

'The Forum'

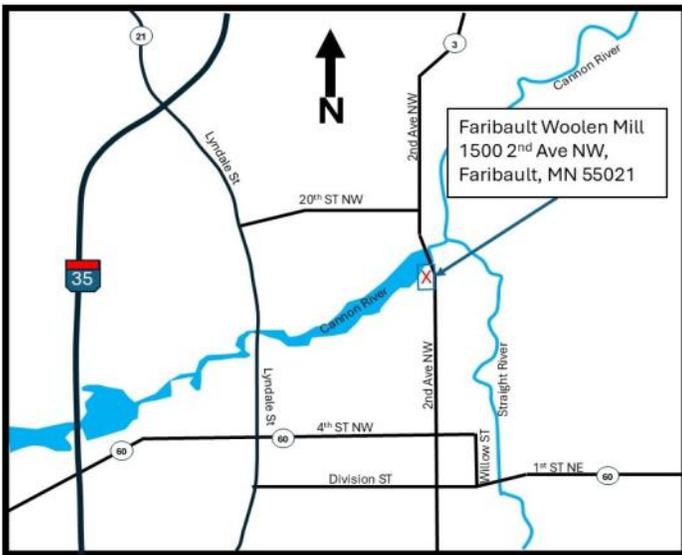


March 2026

Vol. 28 No. 3

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

Saturday, April 11 is Next Membership Meeting at Faribault Woolen Mill



Champion Richard Zielike has been busy planning The Guild of Metalsmiths' April membership meeting. Questions?

richard@edinaclock.com

We're having yet another Saturday meeting. Our April meeting is at the Faribault Woolen Mill, 1500 2nd Ave NW, in Faribault MN. See map above.

So, on your calendar you'll need to change our April meeting date to April 11, with setup starting at 11:30, and our potluck starting at 12:00. It might be a little awkward arriving earlier, as there will be a tour before us. After our meal and meeting, we will be breaking into several tour groups, with the tours lasting approximately an hour. You can plan on leaving by 4:00.

Also on this day, we can visit the Rice County Historical Society 1814 NW 2nd Ave in Faribault. It's across the lake from the woolen mill. It's open from 10-2 on Saturdays and \$3-5 depending on age. Most of us qualify for the \$3 senior rate. rchistory.org

They have 3 areas for parking. The store has the closest parking which could be for those that can't walk as far. We can also park along the side of the building (off of 2nd Ave), and the large employee parking behind the building. They will put out parking signs for guidance. Please note that the only entrance that will be unlocked is the store.

We'll set up food and drink in their large conference room. Restrooms are just down the hallway. They will have large folding tables and chairs prepared for up to 65 people.

They plan to do their standard tour: 10-minute seated historical introduction, then 45-50 minutes walking through the facility. Please note that all tour attendees must stay within the guided pathway and cannot touch anything; everyone must stay with their group, no leaving during the tour. Once we get back to the store, the remainder of time can be for clean-up and shopping. They will have a 10% discount on items that are full-priced.

Zoo Babies 2026

We have been invited back to demonstrate at the Minnesota Zoo! This is a venue we have demonstrated at before, and it is a really great venue. All members are welcome to sign up for as much time as they are able.

The dates are yet to be finalized/confirmed with the Zoo, but these are the dates we are proposing: May 2&3, 9&10, and 16&17.

Feel free to email me with any questions you may have, and I will do my best to get back to you promptly.

Rick Wessling
rgwessling@gmail.com

Meeting Notice

Central Minnesota Blacksmiths (CMB) will be meeting at Wayne Olson's shop on Saturday, March 7. Guild members are welcome to join the central MN group. Time 10 or 11 am to whenever. Potluck for lunch so bring something to share. Potluck followed by at least one demonstration.

Address 3810 State Hwy 70 Pine City MN. 55 minutes north of downtown St. Paul. Shop is heated and out of the weather with plenty of parking space. Bring a chair to sit on. Come enjoy the spring day! Questions? Call me.

Thanks.
Wayne
Cell 320.280.0100

Faribault Woolen Mill photos—160 years!

On page 5 check out Richard's photos of machinery you will see during the tour of the mill. Learn how they make not only their famous wool blankets and throws, but also many, many types of clothing.

'QUICKNEWS'

 When a person becomes a member of The Guild of Metalsmiths, their spouse and minor children also become members of the Guild. The membership is a 'Family Membership!'

