next meeting is Feb 3rd at Dave's home
(Meetings are on the first Wednesday of every
month).

Program Committee-

The February membership meeting will be held at
Toll Welding. Looking for one more demonstrator for
the 2010 Fall Conference. Discussed how to increase

attendance at our conference by publicizing to other
groups, internet, newspapers, auctioneer. Publicize the
conference as an event and publicize the auction.
Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every
month. Next meeting is Feb. 18th at Myron's home

Publicity Committee- Roland Sigurdson

The committee is continuing to collect bids for an
upgrade of our website. Roland is continuing to put
together a list of significant works of art in Iron and
steel in The Twin Cities. The Metalsmith is at the
printer. Submissions for the next Forum are due by
March 18th, send to Georgia Myers.

Long Term Planning Committee – Nothing to report
at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Rice County is looking for help in building a black-
smith shop at the fairgrounds. Myron has a contact in
Faribault who we can potentially work with on this
project. After attending a chasing class at the John C.
Campbell Folk School class, Mark Carlson decided to
decline the educational grant. Floyd Thompson has
offered his belt grinder plans to the Guild. We are now
looking at publishing the information in the
Metalsmith.

NEW BUSINESS: We has been contacted about info
on classes that may be offered by other groups in
Northern Minnesota. Central Minnesota Blacksmiths
contact info will be added to the Forum.

NEW MAIL Received raffle tickets for the ABANA
2010 Conference, cost per ticket \$1. More details to be
announced soon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next meeting of the board is
March 10, 2010.

AJOURNMENT: 9 PM, Motion by Herman, second
Lindholm, accepted without dissent.

Submitted by Chris Rand.

Writer of new blacksmith book needs help!

If you'd like to help an author working on a new blacksmith book, please read further!

Vincent Nacovics is working on a book about blacksmiths and is hoping to hear from blacksmiths who would be willing to participate. Vincent has a list of questions (*see list at right*) to start with his interviews. Some of the questions are directed at full time working blacksmiths, but he is looking for input from all blacksmiths, part timers, amateurs, and professionals alike.

Please contact Vincent by email at:
restoreman123@msn.com

Dutch Oven Cooking Class

When: June 19, 2010, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Where: Long Lake Museum, Long Lake, MN

Cost: \$45

Instructor: Bob Beck (aka Billy Jack)

Yes, the long-awaited class where you have an opportunity to learn to cook over a campfire is ready for registrants! Robert Beck invites you to the Long Lake Museum in Long Lake, Minnesota on June 19. Rumor has it that not only will you learn how to cook in a Dutch oven over a campfire, you will also learn something about old West chuckwagons, the first mobile kitchens.

The cost of the class includes a 162-page cook book by Colleen Sloan, "Log Cabin Dutch Oven Cookbook." See information about it here: <http://www.logcabinrubb.com/products/dutch-oven-cook-book/cookbook02.html>. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your registration fee (checks only, please), and Bob will send you a list of the things you'll need to bring, along with the copy of Colleen's cook book. Then you'll need to pick out a recipe for the class

You will need a Dutch oven for the class. If you need to buy one, I will have a list of some of the stores that sell them in the area. To get to Long Lake, take 394 West to Highway 12 to Long Lake.

Please mail checks to:
Robert Beck
3444 Abbott Ave N
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

NAME _____

CITY & STATE _____

Forge Name & website _____

1. What was your very first blacksmithing experience?
2. When did you decide that you wanted to be a blacksmith?
3. What made you decide to make a living at being a blacksmith?
4. There is often much discussion about traditional methods versus modern methods and the merits that go with both. How do you, personally define the difference?
5. This is a question with several parts on some of your favorite tools if you have one or several. Which hammer style do you prefer? How much does it weigh? How big is the anvil that you use most? What special tools do you use on a regular basis?
6. Who influenced your work the most? How did they influence the work you do?
7. What was your most challenging project(s) in the recent past, say five years?
8. Where do you think the current market situation leaves the blacksmithing community in your area and at large?
9. What is your advice and recommendations to Smiths thinking about going full time?
10. Has there been a defining moment for you as a Blacksmith?
11. What do you; personally get out of being a Blacksmith?
12. Bonus question: how did you decide on the name of your forge?

