

'The Forum'

July 2021

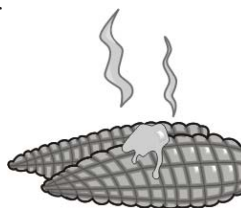


Vol. 23 No. 7

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

August 11 Guild of Metalsmiths annual family meeting (potluck, sweet corn feed & hog roast) set for Dan Pate's farm!

Join your smithing friends and families as we once again celebrate summer with a potluck meal and membership meeting Wednesday, August 11, 6:30 p.m. at Dan Pate's farm (map below). It includes Herb Fick's hog barbeque and sweet corn prepared by our new "corn cook," Larry Sorenson. And thank you to Dick and Irma Carlson for handling the sweet corn for the past umpteenth years! Herb adds: "Of course the early arrivals will help shuck the corn. We hope for a lot of early arrivals."



Herb, the champion for this meeting, says the pig is ordered, he has his pit crew ready, and he's got Brendan Stevens for a demonstration. Myron has offered his demo forge kit, and Kim Maas (TGoM's volunteer coordinator) has put out a call for volunteers to help prep the grounds and clean up the day after the meeting (see page 2).

Herb says: "I am nominally in charge. That means little. Jesse and Taya (Gavin) really do a lot of the work, as in having the supplies, tables and chairs there." There is a regular cadre that shows up to support them.

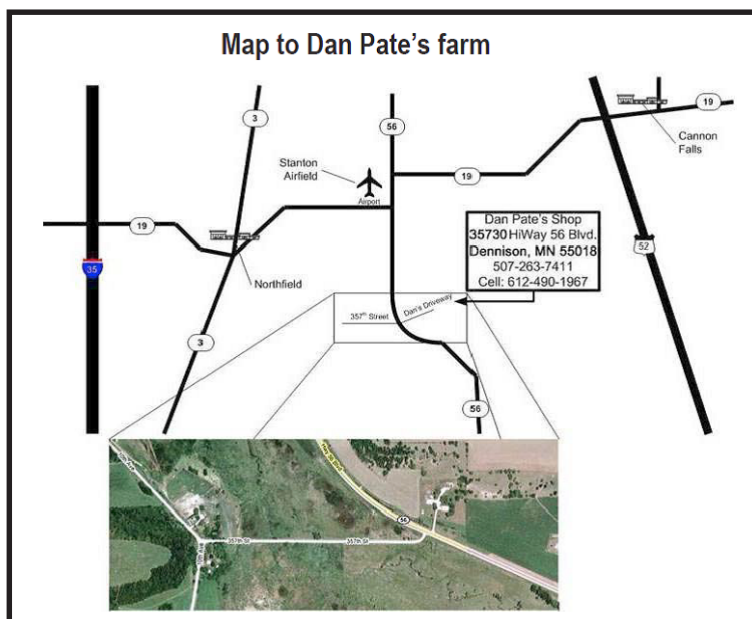
Sidenote: As a favor to Herb, please make a note that Tom and Wendy have repeatedly made quite a contribution to the site prep and we are hoping for more of the same. Herb is going to become semi social in July and really friendly in August. Come and see it happen.

Last year (2020) Dan bought an event tent for the night. We all know how that worked out. In addition, our host, Dan, has always had something new to show as he offers to demonstrate most everything in his shop. This is key for Herb because Dan's tool set and skill set is way different from the typical member of our group, and he has wondrous techniques to share.

Contact Herb with questions about the meeting, herb@phyque.com.

Contact Kim with questions about volunteering to help make this meeting a repeated success, tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

(Three miles south of the Stanton Minnesota airport.)



INSIDE...

Sign up to help for TGoM's August 11 meeting!

See page 2 for August TGoM members meeting volunteer opportunities.

Your help is needed!

Fall Conference Sept. 17, 18, 19

See page 3 for "The Madness" announcement!

Volunteer Opportunity Available

The Education Committee is sponsoring the Rich Herman Memorial Blacksmithing Classes for The Scouts (ages 11-17).

