

'The Forum'

September 2025



Vol. 27 No. 9

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

48th Annual TGoM Fall Conference, aka "The Madness" September 19, 20, & 21, 2025 Featuring Blacksmithing Demonstrations by:



**Howard Clark of Runnells IA
and
Tom Latane' of Pepin WI**



Including Pre-Conference class by Tom Latane', gallery, silent & live auctions, tailgating, onsite camping, great food, and events for the entire family!

Free attendance for non-members on Saturday after 5 pm for viewing of the gallery & participation in the live auction. Come join us!

Location: The Pierce County Fairgrounds
364 N. Maple St.
Ellsworth, WI 54011

[Single Page Flyer for 2025 Fall Conference](#)
[2025 Fall Conference Brochure](#)

Important Notice!

Bob Fredell has asked the Guild for help in liquidating his shop. We will be selling some of his art and tools at the Fall Conference. Half of the proceeds go to his family and half to the Guild.

We're only going to bring a portion of his collection this year. Larry Wasmund is going to be selling the larger items online at some future date.

Friendly reminder...

There will be a Paul Hubler display area in the gallery at the Fall Conference. The animal heads images used in *Iron Menagerie* were made by Paul. The animal heads will be on display.

Please bring your collection made by Paul and add it to the collection for the weekend. Great time to share your treasures.

2025 Demo Opportunities

On page 6 of this issue of *The Forum* is a list for September demonstration opportunities and events available for you.

That list is on our website for your ease of viewing and deciding which events you'd like to help out with.

<https://www.metalsmith.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-Demonstration-Opportunities.pdf>

Please contact the champions and see what you can do to help with any of these events.

QUICKNEWS

Fall Beginning Blacksmithing Classes are FULL!

Chalk Tongs

Class: Nov. 1. Details page 5.

48th Annual Fall Conference
See you at the madness!

Pre-conference Class

2-day class September 18 & 19 by Tom Latane'. Page 2 to register.

Fall Conference Contest

It's time to finish up forging your entry in the 2025 Fall Conference contest. Page 2 for details.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Guild is always looking for volunteers for numerous tasks that keep the Guild in working order. If you haven't been asked or "**vol-in-told**" to help with tasks and would like to, contact Kim Maas, the Volunteer Coordinator. Email:

tgom.volunteer@gmail.com or text/call 651-328-7219. Not all help needed is smithing.

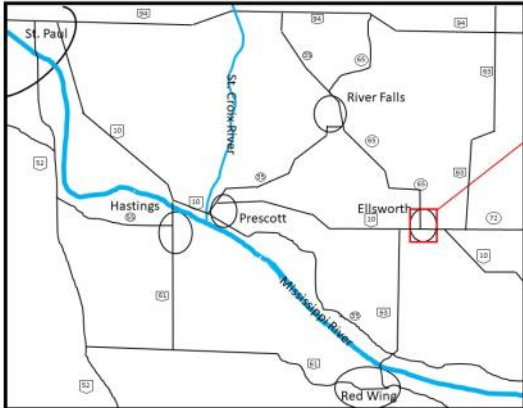
Supplier Directory

A directory of suppliers that our membership uses is updated regularly. Please forward any suppliers information that you would like added to the directory.

Information needed: name of company/supplier, address, phone number, and website. The aim for this project is to help new members find supplies and tools.

To add a supplier or to request a directory,
tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

Map to Pierce County Fairgrounds, Ellsworth WI



Fairgrounds Map key

1. Seyforth Building - Kitchen & Dining room
 2. Kenny Heinz Building - Demonstrators at the north & south ends of the building.
 3. Home Economics Building - Registration, Gallery, Library, location of Friday night Gala.
 4. Location of Found Art
- Dotted outline - Restrooms
Tailgating located on the road south of Picnic Shelter.
Dogs are welcome on the grounds, but you need to clean up after them.

2025 Fall Conference Pre-Conference Class

Registration is now open for The Guild of Metalsmiths' 2-day preconference class.

