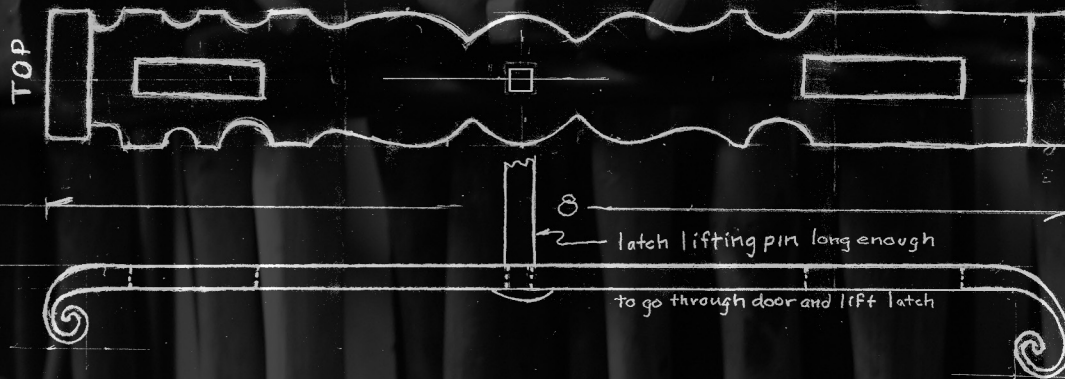


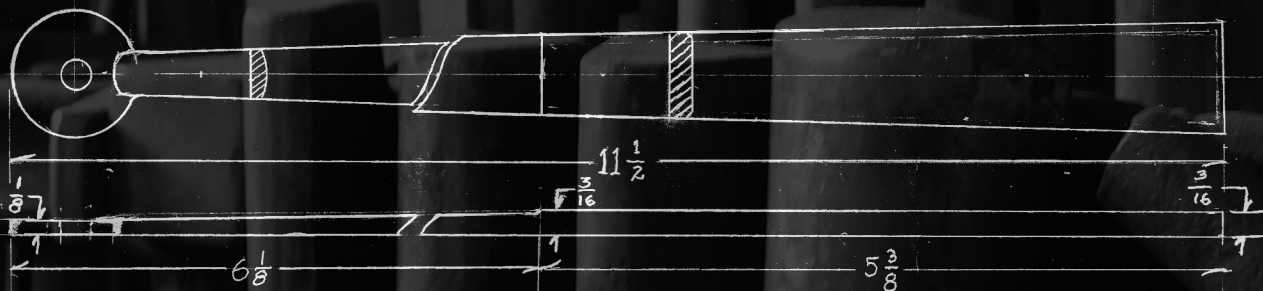
HOT IRON NEWS



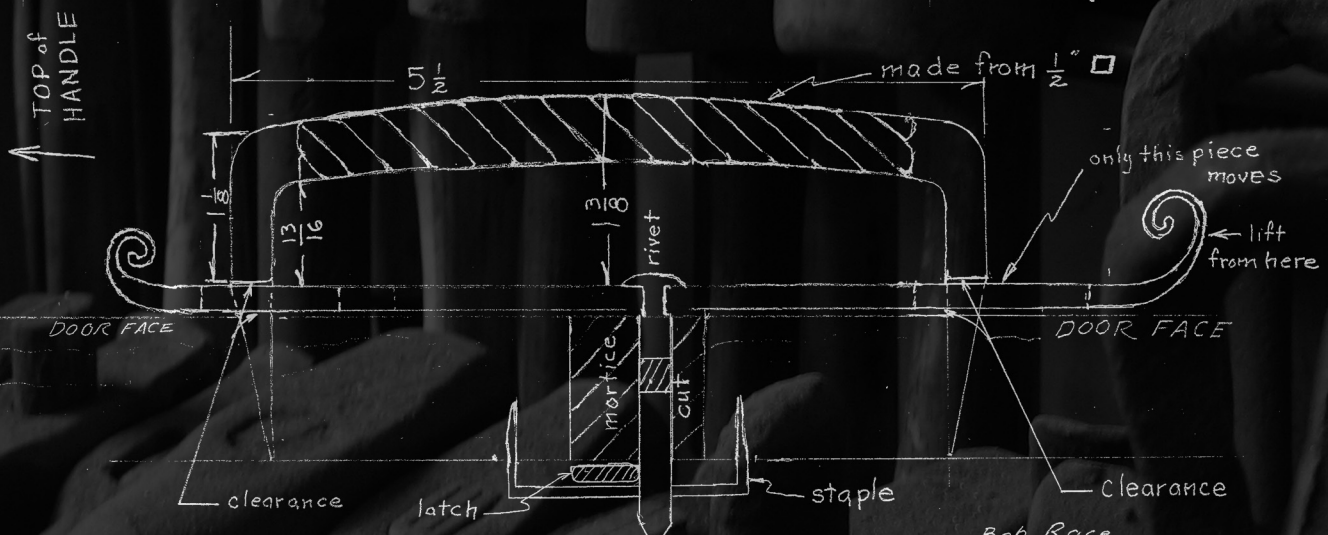
VOICE OF THE NORTHWEST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION



Bob Race 15 JAN 10



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Bob Race
15 JAN 10
"Early American Wrought Iron"
Plate 22

Third Quarter 2010



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Submit articles, photos, how-to's to HIN: nwbainfo@gmail.com

NWBA Website: www.blacksmith.org

For NWBA correspondence or membership, or to change your address (must be in writing) send to:

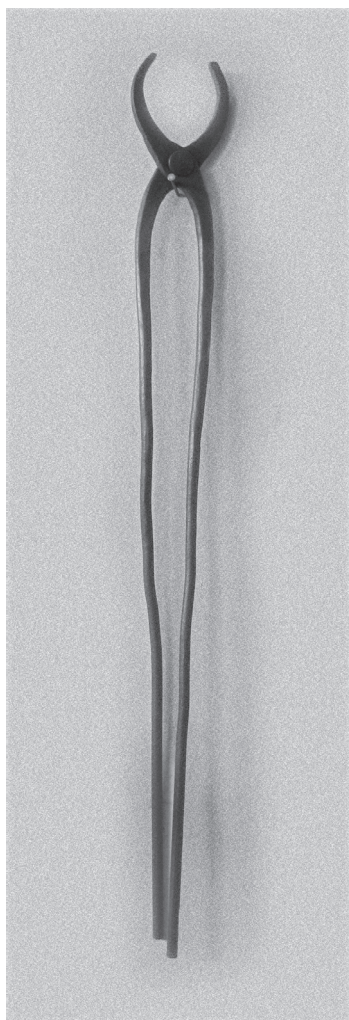
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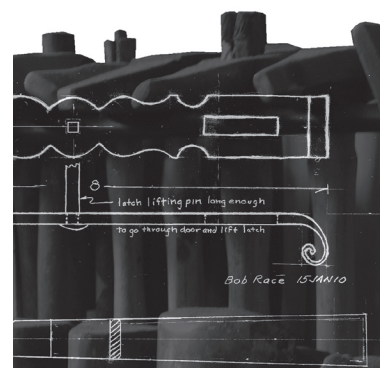


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Welcome to the NWBA

41 new members since
the first of the year!
We hope to see you at
the **Fall Conference**.
(page 8)



COVER: DRAWINGS BY BOB RACE

THE NWBA LOGO, with the hammer poised above the anvil and the accompanying NWBA acronym, is a Service Mark of the Northwest Blacksmith Association, and is reserved solely for the use of the NWBA, except that anyone may use it to advertise or promote the events, publications, or mission of the NWBA, which is Education in Blacksmithing and Related Metalcrafts.