See page 2 for details.

Important Notice:

TGoM's old PO Box is officially closed. If you send mail to any address other than PO Box 72, Hudson, WI 54016, it will NOT reach us. Please update your records. Thank you!

Taya Gavin, 715-781-4389

gavin1137@hotmail.com

Are you looking for Volunteer Opportunities?

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities and not sure whom to talk to?

Contact: Kim Maas, Volunteer Coordinator at:

tgom.volunteer@gmail.com or call 651-328-7219.

Volunteer Opportunities...



1. The Program Committee is looking for:

Prepare & Setup Crew for the August 11 Members Meeting

Position available: Prepare and Setup Crew

Requirements/Qualifications: Willingness to do what it takes to prepare and setup for the August members meeting.

Specific Tasks and Responsibilities: Show up at Dan Pate's home at 8:00 a.m. the day of the event to help get the homestead (cleaned up) ready for a fun filled evening. This means moving items to make room for tables/chairs. Mowing and trimming lawn. Please bring your chainsaw and hedge/lawn trimmers.

Why Should You Join the Team?: This is an awesome opportunity to mingle (work) with fellow members you haven't seen for over a year or if you are a new member, meet fellow members.

2. The Program Committee is looking for:

6 - 8 people to plate the food for the membership at the August Members Meeting

Position available: Server / Plater

Requirements/Qualifications: Willingness to put food on the plates of the members.

Specific Tasks / Responsibilities and Misc. Info.: Due to the pandemic and trying our best to keep the membership healthy, we need 6 - 8 servers to plate the food for members. The Program Committee will supply gloves for the servers.

Why Should You Join the Team?: Assist in doing our best to keep the membership healthy and safe.

3. The Program Committee is looking for:

A Cleanup Crew for Thursday, August 12, the day after the August Members Meeting

Position available: Cleanup Crew

Requirements/Qualifications: Willingness to help cleanup after the August members meeting.

Specific Tasks and Responsibilities: Show up at Dan Pate's home at 8:00 a.m. the day after the event to help get the homestead back in order. This means moving items back that were moved the prior day.

Why Should You Join the Team?: This is an opportunity to hangout (work) with fellow members for another day.

Contact: Kim Maas, Volunteer Coordinator
tgom.volunteer@gmail.com
651-328-7219

Volunteer Opportunity Available

The Education Committee is sponsoring the Rich Herman Memorial Blacksmithing Classes for The Scouts (ages 11-17).

Position available: Instructor

Requirements/Qualifications: Intermediate blacksmithing skills. Comfortable teaching and assisting teenagers.

Specific Tasks and Responsibilities: Assist the lead instructor with teaching and demonstrating to the class. Help the students when they need it. Help with keeping a safe environment.

Why Should You Join the Team? Opportunity to share your blacksmithing skills and knowledge with young people.

Contact: Gordon Barr
agbarr@aol.com

The Guild's official mailing 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

'The Madness is on!'

Plan now to attend The Guild of Metalsmiths' annual Fall Conference on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 17, 18, 19, 2021

This September 17, 18, and 19 we will be holding our Madness at the Pierce County Fairgrounds in Ellsworth, WI. The board toured the facility and found that the amenities offered give the conference everything needed and more. There is a building with ventilation, concrete floors, and bathrooms to hold registration, meals, and the auction. Other buildings nearby can hold the demonstrations and there is ample parking all around. Camping is available onsite with or without hookups. We feel this location will provide us an excellent venue for comparable costs to what we are accustomed to. For more information about the Fall Conference, see future issues of The Forum and the forthcoming Fall Conference brochure.

Fall Conference Demonstrators

John McLellan

John got started in blacksmithing at the age of 8 when he inherited a forge and anvil from his grandfather. John read all the old books he could find on the subject and built his fires with small pieces of oak since he didn't have access to coal. The high school John attended offered a course in horseshoeing which he took his junior and senior years. This was the first time he got to use a coal fire. Since he already had years of experience in the forge the course was pretty easy for him, and he helped teach it during his senior year.

