

The Forum

March 2009



Vol. 11, No. 3

Forum to be available via email!

As I mentioned at our February membership meeting, our accounting books reveal that our publications are running us into the 'RED' on a regular basis. It turns out that your annual membership fee does not cover the costs of printing and mailing *The Forum* and *The Metalsmith* to you each year. I think the problem becomes obvious.

In order to try and resolve this issue without calling for an increase in dues, the Publicity committee has recommended that we offer *The Forum* (and possibly *The Metalsmith* in the future) in an electronic version that would be emailed to you each month.

If you are willing to receive an electronic version **only** of *The Forum*, please send us a brief email stating which of the two options below would be your preference.

How you would like to receive your newsletter in the future:

1. PDF attachment
2. Link for you to download a copy

Send your response to Gordon Barr at - agbarr@aol.com

Thank you.
Roland Sigurdson
Publicity Chair

Now please read on to find registrations sheets for the workshops currently being sponsored by the Guild of Metalsmiths and taught by Guild members. There's also a plethora of information within this issue regarding upcoming events, including the April 8 membership meeting to be held at Oakeshott Institute in Minneapolis.

Also, on page 14 you'll find a form to use to send your most current address. Gordon Barr is working on a new Guild directory, and he would like everyone to reply either by email or fill out the form and mail it to him **by March 25!**

Forum deadline for April: Monday, March 16, 2009

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 16, 2009 to Georgia Myers, editor, by e-mail to:

forum@metalsmith.org
(e-mails will be forwarded to Georgia Myers), or to gldmyers@embarqmail.com or mail them to:

Georgia Myers
413 W 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 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.

For address change, or to submit comments, please mail to: The GoM Forum

Georgia Myers
413 W Dakota St
Lake City, MN 55041-1869
or e-mail to
forum@metalsmith.org or
gldmyers@embarqmail.com

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



‘The Forum’ is online

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

Intro to Stick & Wire Welding Class

Date: Saturday, April 4, 2009
Cost per student: \$100
Instructor: Bryan Steckman
Location: Toll Welding
3005 Niagara Lane N
Plymouth, MN 55447 (map pg. 11)
Class limit: Maximum 6, minimum 4

In this workshop participants will learn the basic set up and operation of stick (SMAW) and wirefeed (GMAW/FCAW) machines. Some of the topics included will be safety, tips on selecting the right machine for you (new or used), explanation of the differences between and pros and cons of the two processes, and the practice of the manual skills involved (stinger and gun manipulation) to run beads in a variety of positions.

This seminar will NOT qualify you to weld piping systems at nuclear power plants. The purpose of this seminar is to familiarize the participants with the equipment and processes. This will be done via hand outs, lecture, question and answer, and hands on lab time.

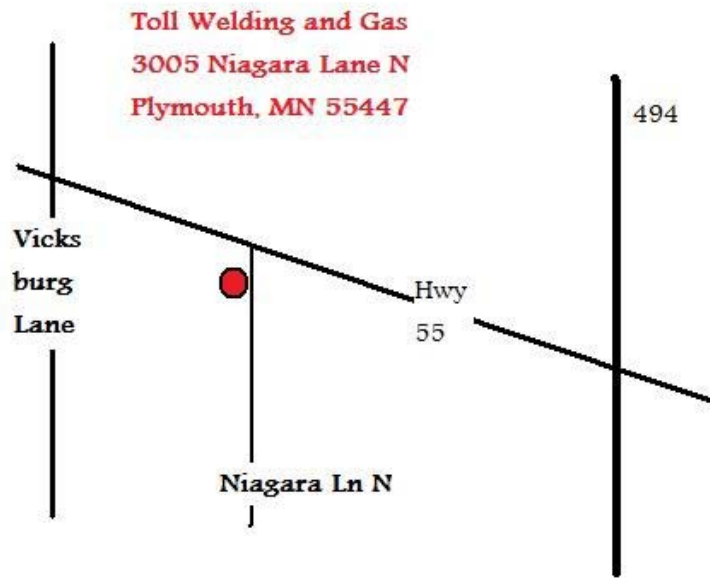
Basic equipment will be provided (standard welding helmet and gloves). If you would like to purchase your own safety equipment, see Bryan and he'll give you a deal. Participants must provide their own safety glasses and hearing protection. It is recommended that students wear cotton fabrics (same stuff you'd wear smithin - things you can burn up). Short skirts and peep-toe pumps will not be permitted.