Swiveling Jaw Tongs Class

Thursday & Friday, September 18 & 19, 2025, 8 am to 4 pm

Instructor: Tom Latane'

Location: Pierce County Fairgrounds (map page 3)

Cost: Members \$230, non-members \$280

Class Manager: Richard Zielike, 612-860-6120

Brief Description: Students will forge the jaws, reins, and pivot of a pair of tongs with one hinged jaw that will adjust to hold material over a range of 3/8", and adjust to the taper angle of items such as an axe blade being held while the eye is adjusted. Starting with one size of stock, the class will forge the common jaw, the floating jaw, with its cleft to accept the tenon on that half of the pair of tongs, and the rivet that connects both halves of the tongs. Participants will be encouraged to strike for each other when drawing out the reins. This is a mid-level project, requiring some serious hammering. The 10 participants will use their 30" of 3/8" by 3/4" inch stock and two days to complete their project.

Note: Once the final list of registered students is complete, the instructor will send specific instructions for the class.

Lunch Arrangements: Lunch will be on your own or Richard will organize an order to be sent to the Chinese restaurant next to the fairgrounds.

To register online go to The Guild of Metalsmiths website,

<https://www.metalsmith.org/education>

Or to mail in a check, contact class manager Richard at the phone number above to reserve your place. He will hold your reservation for 7 calendar days. If he doesn't receive the check by the 7th day, your reservation will be released to the next individual.

Acceptance will be in the order submitted, based on the online transaction date or postage date, and each person will be notified individually.



2025 Fall Conference Contest Details

The Fall Conference Contest this year is inspired by The Guild of Metalsmiths workbook, *Iron Menagerie*. To order your copy, see info below.

- The basic contest will be an animal head alone on the end of a bar.
- The advance contest will be an animal head on a useful tool.

You will find inspiration in *Iron Menagerie*, available for purchase on the Guild website or at most membership meetings. You can also check out the videos created by Darryl Nelson on YouTube.

Good Luck!

New 'Iron Menagerie' book

The new version of The Guild's IRON MENAGERIE workbook is available to purchase.!

Cost \$20 (+\$10 S/H if mailed).

What a wonderful gift for your favorite blacksmith!

Contact person: Peter Bettenberg

tgomeditor@gmail.com



Metalsmith Needs One Member to Volunteer to Write an Article About Fall Conference Demonstration

The Fall Conference is right around the corner and there is all kinds of work in motion to make this a successful event. There will be Bellows and *Forum* postings requesting assistance with specific tasks. Please consider volunteering to assist with the task requests.

This is an amazing way to get to know other members.

Here is a task needing someone to commit:

Metalsmith is looking for one volunteer to write an article about one of the demonstrators and demonstrations, including taking pictures. The demonstrators this year are Tom Latane' and Howard Clark. You do not need to be any kind of professional writer or photographer; we are all volunteers doing the best we can. There is an amazing *Metalsmith* team available to help you with your article or to answer any questions.

Contact Peter Bettenberg, Lead Editor, tgomeditor@gmail.com and inform him which demonstrator your article will focus on.

To get the most out of what the Guild has to offer, you need to get involved.

Thank you for considering this request for help.

2025 Fall Conference Craft Sale

We will again be having a Craft Sale at the September 20 & 21 Fall Conference.

If you are interested in selling your handcrafted items, please contact me, Paula Wasmund, by text or phone call at 507-469-0404. You can pick a table and let me know how much room you need. There are nine 8-foot tables available.

What does it cost? A donation to the Guild's live auction and a \$10-\$15 door prize that we will be awarding at noon on Sunday during lunch. Doesn't matter what the door prize is, we just want to thank the buyers of our crafts. You will also be asked to volunteer two 2-hr. shifts to work sales. Consideration will be made if you're watching the demonstrators.

Pricing your crafts: Format needed for price tags (below, left).

Vendors (sellers) need to price every item.

This is how sales are tracked by vendors. Daily tallies of daily sales will be available to vendors. After lunch on Sunday, vendors will receive funds made during sale.

Seller number
of your choice

\$ price of item

Craft Sale hours:

Friday 2 PM – 10 PM

Saturday 7:30 AM – 6 PM

Sunday 7:30 AM – NOON Packing up your crafts will be after lunch Sunday.

Cancellation policy: Please give at least 10-day notice if you need to cancel your reservation unless it is an emergency. This will allow someone on the waiting list to take advantage of the cancellation.

Door Prize Rules: You may sign up for door prize with each sales transaction with the Craft Sales. If you have more than one transaction in a day, you may sign up with each transaction. *Must be present at conference to win. *One prize per person.