After John graduated, he continued to teach the Farrier class while he was attending the local Junior College. His major was in agriculture, but the college had a great metal shop, so he took most of the metal classes also.

In 1978 he joined the California Blacksmith Association. This was a real boost to his development. For the first time, he could talk to others that were doing the same things and having the same problems. The first conferences he went to were overwhelming. There was so much to see and learn. Working with the professionals in the group he quickly picked up many advanced techniques.

From 1984 through 1986 John attended CSU Chico to finish his B.S. He drove back to Sacramento every weekend to shoe horses and do any jobs that had come into the shop. The horseshoeing was his major source of income throughout this period as the market for good ironwork in Northern California was nonexistent. It really helps to have a trade that can provide a reliable cash flow.

After John graduated from Chico he worked at Meirs and Company in Basalt, Colorado for a short time and then went back to Sacramento to see if he could create a market for forged ironwork.

During the summer John started doing an educational exhibit at the State Fair. This proved to be a great way to inform the public that forged metalwork was still being done and was available. Between the fairs, some articles in the local newspapers, and a TV story on the news, orders started coming in for everything from nice fireplace sets to large gates and railings. And most of the orders specified forged designs instead of tubing and castings.

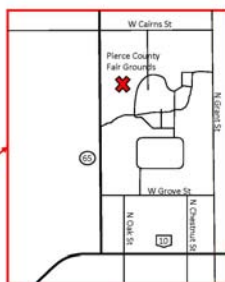
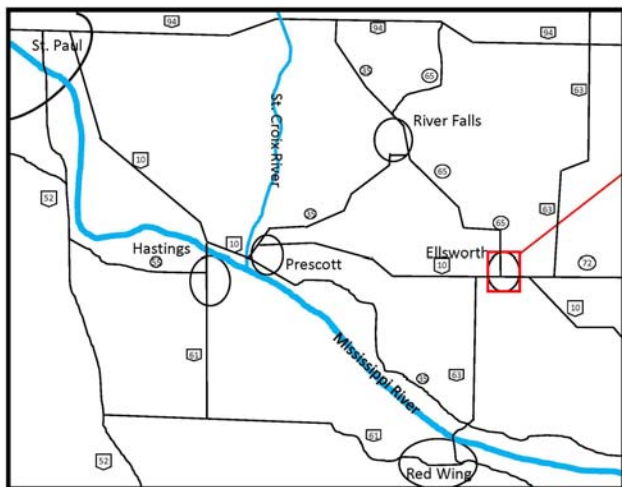
John still does almost anything that comes through the doors, but the horseshoeing is down to a few old customers, demonstrator and lecturer at the Northern Arizona University and the Arizona State University metals departments.

Doug Swenson

Doug Swenson began experimenting at a young age with an 1890s forge and anvil while growing up on a northwestern Minnesota farm. This early experience developed into a life long passion that he continues to cultivate today through ongoing research into the tools and techniques of traditional blacksmithing. Doug does his primary work out of a shop that attempts to recreate the rural village shop of the time period from 1890 to 1910. His work is significantly influenced by early Scandinavian work with a special interest in the Viking age.



The Fall Conference is moving to the Pierce County Fairgrounds, 364 N Maple Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011!



Sharing the fun: Hot stuff happened at the June 2021 Hammer-In at Nowthen Threshing Show grounds

This year's June Hammer-In at Nowthen was a huge success, according to Christina Dodge, Education Committee co-chair. She reports that event champion Wayne Olson arranged a contest on Saturday, a "blind forging" contest —not forging blindfolded, but trying to recreate an object that could only be felt, not seen, in a cardboard box. Each person had only 30 seconds for the one-handed touch/assessment (there was a narrow opening in the box just large enough for a hand to slip through) and then all 7 participants had 40 minutes to forge- no discussions or sharing of opinions by contestants or observers. Fun stuff.