UPDATE WITH THE PRESIDENT...

The sun is shining and all is well in the Northwest, no oil slicks to worry about up here. This letter is the first to be part of the newest edition of **Hot Iron News** restructuring. We are very excited about the future of HIN. Thanks HIN committee for all of your hard work to make our publication great.



I had the opportunity to attend the Spring CBA conference in Ferndale, CA and the ABANA conference that was held in Memphis, TN in early June and came away realizing that there are a ton of great folks in the Blacksmithing community across the country, eager to hammer away and enjoy the craft. I came away from those venues feeling that NWBA puts on some of the best conferences in the country. This is spoken with some prejudice but I got to say it anyway. So, we are on to our business.

The NWBA board of directors met at Fire Mountain Forge on July 10 to work on a bunch of issues and opportunities for our membership. The weather was great and the view of Mt. Rainier was spectacular so we were all inspired to get things done. Many things were talked about and you can see the entire recap of the meeting on our website, www.blacksmith.org when you get some time but I will bring some of the items that are of interest to your attention.

Our treasurer, Darryl Nelson, reported that we have \$39,000 in the bank as of June 30, a tidy sum to carry us through the expenses of the fall conference and beyond. NWBA now has a book keeper who will provide accounting support to the treasurer.

I spoke to you in the last issue about the Fall Conference and its events

and, again, you can see the entire schedule here in HIN and on the website for details. Mike Neely and Ken Mermelstein have been working hard on this and it looks to be another great time. You will be able to register for the conference online. The board discussed fee schedules for the conference and the result was to make the pricing a little simpler for all. For insurance reasons, attendees must be members and for that reason, people coming in for the first time will pay \$45. That gets them a year's membership, entrance to the

old issues and old guys looked like back then.

Tim Middaugh, chair of the Education and Workshops committee, told us that there are Al Bart grants going un-applied for. I encourage you to think about attending a workshop here in the Northwest or anywhere in the country, for that matter, and we will give you financial support to make it happen. NWBA also has allocated ASP Grant funds for extended training. Chris Porcarelli will have a station at the fall conference to

NWBA Mission: To promote and preserve the Art and Craft of Blacksmithing while building friendship and good will through educational programs and member gatherings.

conference and the next 4 editions of **Hot Iron News**. This is pretty cool to get all that for just coming in. Check out the new fee schedule in this issue.

Our website, www.blacksmith.org is being constantly updated and improved and Grant Sarver is just busy keeping the site interesting. There is a "world blacksmith map" that was created by Jeff Wilson where you can put your location, the registration for the conference will be available on the site, and old copies of the Hot Iron News will come up so that you can see what

talk about his experiences in New England that were partially funded by the ASP Grant.

Also during the meeting there was discussion about two of the Strategic Planning questions posed last year. One was about searching out a "permanent site" for workshops, training, and demonstrations. Mike Neely told us about opportunities in Skamania Co so we are going to pursue that with great interest and keep you informed. Two was revisiting the trailer storage and transport. Mike Neely proposed

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combining the trailers into a single 35' box trailer that would be transported by a trucking firm to each event. The trailers we have now would either be sold or used for Outreach demos. The board gave Mike the go ahead to find a suitable rig that would fit our needs.

We discussed changing IRS status of NWBA from 50C6 to 501C3. This change would allow us to receive tax deductible funds for benefactors. Examples of this are funding for a building for a permanent home, equipment donation, and advertising to support our website costs.

I have been muddling through the details and we are on track to make application for the change. However, there are some things that have to be done to make that change possible. One of which is

to make our organization compliant with nonprofit rules stated by the IRS. None of these additions changes any fundamentals of NWBA. You will see, in this issue, the by-law changes we are asking to read and approve. Read them carefully and if you have any issue with the changes let me know, if I don't hear any disagreement less than a majority, they will be placed in the by-laws as written.

The board is also proposing by-law changes to the election process and term limits for board members. These changes are detailed in this issue of HIN and I strongly suggest that you read them carefully. If you disagree with the changes let me know.

We have a clear Mission statement for NWBA. This topic was brought up and worked on by all the board members for two reasons. One is

that in each decision made by our board, we want to keep the focus on our membership goals. The second reason is that in any non-profit organization, people outside the group need to understand what it is that we do and the mission should be able to stated concisely. You will see our mission statement stated more as time goes on and the board hopes that will remind and inspire us.

I conclude this by saying that our board is here to make the NWBA the best blacksmith organization by working together for the better good of all of our members. Thanks for letting me be a part of that effort. I'll see you at the fall conference in Stevenson. ♦

Bob Thomas

NWBA Board President

Board by-law changes

The following changes to our by-laws were agreed upon at the July 10, 2010 board meeting. By reading and not voicing disagreement with the by-law changes you will, in fact, be accepting them. These changes are necessary to achieve the 501C3 status that we are working towards; clarify our election process, and our membership fiscal year.

Currently, our Mission Statement is not simple enough or clear enough. A Mission Statement was agreed upon and will be added to our current by-laws.

The new Mission Statement reads:

To promote and preserve the art and craft of Blacksmithing while

building friendships and goodwill through educational programs and member gatherings.

In addition, a new ARTICLE will be added to the by-laws to meet nonprofit qualifications:

Per the IRS description, as it pertains to political activities:

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article Third hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation

Continued on page 24

Report from the sub-committee

The **Hot Iron News** sub-committee has been hard at work these past several months. We are very proud to offer you this edition of the **Hot Iron News**. Jim Almy has worked with us for the past two issues after his resignation and we are grateful for his help during the transition. We would also like to recognize the efforts of Louie Raffloer shooting photos of the conference and both the auction and the gallery items. Andrea Lisch and Ina Culberson have also given generously helping to produce your Hot Iron News.

Currently, our committee serves to gather and generate all of the content for the **Hot Iron News** as well as doing the editing and proofing. We are happy to welcome Betty Hageman as our new graphic designer with this issue. She operates her own graphic design

business and is a visual artist as well. You can see her work at www.bettyhageman.com. We hope that you enjoy the new look of the **Hot Iron News** and look forward to any feedback that you may have. Please send your comments to our address: nwbainfo@gmail.com.

We are in need of photographers at the conference. We would like to gather photographs of the demonstrations and the classes. It would also be great to have candid shots. Please let us know if you are interested in participating and we will give you more information. It would be great to have a couple folks working on this to share the load. We are always looking for more content and encourage you to submit your materials now. If you have a hot tip, a great drawing, photos of your shop, or a great book that you have found please let us know. We are no longer in a position of having one editor serving all of the needs of the **Hot Iron News**. Working together as a group we make this publication what it is.

