

THE GUILD OF METALSMITHS

49th Fall Conference

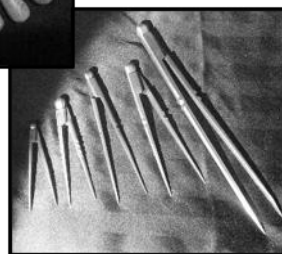
“The Madness”

September 18, 19 & 20, 2026

~~~~~ *FEATURING* ~~~~~



**Ellen Durkan**  
**Wilmington, DE**



**Terry Sheridan**  
**Collingswood, Ontario**

# Featured

*“Share your knowledge; it’s a way to*  
**Ellen Durkan**

I am an Artist blacksmith from Wilmington, Delaware. I create wearable “Forged Fashion” art that I present through performance runway shows and exhibitions. I teach blacksmith classes, art related workshops as well as forging demonstrations for conferences and events. I received my Graduate Degree in Fine Arts in sculpture at Towson University in 2009. During my Master of Fine Arts program, I started exploring forging and manipulating metal. I have been honing my craft for 17 years professionally; I also taught as an adjunct professor for a decade at an art college. My current body of work is inspired by the human body. It is designed to be worn and embraces physical and emotional vulnerability. I create forged work to decorate the body as visual and metaphorical armor.



# ***Blacksmith***

*achieve immortality” – Jordan Lejuwaan*

## ***Terry Sheridan***

Terry Sheridan is a self-employed machinist, welder, and blacksmith based in Collingwood, Ontario, Canada. Much of his professional work supports the heavy construction equipment industry as well as the ski resort sector across Ontario. In his machine shop, Terry primarily forges industrial components using gas forges and power hammers. His true passion, however, lies in traditional blacksmithing at his home forge, where he works with a classic coal fire and simple hand tools to create historically accurate pieces inspired by centuries past. His work includes adzes, axes, chisels, knives, lead ladles, dividers, and other traditional tools. Terry has frequently demonstrated and taught at blacksmith organizations across the United States, including SOFA Quadstate, the Northern Ohio Blacksmith Association, Batson Blade Symposium, Alabama Forge Council, Pittsburgh Area Artist-Blacksmiths Association, and blacksmith groups in Illinois, Maryland, and the Adirondacks. He has also taught at the renowned John C. Campbell Folk School.



## Family Activities

### Bronze Casting



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. No fee. Class limits: 6.

To register email Terri at: [cikestate@gmail.com](mailto:cikestate@gmail.com)

### Tree of Life



Saturday afternoon  
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
Create the Tree of Life. 20" x 12" finished project.  
Class Fee: \$20 cash to instructor  
Paula Wasmund, Instructor.  
Class limited to 10

### Altoids Tin Repoussé



Sunday morning  
9:00 am - Noon  
Learn fun ways to decorate Altoids tins.  
Free class.  
Jesse Gavin, Instructor.

### Found Art

Herb Fick and company will weld whatever you find on the trailer into your art creation. Free.  
Found Art closes at 4:00 pm Saturday!

### Magnetic Art

Design and build magnetic/ferrous creations. Free all weekend!!

Family Activities Contact: Terri Lund  
cell: (612) 716-8482  
email: [cikestate@gmail.com](mailto:cikestate@gmail.com)

## Gallery

Bring an example of your work to exhibit in the gallery! This is one of the highlights of the conference. Everyone loves to see what others have created. Items can be newly created or something you've brought before. Everyone is encouraged to participate; members, non-members and beginner smiths too.

You are encouraged to pre-register your item(s) with the Gallery at:  
[escherblacksmith@gmail.com](mailto:escherblacksmith@gmail.com)

*Gallery works are registered in and out.*

## Auctions

### Please bring items for the Saturday auction.

We will be holding our traditional auction Saturday evening. We are asking our Guild members to bring items they have made or items that have fallen out of favor. These items may become another's treasure. Please remember that this auction is how we garner most of our operating capital, so please be generous!

Sunday's mini auction will be of the demonstrators' weekend works.

## Contest

Design & create a unique item for the contest. The contest will be a Towel Holder. Contest is open to all. Must be made of metal. All entries must be donated to the Saturday auction.

Auction sale price will determine winners.

Cash prizes will be awarded.

First Place: \$100

Second Place: \$ 60

Third Place: \$ 40

## Forging After Dark

Forging must end at 10:00 pm in the evening due to city ordinances.

## Craft Sale

Find handcrafted items made by fellow guild members available for purchase at the Fall Conference in the Registration Building.