— Paula Wasmund

Supplies Needed for the 'Found Art' Wagon

One of the favorite attractions of the Fall Conference is the Found Art wagon. What is Found Art? It's art created from everyday objects that were not originally intended for artistic use. Herb Fick and company will weld together pieces found on the Found Art wagon, helping folks create their artistic visions.

Supplies are needed for the wagon. If it can be welded, it can be used. Ideas: flatware, kitchen utensils, auto parts, yard tools, hardware, scrap steel, forged pieces that didn't work out (get rid of the reminder), misc. parts and pieces laying around the homestead. Bring what you have and add it to the wagon when you get to the conference. *No galvanizing or aluminum anything.

Besides having fun creating something from the wagon, it is fun to see something you brought and used to create some very cool pieces of art.





The Guild Needs Audio Technician & Video Technician

There is a need for an Audio Technician and a Video Technician. The Guild owns their own audio equipment. The immediate need is someone to set up the sound equipment and monitor it during the Fall Conference. There would be three locations of sound: both demonstrators and the dining room for the auction. Ideally, we could also use audio during our membership meetings.

Audio Technician: You manage the microphones and audio gear onsite, work with all the presenters, actively adjust settings for (hopefully) optimal sound, solve problems, etc.

Video technician: You may or may not know that The Guild of Metalsmiths is looking to start our very own YouTube channel. The Guild has a solid library of historical videos that will be gone through to decide what would be up loadable for the website. What will be needed going forward is a videographer/video technician.

This is a renewed position for the Guild. Requirements would be a person or team of members willing to take videos of Fall Conference demonstrations, Guild classes, and demonstrators demonstrating around Minnesota.

These may be too much for one person and a team of people would be grand.

You may contact Peter Bettenberg with inquiry for the Audio Technician by email at: bettenberg@hotmail.com.

For the Video Technician position, contact Kim Maas by email at: tgom.volunteer@gmail.com.

For further fall conference information or to volunteer

Marty Masters 651-285-8731

martin.masters@metalsmith.org Guild President

Derrick Phillips 651-230-2363

DerrickPhillipsA3o3@gmail.com Program Committee Chair

Taya Gavin 715-781-4389

tgomtreasurer@gmail.com, Treasurer

Help! is still needed for...

Fall Conference Registration Desk

Hours September 19, 20, 21

- Friday: 2:00 pm - 10:00 pm in 2-hour increments
- Saturday: 7:30 am - 6:00 pm in 2-hour increments
- Sunday: 7:30 am - 1:00 pm in 2-hour increments

Fall Conference Kitchen Staff

Hours Needed

1. Friday, Sept 19: 4:30—6:30 pm
2. Sunday, Sept 21, 7:00 am - 9:30 am
3. Sunday, Sept 21, 11:30 am — 1:00pm

Note: Saturday hours are filled!

To volunteer, send an email to Kim Maas, Volunteer Coordinator:

tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

For questions or clarification of duties, please contact

Derrick Phillips derrickphillipsa3o3@gmail.com

Mark Lockwood mark.lockwood@daikinapplied.com

Jesse Gavin jagavin6273@hotmail.com

Taya Gavin tgomtreasurer@gmail.com

Kim Maas tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

Focus on Fall Conference Open Forge

As the Program Committee looks ahead during its planning for the Fall Conference it is clear that the open forge which has occurred on Saturday night continues to become increasingly popular. The fellowship that is built and the knowledge that is exchanged add value to the Guild and its members.

Yet, it is appropriate to approach this event with the same focus on safety as we do with all other Guild sponsored activities or activities that can be directly associated with the Guild by their context. The Program Committee will be asking the Guild Board to review the current context the open forge occurs prior to the conference and provide guidance on the responsible guidelines to hold this event safely.

It is our hope that the Board can provide clear guidance, and we can continue to hold this popular event. More information will be following.

Family Activities at 'The Madness'

Macrame' Feathers

Saturday 9 am

Join Terri and learn how to make a beautiful Macrame Feather wall hanging.

Terri Lind, instructor. No fee.

No class limits. Preregistration is not required.

Bronze Casting is Full!

Saturday 1:30 pm

The class will be using Delft Clay to make their molds. Two part metal flasks will be used for the pour. Jack will do the pour. Jack Lassiter, instructor. Bill Lassiter, assistant. Audience is welcome.

