

The Forum

August 2009

Vol. 11, No. 8



Get ready & set for the next Guild meeting at Dan Pate's on August 12

More ramblings from Herb Fick, champion of this meeting...

Dan Pate successfully achieved a practice run for the roast hog offering at the August meeting. Last weekend he borrowed the roaster and entertained a large group of neighbors celebrating a birthday. He declared the burnt offering to be even better than the one prepared for a Metal meet last fall!!!!!!!!!!!!

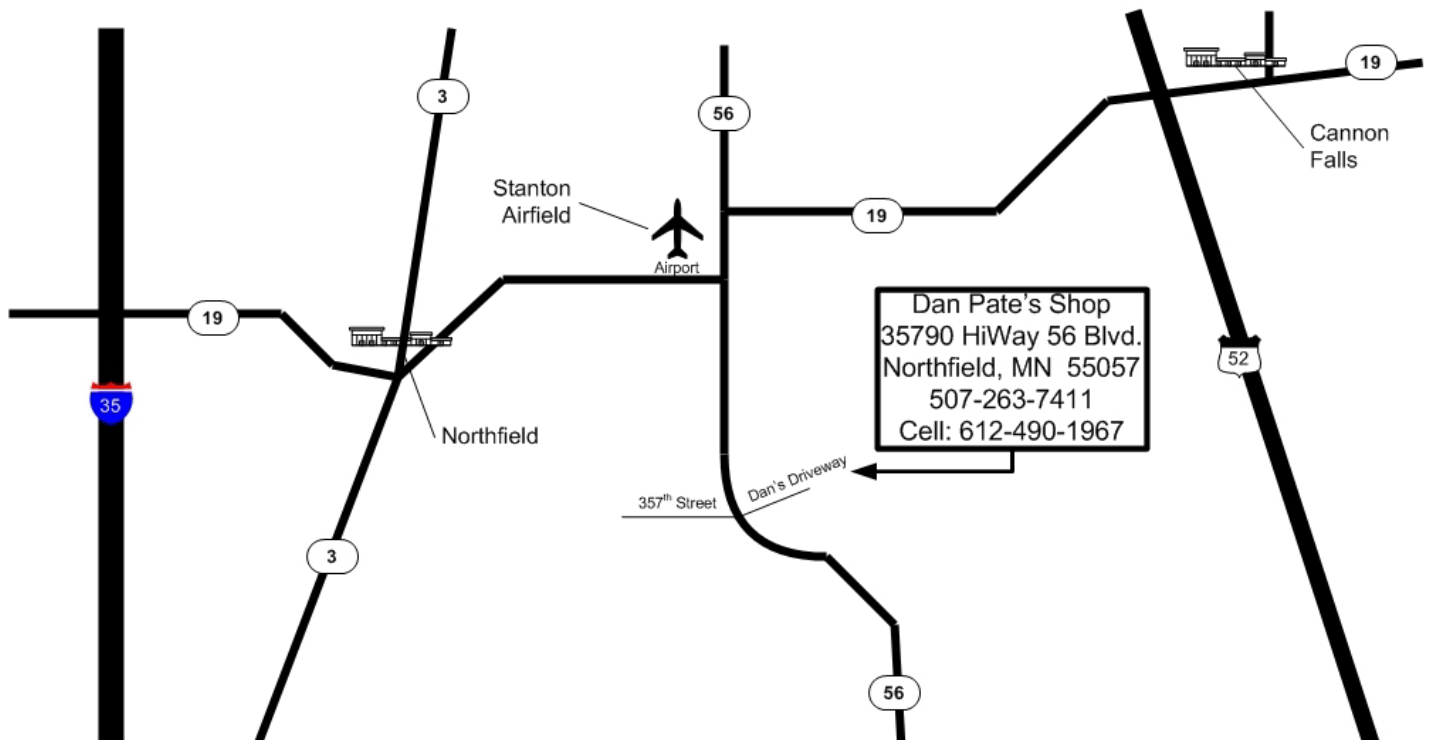
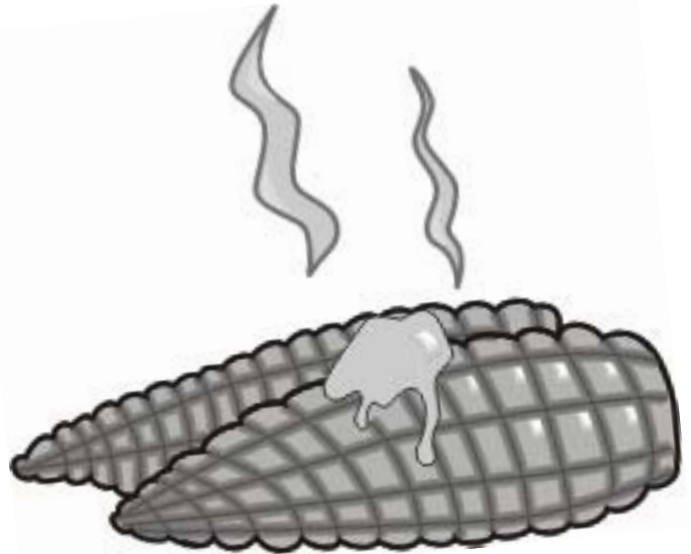
Put that beside the corn that Dick (Carlson) is preparing, and you have a meal deserving of salads, veggies, real desserts and beverages which members are encouraged to bring.

