

The Forum

April 2009



Vol. 11, No. 4

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 century 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 Upgren

Map and directions to Oakeshott Institute on page 12.

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

Forum deadline for May: Monday, April 20, 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, April 20, 2009 to **Georgia Myers**, editor, by e-mail 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.

**Hammer Making
Workshop
Saturday, May 16
at 9 a.m.**



**Where: Flint Rock Ridge
Forge (map on next page)**

Fee: \$45

**Instructors: Dick Carlson, Myron
Hanson, Bill Krawczeski**

Class size: maximum 8 students; minimum 5 students

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.

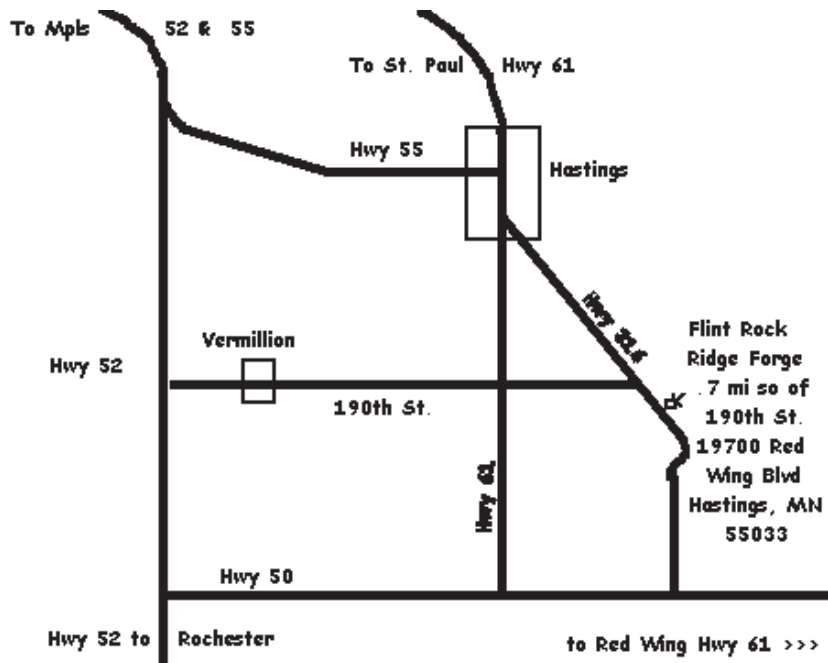
Coffee and cookies will be available in the morning. Bring a bag lunch, or lunch will be available for \$5 each. Restaurants are also located in Hastings.

This is a Guild-sponsored class.

**Register now for this popular and
classic workshop.**

**Fill out the form on the next page
and return it soon.**

Join fellow blacksmiths on April 19 for this Hammer Making Workshop!



Register for "Hammer Making Workshop." Fill out form below and mail, along with check for \$45 made out to "Guild of Metalsmiths" to:

Dick Carlson
19700 Red Wing Blvd
Hastings, MN 55033

For questions, call Dick at 651-437-3329, or email
blacksmith@onlinecarlson.com

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.



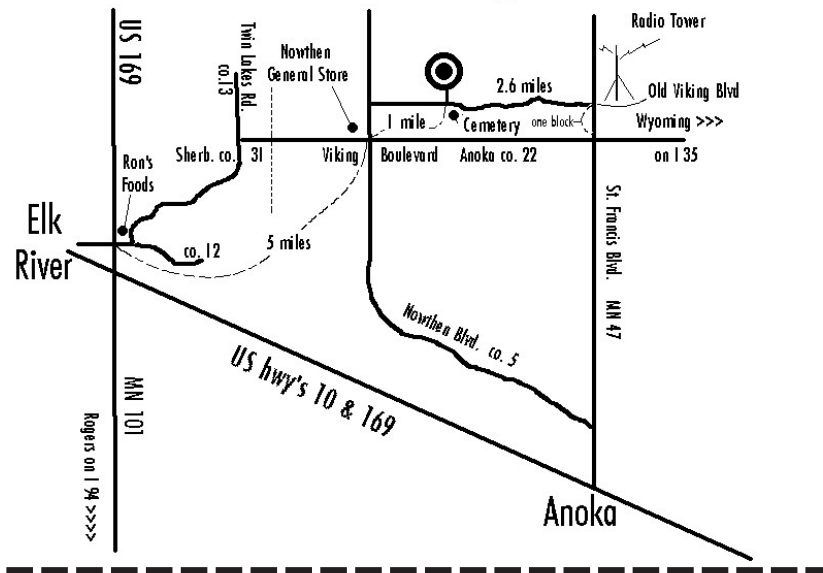
**Register for this gas
forge building
workshop by filling out
the form on the next
page.**

