

Guild of Metalsmiths. Monthly discussion FORUM

May 4, 1999 Vol 1 Issue 5

Here we are again. Pull up a chair, get your coffee, reading glasses, and writing tools. It is time to discuss the news. The Guild currently has 265 members. Your renewal date is on the mailing label as 20XX.Q (year.quarter).

Gene Olson, editor

The **GoM FORUM** is published monthly by the Guild of Metalsmiths, St. Paul, MN. It is intended as a community bulletin board, a place for all members to express their opinions, concerns, debate policy, propose projects & workshops. In short, to help us run our organization. The length will vary due to space considerations as it rides piggyback on the workshop notices and must travel on one stamp. (Long letters may be edited to fit the space available)

Your comments can be mailed to The GoM Forum, c/o Gene Olson, 8600 NE O'Dean Ave. Elk River, MN 55330-7167 or emailed to: gene@mtn.org Please address the letter to "Dear Forum:" if you want your comments published.

Metalsmith articles:

Those of you working on those informative articles for our quarterly magazine. **The copy deadline for the issue 2 of 1999 is May, 3rd.** Send them to: Marcia McEachron, editor, 451 Taft St. NE RM 8 Door 35, Minneapolis, MN, 55413, Fax: 612-781-8435

Please!

The Guild Video Tape Library is now open for business again.

Attached you will find the new form for checking out video tapes.

Hopefully it is self explanatory. The top section is filled out by the member when they send a tape request to Mike the Librarian along with \$3.00 per tape. Mike keeps the top half of the form in the storage slot for the tape, fills in the due date section and returns the bottom half with the tape. Due dates will be about three weeks out.

Bob Johnson

Apologies for a bit of confusion

Those of you at the Annual Meeting and Banquet last Dec. may remember the

contortions we went through before ending up with the current slate of officers and board members. At the end of this we had a larger than usual number of Board members and the full slate of officers. One of the newly elected board members was absent that evening and the rest of us failed to communicate that board meetings took place on the 2nd Wed of the odd months at Bob and Mary Fredell's. Due to our failure to communicate, Lisa (Phelps) Havelin was coming to the Program committee meetings and thinking they were the board meeting. We are happy to report Lisa has been a great asset to the program committee and Guild and we think we have this straightened out now. Sorry 'bout that, Lisa.

The April Meeting:

The first thing I can say about Dave Olin's new shop space is, WOW, it's huge. He is the only smith I know of that has a huge gas fireplace in the middle of his shop, and with four johns was well able to handle all the B.S. the whole crowd of metalsmiths could put out. Dave bought the Old Jazz Emporium in downtown Mendota, which after the Jazz left had become a rather scurvy venue, with fights, felonies, and police on a regular schedule. When Dave proposed changing the building's status to light industrial, the city council finally said, "Please, please do." Now on a nice day, Dave can even walk to work. (It must be rough)

With 200 (yes hundred) gallons of white paint on the walls and ceilings, Dave is settling in to making his metal railings and components and important things like hosting last month's Guild meeting. It was a great place and a great crowd.

President, Dave Feterl called the meeting to order from his perch on the stage.

Treasurer, Mike Frattalone, said we should have enough money in the bank to cover anticipated expenses. Stuff like a buyout from the Nowthen threshing show of the smithing equipment on their site, added a few dollars back into the treasury. (\$1500 there, the show decided they didn't want to be responsible for somebody else's equipment sitting on their site, so they bought the equipment the guild had paid 1000 for plus a few donated items, we still get to use them at the show)

Program committee, Dick Carlson, gave us

an update on the progress of plans for the fall conference and brought out the tickets for the **Fall Raffle**. This year there are two prizes riding on the \$1.00 tickets. **First Prize** is a complete forging station similar to last year's (Valued at \$850) and **second prize** is a side draft smoke hood for a forge (\$250), two chances to win on each ticket.

Tickets will be sold up until the drawing, Sunday Sept 26th at the close of the fall conference.