Annual Fall Conference T-Shirt Design Contest Begins...NOW!

Details page 2!

Open Forge March 1

Don't forget: Free to members. Jackson Street Roundhouse.

**Damascus Knife Class
March 14-15**

Details page 3

**Beginning Blacksmithing
Classes March 14, 15, &
21, 2026**

Details page 4.

**Beginning Blacksmithing
Classes April 11, 12, 18, 2026**

Details page 4

Hammer Making Class May 9

Details page 3

Intro to Arc Welding May 16

Details page 3.

TGoM Photo Pages

Pages 5 and 6.

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.

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

The Passing of Madonna Larsen

November 30, 1932 — February 13, 2026

Madonna M. Larsen, age 93 of Vermillion, Minnesota passed away peacefully at home on Friday evening, February 13, 2026.

Madonna Mary, the daughter of Joseph and Frances (Kasel) Marschall, was born on November 30, 1932, in Hastings, MN. Following her graduation from high school, Madonna attended nursing school in Rochester as well as New York where she obtained her nursing degree and was a longtime nurse at Riverview Hospital and United Hospital until retiring in 1990. Even after retirement, Madonna continued to be a caregiver throughout her life. On July 3, 1974, she was united in marriage to Clifford "Cliff"



Madonna Larsen

Larsen Sr. in South St. Paul, and they enjoyed creating countless memories with family and friends throughout their fifty-one years of marriage.

Outside of working, Madonna was a devout catholic and dedicated member of both the Carmelite Order and St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Vermillion, where she volunteered in countless ways. The power of prayer, hearing God's Word with love, humility and trust was always very important to her daily steps of life. She also enjoyed gardening and sharing her produce with others.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Michael; and by her siblings, MaryAnn, Joseph, Erma, and George.

Madonna is survived by her husband, Cliff; children, Mark (Janet) Braemer, Sherry (Mark) Walter, Bonnie (Ron) Johnson, Clifford Jr. (Lyle) Larsen, and Allen (Tammy) Larsen; grandchildren, Jacqueline (Peter) Moseman, Hannah (Brian) Gonzalez, Alisha (Matt) Bonzelet Morrow, Valeria (Eric) Lindberg, and Savannah (Micah) Erickson; great grandchildren, Lydia, Eleanor, Hans, Vernon, Amelia, Julia, Colton, Tyler, Lydia, Waylenn, and Ellis; sisters, Frances (Al) Rawlings and Monica Passero; and by many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Vermillion, with Father Michael Tix officiating. Interment followed at the parish cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, Madonna kindly requested that all memorials be made to St. John the Baptist Catholic School in her memory.

We will miss Donna at The Guild of Metalsmiths' membership meetings, especially the August corn feed, which she attended annually with her husband Cliff for many years.

Reminder: The Guild's Annual Fall Conference T-Shirt Design Contest Has Started!



What would you like to see on The Guild's 2026 Fall Conference T-shirt? Funny you should ask, because you get to decide! You don't have to be an artist to participate. You just need a neat idea for a shirt. The entry that receives the most votes gets a free conference shirt and bragging rights for the year! And, much like tools, you can never have enough T-shirts.

Send your ideas to Helper Minion Sara (TGoM.Archive@gmail.com), and we'll get your design ready for the start of voting in June.



Associate Editor for 'Metalsmith'

Have you ever thought that being an editor of a magazine would be a challenge you would like to take on? Well, here is an opportunity just for you. This is a way you can impress your parents, children, and friends, plus have control over what you want 'Metalsmith' to feature and publish.

Our 'Metalsmith' team is looking for someone to create one issue of 'Metalsmith' per year, working with our lead editor, Peter Bettenberg, and our 'Metalsmith' team.

Putting it together:

- Gather any articles from the members, and the President's letter.
- Try to take Show 'n Tell photos from the Membership meetings and do photo layouts.
- Any extra space can be filled in with articles from other blacksmith groups. Only use those that are high-resolution; due to low-resolution copies don't look/work good.
- After laying out the magazine, send it to our 'Metalsmith' team for proofreading.
- Email articles submitted by members to get their approval after edits have been made.
- Request mailing list from the NEON administrator.
- When issue is completed, email final draft to printer, cc 'Metalsmith' editor and Communication Committee chair.
- The printer will print and mail 'Metalsmith' out.