Thanks for your support. ◆

Lauren Osmolski, Hot Iron News Sub-committee Chair

Customize your flypress

I thought I would gather some improvements that have been made to the fly press to make it a more useful tool. None of these ideas is necessarily a result of my own, but a collection of ideas gleaned from many people including our own Gene Chapman.

Always a challenge is the placement of the handle in relation to the operator. My press, when I got it, had two holes for the handle, and in some cases there are two handles. My solution, gained from I don't know where, was to bend a strip of 1/4" by 2" flat bar into a 25" circle, done of course on the fly press. I then welded a series of hold down plates with 3/4" holes on the top of the circle on approx 4" centers around the inside. It is now possible to position the handle so that any

operation, ie: chiseling, pressing or bending is a quarter stroke toward the operator.

Since the fly press contains a very rapid 4-part screw, the wheel will always drop until it rests on the work surface. Some have solved this by having a wooden yoke that is inserted under the wheel stop, but the solution I opted for was to counter weight the wheel, as can be seen in the pictures. There are 3 blocks suspended from overhead

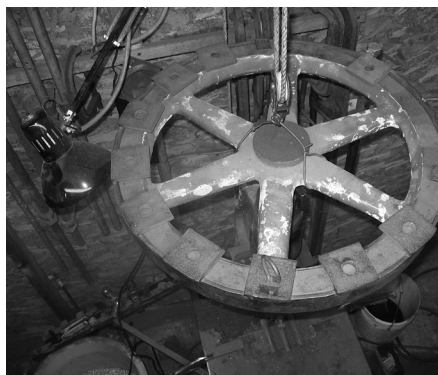


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that have approx 120 lbs as a counter weight. This will hold the tool in a neutral position until you begin any operation.

The final increase in efficiency is a Gene Chapman idea; it is a quick-change tool holder to accept the many tools you will end up



making. In my case, its id is 3/4" so I could use a 1-1/2" length of square head bolt to weld my tools to. I like the square head because it gives an ample surface on which to have tool bearing and make a fillet weld. I hope these ideas may be self explanatory with the pictures but would be happy to answer any further questions. ◆

Dave Davelaar

A walk down the Eisenstrasse

I spent the majority of this last year studying and traveling around Europe. Last winter my girlfriend and I made our way through Switzerland and Austria. At the time, a Swiss friend of ours was working in a smithy in Ybbsitz, Austria and thought I would like to see this small village. I knew that Alfred Habermann ended up living and teaching in this town, and that there were really old forges still in operation. So we went.

Ybbsitz is a beautiful farming village in central Austria between Salzburg and Vienna. The area is rich in iron ore and steel production has been a valuable industry there for hundreds of years. Ybbsitz is at the bottom of a narrow wooded basin with a river flowing from the mountains down through town. These little canyons in the foothills of the Alps are perfect locations for hydraulic power.

The Eisenstrasse (iron street) is a road and walking tour that takes one from town through parks and up the valley by all the shops. The town of Ybbsitz and the local smiths have created a tourist friendly way to check out some of its historic blacksmithing sites. Along the way are beautiful gardens, sculptures by Habermann and other local smiths, wonderful pedestrian bridges, and a plethora of forged ornamentation. Walking in a quaint village that is so saturated with traditional and contemporary forge work is a rare treat.

Some of the shops and tools found in Ybbsitz are twice as old as the United States. While Columbus was sailing the Atlantic, tools from Ybbsitz were being manufactured and sold around Europe. The shops along the river have all adapted differently over time. Most all of them use water wheels to either generate electricity to power their electric tools, or more traditionally to drive a transmission system that can mechanically power their tools. The tools range from 500-year-old log tilt hammers ("schwanzechammers") to more modern mechanical power hammers and screw presses that run with leather belts linked into the overhead transmission. There are interesting metal shops all over the area, but what makes the Eisenstrasse so great is that while we were visiting there were five shops with operating transmission systems on the same river within a few miles of each other. The shops all have their own niche ranging from tools to architecture and art. There are also many classes provided in the old shops.

Ybbsitz puts on a blacksmithing festival called Ferraculum every two years that draws smiths from all over Europe and it sounds like quite the gathering. This year it was held on June 18-20th, 2010. So go there.

Information about Ybbsitz at: <http://www.ybbsitz.at/english/index.shtml>

Sepp Eybl owns my favorite traditional shop and hosts regular classes: <http://www.eyblhammer.at/index.php?id=17>



Chris Porcarelli



2010 FALL CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION PRESENTS...



NORTHWEST BLACKSMITH RENDEZVOUS

OCTOBER 8-10 AT THE STEVENSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
Stevenson, Washington

Your hosts - Mike Neely and Ken Mermelstein

FEATURED DEMONSTRATORS

Jeffrey Funk

from Big Fork, Montana

Tom Ferry

from Auburn, Washington

HANDS-ON DEMONSTRATORS

Tom Dudkowski

from Stayton, Oregon

Alan Flashing

from Oakland, Oregon

Larry Langdon

from Seatac, Washington

Mark Manley

from Terrebonne, Oregon

PLUS

Black Smoke Alley

Open Forge and Open Forge Instruction

Seminars by Berkley Tack and Wolfgang Rotbart

Midnight Madness

"Tomahawk Challenge"

For information please contact rivercityforge@iinet.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, October 7

Noon – Trailers and volunteers at fairgrounds to assist with set up

5:00 pm – **NWBA Board Meeting – All members welcome to attend.**

Friday, October 8

8:00 am – Registration begins

9:00-12:00 – Blacksmith demonstration by Jeffrey C. Funk

9:00-12:00 – Hands-On class with Alan Flashing

12:00-1:00 – Lunch Break

1:00-4:00 – Blacksmithing/Knife making demonstration by Tom Ferry

1:00-4:00 – Hands-On class with Mark Manley

2:00-4:00 – Seminar – Shop Math with Wolfgang Rotbart

5:00-7:00 – Dinner Break

5:00-8:00 – Hands-On class with a yet to be decided instructor

7:00 – Slide Show by demonstrator(s) (optional)

7:00-11:00 – Midnight Madness

Open Forge Instruction – ALL DAY

Black Smoke Alley – ALL DAY

Tailgate Sales – ALL DAY

Saturday, Oct. 9 - 8:00 am - Registration

9:00-12 – Demonstration by Tom Ferry

9:00-12:00 – Hands-On with Tom Dudkowski

12:00-1:00 – Lunch Break

1:00-4:00 – Demonstration by Jeffrey C. Funk

1:00-4:00 – Hands-On with Larry Langdon

2:00-4:00 – Seminar – Berkley Tack

4:00-6:30 – Dinner Break

6:00 -7:00 – General Meeting

7:00 – 8:30 – Auction

7:00-11:00 – Midnight Madness

Open Forging Instruction – ALL DAY

Black Smoke Alley – ALL DAY

Tailgate Sales – ALL DAY

Sunday, Oct. 10

9:00-11:00 am – Tomahawk Competition

Tailgate Sales – until 11:00

12:00 – Tear down and clean up

HANDS-ON CLASSES

New Friday Night Class!