Chainmail

Sunday 9 am

The class will teach how to make the jump rings for chainmail. Then using the jump rings to make the chainmail. Derrick Phillips, instructor. Fee: \$10 cash. Class limit is 8. To register email Terri at:

cikestate@gmail.com.

Found Art

Herb Fick and company will weld whatever you find on the trailer into your art creation.

Free. Found Art 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Saturday!

Magnetic Art

Design and build magnetic/ferrous creations.

Free all weekend!

Family Activities Contact: Terri Lind

cell (612) 716-8482

email: cikestate@gmail.com

Upcoming: FREE: MEMBERS ONLY

Open Forge and Potluck September 28, 9 am to 4pm

This event (our second) is open to all Guild members. There are eight forges available for us to use, and there is no lesson or agenda except to get some iron hot, hit it with a hammer, and hang out with fellow blacksmiths. There are sign ups that will guarantee you a forge space. If you just want to stop by and hang out, you are welcome to do so. If there's space at a forge, have at it.

This is an excellent opportunity to hang out with and learn from fellow smiths. Beginners are welcome to send Harvey or Peter an email with their topic of interest or problem you're trying to solve, and we'll do our best to have an answer and/or help available.

Members in charge: Harvey Steele hsteele@handeecleat.com,

Peter Ellison peter@matrixrunner.net, Laurel Larkin

Manager: Harvey Steele: 239-671-8887

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (map page 7)

Price of Class: FREE TO MEMBERS ONLY

Safety Equipment: the usual for forging with coal: gloves, safety glasses, hearing protection, clothing of natural fiber with no cuffs or fraying, and leather boots or shoes.

Lunch arrangement: Potluck at noon, bring a dish to share.

Taste of Blacksmithing, August 2025



Left to Right: Randy Purchase, Tesia Kosmalski, Rusty Detty, Rebecca Hornbrook, Constantine Kokkinos, Brad Steele, Shelby Holker, Steven Morehead, Dan Holker, Shelby Holker (Harvey Steele missing - photographer).

August TGoM meeting at Pate estate!



Most, but not all the members at the meeting. (Photo by Evrette Maas.)



Herb Fick's crew hard at work cutting roasted hog for dinner. Including Gary Myers, Jim Moenck, Jim Scott and Tom Sheely.



Brendan Stevens (right) and his assistant, Jon, demonstrated during the day.



Show-n-Tell: Dick Carlson's and John McDonald's wheel fashioned after John's Studebaker wheel.



Show-n-tell: Jim Moenck showed his latest puko knife with sheath which will appear at the Fall Conference auction.

Instructor Workshop held August 9, 2025 at the Minnesota School of Horseshoeing



Larry Wasmund, Lead Instructor, Herb Fick, Assistant Instructor, Rob Bullis, Bob Brown, Marty Masters, David Skaurad, Kevin Stokes, Peter Ellison, Laurel Larkin, Christina Dodge, Lee Meilleur. *Photos arranged by Kim Maas.*

Fall Beginning Blacksmithing Classes ARE FULL!

Dates & times: Saturdays, Oct. 4, 11, and 18, 9 am to 3-5 pm
You can visit the online registration page to get on a waiting list:

Go to the Guild of Metalsmiths website,
<https://www.metalsmith.org/education>

Demonstrator Needed

Here is a request for a demonstrator for a youth program. Please contact Sam directly if you are interested. Also, please let me know, so I can document it at tgom.volunteer@gmail.com. Thank you for considering this request and being willing to assist Sam.

— Kim Maas

Hello! I run youth programming at the Balsam Lake Public Library just across the border in Wisconsin, and I would love to bring in a blacksmith for a demonstration. We run a traditional/survival skills program on Thursdays that's consistently well-attended, and I'm trying to expand our offerings this year. I don't know if any of your Guild members would be interested in doing something like this, but it would be paid and pretty low commitment (like an hour or two). We have a covered outdoor space available with drive-up access.

Anyways, happy to provide more details, but if there's any chance you all could help connect me with someone I could reach out to with an inquiry, it would be supremely appreciated!

Cheers,
Sam

youthservices@balsamlakepl.org

Supplier Directory

A directory of suppliers that our membership uses is updated regularly. Please forward any suppliers information that you would like added to the directory.