Sheri Stanaitis has taken on the task of keeping the raffle records this year. Here is your chance to get a small forge, anvil, vice and a few tools, or a real nice hood. If you would like to help sell the tickets, or just want to buy a few, (they are \$1 ea. and state law says you don't have to be present to win) Contact Sheri

Sheri Stanaitis 2476 10th Ave, Baldwin WI 54002-7204 715-698-2895, or email: "Sheri"<spaco@win.bright.net>

The **June meeting** will be held on the fall conference site so we can all get familiar with it, form our special task committees and get cracking on making this fall's "Madness" the best yet.

Publicity committee, Gene Olson reported The directory mockups will be presented to the Board at the next board meeting and the a new directory published shortly thereafter.

Anyone with events or ads for the Forum was advised to get their stuff in by the end of the month. It was noted that members wanting letters published should address them to: Dear Forum, instead of Gene.

One of the members enquired about placing his product on the Guild web page. It was pointed out that the Guild has a gallery section on the site where we will display your work. It is juried, YOU are the judge. If you have something you are proud of and want to show the world send Gene a photo of it along with a description and a self addressed stamped envelope for the return of your photo. We don't publish prices but if you want to sell it we will put your address, phone number, email address, web page address on your page with the images..

Education committee, Bob Johnson reported that there were 30 some workshops scheduled for the next year

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including intermediate classes built around the study guide and designed to pick up where the beginner classes left off. Pete and Bob went over the study guide again and pointed out that the skills required for these intermediate classes were clearly spelled out in the study guide and if you could do the work, you could take the class whether you had taken the beginners course or not. Members were encouraged to bring their work samples to meetings for display and review. Part of the program is to give feedback to those trying to learn.

Our demonstrators for the evening were Myron Hanson and John Adams.

They demonstrated a jig they had made for piercing square stock on the diagonal. I wish I could tell you more! The finished pieces were really nice.

Dave Feterl tried his hand at **auctioneering** and didn't do too bad.

Bemidji - Reports filtering back in from the north country, say that those of us that stayed home missed a real good show.

The food service cleaned up their act, and the demonstrators were great. Roger reported, "Got back safely Had a great time, good turn out, beautiful weather. The demonstrator I watched, Jeff Funk, made a handled punch for hammer eyes, a 2# hammer, 8# sledge, 1# wrought with steel face raising hammer and two wrought iron eagle feathers."

Mary Fredell said that the copper raising fellow did some really neat things and also that our own Roger Degner was auctioneer and raised over \$4,000 dollars for their hope chest.

Way to go crew, makes me wish I'd been there. G.

UMBA- Second Biennial Upper Midwest Regional Blacksmithing Conference

June 11-13, 1999

Thresherman's Park, Pontiac, Illinois

Plan to attend what promises to be one of the best Conferences of the season!

The Demonstrators are some of today's finest blacksmiths, and they are prepared to share skills & techniques you will be able to take back to your shop and use immediately. From novice to professional,

this Conference will provide education, friendship, & growth as a Blacksmith as together we work to promote our craft. Tailgating, Gallery, Vendors, Auctions, & Iron in the Hat!

Friday...Registration opens 8 a.m.
Conference begins 1 p.m., ends 3 p.m. Sunday

Demonstrators:

Friday -- Billy Merritt -- Knife maker

Friday Night -- Marty Benjamin

-- Glass Blower

Don R. Neuenschwander

-- Fold Forming

Saturday & Sunday

Chuck Hawes--Welton, IL.

Demonstrating Knives--

Doug Merkel--

Poled Hatchet with support wings,

Saw-Toothed Adjustable Trammel,

One-Piece Flesh Fork, Shutter Dog,

Fireplace Crane, Bottle Opener,

Cheese Slicer, Cork Screw

"Blacksmith Meets the Machinist"

Demonstrating on the lathe,

milling machine, & shaper

Jim Ribordy, Harley Larson, Bob Bergman

Wayne Evert --Loose Sand Casting

ABANA Teaching Station

for Beginner's Class

For more information, please contact:

John K. Biewer

11722 W. 13th Street

Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096

847.746.2470 FAX - 847.746.7465

Email leebiewer@sprintmail.com

Art-A-Whirl, Guild Member Lisa Elias is

taking part in this May event in NE Mpls

Art-A-Whirl studio and gallery tour in N.E.

Minneapolis is happening.