Remember to come early to help set up and to get the matinee versions of the demonstrations.

Gene Olson has said he is happy to offer demonstrations using the PullMax metal shaper.

That means we have four parallel and repeated demonstrations for the betterment of the members' skills.

— Herb



Forum deadline for September: Monday, August 17, 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, August 17, 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

Our neighborhood of smiths

UMBA

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125 different titles

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Badger Blacksmiths meetings

Our contact information is as follows:

President: Paul Branch

Newsletter editor: John

Grump

715-248-7788

715-835-0894

pbranch@frontiernet.net

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

Fall Conference reminder: Completed rings needed!

Ok folks, they asked me to write another article about remembering stuff again, so here goes. In a past article I asked a few people, including myself, to please complete the rings for the "Ring Project" that were due last year so we can auction them off. That was the deal, so get to work, including myself.

Up next, kinda the same but different, the rings that didn't win the spot on the gate also brought in much needed funding for our events and education, so we would ask of all to make a ring project large or small to be displayed in the gallery, then auctioned off. People said they wished there were more entries last year.

Now to finish this off, we are hoping that some of you would step up and make some tools. You know, chisels and punches, tongs and other items to donate to the auction. I know I just said it a minute ago but the Fall Conference is the number one contributor to the Guild and all that we do, so fire something up and get to it. (Including myself).

— Tom Phelps, Program Committee

Obituary: Philip Simmons

It is with deep sorrow that we announce that Philip Simmons, America's Premier Blacksmith, died at 9pm on June 22, 2009 at Bishop Gadsden Retirement Community.

Phillip's work was featured in the classic book "Charleston Blacksmith", was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship for his work and his work has been acquired by the Smithsonian and other Museums.

Moving into the specialized fields of ornamental iron in 1938, Simmons fashioned more than five hundred decorative pieces of ornamental wrought iron gates, fences, balconies, and window grills. The City of Charleston, from end to end, is truly decorated by his hand.

In 1982, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded him its National Heritage Fellowship, the highest honor that the United States can bestow on a traditional artist.

Pieces of his work have been acquired as well by the National Museum of American History and the National Museum of African American History and Culture (under construction), the Smithsonian Institution; the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, NM, and the South Carolina State Museum, Columbia, SC. In 1989, the vestry and congregation of his church (St. John's Reformed Episcopal Church, 91 Anson Street in downtown Charleston), dedicated the grounds of the church to develop a commemorative landscaped garden as a tribute to his exceptional mastery of wrought iron and in recognition of his inspirational character and self assurance.

Note: the above is a summary from the following WCBD website.

http://www.counton2.com/cbd/news/local/article/charleston_blacksmith_philip

The Madness is Coming!

