

'The Forum'

July 2020



Vol. 22 No. 7

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

Sharing the latest from TGoM's Board of Directors

TGoM Board of Directors gathered via Internet on Wednesday, June 10 and voted to cancel the two-day, in-person version of our Fall Conference for 2020. The Fall Conference (aka "The Madness") is primarily a social and educational event with food, mingling, and interaction at its core. While the economy may be slowly opening again, large gatherings are still discouraged. It is our desire to minimize the risks faced by our members, many of whom have underlying medical conditions that make them particularly susceptible to COVID-19. Therefore, given the reluctance of many TGoM members to attend, demonstrators who are no longer enthusiastic about traveling, a site which may not even be open in September, and the desire to keep our community safe, we cannot see a responsible way to hold our regular two-day conference.

However, we are actively exploring scenarios and technology that would allow us to hold some sort of virtual meeting that weekend. Possibilities include

- live streaming a project from someone's shop
- holding a virtual business meeting
- and/or having online presentations on various topics

In fact, Brendan Stevens has already volunteered his shop and his services for the live streaming of a project. The Board is meeting online again July 8 to continue discussions.

Lastly, the Board also decided to go ahead and cancel all in-person membership meetings for the remainder of 2020. This includes the August Corn Feed / Pig Roast, the October membership meeting, and the December Holiday Party. Again, we are looking at holding meetings online in their place. We will communicate more details in the weeks to come, especially within this publication.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during these unprecedented times.

---TGoM Board of Directors

Education Committee Update

The Education Committee wants you to know that, while most classes and demonstrations are paused due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we're exploring ways to use the Internet to share our craft and stay connected as a group. Watch for announcements soon about these new opportunities!

In the meantime, we encourage each of you to continue learning on your own and to contact any of us if you have questions. We are still here as a resource.

--Christina Dodge, Wayne Olson, Marty Masters, Herb Fick, Gordon Barr, Martin Pansch, Jesse Gavin



There are a couple positions within the Guild that we'll be advertising over the next few months. Some are currently open, and others will be coming open. In this case we're getting a solid head start because it's a substantial role – mine!

It is my intention to step down from the board at the end of my current term to focus on *METALSMITH* publication. 2021 will be my sixth year on the board, before which I served two years on the Program Committee. I've been wearing a couple different hats for the Guild, and it's time to make some adjustments. Additionally, I would like to find someone to serve as "sound engineer", which is a Program Committee role I've had since 2015.

If you'd like to learn more about these or other open positions within the Guild, please contact me.

Peter Bettenberg
TGoM Communications
Committee Chairperson &
METALSMITH Lead Editor
651-777-5300

**Paul Branch
Auction:
See page 4**

Meet the Instructor Larry Sorenson



Larry Sorensen comes from a long line of metal workers. Grandfather Jens Pedar Sorensen came from Denmark in 1903 and started a blacksmiths shop in Beach, North Dakota. His five sons all became machinists and/or tool and die makers. The grandkids also stayed in the

machine shop professions for the most part.

Larry was the exception and became a boiler inspector/MB risk engineer after a tour in the Navy. A result of the difference between machinist mate and machinery repair man. As a Machinery Breakdown Risk Consultant he visited all type of manufacturing plants for risk analysis.

He enjoys the challenge of fixing equipment and making all types of things. He lives in a house built in the 1860's and has been remodelling/rebuilding it for last 25 years. Retired in 2018 and now catching up on all of the delayed maintenance around the property.

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!



Sorenson Blacksmith Shop, Beach, ND (Ca: 1903)

Q & A

Q: How long have you been blacksmithing? Teaching?

I took my first blacksmithing class in 2006. The class was for bladesmithing at the North House Folk School. Since then I have taken several classes from them and several from The Guild of Metalsmiths. In 2008 I joined the Guild and took the Beginners Class in 2009. They asked to assist in teaching the beginners class the year after and I have been teaching ever since.

Q: What drives you to teach?

The desire to give back to the Guild and pass on what I have learned from others.

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

That they can start out by making a sword. The desire to make one seems to be a common theme.

Q: Any tips for a new blacksmith?

Start small and work your way up. Ask for help often and keep your eyes open for opportunities to work at a forge.

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

Practice, practice, practice. We learn the most from our mistakes.

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

Favorite thing? That's hard to say, bottle openers and wine bottle candleholders are what I make most. Other stuff for around the shop and out-buildings. The most challenging project hands down is the end table I made for the living room. It only took 10 years start to finish. Talk about making mistakes.... But it was worth it in the end.

