

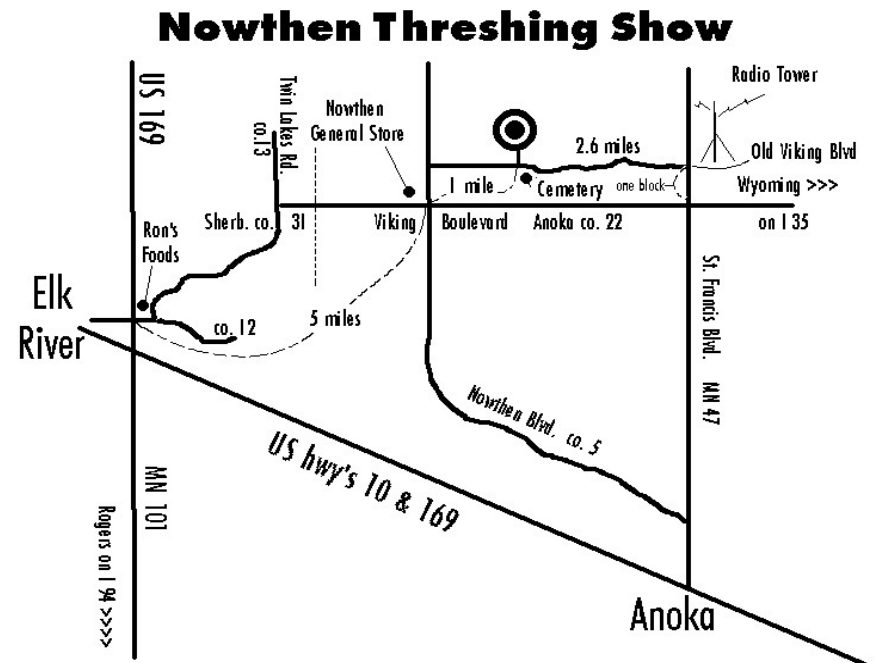
Guild of Metalsmiths meeting Wednesday, June 11 offers education, friendship, challenges!

The program for the June 11 Guild of Metalsmiths meeting is set. Plan to attend and watch **Jim Moenck** share the rustic skill of making a fur-trade era beaver trap.

In addition, **Dave Mariette** has a challenge to members to announce for the Fall Conference scheduled for September 26, 27, & 28, 2003. You'll have to be there to appreciate his challenge!

As usual, a fine time should be had by all. The meeting is set for the Nowthen Threshing Show grounds (map below). Our normal potluck meal starts at 6:30 p.m., with the program to begin soon as we finish clearing the tables!

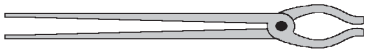
See you there!



Forum deadline for June, 2003

If you have activities that will be occurring in late June or July, please send them by Tuesday, May 27, 2003 to **Georgia Myers**, editor, by e-mail to:

forum@metalsmith.org
(e-mails will be forwarded to Georgia Myers)
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 propose 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.

*Your comments can be mailed to The GoM Forum, c/o Georgia Myers
313 Dakota St
Lake City, MN 55041-1869
or e-mailed to forum@metalsmith.org*

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

News from ABANA - Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.

REMINDER: ABANA Board elections are coming up soon. *Find details at:* http://abana.org/business/abana_board.html

Bob Fredell, Chairman of Members Services Committee, ABANA, shares some interesting regional conferences coming up in 2003.

• **IronFest:** May 30–June 1, 2003, Grapevine Heritage Center, Texas.

Demonstrators—Toby Hickman, Susan Hutchison, Mark Pierce and William Roan.

For Information—Verl Underwood, 613 N. Bailey, Fort Worth TX 76107; vaunder@aol.com

• **CanIRON IV:** July 10–13, 2003, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Demonstrators—Dean Piesner, Doug Wilson, Elizabeth Brim, Charles Orlando, Doug Newell, Scott Langton, Eddie Payne, Cairn Cunnane and Jim Wallace.

For information—(905) 772-2475; admin@caniron.icomm.ca, www.caniron.com

• **Upper Midwest Regional Blacksmithing Conference:** July 18-20, 2003, Thresherman's Reunion Park, Pontiac, IL, Demonstrators—Clay Spencer, Kirk Sullen and Chuck Patrick. For information—(847) 746- 8689; leebiewer@sprintmail.com, www.umrbc.com

• **Quadstate:** September 26-28, 2003, Miami County Fairgrounds, Troy, OH.

Featured Item For Work—Grill Work. For information—www.abana.org and go to Calendar of Events.

• **Appalachian Blacksmiths Association Fall Conference:** October 18-19, 2003, Cedar Lakes Park, Ripley, West Virginia, Demonstrators—Tal Harris. For information

(304) 624-7248; anvilwork@aol.com; www.appaltnet.net

• **Kentucky Blacksmiths' Association:** November 8, 2003, Louisville Kentucky.