Friday, October 8th, 5 pm-8 pm

Instructor: To be Announced

This new class time is designed to bring you more hands on experiences. The instructor is yet to be determined but will surely be a class you do not want to miss.

Classic Railing Element

Friday, October 8th, 9 am-noon

Instructor: Alan Flashing

In this class, Alan will share a railing/grill element that he learned from Paul Zimmerman. Alan will be employing traditional forging techniques and beginners are welcome to sign up for this class.

Two Layer Rosettes

Friday, October 8th, 1 pm-4 pm

Instructor: Mark Manley

Mark will be demonstrating the forging and construction of a multi-layer rosette. Forms will be cut from steel plate, forged to shape, fit together and finished during this three-hour session. Beginners welcome.

Forge Welded Tomahawks

Saturday, October 9th, 9 am-noon

Instructor: Tom Dudkowski

Tom will be teaching the first of two 'hawk classes for members who will also have a chance to compete in a special contest on Sunday. Tom will teach the forge-welded method of making a tomahawk and we suggest that participants have had some experience in forging. Handles will be available for purchase.

Pierced Tomahawks

Saturday, October 9th, 1 pm-4 pm

Instructor: Larry Langdon

Larry will teach a second method of 'hawk making, the pierced head tomahawk. Students will learn to slit and drift and will also have a chance to be a striker for other students. Techniques learned in this class are fundamental to blacksmithing and used in many other types of projects such as gate construction. Some previous experience would be helpful.

A \$20 fee will now be collected from all Hands-On class students.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Portland, Oregon and areas west of Stevenson, Washington

- Take I-84 East (approximately 42 miles from Portland)
- Take Exit #44/Cascade Locks/Stevenson Exit
- Cross the Bridge of the Gods toll bridge
- Turn right at the end of the bridge onto State Route 14
- Drive approximately 3 miles
- Turn left on Rock Creek Drive
- Drive .5 miles
- Turn right at Stevenson Co. Fairgrounds sign, just before the concrete bridge.

From Hood River, Oregon and areas east of Stevenson

- Take I-84 west to Exit #64/Hood River/White Salmon
- Cross the Hood River bridge and turn left onto State Route 14
- Drive approx. 22 miles to Stevenson.
- Turn right on Rock Creek Drive
- Drive approximately .5 miles
- Turn left at Skamania County Fairgrounds sign just after concrete bridge.

FAIRGROUND AMENITIES

Camping will be FREE to all members and families. Those who wish to have power and water included will be charged \$20.00 for the weekend.

The fairgrounds are within easy walking distance to the town of Stevenson. Stevenson is a very friendly town with great food, drink and entertainment.

MOTELS

Accommodations for the conference will require reservations. The Columbia River Gorge is a very popular place year around and inn keepers are unwilling to offer any special discounts for association members at this time. Corporate, AAA, and AARP discounts are sometimes available.

Stevenson

Econo Lodge 1-800-553-2666
Skamania Lodge..... 1-800-221-7117
Columbia Gorge Riverside Lodge 1-866-427-5650

Cascade Locks (six miles from site, across the Bridge of the Gods)

Best Western 1-800-595-7108

Bridge of the Gods Inn 1-541-374-8628
Cascade Motel 1-541-374-8750
Econo Inn 1-541-374-8417

Also near by

Carson Mineral Hot Springs Resort 1-800-607-3678
Bonneville Hot Springs Resort..... 1-866-459-1678

CONFERENCE FEE SCHEDULE

In every effort to bring to you the best, we have simplified our conference fee schedule. These new fees will be consistent for several conferences for your convenience. We have better defined the categories and made Dinner an option for you.

Dinner tickets will be used to better estimate how much food we need from the caterer. Finally, a guest to the conference will now become a new member.

THREE DAY FEES

Member: \$65, plus \$10 dinner fee (optional).

Household (at same residence): \$100 plus \$10 dinner fee/person (optional).

New Member: (not previously NWBA): \$45, which includes one-year membership and admission to this conference, plus \$10 Dinner Fee

ONE DAY FEES

Member: \$40, plus \$10 dinner fee (optional).

Household: \$50, plus \$10/person dinner fee (optional).

New Member: (not previously NWBA): \$45, which includes one-year membership and admission to this conference, plus \$10 dinner fee (optional)

Dinner only: \$10. Dinner will be served only to meal ticket holders (issued and sold at registration).

Auction Item Donation: \$5 for hand-crafted item, get cash back!

Safety Glasses will be required of all attendees; \$2 fee or bring your own.

Hands-On class participants will pay a \$20 fee after being drawn for a class.

Remember — You can pre-register for conferences online by going to our website, www.blacksmith.org. Pay-Pal will be used for processing. And as you know, credit cards are now accepted for walk-in registration, t-shirt sales and auction purchases.

Coming back to the beginning

Jeffrey Funk's first demonstration was for the NWBA 25 years ago

HIN: Hi Jeffrey, just wondering, have you ever been a member of the NWBA?

JF: I must admit Lauren that I don't think I have ever been a member of the NWBA, although I am certainly inspired by the people and organization. I first attended an NWBA event at Port Townsend at Russell Jaqua's place in the early eighties, and attended as a demonstrator in 1985 at Mount Hood, as well as a time or two since.

HIN: Where do you live and what is it like there?

JF: I have lived in the Flathead area of Western Montana for the past thirty-four years, about twenty miles outside of Kalispell, up against the Swan Mountains. Being on the west side of the continental divide, and at the relatively low elevation of 3000 feet, it is mild and wet for Montana. I am an avid gardener, sailor, and backpacker, and this is a terrific place for all of these activities.

HIN: Are you involved in a blacksmithing business, what is it called?

JF: I have been smithing here professionally for over thirty years. It has been my entire livelihood for that time. My shop is called Metamorphic Iron, which alludes to the similarities between forging metals and the geologic process of metamorphosis.

HIN: What is your shop like?

JF: I spent nearly twenty years renting an un-insulated earthen-floored shop converted from an abandoned house. Over the past ten years, I have put together a pretty nice place to work in on my own place. The heated area is about 1600 square feet, and it opens into a covered area about half that size. The floors are of end grain wood block, brick pavers, and a small area of concrete. Most of the shop is served by the old hand operated bridge crane I salvaged from a Canadian coal



mine or by one of the two jib cranes. There is plenty of natural light, good ventilation, and a nice array of power hammers from thirty-five pounds to five hundred pounds, all of which operate on compressed air. I employ two other men in my shop, and so there are anvils, vises, and workbenches enough for us all to work. The shop is located near my house on ten acres about five miles out from the small town of Bigfork.

HIN: What is the first thing that you notice about someone else's shop?

JF: I guess it would be the light and the layout. I notice whether the place feels productive and inspired.

HIN: What kind of work does your shop produce? Do you have a specialty?

