

# 'The Forum'

August 2020



Vol. 22 No. 8

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

*TGoM membership meeting goes online for Guild members...*

## August 12 'Zoom/YouTube' TGoM Online Meeting with Demonstration by Brendan Stevans

**Meeting to begin on Zoom at 6:45 pm with the Business Meeting to start at 7:00.**

This will be a totally online meeting including a live demonstration with Brendan Stevans from his home in Mayer MN. The meeting will start on Zoom with the business meeting and then the demonstration will take place on YouTube. Note that both Zoom and YouTube can be accessed from a computer, tablet or smartphone.

**Zoom: (see definition at right)**

To join the Zoom meeting, we will be sending out an email to all current Guild members that have email addresses with a link to the meeting. If your membership is not paid up and current, this is a good time to do that to make sure you get the email. You should not have a login id and password for Zoom to attend this meeting but will have to download a small Zoom program to make it work. Normally you just have to click on the link in the email and follow the prompts.

**YouTube:**

The main demonstration will take place on YouTube and be a live demonstration. The demonstration will be forging a 2-lb rounding hammer with a power hammer.

We will post a link in the Zoom Chat to get to the live demonstration. For YouTube, you can watch without having a Gmail account, but if you want to comment in the YouTube Chat, you will have to have a Gmail account and be logged into YouTube. Brendan's friend Eric Kerber is helping us out with the video work and will be keeping track of any questions that come in and relaying them to Brendan. Thank you, Brendan! Thank you, Eric!

If you have not checked out Brendan's YouTube Channel yet, please do, and subscribe to his channel, which is 'B.C.S. Blacksmith'.

Mark Lockwood is the champion of this meeting. Call if you have questions: 763-639-9646

## What is 'Zoom'?

Zoom is the leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars.

Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool with a local, desktop client and a mobile app that allows users to meet online, with or without video. Zoom users can choose to record sessions, collaborate on projects, and share or annotate on one another's screens, all with one easy-to-use platform.

Zoom offers a full-featured Basic Plan for free with unlimited meetings. Try Zoom for as long as you like - there is no trial period. Your Basic plan has a 40 minutes time limit on meetings with three or more total participants.

## Education Committee Update

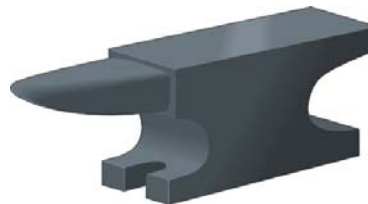
We are continuing to plan the year's class calendar, but with the uncertainty this COVID-19 pandemic has brought to everything these days, we will be committing as we go rather than announcing the full year as we have in the past.

The first class this fall, in October, is our Beginner Blacksmithing session at the MN School of Horseshoeing. We plan to use technology during demonstrations to allow viewing of close-ups without "huddling," and will uphold social distancing and any other mandates in effect at that time.

We expect our pool of instructors and students to be limited to those who are not in the high-risk category. Many thanks to all who have contributed to the Beginner Classes in the past.

We thank those who can't participate this year, and we are looking forward to teaching shoulder-to-shoulder with you again... "when things return to normal."

— Christina Dodge and Wayne Olson, co-chairs, Education Committee



## Mike Alm Estate Auction

The auction for Mike Alm's estate is scheduled for Saturday, August 8 at 9am. From tools to tractors, from guns to rocks... sounds like it all must go.

**[Please follow the link on page 4 for full details, including color photos.](#)**

Thank you,  
Peter Bettenberg

# Meet the Instructor Bob Brown

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!*



Twin Cities native Bob Brown remembers watching his grandfather repair farm equipment using a simple forge and anvil.

A mechanic by trade, Bob spent over 30 years in the auto industry and often used his self-taught skills as a welder in his work. In 2008 he attended a Guild of metalsmith meeting as a guest and now enjoys taking and teaching classes as a member of TGoM and ABANA. More mechanical than artistic, Bob especially enjoys forging tools and fabricating machinery.

**Q: How long have you been blacksmithing? Teaching?**

I have been pounding and reshaping metal for over 50 years. Early experience: building a minibike frame from scratch out of water pipe. A 4-H small engine project at the age of twelve. Repairing autos and farm equipment with an oxy/acetylene torch for heat. Traditional blacksmithing started in 2009? with the beginners' class and I was hooked. I took classes from Gordon Williams, Randy McDaniel, and Heather McLarty in Arizona. Several Classes at Tunnel Mill. Started as an Associate Instructor at Beginners Classes the next year after completing Beginners Class myself.