Fri. May 21st, 5-9 PM

Sat. May 22nd, 12-8 PM

Sun. May 23rd, 12-6 PM

Guild Member Lisa Elias will be open all hours of Art-A-Whirl at her studio at

1129 Van Buren St NE - Ph: 612-363-9570

Lisa says, "I'll have a display of functional and decorative metal work along with live

music on Saturday May 22nd from 12-6 PM

Pretty metal and music plus beverages. What

more could you want?

For more info on Art-A-Whirl events reach them at: www.art-a-whirl-org (website) or (612) 379-CALL (that's 2255) chose category 12 (Art-A-Whirl Hotline)

Letters:

The following is a letter that those of us subscribed to theforge, or artmetal found in our mailboxes. Andy isn't a GoM member but I think he certainly does a great job of carrying us with as he explores the final days of a old factory smithy. (Ed.)

Subject: Jersey City Forge (YAK)

Folks,

Last Tuesday my friends Marshall Bienstock, Josh Kavett, an unnamed professional photographer, and I paid visit to the now defunct Jersey City Forge. It recently went on the auction block and most of the stuff had already been rigged and hauled out of there. However, three rather interesting examples of heavy forge equipment remain and it was these for which we came to photograph for historical preservation and to see and touch for our own sense of history and wonder.

Josh discovered the place a few weeks before and I upon hearing about it I became very anxious to see the remnants of this once busy corner of Jersey City. We got into our vehicles at 1:00 PM. Josh and the others went on ahead while I stopped to eat. I shoed up about 20 minutes after they did, so I was alone when I first walked in. I've found that no matter how much large equipment one sees, you are never quite prepared when you find yourself very suddenly in the presence of a behemoth you've never before laid eyes upon. So it was for me.

As I entered the gaping hole in the wall where one of the large doors had been left wide, I found myself face to face with a 6000 pound Bement hammer, No. 1347. It stood about 20 or so feet high and built from essentially four major structural components.

I've been around some large industrial equipment at times in my life but I have to tell you that this hammer just set me back in my "seat" in a way that's hard to describe. There was a mix of feelings that came over

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me. No single one of them so terribly strong, yet the cumulative effect was one of having been floored in the oddest manner for which words no sufficiency.

The sense of history that came over me was very surprising. I had not expected to feel such a thing as my eyes fell upon this giant that now stood quiescent in the dark, cool silence of this deserted place. I could only think of all the hot metal and all the lives that went through and by this relic of an age gone past.

Then I began paying specific attention to the moving parts of this great machine and one of the first things to hit me was the enormity of the falling weight. I was looking at perhaps 4500 pounds of solid steel in the ram itself with perhaps another 1500 in the piston and rod. The upper die was actually small in comparison to the rest of it... maybe 700 or 800 pounds of steel?

Looking up, I saw two huge frame members rise perhaps 14 or 16 feet above me and tied together by the steam cylinder (BTW these hammers were run on air; you should see the plumbing for this stuff, WOW). The cylinder itself is about 4 feet long and about 16 inches in inner diameter (we know this because we retrieved one of the piston rings from the shop floor). The 5 or so inch diameter piston rod descended downward to the ram.

I went around to the other side and saw the levers that in the capable hands of a hammer driver lent control and life to the great Bement. Once again I thought of all the lives that literally had touched this machine and wondered what may have become of them and what they may have been like.

The next hammer was a 6000# Chambersburg. What a sight! Just like the Bement in every respect only the sow block hadn't been removed. Then the horror I'd been told to expect came into sight: the piston rod cut in two places by an acetylene torch. As I choked down my revulsion of the vision I moved on to what, for me, was the best of all: a 3000# SINGLE frame Chambersburg in what appeared to be well used but excellent condition. It was the spitting image of my 250# hammer of the

same manufacture, only this one hadn't taken up smoking as a child and had been placed on anabolic steroids early on. I WANT IT.

What machinery! And it is pretty much up for grabs. The buyer sold off the smaller Chambersburgs that were also there (two) but could not find any takers for the larger hammers. If anyone knows anyone that would be interested in giving one of these double frame monsters a home, I'm sure you could be put in touch with the owner. These hammers will probably see the wrecking ball in the next few weeks if nobody takes them away, so if anyone here knows of any businesses that may have need for a large hammer that will cost them next to nothing, or perhaps some living history museum or other preservation minded group, please let me know and I will pass the word on. I find it troubling to think of these machines being broken up for scrap. It would be a terrible shame.