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Coming back to the beginning

Cont'd from page 11

JF: I make everything from public sculpture to agricultural tools. Although nearly all of my work is either sculpture or architectural metalwork, I have always tried to keep involved in basic functional forgings, tools, and work that my neighbors need and can afford. In the past couple of years work has included a large sculpture commission for a school in Nashville, extensive hardware, railings and gates (all in forged stainless steel) for a client in California, and extensive house hardware, lighting fixtures, fireplace gear, gates, etc for a local client in wrought iron. We also have been working on some interesting hardware for the historic restoration of early tour busses from nearby Glacier National Park including latches, canopy fittings, and fenders. I try to include some technical and artistic experimentation going along with all of this. We are still very busy, despite the general recession, and there is never enough time to do all the projects and exploration I would like.

HIN: How do you sell your work? Do you ever work with designers and architects?

JF: We have worked in association with architects on occasion, but ultimately the work is designed here. Because the processes of blacksmithing are rarely, if ever well understood by architects and other designers, and because the processes are themselves so important in the development of form and image, I have not found it very productive to work with other designers except to get an understanding of the aesthetic direction of the project. My work is all on commission, and thankfully, I have never had to do any promotion or advertise.

HIN: What are your feelings about tools? Have you built any special tools to do your work?

JF: I have a very strong relationship with the basic processes of hot metalworking, and so naturally, that includes a passionate attitude toward the tools involved. Working in relative isolation from urban areas and suppliers, this has resulted in my making most of the tools used in the shops. I have always found it satisfying

to design and forge my hammers, tongs, and other anvil tools. As well, I have built a number of air operated power hammers, three of which I use in my shop. All of my power hammers run on compressed air, and in addition to the hammers I have built (from thirty pounds to one hundred thirty pounds) I use two Chambersburg utility hammers. I am very much a fan of utility type hammers due to their simplicity, the fact that one central compressor can power them all quite nicely, and their

relative silence and efficiency compared to other power hammers. As well, I find that properly built and maintained, they are extraordinarily sensitive.

HIN: In terms of your creative work or business, as time goes by, are you heading in a particular direction?

JF: My biggest problem is that there are so very many things I want to

do. I have developed a series of wind actuated musical instruments over my career, and would like to be able to focus on them for a year or two. I enjoy making tools for gardening and small scale farming, and it would be wonderful to take part of a year and work on them more. I do enjoy teaching and have contemplated starting a small folk school here in Montana. And of course, there is so much to do that is not work at all!

HIN: How has your business evolved over the years?

JF: Really it has been a very organic process. I have simply gone from job to job, making sure to design special problems or challenges into each project so I would grow as an artist. I have never made any formal business plan or had specific evolutionary goals. I try to keep things simple on a business level. I do all of the bookkeeping, payroll, taxes, etc myself, and so have a clear picture of all aspects of the financial elements. My primary goal has simply been to produce excellent work and make sure that it continues to be personally challenging.

HIN: Would you like to share anything about your learning experiences as a beginner? Was there a particular person that was an inspiration to you?

JF: I began smithing in the mid seventies, and unfortunately was never able to afford instruction in



Continued on page 25

A rare opportunity with a master bladesmith

The HIN gets to know featured local demonstrator Tom Ferry

HIN: I would like to introduce our local demonstrator, Tom Ferry. He is one of four master bladesmiths in Washington and has been a member of the NWBA for four years now.

Hi Tom, where do you live and what is it like there?

TF: I live in Auburn WA; it's pretty much a small town in the big city of Seattle.

HIN: Are you involved in a blacksmithing business?

TF: Yes, Soos Creek Ironworks DBA Tom Ferry Knives

HIN: What is your shop like?

TF: It is 24' x 36' and full of too much equipment and tooling. I would like to expand in the near future.

HIN: What is the first thing that you notice about someone else's shop?

TF: How organized and clean it is because keeping mine that way always seems to be a struggle.

HIN: What kind of work does your shop produce? Do you have a specialty?

TF: Generally custom knives, but I also produce damascus for others to use as well as engraving on other knife makers knives.

HIN: A lot of smiths work with designers to create custom pieces, would a knife maker ever do that? Do you ever let a customer have creative input? How do you sell your work?

TF: I do not work with any designers, although I will work with knife collectors on the overall design. My best work is usually done when a buyer gives me total artistic freedom, but a collector's idea can be a great source of inspiration.

Most of my work is sold through trade shows and word of mouth.

HIN: Do you use any special tools to do your work? Power hammers? How many? What kind? Do you have any opinions about power hammers? Have you designed any unique tooling during your career?

TF: One of my specialties is damascus steel and as a result, I have designed some special equipment around the production of damascus. I have built a 32-ton hydraulic press and an 18 HP rolling mill for drawing out damascus billets. Both of these tools are invaluable to my business. I do employ a 25lb Fairbanks power hammer on smaller stuff occasionally. A large power hammer would be great but in my current location, the noise would be a problem.

HIN: Are you heading in a particular direction with your creativity or your business at this time?

TF: I want to be successful with my art. Lately I have been putting a lot more time and energy into how to sell my knives. The old myth that if you make it they will buy it just does not exist in the real world.

HIN: That is true, it is a real learning curve. It is just not enough to make the best or the most beautiful item. Selling and marketing are their own specialties and have



PHOTO: ERIC EGGLEY, POINTSEVEN STUDIOS

Continued on page 14

A rare opportunity

Cont'd from page 13

to be part of the skill set of a “successful” artist. Or, you have to marry someone who can do it for you!

HIN: How has your business evolved over the years?

TF: I have continually adapted to new trends, techniques and tooling to create the best knife I can make. Any chance I get, I will add new equipment or knowledge into my repertoire in order to stay fresh and current with my knives and skills. Never being satisfied leads to evolvement in your work.

HIN: Would you like to describe anything about your learning experiences as a beginner? Was there a person/teacher that was an inspiration to you?

TF: I have always learned best by trial and error. Generally, if you know how to screw it up you will learn how to fix it. I am more or less self-taught, although there are many who I have been inspired by and others who have generously allowed me into their shops.

HIN: Do you have any advice for those just starting out?

TF: Don't be afraid to ask for honest criticism from those you are inspired by.

HIN: Have you traveled as a journeyman smith?

TF: I am a member of the American Bladesmith Society. In being so, I have participated in their rating, training program. I started as an apprentice smith in 2000, I received my Journeyman Smith rating in 2004 and I finished with my Master Smith rating in 2006. With just over 100 Master Smiths in the world, this has been a great accomplishment in my career.

HIN: Do you have previous teaching or demonstrating experience?

TF: I have taught at the ABS school in Texarkana AR, I spent a year teaching damascus classes at Pratt fine art center and this

summer I will be an engraving instructor at an NRA school in California. I have demonstrated at various locations for the ABS and other private events.

HIN: Can you describe some influences on your work?

TF: I primarily enjoy creating Japanese influenced knives as well as early American bowies. My belief is that if you are going to be inspired or create a knife based on a historical or cultural piece you should improve upon it.

HIN: Can you recommend any books that are inspirational or of great use to you?