Requirements:

- Willing to assist members with their articles.
- Time management skills. We want 'Metalsmith' to be ready for printing and mailed in the month when members expect the magazine in their mailboxes.
- Basic computer skills. The magazine is created on the computer, sent to the printer via email.

You do not need to be a college graduate, professional reporter or a wordsmith. You will have support.

To respond to this ad, please contact either of the folks listed below:

Peter Bettenberg: tgomeditor@gmail.com

Kim Maas, Volunteer Coordinator, tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

Climate Control Storage is Here!



The Guild now has climate control storage. If you have Guild property that requires climate control storage in your home, please make arrangements to have it moved to the storage unit.

To make arrangements contact Kim Maas by email: tgom.volunteer@gmail.com or text/call 651-328-7219. Thank you for your cooperation with this request.

Discord platform for TGoM

Discord is a free communication app for voice, video, and text chat, functioning as a hub for communities (called "servers") built around specific interests, from gaming and hobbies to study groups and friend circles, offering persistent chat rooms (channels) and direct messaging across desktop, mobile, and web platforms. Originally for gamers, it's now a versatile platform for any group wanting organized, real-time interaction, allowing users to join public servers or create private ones with roles, content sharing, and various customization options.

Email a request to join the platform to:

tgomdiscord@gmail.com or tgom.volunteer@gmail.com.

The monitor will send you a link to join.

Hammer Making Class 2026

Saturday, May 9, 9:00am – 5:00pm (Please come by 8:30 to get your fire started for a prompt 9:00 start).

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (map page 7)

Instructors: Derrick Phillips and others

Class Manager: Kim Maas, 651-328-7219

tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

Class size: Max 8, Min 4

Cost: Member: \$100 Non-Member: \$120

Class Description: It is recommended that anyone wishing to take this class has taken at least a few days long beginners' class and has several weeks of forging time. This will help ensure a certain comfort at the forge and with hot metal, as this class works with a larger hot piece. This class will teach you the skills you need to make a basic rounding hammer. With this knowledge you will then be able to expand your tool chest with other handled tools. All handled tools such as top fullers, punches and flatters start with this same process. We will begin with a piece of tool steel, punch the eye, shape both striking ends, heat treat and add the handle. You will go home with your own hammer. **Note:** This class can run late just to give a heads up
Bring to class: Bring your favorite hammers: one for striking hot metal and one for striking punches and drifts. Tongs for holding 1-1/2" square stock if you have that size.

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: Bring your own lunch or eat at one of the local establishments. We will take an hour break around noon. Also, bring plenty of water to stay hydrated during the day.

To Register:

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

Or to mail in a check, contact class manager shown above to reserve your place in the class and receive additional information on to where to mail the check.

Minors (under 18) must have a parent present. Minors under 14 need one adult per child. There will be no sharing of forges.

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



Intro to Arc Welding Class 2026

Saturday, May 16, 2026 9:00am – 4:00pm

Location: Minnesota Transportation Museum, 193 Pennsylvania Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55130
(Map below) Park in the back lot at the museum. Parking area is close to 3 Empire Drive, St. Paul



Instructor: Marty Masters

Class Size: Max 4, Min 3

Class Manager: Marty Masters 651-285-8731

martin.masters@metalsmith.org

Cost: Member: \$125 Non-Member: \$ 150

Class Description: If you've ever wanted to know more about welding, but didn't have a way to do it, here's your chance. There's something mysterious and magical about welding. Welders sit so close to this fountain of sparks that most people would jump back from. They join steel (and other materials) together as if they were one.

This one-day class will be a survey of three common modern arc welding techniques which are appropriate for hobby welding:

- Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW/Stick)
- Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW/MIG)
- Flux Cored Arc Welding (FCAW)

Each technique will be explained and demonstrated. Then the student will have hands-on time to practice.

Safety Equipment: Wear clothing made of natural fiber with no cuffs or fraying, and leather boots or shoes. Proper welding gloves, welding leathers or coat, welding helmet (We will have loaner helmets and some gloves if you don't want to buy.)

Lunch Arrangements: Bring your own lunch or eat at one of the local establishments. We will take an hour break around noon. Also, bring plenty of water to keep you hydrated during the class.