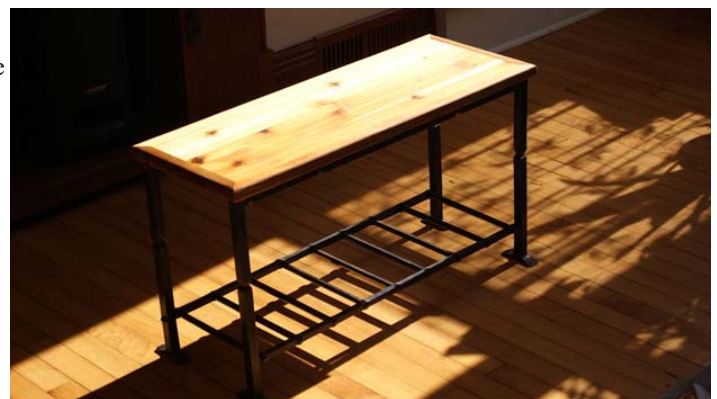
Q: Who did you learn from? Is there a memorable lesson or anecdote you'd like to share?

Way too many teachers to list here.

The anecdote I like to share was during my first class. I took my stepson with and we both made several Finish blades. During that class it felt like I had come home. While watching my stepson, I commented that he needed to hit it harder. His response was a hoot. "But Dad, when you hit it, it moves!" At that point I learned that making the hits count was better than trying for speed.

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

Futzing around the shop fixing or making something. Sometimes I get so wrapped up in making something that I forget to ever actually use it. Go figure.



Tire power hammer build – Call for materials and assistance

Hi Folks,

If you haven't noticed, (*see details below*) some of us are trying to go forward with a tire power hammer build scheduled to culminate this October. Last time we did this, in 2007, numerous generous members assisted, not only with construction, but also accumulating the materials needed for the best price. Some people had good prices through work; some people had a stash of materials they were willing to donate to the cause. In an attempt to make these hammers as accessible as possible to our members, I am hoping to recapture some of that scrounging magic.

We'll be publishing a more complete list of needed materials in the near future, but some of the big-ticket items we will need include:

- √ 6" round or square x 36" long for anvils.
- √ 5" square, 1/4" wall tube. About 9 1/2' of it per hammer
- √ 24"x24"x1/2" base plates
- √ 15"x15"x1/4" crank plates
- √ 4140 Steel for dies. 2"x1 1/2"x 3" per die x 34 dies.
- √ Lead. Lots of it. About 47 pounds per hammer or 765 pounds total.
- √ 1 HP, 1750 RPM, 120/240V 1Ph TEFC electric motors.

If you might have a good, below-market source on these items that you are willing to share for the cause, please let me know.

Once the build starts we will also be sending out a call for any who might have the desire and ability to help with some of the tasks that go into making these hammers.

Be watching *The Forum* and *Bellows* for more details of what we could use help with.

I thank you in advance for any material and labor assistance you might be able to contribute.

Take care.

Martin Pansch

612-599-4762

blacksmithingyeti@gmail.com

Tire Power Hammer Build with Clay Spencer

Date and Time: Final build weekend will be 9-11 October 2020. Several pre-build weekends for preparing parts will be scheduled as well. **Note:** Final build weekend may end up being postponed depending on how COVID-19 is treating us in the fall.

Instructor: Clay Spencer (direct questions to Martin Pansch)

Cost of Build: \$2100.00 in three installments. The first check for \$1000 will secure your place in the build. Timing of the other checks will be discussed in meetings. We plan on scavenging as many parts and materials as we can for this build. Any unused funds will be refunded to participants after the final bills are paid. pro-rated based on how much they participated in the build i.e. if you don't show up to any of the pre-build workshops or assist in other meaningful ways and only show up to the final build weekend you should expect no refund. If costs run over for some reason we will address that with the group at that time.

Class size: Maximum students: 15 Minimum students: 10

Class Description: The Guild built Tire Hammers with Clay in 2007 and since then many have eagerly anticipated it happening again. If you are looking for a simple and effective entrance into the world of mechanical power hammers this is it.

This is a build versus a class. That means we are all working towards the goal of producing our hammers most effectively. Do not expect to learn how to do every step of making one. I expect most of us will learn a thing or two in the process. I learned a bunch at the last one and first got to know a lot of my Guild friends there.

There will be a meeting or two of all the participants discussing more details of what is needed and what each of us can bring to contribute to our group success. This ad is small and the project is big. I can't cover all the details here. If you have questions, call (leave a message if I don't answer and I will get back to you), text or email me.

If you are interested in helping but not signing up to build a hammer for yourself, let me know that as well. We had a lot of great help last time from folks who didn't go home with a hammer.

Note: We are in difficult times. COVID-19 is going to affect many aspects of this build. Don't get into this if you can't be flexible to necessary changes.

Location: To be announced. Within an hour of the Twin Cities.