TF: Personally, I stay away from most of the modern knife books and magazines, as I do not want my work to be influenced by what others are doing. They can be inspirational for the new maker but they are not for me. I generally pull many of my ideas from non-knife related books such as those on sculpture and even textile patterns for my damascus.




PHOTO: ERIC EGGLY, POINTSEVEN STUDIOS

HIN: Would you like to talk about/describe your demo?

TF: My demo will be on the creation of a modern bowie knife from start to finish. I will start with forging the blade, grinding the bevels, heat treating, overall finishing and fitting of various handle and guard designs. It will include tips and tricks for potentially creating a flawless piece, if there is one.

HIN: Is there anything else that you would like to share with us about your experience in the world of smithing?

TF: A pivotal point in my business and personal life has been the introduction to the NWBA and its talented group of blacksmiths. Especially Dave Lisch, whose positive attitude, energy and talent I am in awe of.

HIN: He is a force isn't he! This group offers a lot and it is amazing what happens when you put yourself out there how many folks are there to help. We are pretty lucky. Thanks Tom. 

by Lauren Osmolski



IMAGE - SHARPBYCOOP.COM

GALLERY OF AUCTION ITEMS

2010 SPRING CONFERENCE



Charlie Dowdeswell,
shoe horn



Bill Apple,
calla lily
candleholders



Brian Ross, Koi, hand
tooled nickel-silver



Andy Gladish,
paring knife



Dave Winestock,
fish hook wall hook

GALLERY OF AUCTION ITEMS

2010 SPRING CONFERENCE



D. J. Stull,
tissue box



Lenn Eisenbeisz,
butter knife forged
into a letter opener



Jim Hatmaker, bronze
spoon caddy



Darrell Gehlsen,
Japanese-style left-
handed kitchen knife



Dennis Torresdal, gold sheen
obsidian flint-knapped knife

GALLERY OF AUCTION ITEMS

2010 SPRING CONFERENCE



Larry Langdon,
mo-skeet-o
welder's helper



Lisa Geertsen,
"words to live by"



Ron Selby, rose



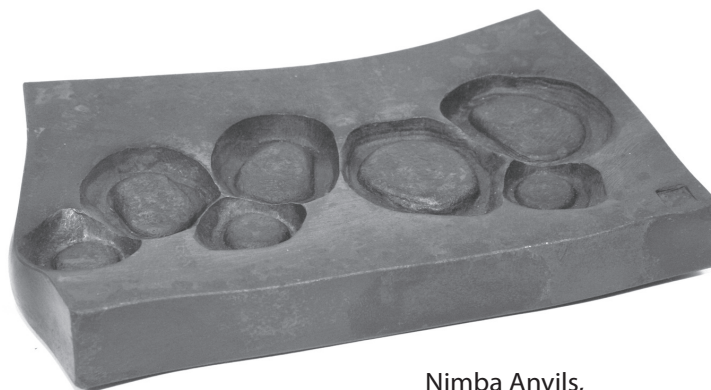
RF, stool



Jim Von Mosch,
rush lamp



Martin Brandt,
ironwood tree
seedpod



Nimba Anvils,
North Beach plate

Shawn
Johnston,
safety pin



Darryl Nelson, "No Loose
Ends", all the Boy Scouts
tenderfoot level knots



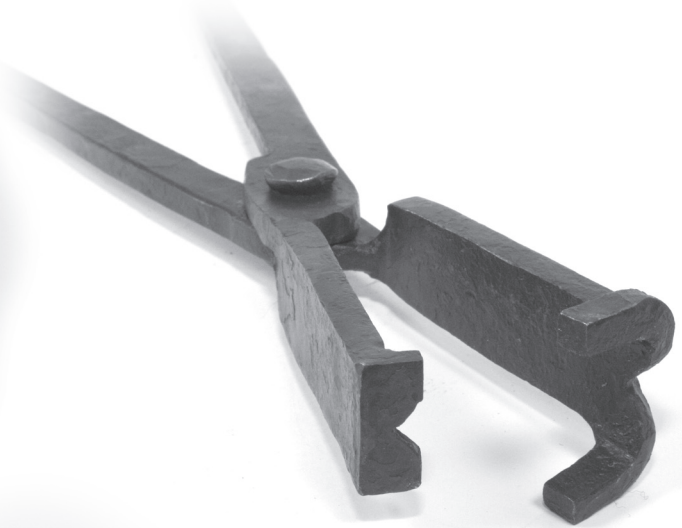
Andy Blakney,
Craftsman clock

GALLERY OF AUCTION ITEMS

2010 SPRING CONFERENCE



Jerry Culberson, "Heat wave candleholders"



Tim Middaugh, box jaw tongs



Steve Gschwend, veggie and cheese cleaver



Ron Weston, rattlesnake bottle opener and mouse



Rick Crella, garden sentinal



Steve Meyer, camp set



Steve Meyer, mini
railroad spike knife



Ries Niemi, lamp



Ries Niemi,
lamp detail

GALLERY OF AUCTION ITEMS

2010 SPRING CONFERENCE



Mario Suquamish,
copper and silver
bracelets



Morgan Chapman
(9 yrs old), size 10
knitting needles

A Big Thank You to members below who donated the great items that unfortunately we don't have images of...

Hardened Chisels & Punches Chad Lowe
Dona Meilach book..... John Dorfield
Terrarium..... Pam & Gary Nickolisen
Burro Loco cider Ector De Leon
Hot cut hardy Thaddeus Dancer
3-hook rack afternoon hands-on Chad Heiserman -
class Saturday
'Black Smoke Alley' Scrolling
tongs Dick Fedder
Culberson Fairy wand..... Mike Carney
Steel Skater-Stake driver..... Art Neuharkel
Camouflage hat..... Kent Rudisill
"Good Shepard"..... Hwa Sarver
Leaf spring Chris Gulick
Tamahagane steel Tom Ferry & Dave Lisch
Cavalry forge..... Ken Williams
Gunsmithing book..... Paul Thorne
SS oil quench tank Jim Griswold

Tooth gears..... Nathan Neale
"Foxfire 5" book..... Jim von Mosch
TLC cider..... Terry Carson
Grape leaves Gary Gloyne
Titanium crowbar & bit Larry Langdon
Grinding wheels..... Dugal Easton
Beeswax..... Lenn Eisenbeisz
Monkey tool..... Jorgen Harle
Honey Bill & Loretta Mossman
Yard art..... Richard Tinder
Frog Jack Frost
Large fire poker..... Wayne Lewis
Potato digger chain Barry Strombeller
2 Photo murals from NWBA Fall 09 Bryan Willman
Post vise..... Jerry Mancia

Several yummy flavors of Golden Valley Brewery beers, from
an unknown member and to Tom Ferry for his financial
donation to the NWBA

Congratulations to those receiving a one- year membership voucher for items that sold for \$250+

Craftsman's Clock..... Andy Blakney
"Heat Wave" Candleholders Jerry Culberson
Silver and Nickel Bracelet Mike Harris

"No Loose Ends" Rope Knots..... Darryl Nelson
"The Good Shepard" Hwa Sarver

Northwest Blacksmith Association 2010 Second Quarter Financial Report

Beginning Balance, April 1		\$30,161.57
In Flow:		
Dues	\$11,429.75	
Sales	\$2,249.51	
Conferences	\$11,211.41	
Auction	\$4,006.00	
Donations & Refunds	\$550.00	
TOTAL INCOME:		\$29,446.67
Outflow:		
HIN Printing/Publishing	\$1,112.29	
Conferences	\$13,073.63	
Admin./Member Services	\$2,829.43	
Capital Equipment	\$1,514.11	
Merchant Services	\$254.88	
Grants	\$1,000.00	
Non-conference Resale Merchandise	\$831.97	
TOTAL EXPENSES:		\$20,616.31
In:	\$29,446.67	
Out:	\$20,616.31	
Total:	+\$8,830.36	
Ending Balance, June 30		\$39,404.22

Blacksmith Wars II

Be a part of the second Blacksmith War at the upcoming 2011 Spring Conference in Mt. Vernon, WA.