Program—The promoters state that this event is the largest ever exhibition of contemporary blacksmithing. Their hope is that it will become a traveling exhibition. Public demonstrations are planned. For information—(502) 589-0154; ck@craigkaviar.com, brionclinkingbeard@kentuckycrafts.org

Damascus Waste Product Contest*

In the spirit of finding creative things to do with what would otherwise wind up in the trash, the Guild of Metalsmiths would like to announce the **Damascus Waste Product Contest**.

Much like the Altoids tin repousse contest last year, the entries will be voted on by attendees at the Fall Conference, September 26, 27 & 28, 2003. 'A really nice prize' will be awarded to the top 3 vote getters.

Exactly what is a Damascus Waste Product (DWP)?

The waste products are mainly the uneven top & bottom edges of billets that knife makers normally cut off. They could be also be billets with known defects, such as an unwelded area. They could also be a knife that someone couldn't stand to work on anymore and was about to fling into the back 40. All are on the small side. Weld a shank on the piece if it makes it easier to handle.

Where do I get one?

We have a bucket of these gems and will bring them to each Guild meeting until the conference. The current stock came from Mike Blue. We'll take other contributions, too, just chop saw them to a similar size.

I have some of my own waste products, do I have to use one of yours?

No, but make sure they are similar in size and spirit to ours, something that would otherwise be in the trash.

What is the minimum I need to know to work this stuff?

Work close to welding heat if you want to keep the layers welded. Working colder increases the possibility that the layers will separate (and may be a feature you want to incorporate in your design). A very nice Damascus tutorial is at <http://www.blacksmithrick.com/damascus.html> and will explain generally how billets are made.

I don't have a forge, can I still participate?

Absolutely! If you select your DWP wisely, a hacksaw may be all you need. Grinding, plasma cutting, or other methods of shaping are also acceptable.

How do I see the pattern?

Remove the scale. Etch with some mild acid (vinegar or lemon juice is fine). Rinse with water, then stop etching process with a baking soda & water solution. Polish if desired.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Do I need to heat treat?

Probably not. If you have forged the piece, normalize by taking piece back up to non-magnetic and allow to cool slowly. If you are making something that will need to hold an edge, then you'll have to follow the normalization with hardening and tempering. There is a very nice heat treating tutorial at <http://www.blacksmithrick.com/classroom.html#heat>.

What can I make out of this stuff?

Buttons, jewelry, flux spoon, martini fork, Barbie Doll Armour (see Myron Hanson for models), letter opener, shoe horn, belt buckle, light switch plate cover, chop sticks, money clip, paper weight, metal 'worry stone', light switch pull, baby spoon, art ... anything that is useful, beautiful or interesting!

* aka "**Damascus Turd Contest**" Some people on the program committee thought we were way too classy an organization to have a contest with "turd" in the title.

— Sarah Delaney

Turd contest at the Madness**, another Furst at GoM*

They handed out "Damascus Turds"* at our April meeting and there were plenty more in the bucket if more members are interested. The object is to take this castoff bit of waste and turn it into something useful or/and beautiful.

Any Guild member that wants to enter can contact Mike Blue to get a chunk. You can also use any old piece of waste damascus, a broken blade, "turds" from your own projects, a . . . and bring it with you to the 2004 fall conference "The Madness" in Sept. South of Hastings. (SE of MSP ~ 30mi) Put it in the Gallery for all of us to see. There will be a nice prize (which we haven't figured out yet) The contest will be open to all attending the conference.

*(as knife-master Mike Blue calls his bucket of cut offs and culls)

** (as in "People must think us mad, to see us meet in this heat around a hot fire pounding and banging, swinging white hot iron around, and carrying on. It's the Metalsmith's Madness")

— Gene Olson

What's autionable for the Fall Conference?

I didn't know a soul in the Guild when I attended my first fall conference. I had no idea what to bring so I showed up empty handed. I still feel guilty! So, to help others avoid my mistake, here are my observations of the offerings over the three fall conferences I've attended:

Silent Auction

Empty propane & freon cylinders (great for a gas forge shell)
Empty oxygen cylinder slices (great for pitch pots, swages)
Wrought iron
High carbon farm implement parts
Railroad track, I beam
Plasma cut figures
Leather, wood for knife handles & sheaths
Steel odds & ends

Live Auction

Metal Handmade Items

Shepherd's hooks, plant hangers, hooks
Candlesticks, bells, fountain
Knives
Sculpture and other decorative items
Hand made tools - hammers, punches, chisels, tongs, tong reins, spring swages
Fire pots, forges, blowers, 'smithin magician' type items
Demonstration pieces

Other Handmade Items

Quilts, do-wrap hats, tool rolls
Honey, wax
Jelly, jam, other canned goods
Garden produce
Crosses

Other Items

Antique/used tools - hammers, flatters, post vices, hardie tools, swage blocks
Prints, pictures, books
Hex key stock
Large ball bearings
Commercial donors - welding supply places, etc.

— Sarah Delaney

Fall Conference demonstrators set

Plans for the Guild of Metalsmiths fall conference, affectionately known as “The Madness,” are progressing as we write this issue of “The Forum.” According to the program committee, demonstrators will be Lorelei Simms, and Mark and Mindy Gardner.