The Fall Conference of The Guild of Metalsmiths (TGOM) will be held this year September 18-20 at the Little Log House Power Show grounds, located six miles south of Hastings on Highway 61.

Friday, September 18...

UPDATE! There will be potluck on Friday evening. Cliff Larsen has offered to prepare pulled pork for perhaps 75 people to share as potluck. He will obtain the Pork, utensils, and baked beans and probably some chicken breasts.

Members and hangers on are requested to focus on salad, veggies, desserts, and beverages. There will be a request for a cash donation. Sounds like a good way to get in the mood for the wine and cheese party for the Gallery opening just a few minutes later.

Dinner will be at 5:00 PM. Set up crew note this so you can try to get your work done in time for dinner. Call your friends from the other groups and invite them to the Madness.

Saturday, September 19...

Saturday is the main event with registration starting at 7:30 AM and demonstrations starting at 9 AM. This year we have two wonderful demonstrators – Mark Asprey from Springville, California and Mike Garrett from Helenville, Wisconsin.

In addition to the demonstrators, other family activities for the weekend include Found Art creation, Altoid Tin Repousse, Broom-making class with Mark Jackson, a Scandinavian spoon carving class with Del Stubb and magnetic art. There will be a materials fee of \$15 charged for the broom-making class and the fee has not been determined for the spoon carving class. It is preferred that you pre-register to make sure you get in the classes by contacting Sheri Stanaitis (2476 10th Ave. Baldwin, WI 54002-7204 ph – (715) 698-2895).

If that isn't enough to keep you busy, browse the silent auction area to pick up that piece of steel you need or the other doodad you can't live without. And if you have an extra chunk of steel or a thingamajig you don't need, consider donating it to the silent auction. We are asking everyone that participates in a public demonstration this summer at a fair or power show, please donate an item to the auction and identify what event it was made at. Tools would in particular be appreciated for the auction.

And let's not forget the highlight of the conference, the Saturday Night Live Auction. This is a major event of the year and provides you an opportunity to pick up some wonderful items for either your shop or your living room wall.

Sunday, September 20...

Sunday is the final day of demonstrations, and your assistance at the end to help put things away would be appreciated.

Now you may expect an opportunity to experience all of this would cost lots of bucks – well, we will take it if you want to give it to us, but all we ask is a measly \$35 per family for the entire weekend or \$20 per family for a single day of the conference. Meal plans are available for \$37 for the weekend per person—order early for availability. Camping is available on the grounds for no charge except for a nominal fee if you connect your camper to the electricity.

More information on the conference will be showing up in your mailbox soon.

Found ART!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I hope most of you have that 5 gallon pail of bits and pieces to bring for the found art project. We've had a lot of fun with this in the past years. There is a highly skilled group of volunteers ready to help.

Also think about Flatware. This is new this year!!!! Flatware and Kitchen utensils, particularly of stainless, will be sought after. Joseph Anton, who showed so many neat pieces at the Bicycle shop meeting, has offered to work with people who want to do flatware sculpture. He will even bring samples. Young people!! Do not be bashful about this. Corky has offered his small tig welder for that workstation. I've got a stock from a community garage sale, Mike Frattalone will check out the Salvation Army store. We will probably want more.

— Herb Fick and Rich Herman

'Introduction to Scandinavian Spoon Carving'

This class will be available at the Fall Conference, scheduled for Saturday, September 19 at 9:00 a.m.. Call Sheri Stanaitis at 715-696-2895 or email her at spaco@baldwin-telecom.net. A well made spoon has a lot of hidden engineering. We will cover this, using green and dry wood, and practice many of the safe and strong ways to use traditional Scandinavian carving knives.

In 1991 Del Stubbs studied for a winter in Sweden with master carvers, and has taught many courses since. Today he is a carving knife tool maker - (www.pinewoodforge.com) There's room for 12 students at \$25 each. Del provides wood and tools. Register now by calling or emailing Sheri Stanaitis (info above). Email Del with questions at del@pinewoodforge.com.

Much More!

There's much more going on at this year's Fall Conference in addition to what you've already read. If you haven't received a brochure with registration information, give Myron Hanson or Rich Herman a call.

