



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

June 2023

Greetings,

May was a busy month. We had our monthly meeting in Round Rock at the Old Settlers Museum. Lance and I were in Fredericksburg at the Pioneer Museum on the same day, sorry to have missed what looked like a fun meeting. Tom and Jerry also demonstrated in Bastrop in May. We also missed a couple of other opportunities to show our craft to the public.

Speaking of that, I'm going to get on my soapbox for a moment. Balcones Forge is a volunteer organization. Folks, every officer or board member gives their time freely. It seems that when something needs to get done and a call for volunteers is put out, it is always the same core group that shows up. There are always opportunities to help, just ask. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that does help.

Ok, now that I've got that off my chest. The June meeting will be at Pioneer Farms in Austin on the 24th. The demonstration will be a chain making demo. If you're interested in forge welding then you don't want to miss it. Since it is barbecue season, let's make a grilling utensil for the trade item (fork, spatula, steak turner, etc....). To increase interest and participation there will be a prize for the winner.

Arron Tilton, Balcones Forge President

Meeting is on June 24

Start time is 9:00



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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Here is the Schedule for the rest of the year.

June 24th	Pioneer Farms, Austin
July 8th	Furniture Museum, New Braunfels
August 12th	Furniture Museum, New Braunfels
September 24th	Wendish Fest, Serbin (yes, this is a Sunday)
October 21st	Rustyk Forge, Devine: Mark Ling Demonstrator
November 11th	Furniture Museum, New Braunfels
December 9th	Furniture Museum, New Braunfels



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

ABANA INFORMATION

Announcement: Team Forging Competition

Note: The entry fee is \$100 per team - a perfect chance for your Affiliate to sponsor a team!

Mark your calendars for June 6-9, **2024**, to join us in Johnstown, Pennsylvania for the ABANA 50-Year Anniversary Celebration! A Team Forging Competition will be held during the event.

To compete, form a team of 4 individuals.

Each team will have a 4-hour time slot during the event to forge a design of their own creation. The design should relate to or be inspired by ABANA's 50th Anniversary.

The competition will be in Johnstown's Central Park and open to the public. Therefore, each team will supply a docent or liaison for a competing team to communicate with onlookers. Finished projects will be judged and prizes will be awarded.

Team registration will open at a later date, but let us know if you're considering competing and we'll be sure to keep you in the loop.

Speaking of ABANA Conferences...

It is time for us to scope out sites for the 2026 and 2028 Conferences.
We're looking for suggestions, venue leads, and input from YOU.
Send Us Your Ideas

ABANA Headquarters
1.814.254.4817
info@abana.org

TRADE ITEM DETAILS

For June, the trade item is a grilling utensil. 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. This month, there will be a prize!

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360° of Blacksmithing T-shirt

The design on the front is in white and black with red details showing the many facets of blacksmithing and the important roles that blacksmiths have held over the centuries.

100% Cotton. S - 3XL



DIRECTIONS TO PIONEER FARMS

Pioneer Farms is located at 10621 Pioneer Farms Drive in northeast Austin, just east of Interstate 35. Exit I-35 at Braker Lane (Exit 243), go east and follow the signs (left at Dessau Road, right at Braker Lane East, right at Pioneer Farms Drive).

From Parmer Lane, a mile north of Braker (Exit 245), go east to Dessau Road (third traffic light), turn right and go to Braker Lane East (first traffic light). Turn left and follow the signs. Free museum parking.



