

'The Forum'

April 2020



Vol. 22 No. 4

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

From the TGoM President...

April 8 membership meeting cancelled

I think it is in everybody's best interest: I am officially canceling the April 8 membership meeting at Arms and Armor due to the Covid-19 virus. I think it's important to keep everyone's health in mind. They warn people who have any underlying health issues to be on guard.

--Larry Wasmund, President, The Guild of Metalsmiths

From the Education Committee...

Classes cancelled

Out of concern and caution for our Guild members during this Covid-19 pandemic, we have cancelled these upcoming classes:

- Beginners E Session (days 2 and 3)
- Hammer-Making class May 2nd.

We intend to reschedule, but we'll hold off planning until things become more predictable.

All Guild Education activities are suspended until further notice.

Be well, be safe, remember the wonderful resource we have in each other.

-The Education Committee

From Rick Wessling and the MN Zoo...

Sad to announce that the Farm Babies event during the month of April at the Minnesota Zoo has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Rick says: "All those babies and no one to see how cute." This is an event that has given TGoM smiths the opportunity to demonstrate their skills to the public.

From ABANA...

2020 ABANA Conference cancelled

Due to circumstance beyond our control, the ABANA board has no choice but to cancel the 2020 ABANA conference.

The situation with regards the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change, and can pose considerable health risks to those that encounter it.

We cannot, in good faith, risk the health of anyone involved by going ahead with the conference.

The board and the conference committee want to wish you and your loved one's good health as we move forward from here.

Please be safe, and we'll see you at an ABANA event in the future.

--The ABANA 2020 Conference Committee.

Fall Conference Contest: Fireplace/Firepit Tools

If you wish to compete, make a fireplace or firepit tool (or entire set of tools) to donate to the Guild's Saturday auction at the Fall Conference. Cash prizes will be awarded, but more importantly, you get bragging rights for the year!

Winners are determined by how much money their creation(s) earn in the auction. You can use any metal working technique. The only restriction is the finished piece(s) must directly interact with a fireplace or firepit.

Upcoming:

Our June meeting (June 10) will be held at JJHill Farms in North Oaks. Jim Moenck will be champion.



Meet the Instructor: Dan Osadchuk



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 earliest memory as a child was walking into my grandfather's blacksmith shop with him and my dad. I was very young, maybe about 3. I had no idea what I was looking at hanging on the walls and ceiling, but I wanted to know everything about all that stuff.

My dad pulled me out of there—with his big hand holding mine,

I knew I had no choice but to go along with him. Halfway across the farmyard I wanted to get back in there, so when my dad eased his grip, I jerked my hand free and ran back into the blacksmith shop. I can still hear my dad laughing as he chased me across the yard.

Q: How long have you been blacksmithing? Teaching?

I have been shaping metal for as long as I can remember—started heating it up first in the mid 70's .

Q: What drives you to teach?

I can't think of a more noble profession than that of a teacher. I feel obligated to pass on my knowledge of the craft and the money is good, too.

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

That they can make a knife first.

Q: Any tips for a new blacksmith?

Get the metal hot, hit it hard, know when to stop.

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

A wise man once told me "patience and perseverance".

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

I make a lot of wizard bottle openers and give them away. Took the 3 day crucifix class at the Tunnel Mill with Bob Fredell, that was a challenge. It hangs in my kitchen and I walk by it every day.

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

I have learned much from the fall conference classes. The most memorable lesson I learned was when Bob Fredell kicked me out of the blacksmith shop at the Nowthen Threshing Show. Best kick in the pants I got in awhile. Immediately set out to step up my game. Thanks, Bob!

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

Working on my house.

NMM Spring Conference Cancelled

The Northern Minnesota Metalsmith's Spring Conference scheduled for April has been officially cancelled. Refunds for those who have already paid will be mailed out as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience. We are also cancelling the upcoming April NMM meeting at this time.

We wish everyone safe travels and good health.

Thank you.

Jeffrey M. Olson, Secretary for the Northern Minnesota Metalsmiths

<http://www.olsonironworks.com>

**You are
not stuck
at home.**

**You are
safe at
home.**

Save these dates!

As of now, (April 1, 2020), the following events are still scheduled. Learn about any updates via the bellows or by checking our website: www.metalsmith.org.

Minnesota Military Days June 6 & 7 at the Rice County Steam and Gas Engine grounds, Dundas, MN

DEMO OPPORTUNITY: This is a chance for our smiths to share skills for the public. Contact champion Martin Pansch with questions at 612-599-4762 or blacksmithingyeti@gmail.com

Spring Hammer-In June 12, 13, 14

Don't give up hope yet! We are still planning the 2020 Spring Hammer-in at Nowthen again for this year. Everything is a bit tentative at this point, but keep watching for updates in future issues of *The Forum*.