Anyhow, I just thought I'd share this little experience with you folks. It was very good, though perhaps a bit bittersweet.

Take care,

-Andy Vida
(used by permission of author)

From: Rick & Kim Korinek
<korineks@acunet.net>
Organization: Prairie Forge
Subject: We've landed!

Hello from Framingham, MA (20 miles west of Boston). We arrived in the beginning of April, got the kids in school & started unpacking boxes. I talked to Fran Bauer tonight and got a little homesick for my friends in the Guild. I hope you all are doing well. Kim & I will go and stay at Fran & Mary's BB in early May, 2.5 hrs north of Boston. They have a home page: www.countryabundance.com. I'll have to give Fran a talking to cause they show pictures of the "rooms" on the page but no pictures of the shop.

With all these miles between here and there, I'll be tending to my e-mail a lot better than I did in MN so keep in touch. I appreciate getting the mailings and received the Oops-card on Friday. Take care,

-Rick

(Ooops - apology card because somehow between Mike and; I we had failed to enter five of you who paid in Feb. Sorry about the mixup. Gene)

They are at 46 Joseph Rd,
Framington MA, 01701 507-877-8815.

Want Ads:

Any notice MUST be in my hands by the end of the month.

NOTICE:

If you are planning on attending the June Hammer-in at Pete and Sheri Stanaitis'

LISTEN UP, PLEASE!

If you plan on bringing tools and equipment to sell, swap or donate to the auction. Please send me a list. I will publish the combined list in the June forum, kind of like an auction bill so that those fence sitters can see what they might get a chance at if they drop by for this June happening.

Send the lists to the Forum (see page 1)

Thanks!

One final reminder

We will be publishing an updated members directory. Please check the information on your mailing label and in the paragraph below it.

If anything is wrong, if you want your phone number or email listed and it is not there, or if you do not want something to be listed in the directory; please contact Gene and let him know.

Any corrections must be in Gene's mailbox by May 22.

Guild of Metalsmiths, June 9th, 1999 Meeting

Little Log House
Antique Power Show Grounds
6 miles South of Hastings and
1 mile East of US 61 on 220th St.

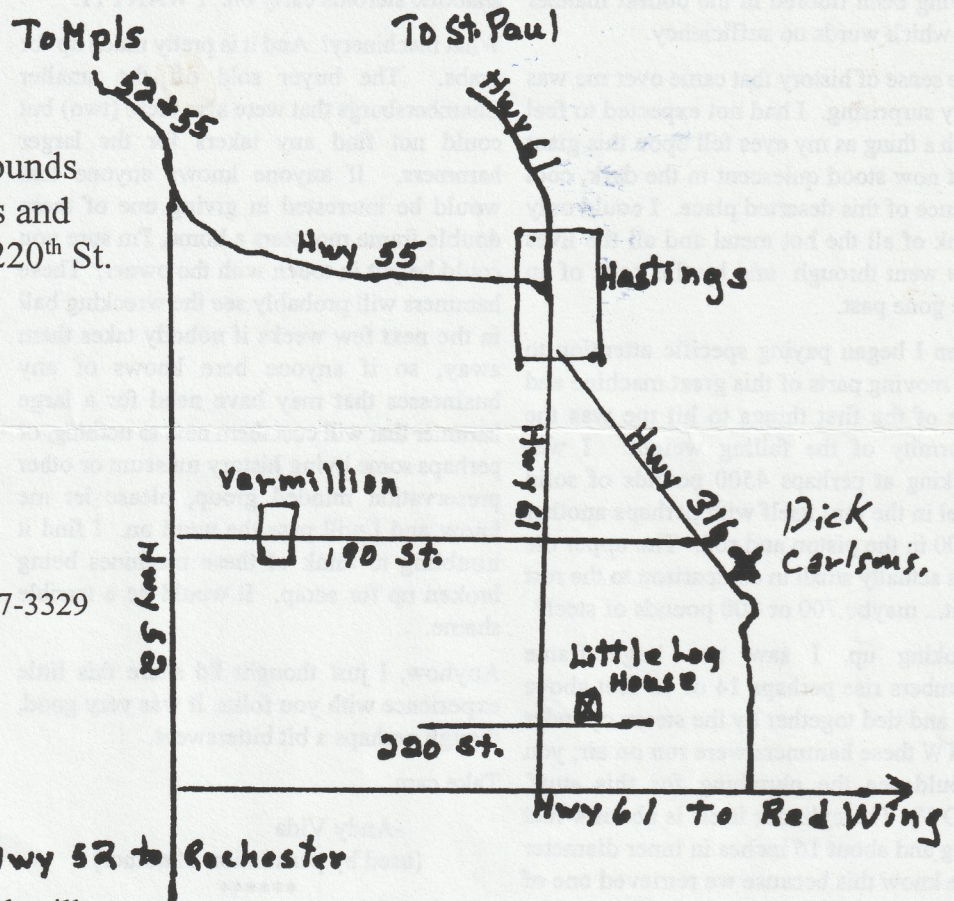
Questions call Dick Carlson
651-437-3329