Information needed: name of company/supplier, address, phone number, and website.

The aim for this project is to help new members find supplies and tools.

To add a supplier or to request a directory, email:

tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

Chalk Tongs Class 2025

Date & Time: Saturday, Nov. 1, 8 am to 4:30 pm

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (map below)

Instructor: Dave Gavin,

Class Manager: Jesse Gavin, 715-808-5891
jagavin6273@hotmail.com

Cost: : Member: \$65 Non-Member: \$95

Class size: Max 8, min 4

Class Description:

Are you tired of fumbling with that short piece of chalk? Then this is the class for you. We will be making chalk tongs. This class will require you to have some serious hammer control. One wrong hit, and you will likely be starting over. These tongs could also make a good Christmas tree ornament. If you'd like to look over the sample pair – they will be at the Fall Conference. The tongs in the photo are ~ 6" - 7" long

Tools and Equipment or other items participants are to bring to the class: Light hammers, files, gas forges & gas. We will have 2, but if you'd like to bring one please do.

Safety Equipment: the usual for forging with coal: gloves, safety glasses, hearing protection, clothing of natural fiber with no cuffs or fraying, and leather boots or shoes.

Lunch arrangements: Local food or bring your own.

To register:

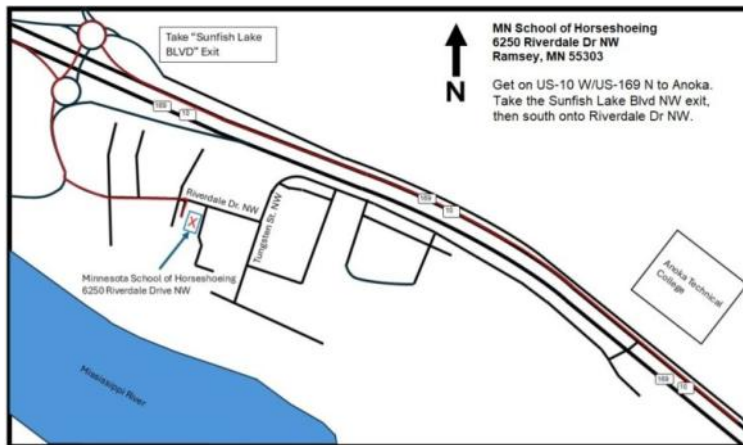
To register online go to The Guild of Metalsmiths website,
<https://www.metalsmith.org/education>

Or to mail in a check, contact the class manager listed above for additional information and to reserve your place.

Acceptance will be in the order submitted, based on the online transaction date or postage date, and each person will be notified individually.



Map to MN School of Horseshoeing



2025 Demonstration Opportunities-September

Date	Event	Location	Champion & contact information <i>Contact the champion for additional information</i>
5-6 September	Lamberton Hot Iron Days	Lamberton, MN	Bob Brown, Bbrown474@msn.com , 651-260-2749
6-7 September	Farming of Yesteryear Farm and Threshing Show	Kiester, MN	Dewey Roll, 651-590-3634 Leave a message. Calls are screened
13-14 September	Laura Ingalls Wilder Days	Pepin, WI	Tom & Kitty Latané, tclatane@gmail.com , 715-442-2419
20 September	Harvest Festival, Holtz Farm	Eagan, MN	No Champion, contact Kim Maas if interested, tgom.volunteer@gmail.com , 651-328-7219
27 September	Gamehaven Fall Camporee Gamehaven Scout Camp	Rochester, MN	Larry Wasmund, poundedtreasures@gmail.com , 651-322-6626
TBA	Pumpkin Train	Dresser, WI	Gordon Barr, agbarr@aol.com , 952-894-4821
Most wknds Memorial Day 1139 thru Labor Day	The Landing / Three Rivers Park District	Shakopee, MN	No Guild representative, Contact site directly. Zachary.Mohlis@threeriversparks.org , 763-694-7788 Michael.Murray@threeriversparks.org , 763-694-7788 Main number for Three Rivers 763-694-7784 Gordon Barr, agbarr@aol.com , 952-894-4821
Saturdays & Sundays in December	Santa's Train Shop Jackson Street Roundhouse	St. Paul, MN	Gordon Barr, agbarr@aol.com , 952-894-4821
Various dates thru the year.	Boy Scout Blacksmith Merit Badge at the School of Horseshoeing	Ramsey, MN	Contact & contact information -TBD. Gordon Barr, agbarr@aol.com , 952-894-4821
TBD	Boy Scout Fall Camporee	Carver, MN	
Various dates thru the year.	Jackson Street Roundhouse Transportation Museum	St. Paul, MN	

Contact the Champions and see what you can do to help with any of these events.