**Q: What drives you to teach?**

I like passing on the skills I have been taught.

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

The number and sequence of steps it takes to create a project

**Q: Any tips for a new blacksmith?**

Learn the correct forging temp (color). Yes, you will burn some pieces. Don't be afraid to HIT the metal.

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

Good hand-eye coordination. AND Patience.

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

Enjoy demo'ing at threshing shows making small gift type demo items. Bottle openers, steak turners, cross pendants and leaves. Most challenging project to date is the small bench vise project by Tom Latane' (still to be completed).

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

Many thanks to my local mentors Myron Hanson, Bill the Welder, Dick Carlson, Charlie Bateman, John Adams, David Mariette. Other people include Mark Asprey, Gordon Williams, Heather McLarty, Randy McDaniel, Tom Latane'

**Q: Finish this sentence: When I'm not smithing...**

I am repairing, welding/fabricating, and woodworking.

## Tire power hammer build update...

The future tire hammer build is filled. Those interested in helping with the build, helping scrounge, or being on the waiting list should call Martin Pansch at 612-599-4762. The final build weekend has been pushed out from October to May sometime (if all the stars align).



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## The Guild of Metalsmith's Board Meeting Wednesday, July 8, 2020 By 'Zoom'

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

**Absent:** Paul Widenhoefer

**Meeting called to order at 7:07 by Larry.**

**Minutes-m/Martin, s/Mark approved**

**Treasurers report-Taya-\$79,706**

**Education**-Christina-committee will meet on 7/23. The Fancy Twists class in June was the first class held with pandemic restrictions. Most found it hard to speak or hear with masks.

To maintain social distancing during class demonstrations, we might have to buy equipment to show close-up views on a large screen. The School of Horseshoeing has a basic TV screen setup which we could use to connect a mobile device to use as a camera.

**Program**-Derrick-We have talked to Brendan about doing an online demonstration.

The business portion of the meeting will be on Zoom, and then will move the demonstration portion of the meeting to YouTube Live. We will try and do a practice run with Brendan and Eric soon.

We discussed various options for letting the membership know how to join the virtual meeting, but we decided to post instructions on joining the August meeting on the Forum.

We also discussed various financial responsibilities that might be incurred producing virtual meetings.

**Membership**-Gordon- paid membership is at about 250 due to the canceled meetings.

**Communications**-Peter-Peter is working on the current issue of the Metalsmith.

Kim Maas will be contacting the board about a project.

Discussed memorials for deceased members.

**Old Business**-A new contract with the School of Horseshoeing was discussed as we are installing new forges and forge hoods.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30. Respectfully submitted: Richard Zielike, Recorder



# JOB POSTINGS FOR TGoM

## 1. Join the Education Committee

Help guide the direction of education offerings by the Guild for its members and the public. As a group, the Education Committee sets and monitors the class offerings each academic year. We do short- and long-term planning, policy setting, promotions, and some of us also act as class champions (coordinators).

**Time commitment:** Meet monthly as a group, (currently, via Zoom, pre-pandemic at the Danish American Center in South Mpls) one evening a month for about 2 hours. Year-around with a break typically July-August.

A typical discussion might be expanding on a class idea that has been brought to us by the champion or potential instructor, working out the logistics to make it a good fit within our class offerings, which range from beginner- to advanced-level and cover a variety of topics within the metalworking field. Several classes repeat yearly. The beginner blacksmith sessions are a staple as well as tool-making. We might then talk about the maintenance of Guild-owned tools, what trends and interest we see in new classes, and how we can meet the demand while balancing our all-volunteer resources.

**Skills needed: none specific.** While many of our group have skills that are used when wearing their “other hat” (as an instructor, for example, or engineering and fabricating the latest forge design), as a committee member you just need to have the interest in furthering education. If you like to make things happen, work with a variety of people, and help promote the classes and purpose of our group, we’d love to have you join us!

Please contact Christina to find out more information regarding this opportunity.: [christina.guildmbr@gmail.com](mailto:christina.guildmbr@gmail.com)

## 2. A/V Tech Help / Advice

With the Covid-19 pandemic affecting the way we can teach in-person classes, the Guild’s Education Committee could use some help and advice to interweave visual tech aids into our classroom demonstrations. We’d also like recommendations on holding online-yet-interactive classes.