Any questions please contact Bryan Steckman, 763-843-7980.

**Register for this Intro to Stick and
Fire Welding Class by filling out the
form on the next page and mailing it
in.**

Saturday, April 4, Intro to Stick & Wire Welding Class

- Bring your own gloves and welding helmet, if you have them.
- Safety glasses & ear plugs are mandatory. Other safety equipment may include: gloves, leather apron, cotton clothing, leather shoes.
- Bring your own lunch or eat at a nearby restaurant.



Registration is \$100 per person. Send check made out to Guild of Metalsmiths to:

Bryan Steckman
3312 Noble Avenue N
Golden Valley MN 55422

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Gas Forge Building Workshop

Date: Saturday, May 2
Time: 9 am until done (expected to last into evening)
Location: Nowthen Blacksmith Shop
Cost: \$200. The final amount will vary, depending on how much material we can salvage or have donated. The final cost will be determined after all materials have been procured.
Class size: Minimum 6 students, maximum 10
Instructor: Jim Moenck, 651-735-4461, jrmoenck@yahoo.com
Bring: We will need various extra equipment; belt grinders, welders, oxy/acetylene setups, etc. I will contact every participant to see if they have any equipment that could be used.

This is a workshop in which we will all work collectively to make a venturi burner style gas forge. The forge will be a single burner type. The body will be approximately 10" diameter by 12" made with a helium tank. It will be insulated with a 1" blanket of ceramic fiber, coated with a cementitious finish for durability. Fire brick will be used for the floor and sliding doors on each end, making it possible to pass the stock through, to heat the center of a work piece. The forge will sit on a stand welded onto it for stability. This forge is a simple, economical forge that should be able to reach a welding temperature.

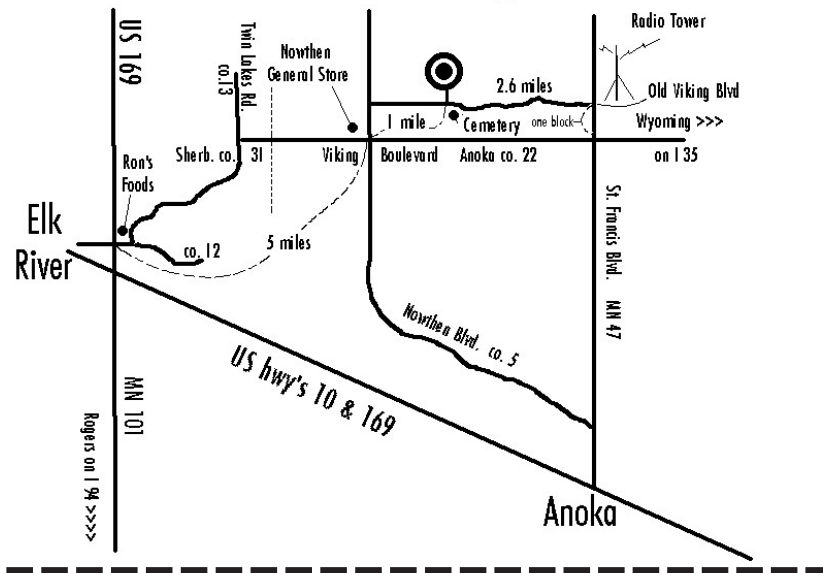
**Register for this gas
forge building
workshop by filling out
the form on the next
page.**

Gas Forge Building Workshop (continued)

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

Lunch Arrangements: Bring you own lunch, or eat at a local establishment. We will work continuously thru the day, with no designated break times for lunch. The class will likely run into the evening, so bring enough food and beverage for a long day.