Activities will take place from 3:00pm - 11:00pm on the evening of Friday, June 12 and all day June 13 and June 14 from 8am till 4:00 pm at Nowthen Blacksmith Shop.

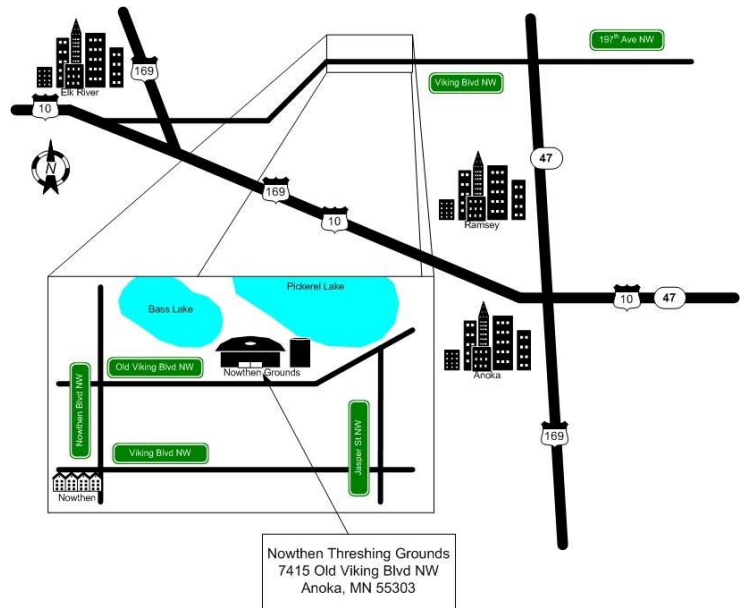
- Camping on-site is available Friday night and Saturday night on primitive sites
- Five forges are open for use
- Coal will be provided
- Beginners welcome
- Port-a-potties on site

Come and hang out with a bunch of your friends, make new friends, and share/learn some new skills. This year the event will be held in association with an antique tractor pull sponsored by the Nowthen Power Show organization.

Bring your own tools if you have them. Bring your own steel. Scrap pieces ok.

This year we are asking members to bring some samples of their work making fireplace sets to help serve as inspiration for others in preparation for the contest at this year's "Madness" Fall Conference. We will also be holding discussions on doing demonstrations. This event will hopefully help you learn the ins and outs of doing a demonstration at many of the venues available during the summer season. If you would like to demo, or if you have any questions about the Hammer-In, contact: Rich Herman at (612)618-9228 or richherman651@gmail.com.

There is no charge to participate in this event. The Nowthen Power Show grounds are located at 7415 Old Viking Blvd, Nowthen, Minnesota. See map.



Fancy Twist Class June 20

Fancy Twist class on June 20th at the Pansch Ranch with details TBD pending Covid-19 progression.

Contact Marty Masters, champion, at 651-285-8731 or mastersmw@yahoo.com

2020 Zombie Chopper Knife Class March 7-8



Left-to-right, standing: Zachary Miller, Jordan Willson, Chad Willson, Justin Klejeski*, Steve Lamphere, Brendan Stevens*, Russell Peterson, Jeff Bledsoe.
Kneeling/sitting: David Scadlock (center), Paul Widenhoefer*, Kevin Stinson



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>

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

Guild of Metalsmiths Board Meeting

March 12, 2020 (Note date change)

Present: Gordon Barr, Peter Bettenberg, Christina Dodge, Jesse Gavin, Taya Gavin, Mark Lockwood, Derrick Phillips, Larry Wasmund, Paul Widenhoefer, and Richard Zielike

Absent: Martin Masters

Called to order by Larry at 7:10. Minutes-m/ Gordon, s/Jesse, approved

Treasurer's Report – Taya-The checking account is \$15,477, Neon is \$5,640, and the savings account is \$59,141, giving us a total of \$80,258. We began replacing the forges at the MN School of Horseshoeing with \$1,636 being spent for the steel and the laser cutting of the individual forge parts.

Membership Committee-Gordon-252 paid members. We have about 50 individuals who are on the Bellows who are lapsed (or haven't been) members. We decided to handle them on a case-by-case basis.

Communication Committee-Peter- The March issue of the Metalsmith is almost complete. Kim is editing the June issue, and Asa is doing the December issue. September is unassigned at this time. Arms and Armor is getting a free ad in the Metalsmith for hosting our April Meeting. We were able to sell more guild merchandise at our February meeting at Oxygen Service Company.