## Tailgate

Tailgating is encouraged! Every tailgater is requested to donate an item to the Saturday night auction

## Education Committee Tailgate

Proceeds will help fund the Rich Herman Memorial education fund (youth-focused classes).

-Managed by The Education Committee



## Hotels & Motels

### Ellsworth, WI

#### David Motel Lodge

W7670 US Hwy 10  
Ellsworth, WI 54011  
715-273-3333

### River Falls, WI

#### Best Western

100 Spring Street  
River Falls, WI 54022  
715-425-1045

#### Country Inn

1525 Commerce Court  
River Falls, WI 54022  
715-425-9500

#### Econo Lodge

1207 Saint Croix St.  
River Falls, WI 54022  
715-425-838

## Event Schedule

### Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am General Conference Setup

11:00 am Gallery Setup

Tailgate Corral Opens

Around 5:00 pm Potluck Supper!

*Potluck starts when set-up for the conference is completed.*

After Supper Gala Party/Gallery  
Opening Demonstrator's Slide Show

### Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

7:30 am Registration Opens

7:30 am - 9:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Demonstrations

9:00 am Family Activity:

Bronze Casting

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Found Art

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Family Activity:

Tree of Life

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Demonstrations

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Supper

6:30 pm Auction Begins

Forging After Dark ends at 10:00 pm

### Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>

7:30 am Registration Opens

7:30 am - 9:00 am Breakfast

8:30 am - 12:00 pm Demonstrations

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Family Activity:

Altoids Tin Repoussé

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Gallery Closes

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Demonstrations

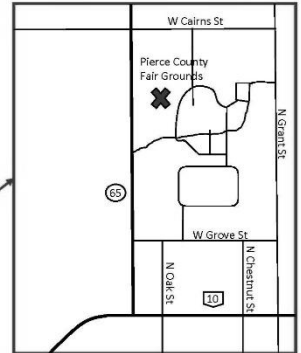
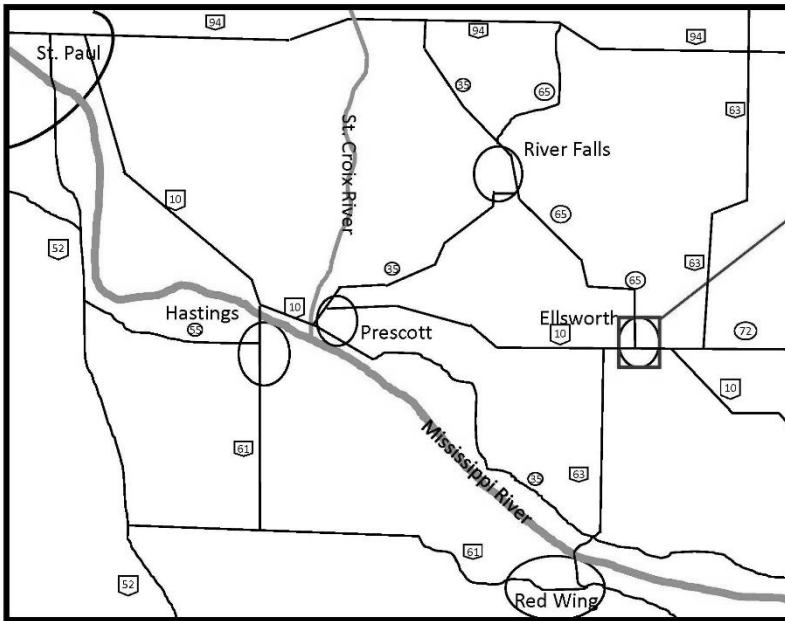
3:00 pm Mini Auction Begins

3:15 pm Closing/Cleanup



# The Fall Conference Location

Pierce County Fairgrounds  
364 N Maple St, Ellsworth, WI 54011



1. Seyforth Building - Kitchen & Dining room
2. Kenny Heinz Building - Demonstrator 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.*



## Event Menu

### Friday, September 18th

\*5:00 pm Potluck Supper!  
Bring a dish to share.  