Nowthen Threshing Show



Registration form should be sent to:

Jim Moenck
661 Dorland Road S.
Maplewood, MN 55119

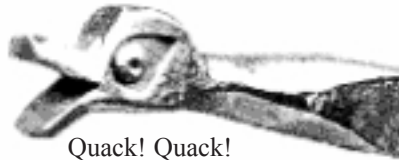
Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Animal Head Workshop



Date: May 9
Time: 9:00 am
Location: MyronHanson's shop
4015 Dodd Road
Eagan, MN 55123 (map page 11)
Cost: \$40 (see details in class description)
Instructors: Myron Hanson, Bill Krawczeski, and
maybe a couple of the other usual
suspects

Class limit: Maximum 8, minimum 4 students

Description: Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! These animals and more, or at least their heads, can all be yours if you learn to make them. Animal heads are excellent practice in manipulating (upsetting, drawing, splitting, etc) the metal and once you learn how to make them you will find all sorts of projects that you can use an animal head on. This is an intermediate project and participants should have a good grasp of basic smithing skills.

(Continued on next page)



**Register for this traditional
“Guild” workshop by sending
in the form on the next page
and have your very own animal
head collectable.**

Animal Head Workshop - more details

Bring: Your favorite smithing hammer and the tools described in *The Iron Menagerie* (mostly small chisels and punches). If you don't have a copy of the book and need a description, or don't have the resources to make them yourself either email Martin or call Myron and we can figure something out.

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

Lunch arrangements: Either bring a bag lunch or bring money to dine at one of the local establishments.

Map to Myron's on next page

Register for this Animal Head Workshop by sending a check for \$40 made out to **Guild of Metalsmiths** to:

Martin Pansch
8750 Yale Avenue
Young America, MN 55397

Name: _____

Address: _____

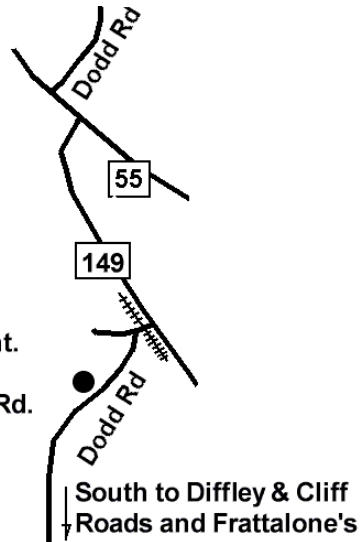
City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