Beginners Blacksmithing Classes

2009 / 2010

When: Classes are held on four Saturdays from 9 – 4. Three sets of classes are held this Fall, Winter and Spring. All 3 sets of classes teach the same information. You can choose either the A, B or C set of classes.

<u>A Class (FILLED)</u>	<u>B Class</u>	<u>C Class</u>
Sept 26 (FILLED)	Jan 9	Feb 13
Oct 17 (FILLED)	Jan 23	Feb 27
Oct 31 (FILLED)	Feb 6	Mar 13
Nov 7 (FILLED)	Feb 20	Mar 27

Cost: First, you must be a member. If you are not, you can join for \$30 per year. The workbook/study guide is \$15 and the 4 classes are \$105. This covers everything you need, the facility, coal, and metal.

Where: The classes are held at the Minnesota School of Horseshoeing, 6250 Riverdale Dr NW, just off Hwy 10 in Anoka near the Anoka Vocational College.

Why take the beginners basic classes: The beginners basic classes are designed to give everyone the same understanding of the basics, techniques and terminology. The basic classes are required before taking any of the many other classes the Guild offers. This enables those classes to concentrate on advanced techniques without having to spend time on basic concepts.

What you need to bring: Eye, ear and skin protection. This includes safety glasses, ear muff or plugs and suitable clothing which includes hard shoes, cotton or leather. Synthetic and polyester clothing will burn and melt. There will be sparks and brushes against hot metal.

Tools: Bring your favorite hammer. A small 1 to 2 pound ball peen hammer would work. We have various hammers for you to try and get a feel for what is comfortable. We have all the punches, chisels and tools you will be using but feel free to bring your own tools if you have them.

What you will learn: The first 3 Saturdays you will learn the basic techniques including:

Safety	Forging Dynamics	Hammer Techniques	Fire Building
Drawing out	Upsetting	Punching	Bending
Twisting	Heat Treating	Scrolling	Splitting

The fourth Saturday will be self paced to build a few items that will include each of the techniques you learned earlier. Instructors will help guide you thru any number of possible projects such as a forge rake, watering can, forge poker, spoon, shovel, etc. This is a good opportunity to try out all your new skills.

Who are the teachers: The instructors are all volunteers with a wide range of experience, talent, and stories. They range from just finishing the basic beginners class to 30 years experience. There is usually at least one instructor for every two students and many times we have had as many instructors as students.

Who are the students: The students come in all ages and experience. We have had 10 year olds and 70 year olds. There are always a few women in each class. Some students have never held a hammer before. Some students are skilled in other crafts, woodworking, glass, welding, pottery and want to learn more about metal work to work it into their craft. Some students are nearing retirement and want to learn a hobby. All share an interest in learning more about blacksmithing.

Typical day: Classes start at 9 but people usually show up much earlier to get the coffee brewing, have a donut, swap stories or show off recent projects. Feel free to bring projects you are working on to show. We break for lunch. You can either bring a brown bag or go out to a local fast food restaurant.

How can I learn more about the Guild or classes:

Call or email Gordon Barr 952-894-4821 agbarr@aol.com www.metalsmith.org

How do I join the Guild Of Metalsmiths?: Send \$30 for a one year family membership to: (make checks payable to “Guild of Metalsmiths)

The Guild of Metalsmiths
PO Box 11423
St. Paul, MN 55111

How do I sign up for the beginning blacksmith classes? We start collecting names as soon as the classes are advertised in the July and August newsletters. The newsletter is usually sent out the first week of the month.

Send a check made out to “Guild of Metalsmiths” for \$120 or \$105 (book or no book) to:

Gordon Barr
11021 27th Ave
Burnsville, MN 55337

Minutes – THE GUILD OF METALSMITHS, Board of Directors – July 8, 2009

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

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 by Rich

Members in attendance: Herman, Frattalone, Ponder, Upgren, Sigurdson, Mariette, Hanson, Asmus. Missing: Lindholm, Rand, Barr

AMENDMENT / APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES: Motion to accept by Dave Mariette and second by Myron Hanson. Motion passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee-Mike Frattalone

DISCRETIONARY FUND BALANCE	8,745 (UP 425)
REMAINING GRANTS	6,075
CASH TOTAL	14,820
EXPENSES SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING ON 5-13-09:	
STATE ANNUAL FILING FEE	25
WORKSHOPS	208
NOWTHEN HAMMER IN	91
FORUMS (3 EA)	1975
STAMPS	9
CONFERENCE	176
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,484
TOTAL DEPOSITS	2,158
COAL 9.5 TONS REMAINING	

MEMBERS 314 (UP 19)

The Financial Report is available to any member upon request to Mike. Mike will forward income and outlay data for the last five years to Darryl, who will graph out income/spending. This will be used to help evaluate the Guild's financial health.

Education Committee report-Dave Mariette

Dave handed out a flyer that he designed for this fall's intermediate class, (Oct 10, Oct 24, Nov 14, Nov 21). Planning for the class continues. The treadle hammer prototype is 90% finished and will be available to try out at the August meeting at Dan Pates. Once the Bill of Materials is finalized a cost will be calculated and the workshop date will be announced. Roland offered to investigate putting together a collection of interesting examples of different works in iron around the Twin Cities and possibly creating an "Iron Tour" guide.

Program Committee- Myron Hanson,

Mark Asprey and Tom Garrett are the demonstrators for the 2009 fall conference, and the conference is pretty well set.

The next meeting is August 12- a corn feed & pig roast at Dan Pates. The October meeting site hasn't been identified yet.

Publicity Committee- Roland Sigurdson

The committee is collecting bids for an upgrade of our website. Special emphasis will be placed on:

- Information for scheduling and announcing meetings
- Upgrade and update the gallery
- Membership information and new member recruitment

The Metalsmith is looking for articles. Myron floated the idea of having "reporters" (people who like to write) attend classes with a champion, and then writing up articles for publication. Roland is updating and printing copies of a Guild information handout for distribution at demonstrations and other events.

Long Term Planning Committee – Dave Upgren

Dave will look into finding a grant writer for future projects.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Grants: Looking for appropriate projects and locating a grant writer. Dave M. discussed some type of sculpture or plaque to display the names of recipients of the Juare/Hubler award. A design is being studied. Darryl looked at tax preparation options and said a version of Turbo-Tax would cost about \$300 and therefore not save much money at tax time. He'll try the IRS EZ form online next year for our 2009 submission.

NEW BUSINESS:

Roland proposed switching our printer for the Forum to the USPS. This could save the guild potentially \$2,000 /year. A motion was made by Ponder to: "Switch at our earliest convenience to the USPS Click2Mail, for the printing and distribution of the Forum. The Board to review the decision at the next meeting". Seconded by Upgren and the motion was passed.

The board discussed raising membership dues, and it was decided to try to cut spending and economize, rather than burden the members with an increase at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next meeting of the board is September 9th, 2009.

AJOURNMENT: 10:00 PM, Motion by Myron Hanson, accepted without dissent.

So, you've taken the basics and think Blacksmithing is cool.
Now you think you're ready to make a commitment to it.

What! Are you nuts?

Turn Back! Turn Back! Before it is too late!

There's Still hope for you!

Introducing: Iron, Man, and Their Evolution

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL BLACKSMITHING WORKSHOP

Forged ironwork has been the king of metals from the earliest farming utensils, to forged components for the space program.

This intermediate level blacksmithing workshop will address forging skills with a historic overview.

An overview of the evolution of ornamental ironwork design will be covered. The participant will learn to identify processes specific to iron design and execution. The workshop will be a hands on forging workshop where each participant will forge a small ornamental iron grille to develop new forging skills.

This workshop is an intermediate level workshop, which means you will need to have: A. Completed beginners 1,2,3,& 4 or equivalent. B: Had some experience forging iron. Should effectively be able to draw a taper, upset, punch, and square bend. Forge welding is a plus, but we will be covering that in the class.

Dates: October 10th & 24th and November 14th and 21st.