Please contact Christina to find out more information regarding this opportunity: [christina.guildmbr@gmail.com](mailto:christina.guildmbr@gmail.com)

*“You don’t have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great”.*

- *Zig Ziglar*

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### MIKE ALM ESTATE AUCTION

Saturday, August 8, 2020 - 9:00 AM

<http://www.houghtonauctions.com/>

[houghtonBill.cfm?bID=houghton2008080901&rad=jypdjmqmze4e60yhorjnsen66n](http://www.houghtonauctions.com/houghtonBill.cfm?bID=houghton2008080901&rad=jypdjmqmze4e60yhorjnsen66n)

23260 LAWRENCE WAY, HASTINGS, MN

Houghton’s Auction Service, Red Wing, MN

From Hastings take Hwy 61 south 7 miles, turn right on Lawrence Way. Watch for Houghton auction signs.

**AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Make your plans to attend. Some very good equipment & tools.**



# 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](mailto:poundedtreasures@gmail.com) [pwidenhoefer@gmail.com](mailto:pwidenhoefer@gmail.com)  
612-599-4762 952-930-0070  
Our website is: <http://www.metalsmith.org>



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## Badger Blacksmiths meetings

Our contact information:  
President: Dave Weiss Newsletter editor: John Grump  
715-379-5007 715-829-4559  
[diamondmetalworks13@gmail.com](mailto:diamondmetalworks13@gmail.com) [johngrump@att.net](mailto:johngrump@att.net)  
Badger website: <https://sites.google.com/site/badgerblacksmiths/>

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## 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](mailto:CharleyRB@charter.net), 218-428-7906  
Dave Hanson, VP, [duluthblacksmith@yahoo.com](mailto:duluthblacksmith@yahoo.com) 218-391-4466

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## 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](mailto:keith@greatriverforge.com). The NMM's website is [www.nmmetalsmiths.org](http://www.nmmetalsmiths.org)

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## 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**  
320-746-8161  
[mail@kensiron.com](mailto:mail@kensiron.com)

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## Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center (CAFAC)

Quarterly blacksmithing classes, exhibits, and open house events  
[www.cafac.org](http://www.cafac.org) email: [info@cafac.org](mailto:info@cafac.org)

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## 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](mailto:jc-adams@msn.com),  
<http://www.tunnelmillcrafts.com/>

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## Sandy Lake Forge on Raspberry Island

Blacksmith shop offering classes, workshops and more. See [raspberrylakefolkschool.blogspot.com](http://raspberrylakefolkschool.blogspot.com) for details or call: 218-851-6085

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

## 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](mailto:gavin1137@hotmail.com) 715-781-4389

*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](mailto:jc-adams@msn.com), or call 507-289-4189 Carol Adams.

Check the Tunnel Mill website for full details: [www.tunnelmillcrafts.com](http://www.tunnelmillcrafts.com)



### **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](mailto:christina.gldmbr@gmail.com)
- Program Comm. meetings are 7 pm the third Thursday monthly. Derrick Phillips, chair [DerrickPhillipsA3o3@gmail.com](mailto: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 August

August 12, Online Guild membership meeting via ZOOM.

## Events in September

Sept. 18, 19, 20 Fall Conference cancelled

## Events in October

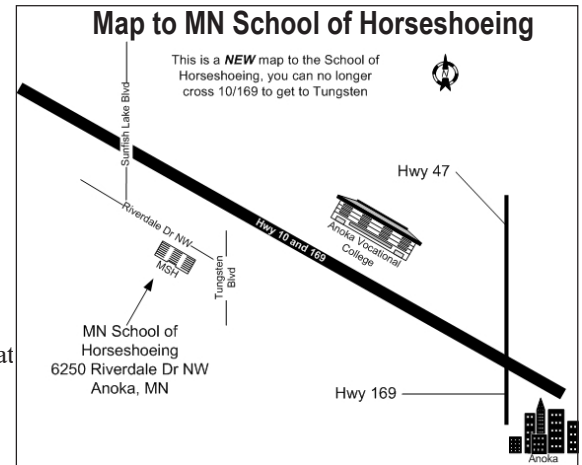
Tire Power Hammer Build-cancelled for October, switched to May 2021-watch for update  
Oct. 14, Guild membership meeting cancelled

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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."

August 2020

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

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### 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.

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## 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.

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## 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