To Register:

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

Or to mail in a check, contact class manager shown above to reserve your place in the class and receive additional information on to where to mail the check.

Minors (under 18) must have a parent present. Minors under 14 need one adult per child. There will be no sharing of forges.

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

Damascus Workshop March 14 & 15

Instructors Paul Widenhoefer, Brendan Stevens, Justin Klejeski

Are you interested in learning how to make Damascus- that pattern welded steel with the cool designs that you see on many high-end knives? We will be offering a workshop open to a limited number of people (4-6) that will go over such things as steel selection, the preparation needed, the welding process, building a basic pattern and etching your steel billet. This workshop will be utilizing power hammers to weld and draw out the steel. Because of this, we ask all students to come with a moderate level of smithing experience.

Paul, Justin, and Brendan have been teaching knife making classes with the Guild for over a decade. We're running this independent of the Guild classes, but it is open to all Guild members and the blade smithing/blacksmithing community.

You should come out of the workshop with a Damascus billet big enough for some blades or other small projects and the knowledge to start your next billet, as well as the option to make a small Japanese style knife.

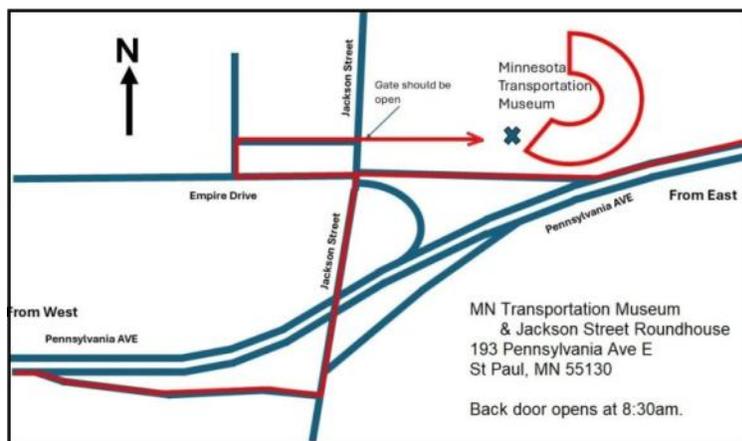
Cost \$125/person, with possibly an additional charge to be finalized at the end of the workshop. The cost is to cover materials used (steel, abrasives, propane, etc.). Contact Paul to arrange payment.

Please contact Paul with questions or to sign up:

Email pwidenhoefer@gmail.com, Text msg: 612-408-5007

Workshop will be held at Brendan Steven's place:

4764 118 St SW, Waverly, MN 55390



Beginners Blacksmithing 3-day - March 14, 15, & 21 2026

Dates: The classes are held on Saturday, March 14, Sunday, March 15, and Saturday, March 21

Location: Larry Wasmund's Shop, 39213 20th St, Janesville, MN 56048 (See map below)

Class Description: The beginners' basic classes are designed to give everyone the same understanding of the basics, techniques and terminology. The basic classes or proficiency are required before taking any of the many other classes the Guild offers. This enables those classes to concentrate on advanced techniques without having to spend time on basic concepts.

This 3-day class covers the basics of:

- Safety,
- Tools,
- Fire Control,
- Forging Dynamics,
- Tapers (ribbon, fishtail, point),
- Twisting,
- Riveting,
- Shouldering,
- Upset,
- Cutting,
- Splitting,
- Punching,
- Scrolling,
- Bending,
- Forge welding.

Class Size: 6 **Class level:** Beginners

Cost: \$230 for NON members, \$200 for Guild members (covers everything you need: the facility, coal, metal tools and workbook)

Class Champion/Manager: Laurel Larkin at frogwench@comcast.net or call 651-955-9379

What you need to bring: Eye, ear and skin protection. This includes safety glasses, ear muff or plugs and suitable clothing which includes hard shoes, cotton or leather. Synthetic and polyester clothing will burn and melt. There will be sparks and brushes against hot metal.

Tools: Tools are provided but if you have a favorite hammer, punches, chisels and tools, bring them along. A small 1 to 2 pound ball peen hammer would work. We have various hammers for you to try and get a feel for what is comfortable.

Typical day: Classes start at 9 but people usually show up earlier to swap stories or show off recent projects. Feel free to bring projects you are working on to show. We break for lunch.

Lunch: Bring lunch. Shop is in rural Janesville. Bring plenty of water to keep hydrated during the event.