David Mariette was the judge of the final piece, with two winners. Brendan Stevens took first place and John Klassen took second, but it wasn't an easy decision, as everyone did well.

The main focus for the weekend was on the Fall Conference contest: making fireplace tools.

Blind Box Contest participants



Blind Box Contest participants (Left-to-right): John Klassen, Pieter Maas, Michael Masters, Jake Dodge (in front) Timothy Daggett, Jesse Gavin, and Brendan Stevens.



This picture of the three hangers shows the original on the right, first place in the middle and second place on the left.



Blind Box contest winners: Brendan Stevens, right, and John Klassen, left.



Wayne Olson (left) was the champion at the Hammer-In and led the smiths in their "blind box" contest. In this photo, Michael Masters is using his 30 seconds to memorize the shape of the forged piece hidden in the cardboard box as Brendan Stevens observes.



Bob and Mary Fredell stopped by the hammer-in to inspect the winning pieces in the blind box contest. They are former long-time champions of our hammer-in.



Dave Mariette (left) forges a piece and Peter Maas (right) observes. Dave was the judge for the contest.



Wayne Olson busies himself at one of the 6 forges set up for use at Nowthen.



Larry Wasmund watches as Dave Mariette forges.



Michael Masters checks the heat in his forge.



Roger Degner works hard.

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
320-746-8161
mail@kensiron.com

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



TGoM Membership Perks: Discounts

The following companies are extending discounts to The Guild of Metalsmiths members.

You will need to ask for their Guild of Metalsmiths discount, show your membership card, and a Picture ID.

These discounts are a gift to us and can be taken away if they are abused. If you have a hobby shop, no problem. If you are a professional with a few employees, no problem. What is not fair, is turning yourself into a dealership by reselling/trading products that you have purchased with our discount or being a big company and using our discount for your bottom line. Please don't ruin this for everyone. These businesses deserve our recognition and patronage:

Please see The Guild of Metalsmiths website <https://www.metalsmith.org> for additional information regarding discounts and products available. The Guild of Metalsmith > Home > About > Friends of the Guild: Discounts.

Carhartt at Work Program

Mall of America
144 North Garden Bloomington, MN 612-318-6422
or

Riverdale Village Mall
12680 Riverdale Blvd. Coon Rapids, MN 952-885-8000
15% on almost everything in the store, except Flame Retardant (FR) gear, which is 10% off whether you shop online or at Mall of America.

www.carhartt.com

Minnesota Glove & Safety & Bob's Workwear

West St. Paul, MN 651-552-8840
www.minnesotaglove.com
10% discount off merchandise not already on sale or discounted

Smith-Sharpe Fire Brick Supply
2129 Broadway St NE, Minneapolis, MN 612-331-1345
866-545-6743

www.ssfbs.com

The quantity of product purchased dictates the normal "Level" of discount. Smith-Sharpe Fire Brick Supply is offering one discount "Level" better to Guild members. It will vary with types of products, but may average about 10%.

Garelick Steel Company

Minneapolis, MN 612-521-8857 888-521-8857
www.garelicksteel.com
10% discount for members

Mississippi Welders Supply

Seven locations between MN & WI. 800-657-4422
www.mwscow.com

See website or phone book for locations. 15% discount on gases and most instore items that are not already marked as a sale item or already at a discount from MSRP for members.

Toll Gas and Welding Supply

Eight Twin City metro locations. 763-551-5300
www.tollgas.com

See website or phone book for location near you. 15% off of gases and most in-store items, for Guild members.

Oxygen Service Co.

St. Paul, MN 651-44-7273 800-774-1336
www.oxygenservicecompany.com
15% discount on gases and most items that are not already marked on sale for members.

