



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

April 2023

We had a good turn out despite the weather for our March meeting in Fredericksburg. I'm beyond pleased with the participation we are having with the trade items. There was some very stiff competition this month with Tom Leining being picked as the winner. He has chosen a coal rake as the April trade item because it's something everyone can use.

The April meeting will be at the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture in New Braunfels on the 15th. You don't want to miss this one....Roy Bellows is going to be our demonstrator! Roy has been smithing for over 50 years he will be demonstrating how he makes furniture using tenons and joinery other than welding or forge welding. He will need some volunteers as he plans to guide some smiths through the process, also some strikers and a couple of people to man the forges.contact me through email at txsmith4@att.net to volunteer.

This is also the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture's Folkfest so there will be a lot going on bring the whole family. Hope to see y'all there.

Aaron

Arron Tilton
Balcones Forge President

Meeting is on April 15

Start time is 9:30



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More info in the two Balcones Forge Facebook pages. (You can check out the posts without having a Facebook account.)

<https://www.facebook.com/BFCTB/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/688735415468063>

W W W . B A L C O N E S F O R G E . O R G

SECRETARY'S MARCH MEETING NOTES

The March Balcones Forge meeting was held at the Pioneer Museum in Fredericksburg. Aaron talked about the need for another workday to move the remaining items at Doug's. The trade item for the March meeting was a candle stick. There were a lot of creative entries with Tom Leining winning.

The April meeting will be held in conjunction with the Folkfest celebration at the Museum of Handmade furniture in New Braunfels. It will be on April 15th.

The May meeting will be held on the 6th at Old Settlers in Round Rock.

The June meeting will be at the Pioneer farms, located in Austin, on the 24th.

It's time to renew memberships. There are a lot of ways to join/renew.

- Join at an event.
- Go to the website to download the membership form (www.balconesforge.org). There are instructions as to where to mail the completed form.
- Contact Rudy (rudy@balconesforge.org) to securely pay online.

The membership money allows us to buy materials for the organization as well as get good demonstrators for our meetings. We all need to pitch in with the work of the organization to make it stronger. Contact one of the board members to find a way to connect with Balcones Forge, we need the help!

Regards,

Lance Jensen
Balcones Forge Secretary

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 15: Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture in New Braunfels

May: 6 Old Settlers Park New date and place!

June 24: Pioneer Farms in Austin

TRADE ITEM DETAILS

For April, the trade item is a coal rake! To participate, simply make the item chosen for the month. Sometimes there are detailed instructions and sometimes you get to make what ever your imagination tells you. Bring it to the meeting, participate in the trade and you will walk away with another smith's version of the item.

Remember, you gotta make one to take one!

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CHANGES

In case you haven't noticed there are some changes happening with Balcones Forge.

Change is good; it keeps things fresh.

One of the big changes we will no longer be storing our forging stations at Blackhawk Millworks. We are deeply appreciative to Doug Caroselli for his generosity over the years for not only storing but also allowing us to have several meetings over the years.

While change is good, so is stability which is where the other big change comes in.

We will be making the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture home base. You may have noticed by attending some of the meetings or looking at the schedule we have had several meetings there already. It's a really neat venue and I feel a good fit for Balcones Forge. It has the ability to have 6 full forging stations set up. We are having our April meeting there with Roy Bellows as the demonstrator. We also have someone there every second Saturday so there is plenty of opportunity for our members to get some forge time. Come by and check it out.

Aaron Tilton
President Balcones Forge



The winner!

photo by Arron Tilton



A few of the trade item entries from March.

photos by Lance Jensen





Have you seen this in Fredericksburg?

Come see the blacksmith who created it.

Roy Bellows demonstrating at the FolkFest, April 15 at the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture.

Open to all.



Uri Hoffi, shown here with one of his signature hammers, recently passed away. He was, without a doubt, a master craftsman and his teaching, you should.

Do you want to volunteer?

If you wish to volunteer at the Folk Fest this weekend, the organizers have asked that you sign up at the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4da9a82ba4fa7-folkfesta2#/>

For those that will be manning the blacksmith shop (lunch will be included) and they are also looking for general help to fill in wherever.

You DO NOT need to sign up just to attend the meeting and demonstration by Roy Bel-lows.