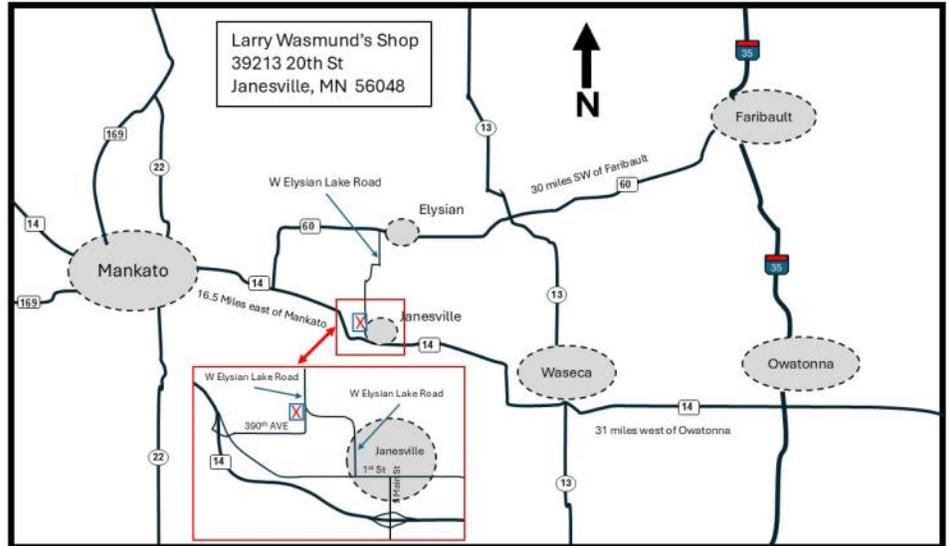
To register

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 at the email address above for additional information and to reserve your place.

Minors (under 18) must have a parent present. Minors under 14 need one adult per child. There will be no sharing of forges.

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



Beginners Blacksmithing 3-Day Class April 11, 12, and 18, 2026

The beginners' basic classes are designed to give everyone the same understanding of the basics, techniques and terminology. The basic classes or proficiency are required before taking any of the many other classes the Guild offers. This enables those classes to concentrate on advanced techniques without having to spend time on basic concepts.

This 3-day class covers the basics of: Safety, Tools, Fire Control, Forging Dynamics, Tapers (ribbon, fishtail, point), Twisting, Riveting, Shouldering, Upset, Cutting, Splitting, Punching, Scrolling, Bending, Forge welding.

Instructor: Marty Masters: 651-285-8731 martin.masters@metalsmith.org

Class Champion: Kim Maas Phone number: 651-328-7219 email address: tgom.volunteer@gmail.com

Price of Class: Members: \$200.00, Non-Members: \$230.00

Cost: (covers everything you need, the facility, coal, metal tools and workbook)

\$200 for members, \$230 non-members. Minors (under 18) must have a parent present. Minors under 14 need one adult per child. There will be no sharing of forges.

Class size: Maximum students: 8 Minimum students: 4

Location: The Minnesota School of Horseshoeing, 6250 Riverdale Dr NW, just off Hwy 10 in Anoka (map page 7)

Tools and Equipment or other items participants are to bring to the class:

Tools are provided but if you have a favorite hammer, punches, chisels and tools, bring them along. A small 1-to-2-pound ball peen hammer would work. We have various hammers for you to try and get a feel for what is comfortable.

Safety Equipment: Eye, ear and skin protection. This includes safety glasses, earmuffs or plugs and suitable clothing which includes hard shoes, cotton or leather. Synthetic and polyester clothing will burn and melt. There will be sparks and brushes against hot metal.

Special Instructions: Bring plenty of water to keep yourself hydrated during the class.

Lunch Arrangements: We have a break for lunch. Bring lunch or go to a local restaurant.

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

Or to mail in a check, contact champion shown above for mailing address

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

TGoM Photo Page: Faribault Woolen Mill



Front lot for those who need closer parking.



Larger lot across the street.

Big thanks to Richard Zielike!