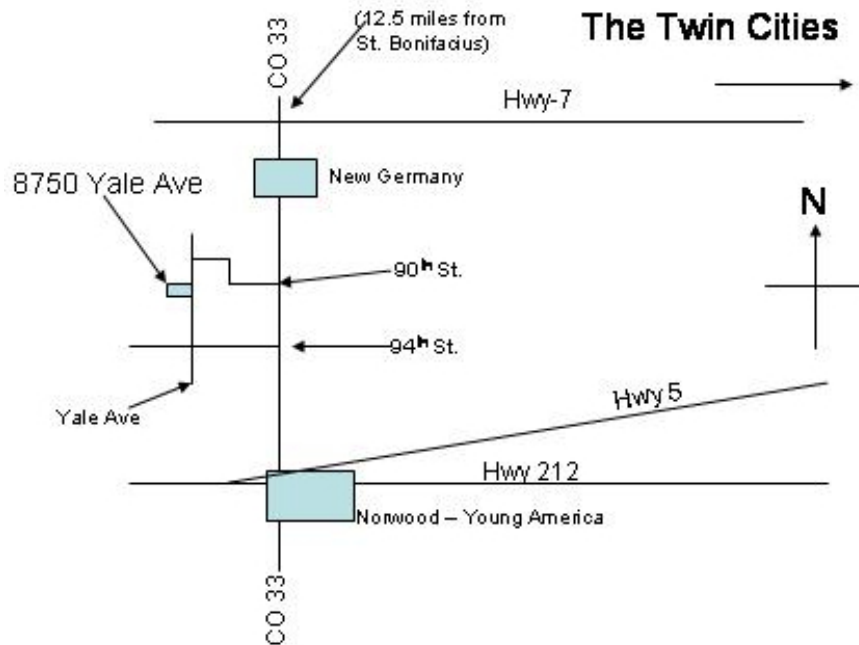
1 Myron Hanson

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



Map to location for Belt Grinder Workshop May 16 & 17



April 8 Guild meeting set for Minneapolis - Oakeshott Institute

The Oakeshott Institute museum contains the lifetime collection of swords once owned by the late Ewart Oakeshott. Mr. Oakeshott was a leading authority on European arms and armor. His collection contains more than 75 pieces and spans nearly 4,000 years of history, including a sword from the First Crusade and a Scandinavian sword from the Bronze Age. Ewart Oakeshott died in 2002 at the age of 86, but his legacy lives on through the work and efforts of The Oakeshott Institute.

The Oakeshott Institute has recently finished translation of a 14th German House Book. This work contains the handwritten notes of a craftsman of arms and armor. Covering a vast array of topics and more than notes on the manufacture and treating of metal, it also contains methods and techniques of warfare. It even includes information concerning etiquette and hygiene of the period.

It is like paging through someone's handwritten notes concerning their personal wide ranging knowledge. This work is packed with empirical observations from an objective view of someone living their craft.

Join us while the Oakeshott Institute's (and Production Manager of Arms and Armor Inc.) Craig Johnson presents a look back into the methods and techniques of 14th century arms and weapon smiths.

Mr. Johnson has a great deal of background in the use and manufacture of European weapons and armor. His work as consultant, researcher, and practitioner in the areas covered in this book make for an excellent opportunity for us to hear some of the information learned from this translation project

The meeting starts at 6:30 pm with potluck, followed immediately by our membership meeting.

— *David Uppgren*

Map and directions to Oakeshott Institute on next page.

**The Oakeshott Institute
1035 SE 14th Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55414**

Directions to Oakeschott Institute

Going North on 35 W, exit #19 signed for E Hennepin Ave.

Go East two blocks to 13th Ave SE.

South one block to Talmage Ave SE.

East one block to 14 Ave SE.

Turn Right, South, half block.

Coming from the south remember that you will probably take either Hiway 65 from the south or Hiway 280. Both intersect with East Hennepin north of the river. Correct from there by finding 13 Ave SE.

From the North, Exit #21A.