Tools and Equipment or other items participants are to bring to the class. There is an extensive list of tools and equipment needed that will be discussed in meetings with the participants.

Safety Equipment – safety glasses, ear plugs and work gloves are mandatory. Other safety equipment dictated by the processes being performed.

Special Instructions: Oodles of them to be addressed in meetings with the participants.

Lunch Arrangements: To be discussed in group meetings

Class Manager: (Person to whom registrations are to be sent.) Make checks payable to "Tire Hammer Build."

Martin Pansch

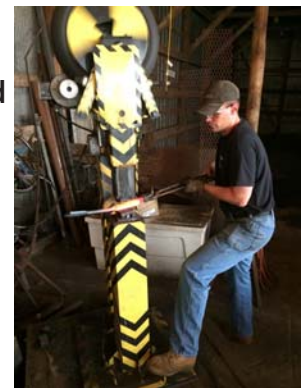
201 Nevada Street

Northfield, MN 55057

Contact Martin Pansch with questions.

(612) 599-4762

blacksmithingyeti@gmail.com





Prayer Anvil

The Guild of Metalsmiths Board Meeting

June 10, 2020
(Via Zoom)

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

TGoM prayer anvil rings for 'Neighborhood of Smiths'

Brian Johnson passes away June 26

It is with a heavy heart that I am sharing this news. Long time and dear friend Brian Johnson from Clearwater passed away on Friday night, June 26, from injuries in a car accident.

Brian was one of the original members starting Central Minnesota Blacksmiths. He was a very talented man and will be missed by so many.

I do not have any more information at this time. Please ring your anvil 3 times in memory of Brian.

Below is the link with more information

<https://www.fox9.com/news/state-patrol-77-year-old-dies-after-car-strikes-railroad-crossing-post-in-clear-lake-township-minn>

MaryLou Zitur

Central Minnesota Blacksmiths/

Dan Butt passes away June 17

This information was shared by Pete Stanaitis.

Dan was a TGoM member in the past, and has been very active in the Badger club for the last several years.

The link to his obituary is below:

<https://everloved.com/life-of/daniel-butt/>



· **Education Committee**-Christina-Twist class will proceed with 3 signed up. The beginner classes are being planned for the fall with space limitations. The MN School of Horseshoeing is now open. Virtual alternatives for classes and demonstrations were discussed. Wayne Olson has one that was used as an example.

· **Communication**-Peter-The June issue of the Metalsmith should be going to the printer's next week. The Forum is on a lighter note as we have no other classes. The new website is progressing and we might see the preliminary version next meeting.

· **Treasurers Report**-Taya- Business Checking: \$15,733.30, Checking: \$1,239.28, Savings: \$64,654.60. Rich Herman Memorial is at \$370. We still have the airport post office box.

· **Program Committee**-Derrick-A lot of discussion with 3 separate motions and seconds. The final motion was to cancel in-person meetings through the end of the year, with the exception of small groups and classes. This includes the August membership meeting, the traditional fall conference, the October membership meeting, and the holiday party. M/Peter, S/Derrick. The vote was 3 aye, 3 nays with Larry casting the deciding vote. The program committee will meet (by Zoom) on Thursday June 19, to see how we can do online meetings for our membership. The Board will meet July 8th to monitor the situation.

· **New Business:** We will get 2 Zoom subscriptions (a Pro and a Business) so that 2 meetings can be held at the same time, and we can have a meeting of the general membership. M/Mark, S/Marty. Motion carries.

· Christina will send a contract for the board to review regarding our new forges at the MN School of Horseshoeing.

· Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted: Richard Zielike, Recorder

Paul Branch Tool and Equipment Auction

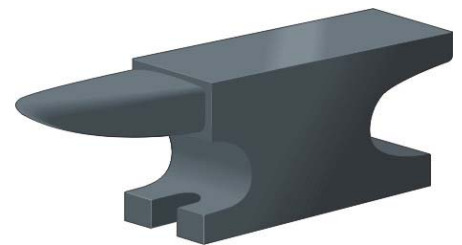
Guild member Paul Branch is selling off some of the blacksmithing and metalworking tools and supplies he has collected over the last 55 years. He is having a silent auction at his place north of New Richmond, WI on 18 July from 10:00 AM to noon. Masks and distancing is required.

There is too much good stuff to list here, but highlights include 240 LB German style anvil, 25lb Little Giant power hammer, Beverly B1 shear, Hossfeld #1 bender, 2 leg vises, 2 coal forges, and the list goes on and on.

For a complete list of items and the terms of the auction, check out Paul's posting on Craigslist:

<https://minneapolis.craigslist.org/wsh/tls/d/new-richmond-blacksmith-metalworking/7141226805.html>

(Or just log on to Craigslist and search for "blacksmith").