Again, please respond to Vincent Nacovics by emailing him at:
restoreman123@mwn.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

Join us at the mill in 2010. We have some of the most multi-talented instructors in the United States scheduled to teach.

Gothic Style Candle Holder April 30, May 1, 2 with Tom Latane'

Class will cover forge-welding a low tripod with decorative feet. On the tripod will be fastened a pierced triangular sheet steel pan. Students will forge a round or hexagonal central stem with filed bands. This decorative column will support a single candle surrounded by a pierced gallery.

To register for this class, contact Carol and John Adams at 507-289-4189, 507-289-5246, or email jc-adams@msn.com.

Kirsten Skiles class May 21, 22, 23

This class will be exploring chasing and repousse' in copper, brass, steel or silver. We will work on a leaf form or something of your choosing and turn it into a pendant. Students may choose their own design. Students will work with a jewelers saw to cut metal, and there will also be some soldering of sterling.

There will be lab fees to cover the cost of the silver, findings, solder and flux (approx \$20). We will have torches to share and different handheld portable torch options. The class will include the making of tools.

Students will need pitch bowls with small quantities of pitch. If anyone needs pitch let us know.

Damascus class with Bill Fiorini August 20, 21, 22

This workshop will focus on the production of Damascus steel. The class will process Random and Turkish Damascus Steel for a variety of uses including tools, knives, jewelry or any other artistic direction related to decorative pattern embellishment.

Damascus discussion on the diffusion (welding) process, flux application and forge types used in processing Damascus will be explained. Students learn the basics of forging and the processing of a variety of steels for the manufacture of Damascus.

After learning the basics of Damascus discussion will continue in relationship to advanced Damascus pattern development.



June 21, 22, 23 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) Making 18th Century-Style Dividers Peter Ross, legendary blacksmith who spent 21 years as Master of the Shop at Colonial Williamsburg

First Session: The class will work on making 18th century style dividers with a wing and thumbscrew. Students can choose from a few traditional styles, and may opt for rough forged or bright filed surfaces. Generally these tools have a three leaf hinge, but students may wish to try the more complex 5 leaf hinge instead.

There is some forge welding required and some filing necessary to fit and assemble the two halves.

June 25, 26, 27 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) Pre-industrial Scrolls: Putting the Dividers to Work Peter Ross, legendary blacksmith who spent 21 years as Master of the Shop at Colonial Williamsburg

Second session: This session will concentrate on the style of scrollwork found in 18th century English architectural work. The class will identify the characteristic features of this style through making of a simple wall bracket which incorporates several of the common approaches:

- ◆ Forge welded junctions,
- ◆ riveted assemblies,
- ◆ asymmetric scrolls, etc.

In addition, the class will introduce a method of forging and assembly based on using the dividers to lay out accurate spacing. This method is a stark contrast to modern shop methods adopted by most smiths today, and a glimpse into the world before machine tools.

A simple version may be done with no forge welding required but welding experience will enable the student to attempt more elaborate versions of the project.

NOTE: These two sessions are independent of each other. You do not need to take one to take the other.

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, October, and December. For each meeting 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. Most meetings are held at Myron Hanson's home in Eagan.

Events in February, 2010

- Feb. 6, B3 Beginning Blacksmithing, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Feb. 10, Guild membership meeting, Toll Welding in Plymouth MN, champion John McDonald
- Feb. 13, C1 Beginning Blacksmithing, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Feb. 20, B4 Beginning Blacksmithing, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Feb. 27, C2 Beginning Blacksmithing, MN School of Horseshoeing

Events in March, 2010

- March 6, Hand Held Struck Tools workshop, MN School of Horseshoeing - CLASS FULL, waiting list being compiled.
- March 10, Guild board meeting, Myron Hanson's home in Eagan

Events in April, 2010

- April 14, Guild membership meeting, details not yet known
- April 24, 25, NMM Conference. Flyers to be mailed soon.

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)

Don't List Me
in the Directory

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Company Name: _____

(optional items)

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Fax: _____ Cell: _____

Email address _____ Web page: _____



Address Service Requested

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

February 2010

'The Forum' is online

To read an electronic (PDF) version of *The Forum* each month, go to our website, www.metalsmith.org.

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: