

The Forum

November 2019



Vol. 21, No. 11

Beginners Blacksmithing C session and D session Classes - Registration now open for January and February, 2020 3-day classes

- January 4, 11, and 18 in Ramsey (MN School of Horseshoeing) --map page 7
- February 1, 8, and 15 Cleveland (Larry Wasmund's shop)--map page 7

The beginners basic classes are designed to give everyone the same understanding of the basics, techniques and terminology. The basic classes or proficiency is 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.

This 3 day class covers the basics of: Safety, Tools, Fire Control, Forging Dynamics, Tapers (ribbon, fishtail, point), Twisting, Riveting, Shouldering, Upset, Cutting, Splitting, Punching, Heat Treat, Scrolling, Bending, Forge weld.

Cost: (covers everything you need, the facility, coal, metal tools and workbook)

\$180 for members, \$190 non members

Minors (under 18) can share a forge with a guardian for an additional \$30

Dates and Location:

The classes are held on Saturdays at the Minnesota School of Horseshoeing, 6250 Riverdale Dr NW, just off Hwy 10 near the Anoka Vocational College or in Cleveland, MN near Mankato. See page 7 for maps of both locations.

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:

Tools are provided but if you have a favorite hammer, punches, chisels and tools, bring them along. 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.

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. Classes end between 3 and 5.

To sign up for the three day Beginners classes in either January (C session) or February (D session):

Send a check made out to The Guild of Metalsmiths to:

Gordon Barr agbarr@aol.com

11021 27th Ave

Burnsville, MN 55337

(\$180 for members, \$190 non members)

Annual TGoM holiday gathering Sunday, December 8 at CSPA Hall in St. Paul, MN



Join Guild of Metalsmiths friends and families for our annual holiday gathering at the CSPA Hall in St. Paul (address 385 Michigan St, at the corner of West 7th and Western). The hall will open at noon. We usually share hors d'ouvres as people arrive, so bring your favorites if you wish.

The annual business meeting is first on the agenda, including awards, elections, and the normal business stuff starting at 1:00 pm and going on for an hour or so. Your participation is key to this. That leads into show and tell, and possibly an impromptu mini-auction. By then, we'll all have worked up an appetite to sit down to our always delightful holiday potluck.

If you're a first-timer to this event, just go upstairs at the front of the building when you get there. An elevator entrance is also located on the side just off the parking lot. Bring your family!

Any questions about this meeting can be answered by contacting meeting champion Mike Frattalone at icemanfratt@aol.com.



Meet the Instructor: Rick Wessling



Spotlighting a member of The Guild of Metalsmiths who has generously shared knowledge, talent, and time as a class instructor for TGoM.

...sharing our passion for metalworking!



My vocation is Architecture. (I am the guy that

shows up to meetings in a collared shirt and a suit coat.) I have been practicing for 38 years and love the profession. I entered the profession because for as long as I can remember I have loved to design and build. Design and craft is what feeds my soul.

In the early part of my career I did a lot of design and at that time it was all hand drawing. The craft of producing and communicating with drawings from your own hand was and still is deeply satisfying. I found that designing and then executing an idea is incredibly rewarding.

I have worked on many building types, including many many educational buildings. Five years in to the profession I had the opportunity to start a firm of my own in Portland, ME with a couple of partners. The leadership responsibility of running an Architecture firm required more and more project management and firm management. The result was less design and much more being a mentor and coach to others in design.

As a result of the recession in 1991 I moved back to the Midwest and landed in Minneapolis. My career continued on the trajectory of more leadership and management and less and less

design. I needed an outlet to design and practice a craft. Designing and working with wood became my design outlet. (Blacksmithing came along later.) Thankfully my father had a wood shop and we spent time together working on various projects. He instilled the discipline of learning a skill well and producing quality work. This is a cornerstone of any craft.

My career in Architecture became running the business, managing projects, mentoring and coaching younger professionals, design was primarily a vicarious experience. This was satisfying but I really needed a design outlet to feed my soul. Blacksmithing and wood working became my serious avocation, that is, an occupation pursued in addition to one's vocation for fulfilment and enjoyment.

Q: How long have you been blacksmithing? Teaching?

I am not sure how long I have been blacksmithing. I am sure it is over ten years. It is hard to count the years, as I have had so many fantastic experiences and have met so many friends that are willing to share their knowledge. This is the real gift of the Guild of Metalsmiths. The instructors that introduced me to blacksmithing way back in my first beginner's class simply asked if I would be willing to help the next year. It is a very rewarding responsibility and experience.

Q: What drives you to teach?

You can learn so much more about a skill if you have to teach it. Teaching provides the opportunity to hone your own skills while passing the knowledge and skill on to others. It is what many others have shared with me and passing it on to others only increases its value.

Q: What is the most common misconception that novice smiths have about the craft?

That they simply need to hit the metal hard. Force is only one of the components of moving the metal where you want. Investing the time to understand the dynamics of forging and apply them to your work will yield much better results than just hitting hard.

Q: Any tips for a new blacksmith?

Always be a willing student and a student that is willing to ask questions. Bring that willingness to the forge and anvil every time. LISTEN. You will find almost without exception, that there will be someone there that is willing to invest the time to share their knowledge and that in almost every situation there is something you can learn.

Q: What is the most important quality of a successful blacksmith?

Investing the time to learn the basics well and then let the basics carry you on to the higher level skills. Being willing to practice and learn from what you may perceive as a mistake. The skills necessary to be a successful smith all come through practice. Give yourself the opportunity to become successful.

Q: What is your favorite thing to make? Most challenging project (tried or accomplished)?

I have always tried to warm up before beginning the project of the day by making a simple leaf. It is a small but mindful task that centers me before I move on to the project or lesson. Not sure why I find this so satisfying, perhaps it just puts me in the moment and allows me to enjoy the rest all the more. I am happiest when I can make things that are integrated into woodworking projects. Combining the two crafts is something I love and will continue to explore.

Q: Who did you learn from? Is there a memorable lesson or anecdote you'd like to share?

It is my belief that I have learned from most everybody in the Guild. This is what makes the Guild such a fantastic group. If someone doesn't know the answer to the question you have they likely know someone who does.

Q: Finish this sentence: If I wasn't 'smithing, I would be...wood working.

Joinery Class – PART ONE

Saturday & Sunday, November 16&17, 2019, 8:30 am to 4 pm, both days

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing

Cost: \$120

Maximum 8, minimum 4 students Class champion: Derrick Phillips.

This is Part One of three in a Joinery class series. The overall courses are skills based, to incorporate all that was learned in a class taken by the instructors and taught by Mark Aspery.

In this first 12 hours of instruction the student will learn the importance of proper tool making to accomplish successful joinery. We will concentrate this portion on forging tooling to perform ½” slot punching and drifting with ½” round and square drifts. The class is open to all students that have taken the beginners class. Understand that if the student has not had a year or so of reasonably consistent practice this class will be extra challenging.

To register for this class, send a check written to The Guild of Metalsmiths for \$120 to

Derrick Phillips

2461 Como Ave

St. Paul MN 55108

Contact Derrick with questions. derrick_phillips@q.com

Acceptance priority for this class will be determined by postmark.

Fireplace Tools Class

Saturday, Nov. 23, 8 am to 5 pm

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (map page 7)

Instructors: Rich Herman/Larry Wasmund

Cost: \$75 Class size: max students: 10; min students: 4

This class will be a creative class making tools for a fireplace or fire pit. You will create a fire poker, an ash shovel, and a hearth broom handle into which you will incorporate a whisk broom. The stock will be 3/8 square stock and there will be many handle choices from coils to twists and bottle openers that may be incorporated into the handles. Come one, come all, from beginners to advanced skills. All students get enough materials for three tools and a wall bracket. Time should allow finishing two for sure and most will complete all.

Tools and Equipment or other items to bring to the class: Bring favorite hammers and tools or use ours. We will have punches and chisels for decorating.

Safety Equipment: Cotton clothing, gloves, hearing protection, safety glasses.

Lunch Arrangements: at local fast foods or bring your own

To register for this class, send a check for \$75 written to “Guild of Metalsmiths” and your contact information to:

Rich Herman

12553 Danbury Way

Rosemount, MN 55068

Contact for questions: richherman651@gmail.com or

651-322-1623

Acceptance priority for this class will be determined by postmark!



Handled Struck Tools Workshop

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019, 8 am to 5 pm

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (map page 7)

Instructors: Jesse and Dave Gavin, Herb Fick, and others

Cost: \$85 Class size: max 8 students; minimum 6 students

The tools made will be punches with a wire handle and chisels with a wire handle. We will offer the option to use treadle hammers supplied by the teaching staff. (Find out if you really need one of these by trying them.) Tools for the treadle hammers will be supplied. Steel used will be 5/8 and 3/4 inch round 4140 AN for the punches and chisels. Handles will be fabricated from 1/4 and or 5/16 round CRS.



The goal of the workshop is to produce students comfortable with the process of forging and heat treating tools from tool steel. The secondary goal is to have the students comfortable with the use of treadle hammers. We forge in the morning, heat treat and install handles after lunch.

We've accepted that most of the time is spent focusing on understanding the heat treat process. There will be enough stock so we can encourage you to make a couple of serious mistakes and still go home with real tools to use or to offer for the next "iron in the hat".

Power grinders are supplied. Bring your favorite hammers and tongs suitable for the stock if you have them. Bring your basic safety gear (leather, cotton, gloves, eye and ear protection and safety shoes).

Last year we used three different treadle hammers for the eight students. For reference, probable students are invited to question former students including: Gene Thoma, Bryan Carlson, Kathleen Cantner, Derrick Phillips, Wayne Olson, Jim Moenck, or Bob Brown. This class has been going annually for quite a while and has always filled. Credit for that goes to the Jesse and Dave.

Tools and Equipment or other items to bring to the class: Bring favorite hammers and tools or use ours.

Safety Equipment: Cotton clothing, gloves, hearing protection, safety glasses.

Lunch Arrangements: at local fast foods or bring your own

To register, put your name, phone number, email and residential address on piece of paper, fold it up with a check written to The Guild of Metalsmiths for \$85 and send to Herb Fick, who will manage the class.

Herb Fick

519 East Eighth Street

Northfield MN 55057-2508

Contact Herb with questions: 507 663 0569 or 507 649 1611 (cell)

herb@phyque.com

Acceptance priority for this class will be determined by postmark.

Join fellow Guilders...

St. Clement's Day Celebration!

Not sure what to do in the gap between The Madness and the Christmas party?

Come Celebrate St. Clement's Day with Beer & Blacksmiths On Saturday, 23 November!

Hosted by Torg Brewery and co-sponsored by The Guild of Metalsmiths

St. Clement is (one of) the patron saint of blacksmiths and metalworkers. His feast day was a rare day off for these metal artisans when their toils at the forge were replaced by food and drink and the noise of the shop was replaced by the (one must assume off-tune) singing and toasting in pubs. Whether you are a smith or not, come join us as we celebrate this heritage!

Where: 8421 University Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432

When: 11 AM to 11 PM

* First drink is free for Guild members! Non-Guild smiths get a buy-one-get-one token!

* Bring potluck food/snacks suitable for a Feast of St. Clement!

* Bring show and tell items to impress your fellow Guilders and the non-smithing public!

* Bring your favorite clinker to vie for the title of King Clinker!

Sing Twankydillo, make toasts, quaff good beer!

*Play Bocce Anvil and other games!

*Blacksmithing demonstrations (weather permitting)!

If we are lucky Old Clem might even grace us with his presence!

* quaffing is like drinking but less ends up actually getting in your mouth.

Questions? Contact Martin Pansch, 612-599-4762,

blacksmithingyeti@gmail.com



Happy
Thanksgiving!



Congratulations, Beginners Blacksmithing 'Session A' Class of October, 2019!



Beginners Session "A", October 2019

Left to right: Kevin Stinson, George Auel*, David Skaurud*, Leo Niemann, Ethan Duenes, and Mathias Hunter.
 Not pictured: Wayne Olson*, Rick Wessling*, Christina Dodge*.
 (* signifies instructor)

Students & instructors for Oxy-Acetylene Class, Oct. 26 & 27, 2019



Left-to-right: Dick Carlson*, Seth Merritt*, Mark Literski, Brendan Stevens*, Doug May, Bob Brown*, Myron Hanson*, Dean Ziegenbein, Juliet Andersen, Wes Peterson. Not pictured: Mark O'Gorman
 (* signifies instructor)

Students & instructors for Knife Tongs Workshop, August 24, 2019



Left-to-right, back row: James Rahn, Craig Snyder*, James Scott, Jeremy Farber, Richard Zielike, Ben Moore, Dan Moore.
 front row: Doug May, Erik Kuronen, Craig Dunn, Paul Widenhoefer*, Mark O'Gorman
 (* signifies instructor)

Our neighborhood of smiths

The Guild of Metalsmiths (TGoM)

All membership meetings are the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, and October, except December. For these meetings 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). To check your membership expiration date, see the mailing label on your latest copy of "Metalsmith."

President: Larry Wasmund Vice-President: Paul Widenhoefer
poundedtreasures@gmail.com pwidenhoefer@gmail.com
612-599-4762 952-930-0070
Our website is: <http://www.metalsmith.org>

The Guild has a new address

The Guild of Metalsmiths
PO Box 72
Hudson, WI 54016

Please update your records! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. Thank you!

Taya Gavin, Treasurer
gavin1137@hotmail.com 715-781-4389

Badger Blacksmiths meetings

Our contact information:

President: Dave Weiss Newsletter editor: John Grump
715-379-5007 715-829-4559
diamondmetalworks13@gmail.com johngrump@att.net

Badger website: <https://sites.google.com/site/badgerblacksmiths/>

Lake Superior Metalsmiths

Lake Superior Metalsmiths (LSM) meet the fourth Saturday of the month. Potluck at noon with meeting to follow.

Contacts are:

Charley Brown, President, CharleyRB@charter.net, 218-428-7906
Dave Hanson, VP, duluthblacksmith@yahoo.com 218-391-4466

Northern Minnesota Metalsmiths

The NMM meets the first Monday of the month at Lake Itasca Region Pioneer Farmers (LIRPF) show grounds, 1/4 mile east of the north entrance to Itasca State Park.

Contact Keith Johnson for monthly specifics at keith@greatriverforge.com. The NMM's website is www.nmmetalsmiths.org

Central Minnesota Blacksmiths (CMB)

Meet on the first Monday of each month. Potluck followed by demo. Locations are different every month so please call or write for info

President: Ken Zitur Brian Johnson
320-746-8161 16777 Co Rd 75 NW
mail@kensiron.com Clearwater MN 55367
320-558-6898

Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center (CAFAC)

Quarterly blacksmithing classes, exhibits, and open house events
www.cafac.org email: info@cafac.org

Tunnel Mill Crafts

Blacksmith shop, traditional iron work, classes
Located 20 miles south of Rochester MN, near Spring Valley MN
507 289-4189 or 507 289-5246
Carol Adams jc-adams@msn.com,
<http://www.tunnelmillcrafts.com/>

Sandy Lake Forge on Raspberry Island

Blacksmith shop offering classes, workshops and more. See raspberrylakefolkschool.blogspot.com for details or call: 218-851-6085

Gary and Janet Hill Raspberry Island
50569 218th Place McGregor, MN 55760

Goings on...a listing of TGoM events at a glance



- All membership meetings are the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, and October. Date for December will be announced. For these meetings 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).
- Education Comm. meets first Thursday of each month. Contact Christina Dodge, co-chair: christina.gldmbr@gmail.com
- Program Comm. meetings are 7 pm the third Thursday monthly. Derrick Phillips, chair derrick_phillips@q.com
- 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.

Events in November 2019

- Nov. 16 & 17, Joinery Class-Part 1, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Nov. 23, Fireplace Tools Class, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Nov. 23, St. Clement's Day celebration, 8421 University Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park

Events in December 2019

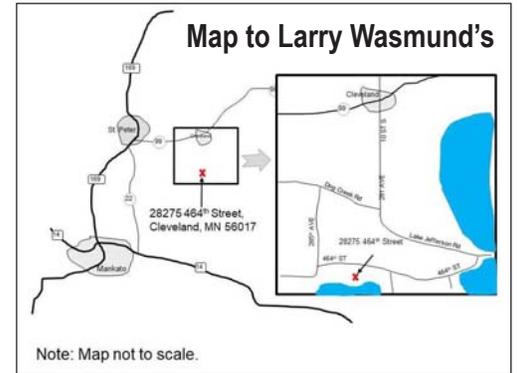
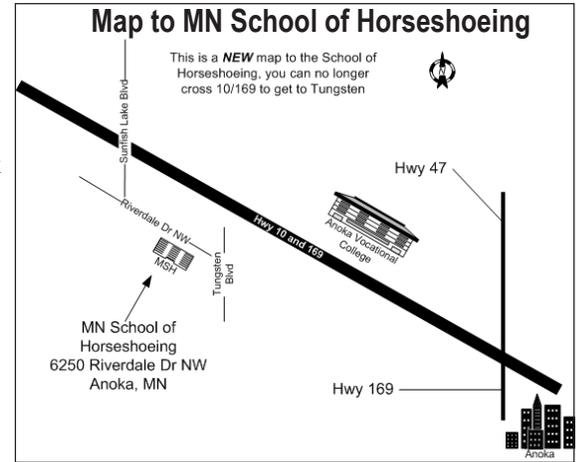
- Dec. 7, Handled Struck Tools Class, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Dec. 8, TGoM Holiday Meeting, CSPS Hall in St. Paul, MN

Events in January 2020

- Jan. 4, Beginners Blacksmithing "C" session classes, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Jan. 11, Beginners Blacksmithing "C" session classes, MN School of Horseshoeing
- Jan. 18, Beginners Blacksmithing "C" session classes, MN School of Horseshoeing

Events in February 2020

- Feb. 1, Beginners Blacksmithing "D" session classes, Cleveland, MN
- Feb. 8, Beginners Blacksmithing "D" session classes, Cleveland, MN
- Feb. 12, TGoM membership meeting, details TBA
- Feb. 15, Beginners Blacksmithing "D" session classes, Cleveland, MN



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 72
Hudson, WI 54016

List Me
in the directory
but don't list

Don't List Me
in the Directory

address - phones: home - work - fax - cell - email - web page
(circle items above you DO NOT want published)

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Primary phone: _____ Secondary phone: _____

All memberships are family memberships. Persons of all ages, professionals and hobbyists, are invited to join. We do not sell our mailing list.

ELECTRONIC FORUM

If you have not been receiving an email notification that The Forum is available, please verify that we have your correct email address. Contact Gordon Barr at agbarr@aol.com.



Address Service Requested

If you have items to be included in *The Forum*, please send them to Georgia Myers, editor, by email to: gldmyers@embarqmail.com by the third Monday of the month, if possible.

The Guild of Metalsmiths on the web

Visit our website at <http://www.metalsmith.org>

Looking for something? Try the search engine. On our home page, at the top of the right sidebar, enter your query and click on "Search."

November 2019

Your membership expiration date will show on the address label of your quarterly "Metalsmith" magazine.

TGoM now accepts Paypal and most major credit cards

The Guild accepts Paypal and most major credit cards, in addition to paper checks, for the payment of annual dues. This should make it more convenient for members to pay dues.

The Forum

The Guild of Metalsmiths 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.

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, "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 72
Hudson, WI 54016