Tunnel Mill Crafts 2020 Classes and Events

We are located in southern Minnesota near Spring Valley. For more information on any of the classes or to register, 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



Featured 2021 Classes

DAMASCUS AXE

Ric Furrer

August 20, 21 and 22, 2021

Returning PBS Nova celebrity for his expertise with the Viking swords and his knowledge and experience in Damascus, heat treating, and pattern welded steel. You will should do axes with pattern-welded edges. Starting with a billet of mild steel you will forge out a mirror image axe shape in preparation for folding and welding.

Using this method we form the eye for the handle with the fold rather than a chisel and drift.

Once the axe blank is rough forged to shape you will weld up a small billet of layered steel which will become the inserted edge. In this way you get the experience of pattern-welding as well as axe making.

SMALL AXE HEAD for NORWEGIAN STYLE WALKING STICK

Tom Latane'

September 10, 11 and 12, 2021

Students will each forge a small axe head like those used on some eighteenth century walking sticks in Norway. These walking sticks were called Bergmannsstav in Norway where they are thought to have been introduced by German workers in the mining district.

The eye can be forge-welded or punched depending on preference.

Tunnel Mill Annual Fall Gathering

October 1, 2 and 3, 2021. Check back for details.

Exploring Forging Pattern-Welded ("Damascus") Steel

Jeff Harper

Rescheduled to: October 8, 9 and 10, 2021

Directions to Tunnel Mill:

Tunnel Mill is located 20 miles south of Rochester Minnesota. Take Hwy 63 out of Rochester to Stewartville, turn east on Hwy 30 to County Highway 1 (approx 5.5 miles). Turn south on County Highway 1. Follow CO HWY 1 6.5 miles to Tunnel Mill on the left side of CO RD Call about camping on the grounds. 507-378-4983 or 507-289-4189, Carol Adams. Lodging available in Spring Valley, 5 miles further south on CO RD 1.

Upcoming classes at Raspberry Island Folk School

Raspberry Island is located on beautiful, historic Big Sandy Lake, about 2 1/4 hours straight north of the Twin Cities. We started offering summertime classes in blacksmithing and pottery on our island several years ago, mainly taught by Gary. Over the years, offerings have come to include workshops taught by well-known and sought-after instructors in the folk arts.

After cancelling all classes last year and for the first part of summer this year, we have decided to hold a few classes which may interest members of the Guild. Jeff Harper will be teaching a Beginning Damascus Class August 21-22 and I will be teaching a Forging a Finnish Puukko with Birchbark Handle Class August 28-29. Details can be found here:

<https://raspberrylislandfolkschool.blogspot.com/>

Thank you.

Gary Hill

Raspberry Island Folk School

50569 218th Place

Mcgregor, MN 55760



Information in this publication is provided as a service for our 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.

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.guildmbr@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.



July Events

July 23, 24, 25, Little Log House blacksmith shop, Contact Dick Carlson.

August Events

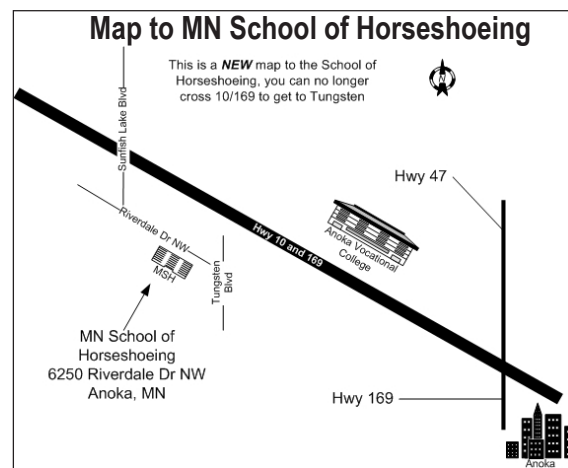
August 11, membership meeting/corn feed. Dan Pate's farm.

September Events

Sept. 17, 18, 19, Fall Conference at Pierce County fairgrounds, Ellsworth WI

October Events

Oct. 13, details tba.



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@embargo.com by the third Monday of the month, if possible.

The Guild of Metalsmiths on the web

Visit our website at <https://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 2021

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