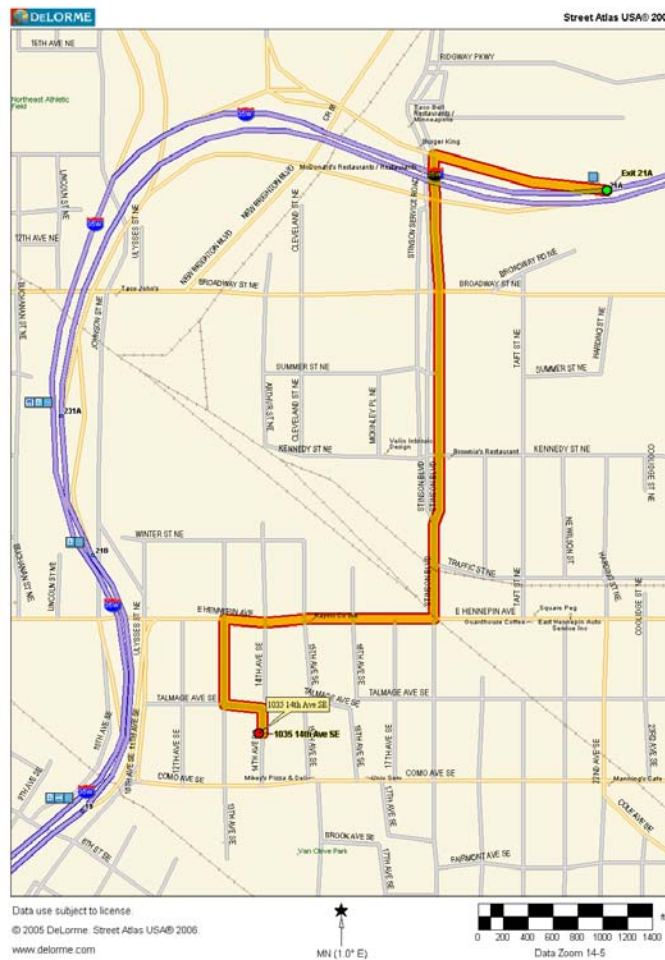
South on Stinson Blvd 1/4 Mile to E Hennepin Ave.

Turn right, (West) 0.1 mile to 13th Ave SE

Go South to Talmage Ave SE as above.

East one block to 14th.

Turn right (South) half block.



Guild Directory Update

Dear Members,

It is once again time to refresh our membership directory and get your mailing/phone/email contact information up to date. We will be including an updated version in the next edition of the Metalsmith (due out in April).

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Please send this information via email to Gordon Barr at - agbarr@aol.com or mail this form to our P.O. Box at:

The Guild of Metalsmiths

PO Box 11423

St. Paul MN 55111

We need to receive this information no later than **March 25th** in order for it to be included in this Directory.

Thank you.

Roland Sigurdson

Publicity Chair



**B Class,
Basic
Black-
smithing**

Whether it be the desire to make woodworking tools, to make a sword or to further their forging skills, this group of outstanding students earned their way through the basics. Basic B Class 2008-2009 (Left to Right): Tom Keyser, Drake Willis, David Mikkelson, Larry Sorensen, Scott Lawrence, Loren Pribyl, Not Pictured (Dan Gravley, Steve Bossert)



(David & Chris) One on one training how to flatten a bend.



Scott the smithy and Darryl the striker working together as a team.



Larry working the split into a flesh fork with ease.

February 'Show and Tell' prompts great idea!

At the February Guild meeting held in at Alpha Engineering and Manufacturing, the show and tell table drew quite a bit of interest. Herb Fick reports that Joseph Anton brought a table of metal sculpture made from old flatware. Photos are shown below.

Herb suggests that for the 2009 Fall Conference "Found Art" event, members should start thinking about bringing their discarded flatware to promote more creativity. Great idea!



December Guild meeting 'show and tell'

In the "better late than never" category, below are some nice examples of items created by Guild members and shared at the December meeting. Thanks to Juliette, a fine photographer, for snapping these so we can all enjoy them.



40th Annual Minnesota Iron Pour, Exhibition, and Symposium

Contact: Wayne E. Potratz, Professor and Scholar of the College
potra001@umn.edu

When: April 15-17, 2009

What: An aesthetic, athletic, pyrotechnic performance event where guest artists, faculty, and students melt and cast iron into works of art. “Iron Pour Blood” an exhibition of small cast iron sculpture and a small two- day “symposium” on contemporary cast iron art.

Who: Guest Artists: The Keynote Speaker is Tom Joyce, McArthur Fellow from Sante Fe, NM, artist, metal smith, and sculptor, recognized as the best metal smith working today in the USA. Guest Artists and Panelist: Professor George Beasley, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, Internationally known Sculptor and Performance Artist with Iron; Laura Griffith, Artist and Sculptor working in Cast Iron; Professor Coral Lambert, Alfred University, Alfred NY, Sculptor working in Cast Iron and Director of the 5th International Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron Art [Ironbridge, England, UK; 2006]; Paul McMahill, Sculptor and Alumnus, Molding and Casting Director, Polich Tallix Fine Art Foundry, Rock Tavern, NY.