The evening's order:

- 6:30 Pot luck
- 7:00 Meeting:
- 7:30 Program: Bob Beck will
demonstrate making spurs and engraving.

Bring a lawn chair to sit on. Come early and tour the grounds (This will be the site for the fall conference) See the worlds only complete spiral bridge.

"DON'T FORGET SHOW AND TELL"



Guild of Metalsmiths Late Spring Hammer-in

June 5&6, 1999

Please come to the 2 day Hammer-in at our place in western Wisconsin on Saturday and Sunday June 5th and 6th. Registration, at the door, is \$5.00 per family whether you come for just one day or stay for both days.

The "Hammer-in" is a loosely scheduled event that allows for:

- leisurely socializing
- an opportunity to show your own latest techniques
- a time to see several casual demonstrations
- a chance to try your own hand at forging
- in general, having a good time.

This one will begin at about 9AM on both Saturday and Sunday mornings and will run as late each day as you, the participants wish it to. We have several thousand square feet of outbuildings on the place, so we can run this hammer-in "rain or shine".

We, the hosts, will supply rolls, coffee and milk for the first 2 dozen or so arrivals from about 8AM to 10AM both Saturday and Sunday. There will be a potluck lunch at about 1PM on Saturday. Other than these aforementioned "meals" we will all be "on our own" for the other meals. There are several restaurants available in the area. A list will be provided for you when you arrive.

Camping and Motels:

For those of you who choose to stay in the area overnight, we have plenty of primitive camping available, or for those who wish to "Motel it", local motels and rates are listed at the bottom of this announcement.

Activities:

Demonstrations:

Name of Demonstrator	Demonstration	Day of Demo
Pete Stanaitis	Treadle Hammer Basics	Sat & Sun
Pete Stanaitis	Anvil Face Grinding Demo	Sat & Sun
Tom Latane'	His Choice	Sun (maybe Sat)
Bob Walsh	Something "hands on"	Sat & ?
Monte Bygd	His Choice	Sat & ?
Sheri Stanaitis	Spinning of wool using various styles of wheels; Hands on learning to spin with drop spindle	Sat & Sun
Sheri Stanaitis	Machine Knitting demo	Sat & Sun
Others????		