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: _____

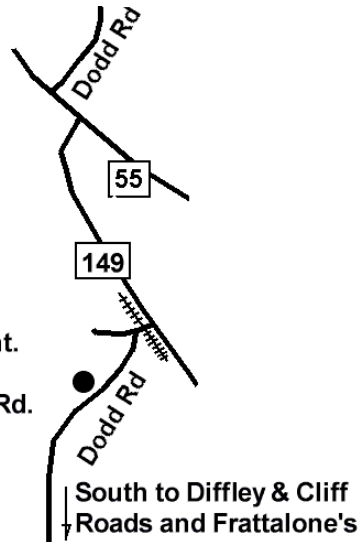
City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

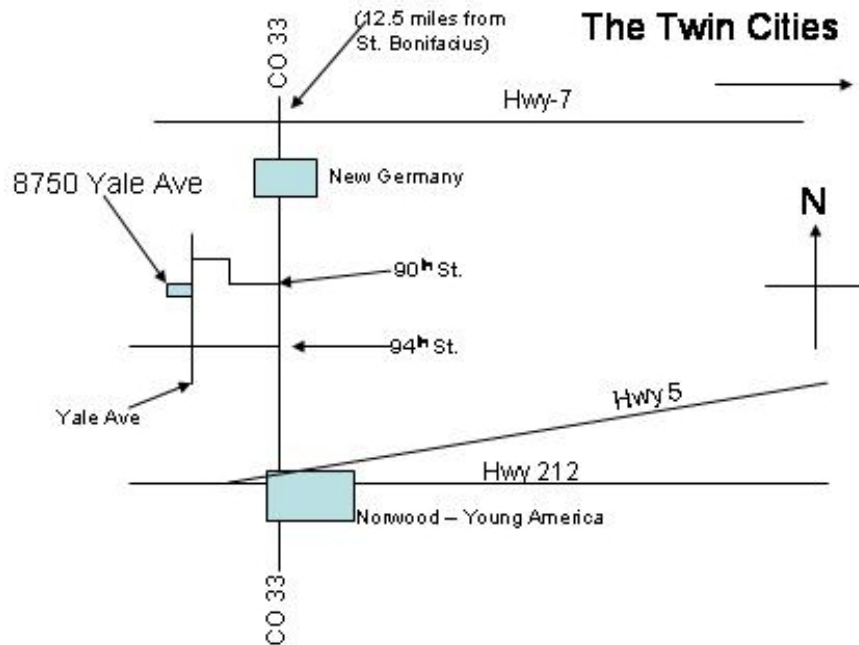
1 Myron Hanson

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



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.

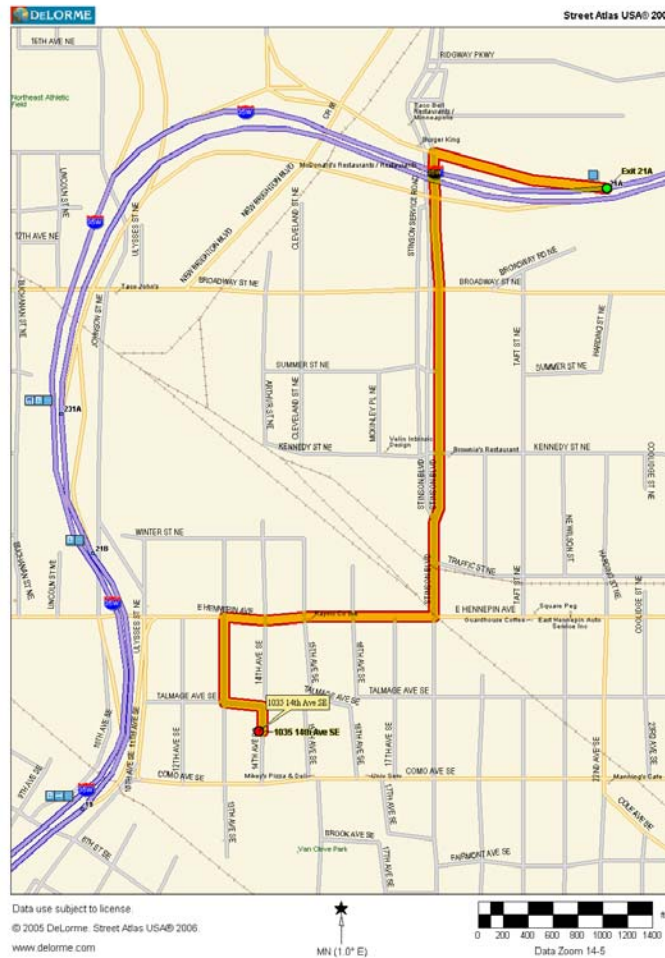
South on Stinson Blvd 1/4 Mile to E Hennepin Ave.