New Project, new rules, unlimited number of teams, and a chance for everyone to join a team!

- NO POWER TOOLS
- ITEM TO BE FORGED ANNOUNCED AT THE FALL CONFERENCE
- SIX MONTHS TO PLAN YOUR PROJECT
- SUPPLY YOUR OWN MATERIALS AND TOOLS
- NEW! WORK WITH TWO "VOLUNTEERS" CHOSEN IN RANDOM DRAWING FROM THE "VOLUNTEER JAR"

Don't miss your chance to be a part of blacksmithing history!

Registration begins October 8, 2010 at the Fall Conference.

Questions? Ask Mike- rivercityforge@iinet.com

HAWK TOSSIN'



Waugh! 'Spect it be time for a good ol' hawk tossin'.

So, bring yer hawks and get ready to fling 'em at the Fall Blacksmith Rendezvous.

Prizes for Best Hand Forged Hawk, Best Flinger, and Loudest Bragger.

Heck, I could probably win that one!

Practice all weekend –

Doin's on Sunday mornin'.

Watch yer top knot!



NorthWest Blacksmith Association

The Northwest Blacksmith Association Is a Washington corporation and 501 (c) 6 non-profit trade association, which was founded in 1979. Now at 500 strong and growing, our Mission is Education in Blacksmithing and related Metalcrafts. We have something to offer to anyone with an interest in blacksmithing, from the beginner to the serious professional.



Semi-annual Conferences



Hands-On Workshops

Members of the N.W.B.A. receive our award-winning newsletter, **The Hot Iron News** and the opportunity to attend N.W.B.A. events.

Name: _____

Dues are: \$45.00 U.S.
\$50.00 outside US

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mail to: Northwest Blacksmith Association
8002 NE Hwy 99 #405
Vancouver, WA 98665

To apply on-line and pay by credit/debit card go to **www.blacksmith.org**

Board by-law changes

(cont'd from page 5)

shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

If reference to federal law in articles of incorporation imposes a limitation that is invalid in your state, you may wish to substitute the following for the last sentence of the preceding paragraph: "Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in the furtherance of this corporation.

This will be added as ARTICLE 6.8.

Currently dues are set up to run yearly, due at the end of the year no matter when in the year you joined. However, by WA law we are required to keep your membership on a monthly basis, so in the future your membership will run from the date paid to one year later.

The current bylaw reads:

ARTICLE 4.2 Payment of Dues and Amount: the Board of Directors shall determine Annual dues. Dues shall be payable on the first day of the calendar year. Any increase in dues shall be ratified by the Board no later than the October Board Meeting of the previous year. Notice of an increase in dues shall be published in the Association newsletter and on the website. A renewal statement of dues will be mailed to Members 30 days prior to the end of calendar year. Dues are non-refundable and will not be pro-rated for partial-year membership.

And will change to:

ARTICLE 4.2 Payment of Dues and Amount: Dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Dues shall be

payable one year from the date first paid. Any increase in dues shall be ratified by the Board by the October Board Meeting of the previous year. Notice of an increase in dues shall be published in the Association newsletter and on the website. Dues are nonrefundable and will not be prorated for partial-year membership.

Several clarifications are needed to improve our election process.

Currently ARTICLE 5.3 reads as:

5.3 Nominating Committee: The President shall appoint a Chair and two or more additional Members to the Nominating Committee for the purpose of canvassing the entire membership for nominations and conducting the election. The Nominating Committee shall have responsibility for soliciting nominations from the General Membership.

And needs to be revised to read as:

5.3 Nominating Committee: The President shall appoint a Chair and two or more additional Members to the Nominating Committee for the purpose of canvassing the entire membership for nominations and conducting the election. The Nominating Committee shall have responsibility for soliciting nominations from the General Membership. A mail collection service will be used to receive election ballots. All ballots will be collected at the end of the election process by the Nominating Committee. A budget will be established for this purpose.

We also need to modify ARTICLE 6.5, which currently reads as:

6.5 Secretary: The Secretary, or his or her designated representative, shall issue in writing all notice of meetings of the General Membership and the Board of Directors; receive and disburse all US mail; keep complete records of the meetings of the of all General Membership and Board meetings, including an accurate record of attendance of Board Members; present minutes from the described meetings in written form to the membership for acceptance at the next regularly scheduled meeting; mail such other notices as may be directed by the Board of Directors; be custodian of all records of the NWBA, except such records and papers as shall be kept by the Treasurer; sign such papers as may be required by his or her office or as directed

Continued on next page

by the Board of Directors; keep a list of the members of the Association; and perform such other duties as may be incidental to the office. At the expiration of his or her term of office, he or she shall deliver over to the successor secretary all books, records and other properties, or in the absence of a Secretary-elect, to the President. In case of absence or disability of the Secretary, the President may appoint a Secretary pro tem.

So that the words, *except ballots* are added, the new article will read as:

6.5 Secretary: The Secretary, or his or her designated representative, shall issue in writing all notice of meetings of the General Membership and the Board of Directors; receive and disburse all US mail, except ballots; keep complete records of the meetings of all General Membership and Board meetings, including an accurate record of attendance of Board Members; present minutes from the described meetings in written form to the membership for acceptance at the next regularly scheduled meeting; mail such other notices as may be directed by the Board of Directors; be custodian of all records of the NWBA, except such records and papers as shall be kept by the Treasurer; sign such papers as may be required by his or her office or as directed by the Board of Directors; keep a list of the members of the Association; and perform such other duties as may be incidental to the office. At the expiration of his or her term of office, he or she shall deliver over to the successor secretary all books, records and other properties, or not having a Secretary-elect, to the President. In case of absence or disability of the Secretary, the President may appoint a Secretary pro tem.

The Board has also agreed upon Term Limits so a new ARTICLE is necessary to read as:

6.8 No member will serve more than three (3) elected terms in a row. At such time, a Board Member will be required to not run for election for at least one (1) year.