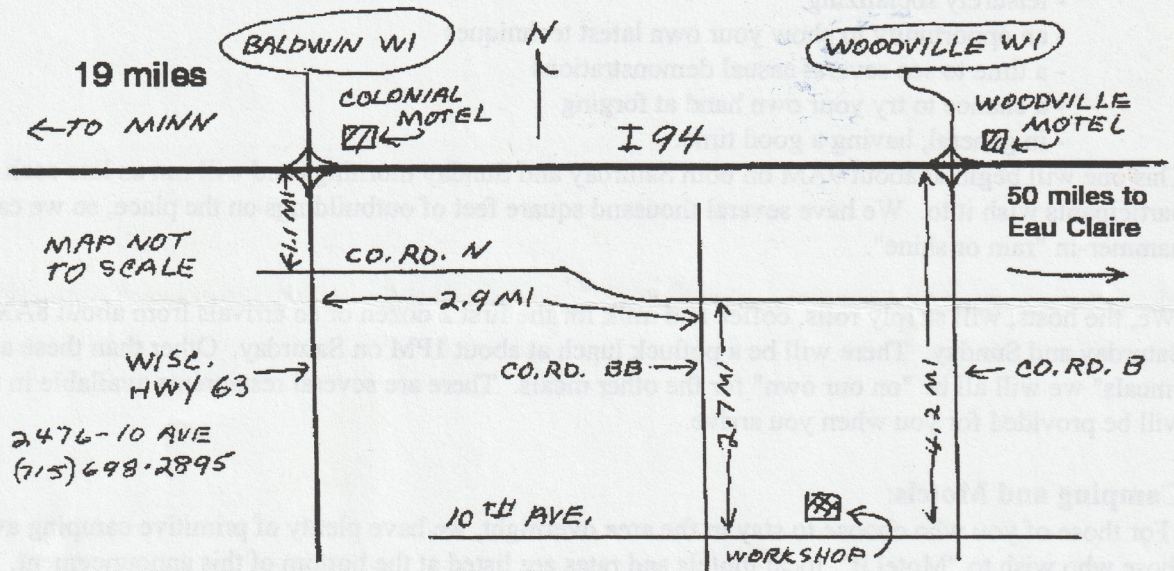
Other Activities

- *If you have something that you want to demo, bring it along and we will see that you get a chance to show us.
- *Bring your blacksmithing questions. We will have plenty of expertise to help you get an answer.
- *Open Forge set ups: We will have 3 complete sets ups for you to use. Two will be coal forges and one will be a gas forge.
- *Show and Tell Table (bring YOUR Show and tell items!!!)
- *Auction (of any items you bring to help support the Guild)
- *Tail Gate Sales
- *Equipment Exchange (bring stuff you want to trade/trade for stuff you want to get)

- *Opportunity to hike in the woods; pond available for swimming, if it's warm enough.
- *Little Theater showing Guild Videos all day.
- *Pete's little triphammer Museum available for viewing, measuring, etc.
- *Exhibit of the Newsletters of other ABANA Chapters
- *Exhibit of tin lantern steps and tooling

Hammer-in location:

The farm of Pete & Sheri Stanaitis, 2476 10th Ave, Baldwin, WI 54002 (This site is located about 38 miles southeast of St. Paul Minnesota. (See Map).



What to Bring:

- A dish to pass for the Saturday mid-day potluck.
- Any tools and demonstration supplies you might need.
- Chairs: we will supply some, but just to be sure, bring your own favorites
- Any other food and camping equipment that you will need.

-List of Local Motels:

Woodville Motel, Junction of I94 and St. Croix County Highway B

Rates: \$36.99+tax for 2 people in one double bed. 4 adults in one room (2 beds) for \$43.50+tax

Phone: 1-715-698-2481

Super 8 Motel, Junction of I94 and WI Highway 63

Rates: 1 person @\$61.88+tax, 2 people for \$71.88+tax. 3 or 4 people for \$77.88+tax.

Phone: 1-800-800-8000

Contact us at phone: 715-698-2895 e-mail: spaco@win.bright.net if you have any questions. See you there!

METAL-SHAPING WORKSHOP

at Don Hammer's Saturday, June 12 9:30 am

We will be covering all aspects of metal shaping. We will cover shrinking, stretching and shaping with the English wheel. We will also cover fastening systems, gas-hammer welding, soldering and various other aspects of the coach-building trade.