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing

Cost: \$120

The processes included in the production of this grille will be:

1. Blacksmithing; an historical perspective.
2. Joinery and design concepts.
3. Fire management.
4. Forge welding.
5. Tool Making.
6. Mortise and tenon joinery.
7. Design execution.

Mail registrations to: David Mariette, 4020 160th Street East, Rosemount, MN. 55068.

Include a check for \$120 made out to, "The Guild of Metalsmiths."

Questions: David Mariette 612-889-3291 or email to david_mariette@anvildancer.com

News from Tunnel Mill

We have a NEW Tom Latane' class scheduled for October.

SWAGES & DIES

Tom Latane' class October 9, 10 and 11, 2009. Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Students will bring their own anvil and stands or stumps to be fitted with the hardy tools made in this class. Tom will demonstrate making open dies and swages by direct chasing and by forging a pattern to be driven into the die stock. Dies demonstrated will include moulding, dragon foot (for use on tripods), and leaf designs. Students will be helped with other design ideas they may have. Tom will also demonstrate forming closed dies in a guillotine type tool for those who wish to bring such tools. If time permits we might do a class project and produce a larger die for use under John's large power hammer one evening.

Call or e-mail for more information. 507-289-4189 or jc-adams@msn.com

TUNNEL MILL FALL GATHERING is OCTOBER 3 & 4, 2009, workshop scheduled for Friday, October 2.

More information to follow.



Crowds gather to watch Guild smiths demonstrate at Little Log House



Carl Nordquist, Guild member and vintage gasoline powered machinery master caretaker, works in the blacksmith shop at Little Log House Antique Power Show on Saturday, July 25. Participation at all three days of the power show this year was great. The spectators went away with new understanding of how metal is smithed to become not only useful but also decoratively artistic. (Photo provided by Larry Sorenson)

Carl takes care of the small, water-cooled gasoline engine that powers the line shaft that runs all machinery in the smithy. That includes start-up, shut-down, and daily maintenance. In the smithy are a drill press, hack saw, large grinder, trip hammer, and the bellows, all driven by inter-connected belts and pulleys powered by the gasoline engine.

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 August, 2009

- Almelund Threshing Show, Aug. 7, 8, 9. Contact Carl Nordquist with questions, carlsanvil@centurytel.net
- MN Zoo Family Fest, Aug 8 & 9. Contact Rich Herman with questions.
- August 7, 8, 9, Rose City. Contact Dave Mariette.
- August 7, 8, 9, MN Trade Association (Murphy's Landing). Contact Roland Sigurdson.
- Guild membership meeting & corn feed, Aug. 12, Dan Pate's.
- Nowthen Threshing Show, Aug. 21, 22, 23. Contact Bob Fredell with questions, bfredell@msn.com

Events in September, 2009

- Rice County Gas & Steam Show, Sept. 5 & 6. Contact Myron Hanson.
- Fall Conference (AKA The Madness), Sept. 18, 19, 20, Little Log House grounds, Hastings, MN
- Beginning Blacksmith Class A1, MN School of Horseshoeing, Anoka, Sept. 26 (Filled)

Events in October, 2009

- Oct. 10 & 24, Intermediate Blacksmithing at MN School of Horseshoeing
- Oct. 14, Guild membership meeting, TBA
- Oct. 17, Beginning Blacksmithing Class A2, MN School of Horseshoeing (Filled)
- Oct. 31, Beginning Blacksmithing Class A3, MN School of Horseshoeing (Filled)

Events in November, 2009

- Nov. 7, Beginning Blacksmithing Class A4, MN School of Horseshoeing (Filled)
- Nov. 11, Guild Board meeting, Myron Hanson's in Eagan.
- Nov. 14 & 21, Intermediate Blacksmithing, MN School of Horseshoeing

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)

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Name: _____

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Company Name: _____

(optional items)
Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Fax: _____ Cell: _____

Email address _____ Web page: _____



PO Box 11423
St. Paul MN 55111

Address Service Requested

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

August 2009

'The Forum' is online

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

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 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 main page, just below the index table, click on "Search this Site," and enter your query.

Join The Bellows, our email discussion forum. Information at:

<http://www.metalsmith.org/bb/TheBellows.htm>

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