If you disagree with these changes please contact any board member before Sept 15, 2010. ◆

Coming back from the beginning

Cont'd from page 12

the early years. After a few years in business, I met a number of the people around the country working in the blacksmithing field, many of whom continue to inspire me. If I were to make a list, it would be long and still certain to suffer from omissions. Two that I must mention are Carl Jennings, and my dear friend Daniel Miller.

HIN: Do you have any advice for those just starting out?

JF: My best advice for anyone starting out is simply to work hard and follow your heart. Blacksmithing is a wonderful trade that requires many years of experience to become proficient. Don't worry about not having all the tools.... You can make them as you need them. Be constantly observant of the world around you, for that is the ultimate encyclopedia of design. Remember that you are part of a longstanding tradition that merits respect, and yet there is always new ground to explore.

HIN: Have you demonstrated a lot?

JF: I have demonstrated at a large number of conferences around the country and in Canada. As well, I have taught at Penland School in North Carolina frequently over the past twenty years. I am sure I will recall some good stories when I present to your group.

HIN: Are there any particular influences on your creative work? For example: a particular artist, a historical period, some sort of personal experience, or perhaps a belief or philosophy?

JF: Ironically, I have never really had much interest in the stylistic history of metalwork. My inspiration has been primarily in the very direct personal process of heating and shaping the metal itself. I have always been interested in art and music. Equally important in developing my work has been my interest in both biology and geology. This is a tough question because I have never really had a central or singular inspiration. For me it has been a very osmotic sort of affair, absorbing the various aspects of life and the world to which I am exposed over time.

HIN: Can you recommend any books that are inspirational or of great use to you?

JF: Wow, there are so many out there now that I don't even know about. Honestly, my reading is almost

Continued on page 26

Coming back to the beginning

Cont'd from page 25


entirely in other fields.... Ecology, philosophy, history, economics, etc.

HIN: Can you give us a little preview of your demo?

JF: I will be doing two demonstrations. One will focus on the development and production of some details from a recent wine cellar gate project, including leaf design and joinery. The other will feature some of the experimentation I have been doing over the past few

years that explore the connections between metal forging and rock formation processes. These will be both very practical and very whimsical.

HIN: This has been great Jeffrey, thanks for taking the time to help us get to know you a bit.

JF: I look forward to being there, and am honored to have been asked. And of course, I am excited to reunite with old friends and meet new ones. 

by Lauren Osmolski

CLASSES

Meridian Forge

Meridian Forge is located in Southeast rural Pierce County, 23 miles south of Puyallup, WA, on Hwy 161 (Meridian) 5 miles north of Eatonville, WA. The facility offers onsite camping, with motel and restaurants in nearby Eatonville. A variety of classes is offered, including Animal Heads, Garden Gates, Coffee Tables, and Door Hardware. Custom Classes are also available on request, with a minimum of six students; you may design a class covering your particular interests. Contact Darryl Nelson at 360-832-6280 or fremtforge@hotmail.com.

September 10-12 – Lighting Class with Joe Elliott
\$350

September 17-19 – Garden Gate Class with Darryl Nelson
\$475

A nonrefundable deposit of \$100 is required to register.

Studio 4 Forging Facility LLC

Studio 4 Forging Facility LLC is located just south of downtown Seattle. This facility offers eight forging stations and a state of the art knife studio. Our address is 3600 E Marginal Way S #4 98134. Several classes are now scheduled. To sign up for a class, contact David Lisch at 206-919-5431 or studio4@davidlisch.com

September 3-5 – Slip Joint Folder Class with Mike Vagnino
\$450

September 11-12 – Basic Blacksmithing Class with Patrick Maher
\$200

September 17-19 – Fixed Blade Forging Class with Jason Knight
\$450

October 29-31 – Slip Joint Folder Class with Mike Vagnino
\$450

November 5-7 – Mosaic Damascus Class with Tom Ferry
\$500

Old West Forge

Old West Forge is located 70 miles east of Portland in the beautiful Columbia River Gorge region. Offering traditional forging classes, the curriculum is a series of demonstrations at the instructor's anvil followed by immediate hands-on work. Call Tim Middaugh at (509) 493-4418 or tim@oldwestforge.com.

www.oldwestforge.com

At this time, no classes are available.

General instruction

Check out www.blacksmith.org for the latest information on schools, classes, and open forges.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The NWBA would like to Thank Tod Johnson for all his hard work and efforts as the official scribe during the Board Meetings, as well as his great work with our membership roster. We are saddened to see him leave, but would like to put out a request for a new scribe to take the minutes during the Board Meetings. Some computer skills would be wonderful. Please contact Dave Davelaar if you are interested.

The NWBA is pleased to announce that the Library will no longer charge a fee for books and DVD check outs. The Library should soon be online.

NW Anvil II opening November 11th 2010 at the Twilight Artist Collective, in Seattle WA for more information contact Lisa Geertsen

The Back issues of the Hot Iron News will no longer be for sale. Complete your collection at the

Fall Conference where they will be available for no charge.

Announcements and Classifieds are free for members. Send your information to nwbainfo@gmail.com. Materials that you would like to send via USPS should be mailed to:

Lauren Osmolski
3600 East Marginal Way South, Suite #20
Seattle, WA 98134

We will return your materials if you would like.

Our stalwart archivist Jack Slack is on the mend and would love to hear from you. You are always welcome to drop by for a visit.

Mailing address:
Jack Slack
3723 19th Ave SW
Seattle, WA 98106

Visit him:
Park West Skilled Nursing
Center, Room #302
1703 California Ave SW
Seattle, WA 98106

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED: Blacksmith volunteers

Fort Vancouver needs blacksmith volunteers to demonstrate at various times during the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011. If you are interested please contact Craig Webster. He is the president of the Trades Guild at Fort Vancouver. They are looking to have more demonstrators/workshop leaders for the guild this upcoming fall and winter. Do you know any blacksmiths that could get involved? They need training workshops that use traditional blacksmithing techniques. They have no power hammers or other mechanical advantages, although they do have willing strikers. CONTACT Craig at craigw@inet.com

FOR SALE: Forging hammer

Big Blue 110 lb pneumatic forging hammer with 4 sets of S7 steel quick change dies - flat, combo, aggressive fullering, and free form sculpting. Hammer has new air cylinder and is in perfect working order. Is currently hooked up in my studio if you want to see it run. Can load into your vehicle. \$4000. CONTACT Mike Suri at 503-914-9335.



WANTED: A clear explanation

of why tools become magnetic. Please send responses to nwbainfo@gmail.com

Wanted: Auction items for the 2010 Fall Conference

Bring your valuable items, flaunt your skills or bring some loot. It is for a good cause.

FOR SALE: Metal tumbler

Large, heavy-duty metal tumbler with 2hp thermal overload protected 110v electric motor. Drum is 39.5" wide 36" flat to flat. Works great, needs new belt. Can load into your vehicle. \$700. CONTACT Mike Suri at 503-914-9335.



HOT IRON NEWS



A publication of the Northwest Blacksmith Association
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Vancouver, WA 98665

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Sample section of railing at the Arts Cabin in Government Camp, Oregon.
These pickets were created by guest smiths visiting during Blacksmith Week, which is held every summer.