*\*Potluck starts when set-up for the conference is completed.*

### Saturday, September 19th

#### Breakfast 7:30 am - 9:00 am

Ham & Cheese Egg Bake  
Everything Egg Bake  
Sausage Links  
Fresh Fruit  
Sweet Rolls  
Orange Juice

#### Lunch 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Pulled Pork  
Turkey  
BBQ Sauce & Buns  
Baby Red Potatoes  
Baked Beans  
Pasta Salad  
Pickles  
Cookies  
Pop (Soda)

#### Supper 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Sliced Roast Beef with Gravy  
Baked Chicken  
Au Gratin Potatoes  
Corn  
Buttered Rolls  
Tossed Salad  
Chocolate Cake  
Pop (Soda)

### Sunday, September 20th

#### Breakfast 7:30 am - 9:00 am

Scrambled Eggs  
Sausage Links  
Biscuits and Gravy  
Fried Potatoes  
Sweet Rolls  
Orange Juice

#### Lunch 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Tater Tot Hotdish  
Chicken Alfredo  
Caesar Salad  
Garlic Bread  
Brownies  
Pop (Soda)

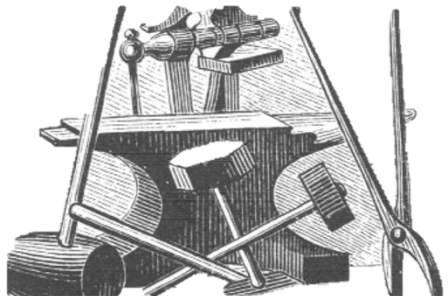
All meals served with coffee, tea, lemonade, milk and water.

*We regret that we are unable to accommodate dietary restrictions.*

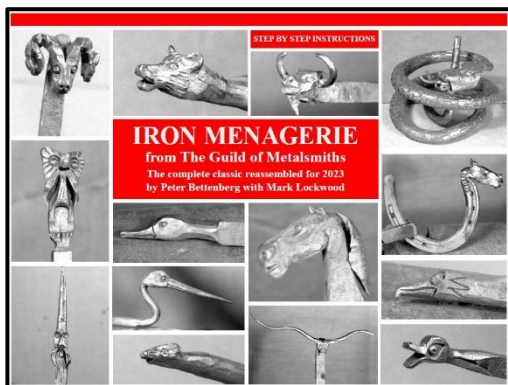
Meals catered by: Ptacek's IGA,  
Prescott, WI.

Kitchen/Dining Room hours:  
6 am - 10 pm.

Coffee ready by 6:30.



## Iron Menagerie



The Guild's classic 1992 workbook on the making of animal heads, IRON MENAGERIE, is again available for purchase!

Details: 44 pages, 15 projects, spiral bound, gloss paper, plastic covers.

Available at Guild events, website or by contacting Kim Maas at:

[tgom.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:tgom.volunteer@gmail.com).

To order by mail, make your check payable to: The Guild of Metalsmiths and mail it with a note to 193 Pennsylvania Ave E, St. Paul, MN 55130.

## Guild Apparel and More

### Conference T-Shirt

S: \$22

M: \$22

L: \$22

XL: \$22

2XL: \$24

3XL: \$25

Baseball Cap \$20

Bumper Sticker \$3



Prior Event T-Shirts

Discounted Price: \$12

# T-Shirt contest winning shirt goes here

Winning Design: 2026 Fall Conference T-Shirt Contest

***Safety Equipment Required  
while watching demonstrations:  
Ear and eye protection***

Online Registration Available at:  
<https://metalsmith.org>. Link to go  
here.

**Event waiver available with  
online registration for you  
to print, fill out and bring to  
the conference to expedite  
the registration process.**

*You do not need to be a member  
of The Guild of Metalsmiths to  
come and enjoy the event.*

\*You may join the Guild  
or  
Renew your membership.

**Checks payable to:  
The Guild of Metalsmiths**

Early Registration will  
be greatly appreciated.

Mail registration in by  
September 1, 2026

**The Guild of Metalsmiths  
193 Pennsylvania Ave. E.  
St. Paul, MN 55130**

For questions or late registration  
options contact:

Marty Masters (651) 285-8731  
[martin.masters@metalsmith.org](mailto:martin.masters@metalsmith.org)  
Guild President

Derrick Phillips (651) 230-2363  
[DerrickPhillipsA303@gmail.com](mailto:DerrickPhillipsA303@gmail.com)  
Program Committee Chair

Harvey Steele (239) 671-8887  
[mstreasurer@metalsmith.org](mailto:mstreasurer@metalsmith.org)  
Treasurer

## **Suggested To-Do List For the Fall Conference**

### **Before the Conference**

- Collect and bring an item(s) to donate to the Live Auction Saturday evening.
- Collect and bring scrap metal, flatware, auto parts, broken tools, etc. for the Found Art Wagon.

### **During the Conference**

- Show up at 10 am Friday morning with gloves to assist in the Conference Setup.
- Bring a dish for the Friday night Potluck. There is a refrigerator available in the kitchen for items needing to stay cold during set -up, Friday only.
- Stay around after 3:15 pm on Sunday with gloves and assist in closing/clean up after the conference.