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 Ziturf **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/>

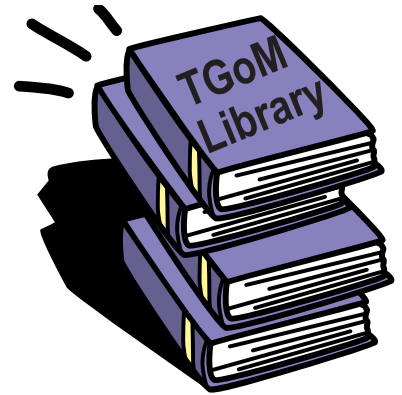
Sandy Lake Forge on Raspberry Island

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

From the Guild Librarian

Well, now that you have had some free evenings, you might have had time to do some reading. In particular, perusing some Guild of Metalsmiths books that you might have checked out-in some cases, for years. So, if it's possible, could we make arrangements to have them returned?



I took the time to go through our 200+ list of books, and I am looking for a number of missing books where someone didn't leave a card—or I lost it, which is just as likely.

Anyway, if any one of you has the following books, would you let me know?

Blades Guide to Knife Making, by Blade Magazine
Furnace Efficiency, by Peebles

Thanks! If you have any questions, or if you have any books to return, please email me at Richard@edinaclock.com.

— Richard Zielike, Guild Librarian

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.

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

Stuck at home and tired of watching 'The Price is Right'? Why not share a project with our METALSMITH publication?

- ◆ What have you been working on the last few weeks?
- ◆ Do you have an heirloom piece that you are proud of?
- ◆ Do you know of a shortcut that makes a project easier?
- ◆ Do you recall a conversation, post, or event that should not be forgotten?
- ◆ Would you like to commemorate someone and their achievements?
- ◆ Already got some notes and photos of a project?

We can turn any of that into an article!

No need to stress - we are here to help. I would be happy to speak with you about your idea, visit you to take photographs, or even take dictation...while maintaining social distancing, of course!

Contact the METALSMITH Team at metalsmitheditor@metalsmith.org or give me a call.

Peter Bettenberg
TGoM Communications Committee Chairperson &
METALSMITH Lead Editor
651-777-5300

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 jc-adams@msn.com, or call 507-289-4189 Carol Adams.

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



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

Ric Furrer August 14, 15, 16, 2020
Three Day Damascus Knife Class \$450 per person

Fall Gathering October 2, 3, & 4, 2020

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

Tom Latane' Oct 16, 17, 18 (rescheduled from May 15, 16, 17)
Candle-Holder with Saw-tooth Trammel.

Kitty Latane' Oct. 17 & 18, 2020 (rescheduled from May 15, 16, 17)
Tinwork

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 DerrickPhillipsA3o3@gmail.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 July

No events planned for July

Events in August

August 12, Guild membership meeting cancelled

Events in September

Sept. 18, 19, 20 Fall Conference cancelled

Events in October

Tire Hammer Build-watch for updates

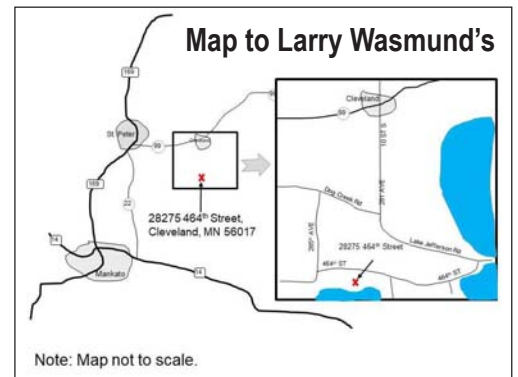
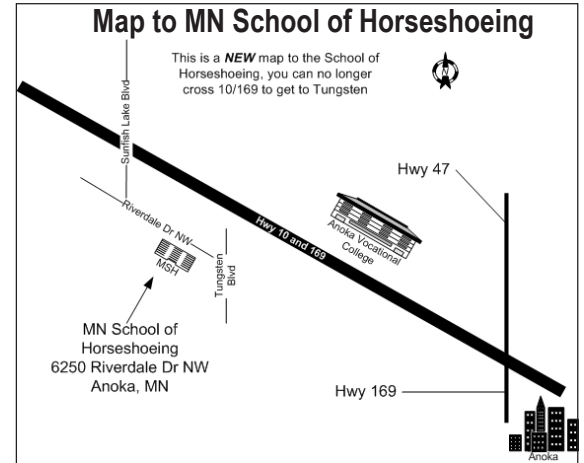
Oct. 14, Guild membership meeting cancelled

Events in November

No events planned for November

Events in December

Guild holiday gathering/annual meeting cancelled



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

Don't List Me
in the Directory

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."

July 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