Education Committee-Christina- Beginning "C" and "D" classes are finished along with the knife class and the forge welding class. The "E" class starts this week. We are in the process of setting up the 2020-2021 class schedule, although we might publish the class schedule in 6-month segments to allow a little more flexibility. Later in the meeting, we discussed instructor qualifications, class dynamics, and safety.

Long Range Planning-Paul-has been in contact with a realtor about different permanent locations where we could have classes and members could use equipment.

Program Committee-Derrick-April meeting is at Arms and Armor, June is at the James J. Hill Farm, and August is at Dan Pate's. The Little Log House contract for the Fall Conference was discussed, along with the scope of the building projects and the camping /electrical hookups. Pepe Gomez will be one of our demonstrators.

Next year's budget-

Program	\$15,500
Communications	11,500
Education	5,500
Membership	1,850
Management	12,600

Total \$46,950

The biggest expenses are the Fall Conference (program), the Metalsmith (communications) and coal, which we will probably order this fall (management).

We discussed how the various guild emails get to their recipients.

Adjourned by Larry @ 9:50.

Respectfully submitted, Richard Zielike, Recorder

Reminder from our property manager...

If you've got guild property at your shop, or a demo site you work at, please send any info about it to tools.guildmbr@gmail.com. I've talked to several people at the fall conference and holiday party that were going to get information to me. Here's a gentle reminder. Please send any questions to the above email address too.

Thanks,
Adam Robrahn

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



Hammer-In February 29 at MN School of Horseshoeing

Photos from the Hammer-In at the MN School of Horseshoeing on February 29.

There was a good mix of people, and a variety of activity throughout the day. "We'll do more of these!" says Education Committee Co-Chair Christina Dodge.



Stephen Olivo and Derrick Phillips



Gordon Barr and Wayne Olson



Don Hogenson

Note: The information below is provided as a service for TGoM members. Members may submit items for sale and upcoming events that are considered relevant to our group, and they will be published as space permits. The Guild of Metalsmiths is not responsible for these items or events.

Tunnel Mill Crafts 2020 Classes and Events

We are located in southern Minnesota near Spring Valley. For more information on any of the classes contact us at ic-adams@msn.com, or call 507-289-4189 Carol Adams.

Check the Tunnel Mill website for full details: www.tunnelmillcrafts.com

Tom Latane' May 15, 16 & 17, 2020--still scheduled
Candle-Holder with Saw-tooth Trammel.

Kitty Latane' May 15, 16 & 17, 2020--still scheduled
Tin work

Derek Olson and Tom Latane' May 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2020:
postponed to a possible later date due to Covid-19
pandemic.

Douglas Pryor tentative date June 5, 6th & 7, 2020

Mark Asperry July 6-12, 2020: cancelled due to Covid-19
pandemic

Ric Furrer August 21, 22, 23, 2020
(tentative date, or possibly August 14,15 & 16)

Fall Gathering October 2, 3, & 4, 2020

Tom Latane' October 9, 10, & 11, 2020
Combination padlock.

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 April 2020

All cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Events in May, 2020

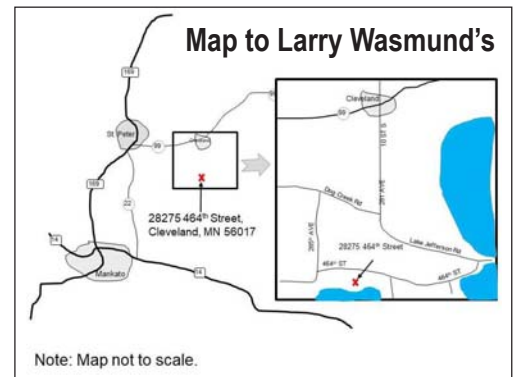
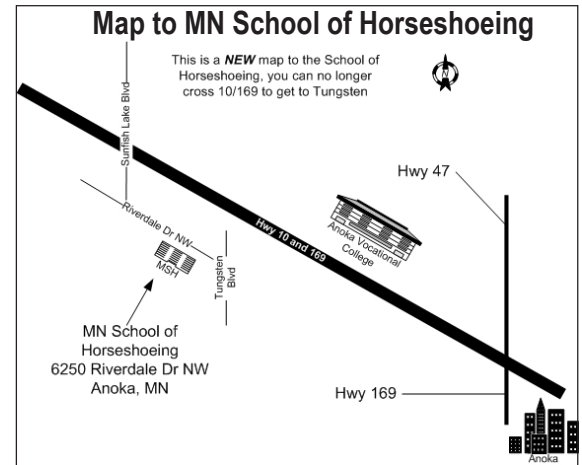
All cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Events in June 2020

June 6,7, Minnesota Military Days, Dundas MN

June 12, 13, 14, possibly Spring Hammer-in, Nowthen

June 20, Fancy Twist Class



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."

April 2020

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