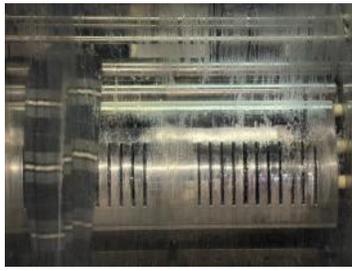
The Saturday, April 11 TGoM membership meeting at Faribault Woolen Mill has been a work in progress by Board member Richard Zielike, who took a couple days and drove down to Faribault to scope out the meeting location, collect information from Mill Store Manager Ella Krawczek, and snap some accompanying photos to share with us.

Below you'll see photos that show some of the big machines that are used to mill and create their famous products known the world over. Check out their website for their story:

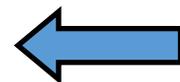
<https://www.faribaultmill.com>

Come to the mill to take a journey through their entire wool manufacturing process, from the raw wool to the finished product.

Join TGoM members and families for a noon potluck, meeting, and tour of Faribault Woolen Mill on Saturday, April 11.



An older machine that Richard learned is no longer used.



TGoM Photo Page—Folks & Food!



Northrup King Building, Saturday, February 7, 2026 Membership Meeting

This venue was suggested and organized by Cathy Herman. Thank you, Cathy, for all the work it took to make this event a success. *Photos by: Kim Maas*

Pipe Tongs Class January 24, 2026



Front row: Martin Pansch, Bob Brown, Rob Bullis, Owen Jenks.
Back row: Derrick Phillips, *Dave Gavin, Shane Carlson, Herb Fick, David Jenks. (*Instructor Team.) *Photo by Jesse Gavin*

Taste of Blacksmithing Class February 7, 2026



Nat Sigurdson, Colton Sigurdson, *Rebecca Hrobak, *Lee Meilleur and Catherine Jordet. (*Instructor Team.) Not in photo Laurel Larkin. *Photo by Laurel Larkin*

Instructors' Workshop February 22, 2026



Front: Derrick Phillips, Kevin Stokes, Jesse Gavin, Adam Dauer (insert).
Middle row: *David Skaurud, *Sara Gries, Georga Auel, *Herb Fick, Mike Masters, Dan Kral, Owen Jenks, David Jenks. Back row: Rick Wessling, Matt Navratil, *Laurel Larkin. (*Instructor Team.) *Photo by Kim Maas.*

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.
- Communications Committee meets 4th Thursday of odd months. Contact Kim Maas, tgom.volunteer@gmail.com, Chair.
- Most board meetings are the second Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November via ZOOM.

March 2026

- March 1 Open Forge for members only, MN School of Horseshoeing
- March 7, CMB meeting invitation to TGoM, Wayne Olson's shop, Pine City MN
- March 14, 15, and 21, Beginning Blacksmithing Classes, Larry Wasmund's shop in Janesville, MN
- March 14 & 15, Damascus Workshop, Brendan Steven's place: 4764 118 St SW, Waverly, MN 55390

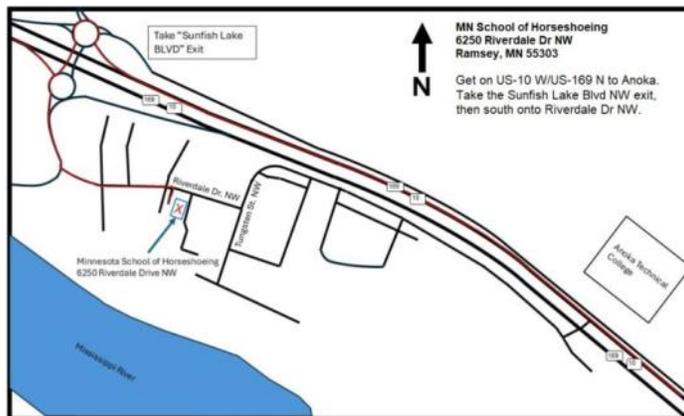
April 2026

- April 11, **SATURDAY** Membership meeting at Faribault Woolen Mills, 1500 2nd Ave NW, Faribault MN
- April 11, 12, & 18, Beginning Blacksmithing Class, MN School of Horseshoeing

May 2026

- May 9, Hammer Class, MN School of Horseshoeing
- May 16, Intro to Arc Welding, Minnesota Transportation Museum (map page 3)

Map to MN School of Horseshoeing



Join The Guild of Metalsmiths

Send \$50 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
193 Pennsylvania Ave E
St. Paul MN 55130

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.

March 2026



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
193 Pennsylvania Ave. E
St. Paul MN 55130