Additional artists involved in the iron pour event: Jenny Nellis, Professor, University of Minnesota Morris, Cam Choy, Professor, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, WI; Jim Swartz, Professor, SW Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN, Robert Tom, Professor, Augsburg College; Tamsie Ringle, Professor, College of St. Catherine, Butch Jack and Kurt Dyrhaug, Professors, Lamar University, Beaumont TX

Where: Regis Center for Art - 405 21st Avenue S -Minneapolis, MN 55455
There are two parking ramps near the Regis Center. One on 19th Avenue and one on 21st Avenue, both are just north of Riverside Avenue S on the West Bank of the U of MN Minneapolis Campus.

The exhibition “**Iron Pour Blood**” will be held in the Quarter Gallery, Regis Center for Art; the symposium events the In-Flux Auditorium, Regis Center for Art, and the Iron Pour Event in the Foundry and Courtyard of the Regis Center for Art.

Schedule: Wednesday, April 15, 7 pm Influx Aud. - Keynote Talk by Tom Joyce

Thursday, April 16, 7 pm Influx Aud – Artist presentations by George Beasley, Laura Griffith, Coral Lambert, and Paul McMahill, followed by panel discussion with Artists and Tom Joyce.

Friday, April 17, 9 am- 5 pm- 40th Annual Minnesota Iron Pour, Foundry and Courtyard, Regis Center for Art.

Guild Directory Updates

NEW MEMBERS

David Mathison
1280 – 87th Ave
Baldwin, WI 54002
651-492-8693
Unclenicknack1@yahoo.com

Peter Hutter
1710 – 3rd Ave n. No.1
Minneapolis, MN 55405
612-381-1736
Coyotebow@gmail.com

Paul Courneya
11024 Johnson Ave S
Bloomington, MN 55437
952-881-8219

Wayne Olson
3810 State Highway 10
Pine City, MN 55063
320-629-1309
Wayneolson10@gmail.com

CHANGES

Scott Ronken
Bicycletorch@gmail.com

Mike Rochford
715-557-0412

Dennis Presser
Wotihnisa@hotmail.com

Cliff Asmus
952-457-2114

Bob Brown
Bbrown474@msn.com

John Grump
Johngrump@att.net

Dan Kral
612-860-1905
Dkral@jdtintl

Art Broderson
PO Box 2005
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

FOUNDRY EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Foundry Bench with basin for catching sand when taking apart molds
Copes and Drags 8 in various sizes
Hand Tools Ramming tools, spru cutters sculpting tools, skimmers, etc.
Melting Furnace
Tongs 2 sizes
Ring Shanks 2
Petro Bond About 100 lbs. Usable, but could use a little freshening up.
Screens 2, large
Crucibles 3
Add a little bronze or aluminum and this package is ready to go.

This equipment is all industrial quality. It was the foundry setup in our local rural high school.

\$1,000.00

Bob Walsh
(715) 442-3102
robertwalsh@centurytel.net



John McDonald (left) and Myron Hanson finished up these two stoves in one night!

Staying warm by the stove

How do you define crazy? Some might say winter camping at -27 F. This past January a friend and I went skiing and winter camping in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. We've done this a few times in the past, but tried something different this year. Instead of using our summer tent and having a big campfire to try and stay warm, we rented a canvas tent with a sheet metal woodstove. The guy we rented from said that once we tried a heated tent we would want our own set-up. He was right!

If one could say winter camping is luxurious, having a heated tent is it. You can dry out all of your wet stuff after a day of skiing and sit around a nice warm stove for a few hours in the morning and the evening.