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.



**Minutes – THE GUILD OF METALSMITHS, Board of Directors –
March 11 2009**

Held at the home of: Darryl Ponder 18320 Byrnwood Lane, Minnetonka,
MN

CALL TO ORDER: 7:15 by Rich

Members in attendance:

Herman, Frattalone, Ponder, Lindholm, Rand, Upgren, Sigurdson, Barr,
Marianne, Asmus

Missing: Hanson

AMENDMENT / APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES:

Motion to accept by Dave Upgren and second by Al Lindholm. Motion
passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee-Mike Frattalone

Discretionary fund balance	\$ 9,463
Remaining grants	\$ 6,075
Cash total	\$15,538

Expenses since last board meeting on 11-12-08

Forums	\$ 1,362
Workshops	\$ 1,250
Metalsmiths	\$ 2,072
MN sales tax	\$ 658
Blacksmith study guide	\$ 208
Copies	\$ 15
Total expenses	\$ 5,565
Total deposits	\$ 4,159

Coal 12.8 of 23 tons remaining

Members 323 (up 10 from 3-19-08)

Financial report is available to any member upon request to Mike

Education Committee report-Dave Mariette and Gordon Barr

Last meeting March 4, 2009. Forge welding class did fill

Intermediate class to provide opportunities beyond the basic class, to span
four weeks, Oct-Nov time frame.

Next meeting date TBD.

Treadle hammer workshop is still on. G. Barr and C. Rand working on
improved design. Date and cost dependant upon the outcome of the design
change. Discussed several proposed classes and workshops.

Program Committee- Al Lindholm,

Mark Asprey and Tom Garrett demonstrators for the 2009 fall conference

April guild meeting at The Oakshott Institute.

Next program committee meeting 3/19/2009

Continued on next page....

March Board minutes continued from page 14

Demonstrator agreement was discussed and is being modified.
Need to assign someone to write articles on upcoming meetings normally the meeting champion should write the article.
Discussed having a demonstration at every guild meeting to attract new members. Discussed several upcoming meeting sites.

Publicity Committee- Roland Sigurdson, Chris Rand

Discussed can the Forum be sent electronically to those members who prefer? Copies of the Metalsmith will now be sent electronically to affiliates and international. Based on information gleaned from the Financial Report and Membership Report, the average price to deliver the Forum to a member for one year is \$25.00. The average price to deliver the Metalsmith is \$14.00. Based on the \$30/year annual membership price, we are \$9-\$10 over budget for each member in regards to the Forum and Metalsmith alone. What this means is that these publications are being subsidized by revenue generated from classes put on via the Education Committee. While this has been the case for many years, it seems to the Publicity committee that monies generated from the classes could go to better use if possible.

There will be a check box on the membership form for individuals who want to be added to the Bellows listserv.
Discussed that the website needs to be updated. Several options are being investigated.

Long Term Planning Committee - TBD

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Grants: Target, US Bank Corp, possibility of underwriting the costs of special demonstrators at conference or hammer-ins . Discussed looking for appropriate projects and locating a grant writer.

NEW BUSINESS:

A Webster Wisconsin school asked for the guilds assistance in setting up a forge at an old fort. They requested: membership in the guild for the schools involved, and a copy of *The Beginning Blacksmith* manual. The board decided to give them an affiliate membership and a copy of the manual. Motion by Roland S. and second by Gordon B. There was also discussion about possibly donating some blacksmithing tools.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next meeting of the board is May 13, 2009.

AJOURNMENT: 9:50 PM, Motion by Dave Upgren, accepted without dissent.