### **Notes:**

## 2026 Pre-Conference Class: Two Lily Necklace

**Registration now for The Guild of Metalsmiths 2-day preconference class.**

**Date:** Thursday and Friday, September 17th & 18<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 8 AM to 4 PM.

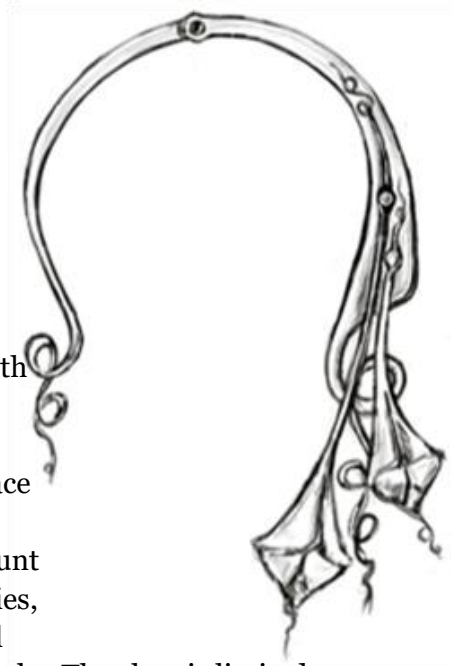
**Instructor:** Ellen Durkan

**Location:** Pierce County Fairgrounds

**Cost:** Members \$200, non-members \$250

**Class Manager:** Rick Wessling, 612-875-2240

**Brief Description:** Students will forge a necklace with two lilies as shown in the illustration accompanying this class advertisement. Inspired by her body of forged fashion work the students will create a necklace from 3/8" round, 3/4" x 1" bar, and 1"x 1/4" bar with lilies riveted to flared stock. There will be a fair amount of drawing out of the parent stock to create flairs, lilies, and curls on the end of several parts. The individual components will be riveted together to create the whole. The class is limited to 10 students and will have two days to complete the piece.



**Note:** Once the final list of registered students is completed the class manager will send list of tools, and specific instructions to each student.

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

**To Register for this class online:** Go to The Guild of Metalsmiths website, <https://www.metalsmith.org/education>.

**To Register for this class by check:** If you register by mail, please contact Rick by phone to reserve your place and intend to mail a check. Send a check written to The Guild of Metalsmiths with your contact information to: Rick Wessling, 3442 Washington Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55412. Please include your email address so we can contact you for acceptance to the class. Your reservation will be held for 7 calendar days from your phone call allowing payment to arrive. If the payment does not arrive, your reservation will be cancelled and then passed to the next individual. Acceptance will be in the order submitted, based on the online transaction date or the date of phone contact. Each person will be notified individually.

**Questions:** Email [rgwessling@gmail.com](mailto:rgwessling@gmail.com)

## Registration Form

### Conference Entrance – Cost Per Family

|                                            | Total        |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Weekend Pass | \$55 = _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Day Pass      | \$35 = _____ |

### Conference Meals – Cost Per Person

|             | Qty   | Total             |
|-------------|-------|-------------------|
| All 5 Meals | _____ | X \$70 = \$ _____ |

OR

|                    |       |                   |
|--------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Saturday Breakfast | _____ | X \$12 = \$ _____ |
| Saturday Lunch     | _____ | X \$15 = \$ _____ |
| Saturday Dinner    | _____ | X \$18 = \$ _____ |
| Sunday Breakfast   | _____ | X \$12 = \$ _____ |
| Sunday Lunch       | _____ | X \$15 = \$ _____ |

*We regret that we are unable to  
accommodate dietary restrictions.*

|                   |                                                            |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Primitive Camping | Free                                                       |
| Electrical Hookup | _____ X \$25 = \$ _____<br><small>(Number of days)</small> |
| Annual Membership | \$50 \$ _____                                              |

### Conference T-Shirt – Pre Order

|           |       |                   |
|-----------|-------|-------------------|
| Small:    | _____ | X \$22 = \$ _____ |
| Medium:   | _____ | X \$22 = \$ _____ |
| Large:    | _____ | X \$22 = \$ _____ |
| X -Large: | _____ | X \$22 = \$ _____ |
| 2XLarge:  | _____ | X \$24 = \$ _____ |
| 3XL:      | _____ | X \$25 = \$ _____ |

Total Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I acknowledge a waiver for each family member is required for this event.

Online waiver link: NEED LINK HERE

Name of all Attendees:

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Address:

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City:

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State:

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Zip Code:

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Phone Number:

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TOTAL ENCLOSED:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Guild of Metalsmiths  
193 Pennsylvania Ave. E.  
St. Paul, MN 55130



***Celebrating Fifty Years of  
The Guild of Metalsmiths***

“The lyf so short, the craft so long to lerne”

- Geoffrey Chaucer