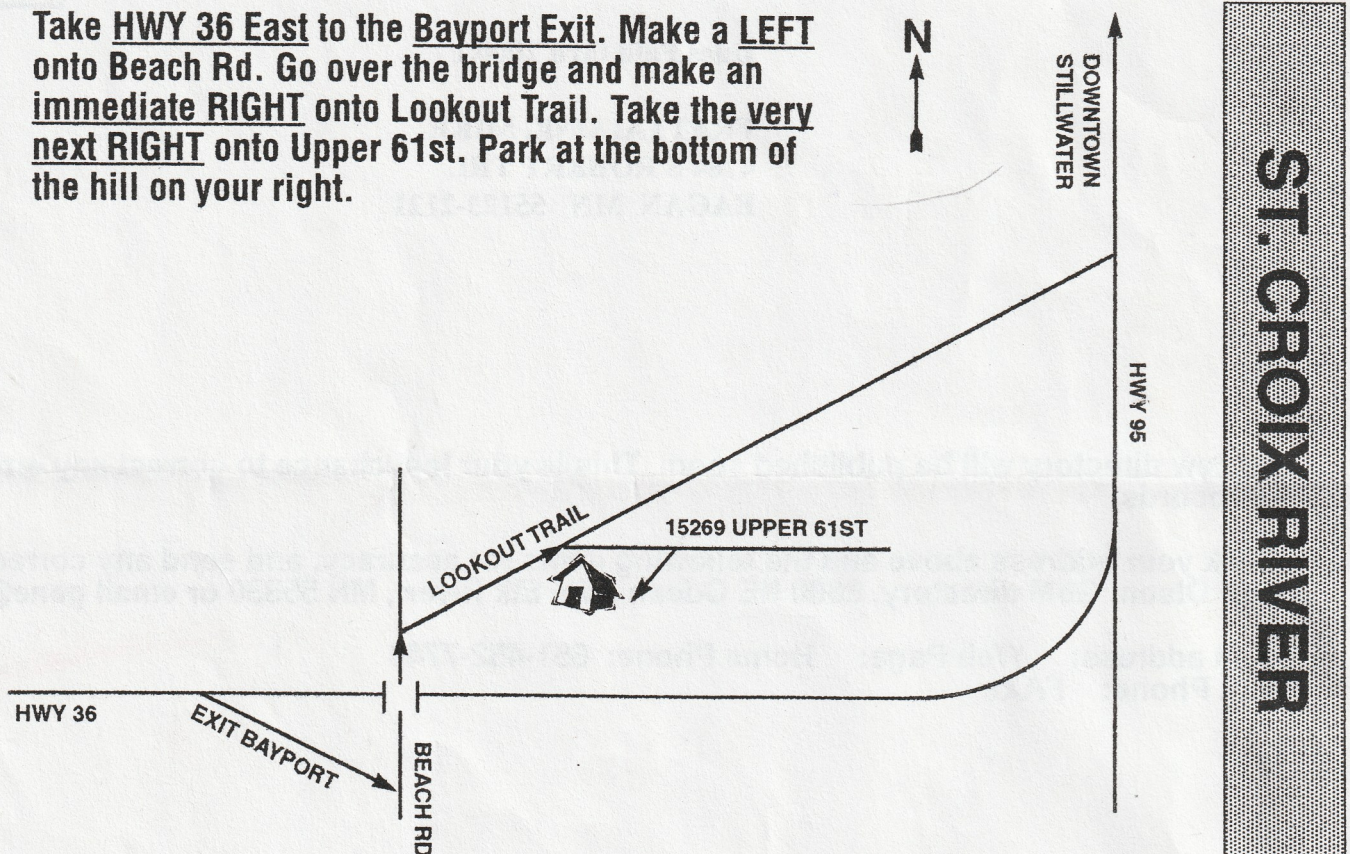
This will be a free workshop to better identify areas of interest for future workshops.

Don's address is **15269 Upper 61st St. North, in Stillwater** and his phone number is **651-351-0869**. His place is just off Hwy 36 as it begins to curve north into downtown Stillwater.

Weather permitting, please park on lawn (at bottom of hill) car-pooling encouraged.

Refreshments will be available.

Take **HWY 36 East** to the **Bayport Exit**. Make a **LEFT** onto **Beach Rd**. Go over the bridge and make an **immediate RIGHT** onto **Lookout Trail**. Take the **very next RIGHT** onto **Upper 61st**. Park at the bottom of the hill on your right.



Guild of Metalsmiths Video Library Request Form

Date: _____

Please Return Tapes promptly

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number _____

Send Requests to : Mike Richter

1249 Whitewater Ave.

St. Charles, MN 55972

Enclose \$3.00 per tape requested

Tape Requested: Name: _____ Number: _____

Signature: _____

Do Not Duplicate Copyrighted Material

VVVVVVV

The following section to be filled out by the librarian

VVVVVVV

Tape sent: _____

Due date: _____

This part of form is for Library records

This part of the form is to be sent with the tape being borrowed

Tape sent: _____

Due date: _____

Please Return Tapes promptly,

Send to : Mike Richter

1249 Whitewater Ave.

St. Charles, MN 55972

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