If you know of an event where a guild member is demonstrating and it is not listed, please email information to tgom.volunteer@gmail.com to get it listed. Information needed for listing: event name, date(s), location, Champion's name, and contact information. Thank You!!

Our October Guild of Metalsmith's meeting is on October 8, 2025

On Wednesday, October 8 our next meeting will be at Primitive Precision Metalcraft at 4430 North Lyndale Ave in Minneapolis. It's located in an old factory building. Most of their production is on metal fabricating, and they have three enormous and thick (to me) welding tables and Bridgeports, etc. I even spotted a Fireball Tool hardtail vise while visiting there.

Parking is on the north side. Look at the picture below before coming. There is not a lot of signage.

As usual, the potluck starts at 6:30 and the business meeting and show-n-tell begin about 7 pm.

Contact me, Richard Zielike, with questions at richard@edinaclock.com



Primitive Precision Metalcraft

August 30. 2025 Scouts of America Class

Funded by the Rich Herman Memorial Fund

Photos by Gordon Barr



Goings on...a listing of TGoM events at a glance

- **Most membership meetings** are the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, and October. Date for December will be announced. **Watch each Forum for date and location changes.** 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 Kim Maas (tgom.volunteer@gmail.com) and Laurel Larkin (frogwench@comcast.net) co-chairs.
- Program Comm. meetings are 7 pm the third Thursday monthly. Derrick Phillips derrickphillipsa303@gmail.com or Mark Lockwood mlockwood851@gmail.com co-chairs.
- Most board meetings are the second Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November via ZOOM.



September 2025

September 18 & 19, Pre-Conference Class with Tom Latane', Pierce County Fairgrounds (maps page 1)
September 19, 20, and 21, TGoM 48th Annual Fall Conference, Pierce County Fairgrounds, Ellsworth Wisconsin
September 28, Open Forge FREE for TGoM members, MN School of Horseshoeing

October 2025

October 8, TGoM Membership Meeting, Primitive Precision Metalcraft, Mpls
October 18, Flat Wear Jewelry, SPPS

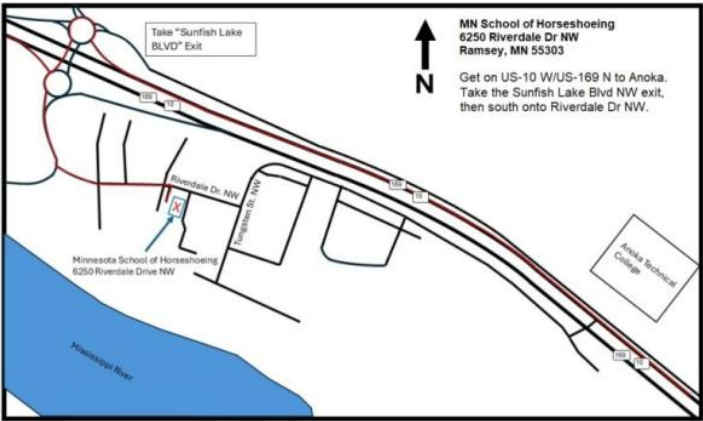
November 2025

Nov. 1, Chalk Tongs Class, MN School of Horseshoeing
Nov. 15, Viking Knife with Wrought Iron, MN School of Horseshoeing
Nov. 22, Taste of Blacksmithing, SPPS
Nov. 22, Intro to Arc Welding, SPPS
Nov. 23, St. Clement's Day

December 2025

Dec. 7, Handled Struck Tools, MN School of Horseshoeing
Dec. 8, Guild Holiday Party, CSPS Hall, St. Paul
Dec. 14, Open Forge & Potluck, SOH

Map to MN School of Horseshoeing



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@metalsmith.org.



Address Service

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 <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."

To reach our website quickly, just scan the QR code below.

September 2025



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 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