Guild Directory Updates

NEW MEMBERS

Alpha Engineering & Mfg
"The Wheelmen"
9839 – 13th Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55441
[763-542-8860](tel:763-542-8860)

Dean Ziegenbein
4651 – 152nd Court
Apple Valley, MN 55124
Dpz72@hotmail.com
[952-322-4776](tel:952-322-4776)

Daniel Osadchuk
13251 Findlay Way
Apple Valley, MN 55124
[612-819-5321](tel:612-819-5321)
Dosadchuk@hotmail.com

CHANGES

Katherine Cramer
Suzuri@Gmail.com

Keith Johnson
www.GreatRiverForge.com

Notes from Herb Fick...

#1:

Dan Pate is offering another metal meet at his shop April 23, 24 and 25. Location is three miles south of Stanton on Hiway 56. Dan has hosted a couple of metal meets that I have attended. He also has hosted a membership meeting and the Don Hammer workshop on antique auto body restoration. Some of the members know where he lives. He has demonstrators lined up for the weekend. Food is on sight for an offering. This is a "hands on" deal for people interested in sheet metal. Car guys and artists will find this a hoot. These are well attended so call ahead if you want a place at the table. Reference "Metal Meet" on the web.

#2.

There is a 25 pound Little Giant in Glenco that will be coming up for sale. Condition is not yet established. It has a one horse motor installed. I've got some pictures available, but sure enough it looks like Little Giant.

Obituary

Guild member Joanne Siebenaler of Farmington, Minnesota, died March 1. Visitation was March 4. She was preceded in death by husband Claude.

For Sale

Screen for fireplace doors. .080 wire size, woven on one inch centers. 5 pieces for sale 18"X 24" each. Good looking screen. Cost new, \$200 plus shipping, sell all for \$75.00. Brand new.

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

Upcoming events...

Tom Latane will teach a two day workshop at the Driftless Folk School in Hillsboro, WI, June 13 and 14. The first day students will forge a substantial thumbtack, striking for each other, then each finishing a handle. The second day will be spent forging as much of the back-latch group - lift bar, staple and keeper - as skill and time permit.

Call the registrar for information at (888) 587-6540 or see <http://driftlessfolkschool.org>.

CanIron V11

The Western Canadian Blacksmiths Guild is going to put on CanIron V11. The date is August 7,8 &9th. The location will be at Ness Creek Sask. More information to follow but I will say it is beautiful lake country, perfect for a holiday. There is room for on site camping @ \$10 per day. Also, there are Hotels, B&B's and cabins in the area.

We will have 4 or 5 top notch demonstrators doing their thing and we will also have demonstrators for knife making. We are going to have a Hands On project on the go as well. More information to follow on that.

The cost to pre register will be \$200.00 from now to July 1st then the price will increase to \$250. The phone number and address will be posted later. On site meals will be available at a cost of \$120 per person for the event, and again please make your intentions known as soon as possible.

As we proceed we will provide more information .

Larry Olm, President

Guild member offers 2-hour blacksmithing lesson certificate

Tom Latane has donated a certificate for a two hour lesson in his shop to an auction to benefit Young Life , a Christian youth program, and World Vision, a worldwide humanitarian aid organization.

The auction will be held at 5:30 on April 30 at The Metropolitan Ballroom at 5418 Wayzata Blvd. Tickets are \$50 or 10 for \$300.

If response is good this may be a way to reach more potential blacksmiths and expand exposure for the Guild. There are probably a number of organizations in the Twin Cities area hosting fundraising auctions that could bring the Guild together with interested people.

The Ring Project revisited

Tom Phelps here from the Program Committee. Last year there were 27 rings given out to be individually designed by members and auctioned off. After one was chosen for the gate, only seven were turned in.

This year Mr. Carlson and the Program Committee are asking that the folks who have a ring (I am guilty of this myself) finish their project and bring to the Fall Conference to be auctioned off, or return the ring to Mr. Carlson so others May have a chance.

Thank you for your time.

— Tom Phelps

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 - still have openings! 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 - still have openings! 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- openings! 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 April, 2009

- April 4, Intro to Stick & Wire Welding Class, Toll Welding
- April 8, Guild membership meeting, Oakeshott Institute, Mpls.
- April 23, 24, 25, Metal meet at Dan Pate's shop

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, Hammer Making Workshop, Dick Carlson's shop in Hastings
- 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