Lorelei Simms is an accomplished metalsmith with a unique “virtual smithy” you can visit at <http://www.blacksmithchic.com>. To quote her Web site, “Welcome to my virtual smithy, where I create hand-forged iron for the home, garden, and dungeon.”

Mark and Mindy Gardner, of Flood Plain Forge, are members of the Illinois Valley Blacksmiths Association, with Mark serving as current president and mentor. Check out their work at <http://www.illinoisblacksmith.org/artisans.htm>. Learn even more about them at <http://www.parlorcity.com/methomas/IBACConf.htm#Demonstrators>.

Guild of Metalsmiths committee members

Education Committee

Bob Johnson, Chair

Jim Moenck, Vice-Chair

Gordon Barr

Marlaine Cox

Curt Engstrom

Herb Fick

Lynn Ford (designated lifetime member)

Don Halverson

Fred McCluskey

Pete Stanaitis

Rob Murray

Bob Fredell (Special Consultant)

Program Committee

Myron Hanson, Chair

Dick Carlson

Lynn Ford

Mike Adams



A Note From the Education Committee

First, I would like to thank all those who have helped with education programming this past season. The Guild produces some of the best educational opportunities available, as a result of all the hours contributed by volunteers.

Schedules for workshops are published in the Forum, and in the Metalsmith, but do you know what goes on behind the scene?

Many may understand the Basics Program, in which a few participants each year are invited to attend the Instructor’s workshop, at the recommendation of their instructors. This way, new associate instructors are added to the group, trained, and put to work. Most of those folks realize the good time to be had, and find that their skills improve by teaching.

The Guild bylaws contain a phrase that encourages members to give back to the Guild, to participate, or help, in some way. The phrase is one of suggestion; no one is watching nor counting. Those who do participate, however, have greater opportunity to be involved in development of new workshops, and have an increased awareness of what is going on.

Now, behind the scene....

Last year, in the 2001-2002 season, development of the Beyond the Basics workshop occurred. Members of the subcommittee assigned to this wrote curriculum, prepared the materials needed, and invited Basics instructors to do a shake down session. We realize dual

benefit in this, Basics instructor’s skills are improved, and curriculum is refined.

This season, a group got together, bringing their own equipment, to do the development work for an Oxy-fuel welding workshop. This group consisted of those who have been interested in, and worked toward adding this workshop to the Guild’s schedule. This was done at no cost to the Guild. I hope to see the welding class on the schedule for 2003-2004.

This Spring a “Master’s Class” is being held, also at no cost to the Guild. This arose from the fact that two members did not get into a class at the Penland School. They decided to invite the instructor here to teach. People who were in close contact offered to help build tables, stakes, and other tooling, and to share in the costs of this workshop, in order to participate. The workshop is six days long, and the instructor will be housed by and fed by a different participant each day. The Guild’s board elected to sponsor this, for insurance purposes, knowing the processes learned and skills gained will be passed on to other members.

If you have an idea, please feel free to initiate activity. Get together with someone from the committee. Propose, spearhead, research, assemble, or write to the Forum with your idea. I can still hear my father saying, “What one gains from an activity is directly proportional to what one puts into it.” Hope to hear from you.

— Bob Johnson, for the Education Committee

Address Changes

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Ross Solberg,
ihammeroo@yahoo.com

Welcome, new members

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Wood & Steel Creation &
Enterprises
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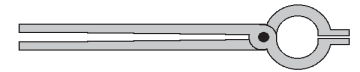
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Classified ads



Classified ads are free for members of the Guild of Metalsmiths. To place an ad in the May issue of "The Forum," simply e-mail the editor (forum@metalsmith.org) or send a card or letter by Tuesday, May 27.

WANTED: "Metalwork" for exhibit at River Falls, WI public library July 12-August 16, 2003. Have wall space and 11 strong pedestals. Contact Doug Johnson at 715-425-5181, or 420 Cemetery Rd River Falls WI 54022

WANTED: Metal workers to fabricate flat animal shapes for Indian Center in Mpls. Contact: Doug Johnson
420 Cemetery Rd
River Falls WI 54022
Phone: 715-425-5181

2004 ABANA Conference

The date and location of the next ABANA conference has been established: July 7-11, 2004 in Richmond, Kentucky on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University.

Please keep checking the ABANA web site <http://www.abana.org> for more information and on-line registration as it becomes available.

We will have a live webcast from the site as well as 'daily photos' that will be accessible from the ABANA home page.

Dave Mudge davemudge@abana.org
Internet Committee Chairman

How to run for election to the ABANA board of directors

The Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc. (ABANA) is run by a board of 15 directors elected by the membership. These elected volunteers serve as officers, committee chairpersons and members of committees. Five of the 15 directors are elected each year for a three-year term.

To run for election, one is required to be an ABANA member in good standing and provide the following:

A nominating petition signed by at least 10 ABANA members submitted with photograph and candidate statement to the central office by June 15 of the election year.

ABANA Central Office, P.O. Box 816, Farmington, GA 30638