It used to be that small, sheet metal stoves were common. You could even buy them at the hardware store. Nowadays, with insurance companies and UL ratings those stoves are hard to come by and expensive. So I figured why not make my own?!

I went over to Myron Hanson's shop to talk to he and Charlie Bateman about the virtues of winter camping and options for bending up a sheet metal stove. I couldn't have been five minutes into the conversation, and Myron is headed to the big welding table with a chunk of sheet steel. Charlie tells me "John, you'd better have your dimensions, because Myron has already started on your stove". Under Myron's direction, Charlie and I scurried around the shop cutting and bending sheet metal and hunting down rivets. An hour later Myron is rubbing his hands above a partially finished stove and exclaiming, "I can already feel the heat blasting from this furnace". Charlie was saying something about winter camping at a Holiday Inn....

By the next day there were two completed 10"x10"x20" sheet metal stoves sitting in Myron's shop. After I went to the hardware store and got a 5" diameter stove pipe, there really was heat blasting out of that sheet metal furnace!

It was a fun project, and as always, I learned a great deal from Myron and Charlie. So if you want to do some luxurious winter camping at -27 F, I've got the stove for you!

— John McDonald

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**



Adjustable Forged Candlestand Tom Latane, Instructor April 30, May 1, and May 2.

Class will cover the traditional skills involved in constructing an adjustable tabletop candle holder. Students will begin by forge welding the tripod base and forming penny feet. The vertical staff will be tenoned into the center of the tripod. Mortise and tenon joinery will also be used to assemble the frame holding the springs which hold the crossarm in place. Candle cups and drip saucers will be forged. Decorative filing will be demonstrated as well as a decorative finial to inspire students who wish to carry the project beyond forging and assembly.

Embellishing Japanese Swords Bill Fiorini, Instructor May 29, 30, and 31

Bill will be doing tool making, inlay techniques and stamping techniques used by the Japanese to embellish the decorative parts of a sword. It will be for beginners through advanced students, including students that I had in the last class. The students will need to bring their own hand tools and a list will follow.

Exploring chasing and repousse in silver Kirsten Skiles, Instructor June 25, 26, and 27

Covered in two consecutive sessions. For the first session, we will work on a leaf form and turn it into a pendant. For the second session, students may either use their own design, or use one of Kirsten's (either a rabbit or a flower). That design will be turned into either a ring or pin. In both sessions, students will learn how to use a jeweler's saw to cut metal. The 2nd session will include basic hard soldering of sterling silver.

There will be tools to make. There will be lab fees to cover the cost of the silver, findings, solder, and flux. (approx \$20.00?) We will have torches to share and different handheld portable torch options.

A three day class would include making tools, the two day class tools would be furnished. Students will again need pitch bowls filled with pitch or small cast iron skillets filled with a small quantities of pitch.

Future plans: Peter Ross will be coming to the mill in 2010. Also, Nathan and Roger are still on for 2009, but no dates set yet. (see February Forum for more details). We are still looking for ideas and input from YOU! What are your interests? How can we help? Call or email us!

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 Wednesday of each month.

Events in March, 2009

- March 7, Beginning Blacksmith class C2 at MSH•
- March 11, Guild board meeting, location change TBA by Rich H.
- 3/24 Beginning Blacksmith class C3 at MSH
- March 28, Making a Viking Axe Class, Tunnel Mill (CLASS FULL)

Events in April, 2009

- April 4, Intro to Stick & Wire Welding Class, Toll Welding
- April 8, Guild membership meeting, Oakeshott Institute, Mpls.

Events in May, 2009

- May 2, Gas Forge Building Workshop, Nowthen Blacksmith Shop
- May 9, Animal Heads class, Myron Hanson's in Eagan
- May 13, Guild board meeting at Myron Hanson's
- May 16 & 17, Belt Grinder Workshop

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: Paul Branch

715-248-7788

pbranch@frontiernet.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