OUR FRIEND'S FORGE

Newsletters from other blacksmith associations

Reprinted from the 'Hot Iron Sparkle' 3rd Quarter volume 37 number 3, 2019

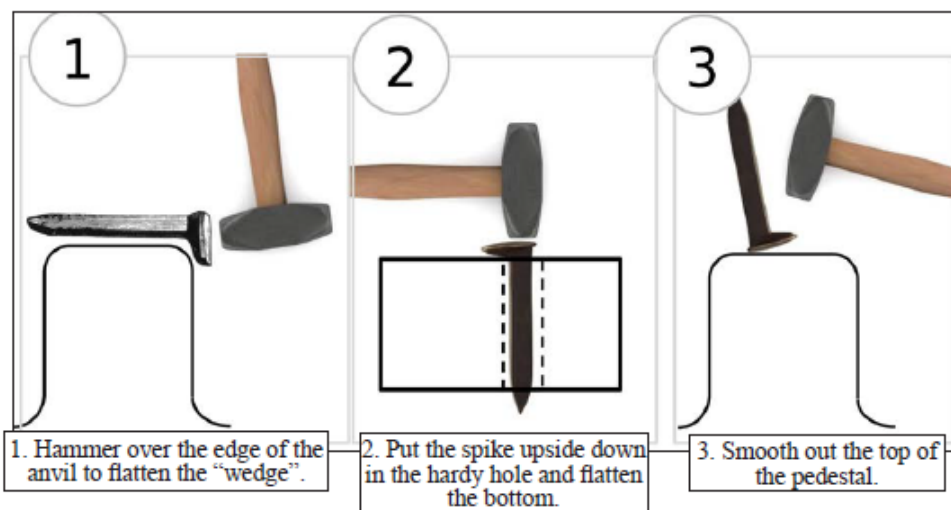
Railroad Spike Wizard

Article & Pictures by Landen Bain

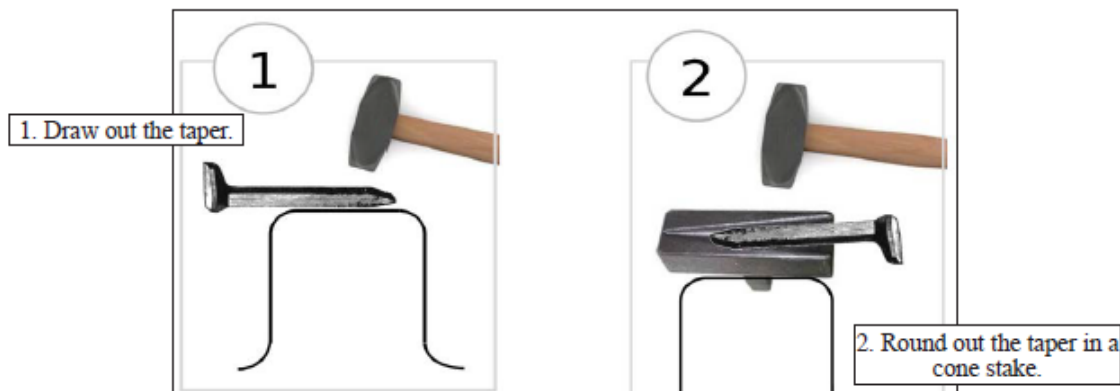
I recently took at class at the John C. Campbell Folk School with Steve Williamson entitled "Dragons, Wizards, and Horses" as a NCABANA scholarship recipient and wanted to share how to make a railroad spike wizard head. There are six main steps involved that I will break down over the next little bit but I wanted to list them here for quick reference:

1. Flatten the pedestal
2. Taper the wizard's hat
3. Rough in the face: eye sockets and nose
4. Cut in a mustache
5. Detail the eyes, beard, mouth, & hat
6. Set the hat brim

Step 1: Flatten the pedestal: Start by flattening the bottom of the spike to give a good base for the wizard to stand on.



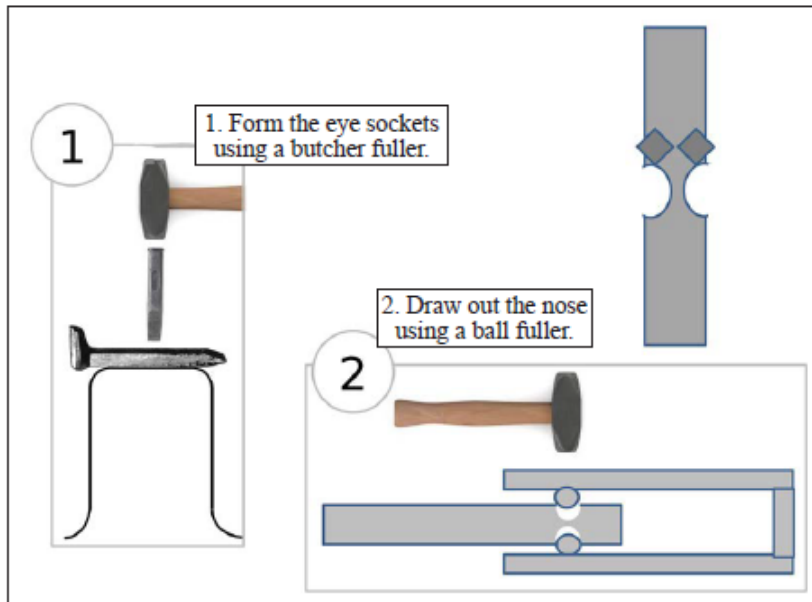
Step 2: Taper the hat: Draw out the taper to form the wizard's hat.



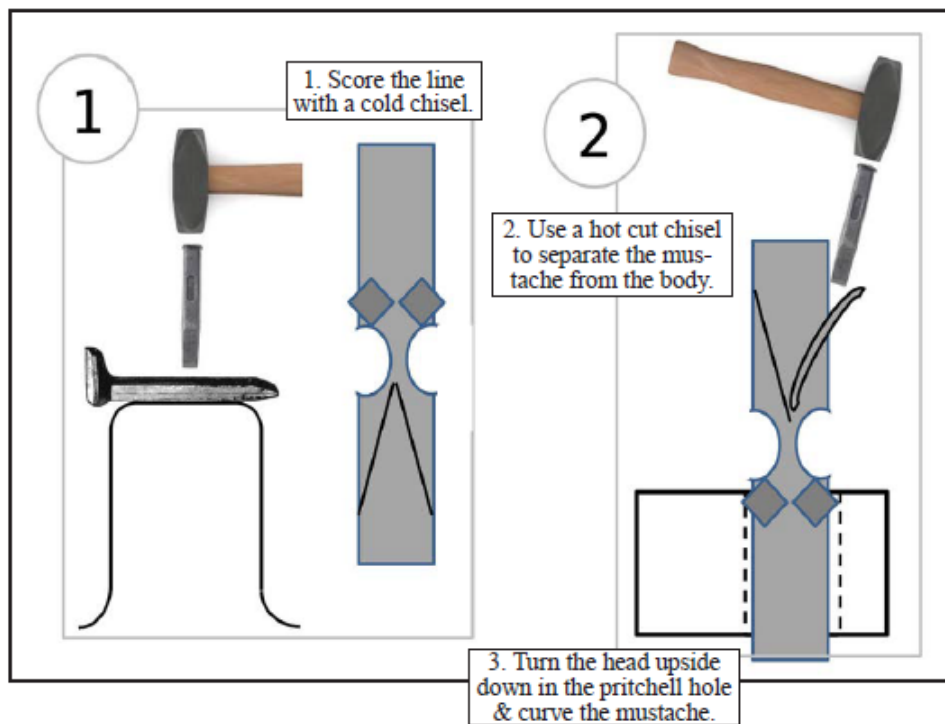
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Step 3: Rough in the Face: Eye sockets and nose.



Step 4: Cut in the Mustache



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Step 5: Detail the eyes, beard, hat, & mouth

Step 6: Set the hat brim: Use 1/2" fender washer for hat brim

