



Blacksmiths of Central Texas

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April 2008



THE PREZ SAYS:

If you were there, then you know that the 2008 Bluebonnet Workshop was an outstanding success. Everyone enjoyed Christopher's talent and unique philosophy. And of course the auction yielded excitement and some big bids. Thanks to all who made this another successful event!

Have you ever charged a low price for something you created even though you had many hours in it? Was it because you were learning as you did it? Sure, you don't want to charge for learning, right? I wish my doctor felt the same way. (Doctors are always practicing -- it says so on their door.) How much would you charge if you had traveled to North Carolina to attend a week-long course at the Campbell Folk Art School, and had accumulated all the associated expenses? Something to consider...

And with that, all I have to say is... Icosidodecahedron!

Rudy

**BALCONES FORGE
LIFE MEMBER**

At the March “big doins” the Balcones Forge Board of Directors agreed unanimously to award the third Life Membership to a man that is a friend to all of the Balcones Forge membership:

Mr. Harvey P. Wise of Smetana, Texas.

Please join the Board in congratulating Harvey. The Board would also like to recognize all the time and work Helen Wise has donated to our organization.



Harvey Wise photo by Vincent Herod

MEETING INFO

Join Balcones Forge on Saturday April the 26th for what will be another fine meeting. Jim Schmidt will be hosting the meeting at a great Austin treasure, Pioneer Farms.

Come on out at our usual starting time of 9:30am and have a look at the way it was done way back when. We can almost *garuntee* that the weather will be more cooperative this time around.

Valerie Ostenak will be the feated demonstrator this month. This is what she has to say about her demonstration. "I'll be forging silver and talking about its similarities and differences to forging steel. I'll have, I hope, a place to put my desk-size anvil and hammers to demonstrate a bit. Qs&As delightfully answered!"

Check out Valerie's website to see her work in preparation for what she will do at our demo.

www.valerieostenak.com

How to get in touch with folks at the Farm:

10621 Pioneer Farms Drive
Austin, Texas 78754
Phone: 512.837.1215
Fax: 512.837.4503
Email: farminfo@pioneerfarms.org

And be sure to check out their website at:

www.pioneerfarms.org

TRADE ITEM

Our host for the April 26th meeting, Jim Schmidt, has come up with a great trade item that fits with the demonstration for the month. Create something that is a wearable work of art.

Something unique.

Have fun.

Remember, you gotta make one to take one!

DIRECTIONS TO PIONEER FARMS

Driving South on I-35

Take the Braker Lane Exit. Turn left at the stop light. Go straight until you reach Dessau Road. Turn left onto Dessau road and get into the immediate right-hand lane. Turn right onto Braker Lane (Pioneer Crossing Neighborhood). Go straight until the first road on the right. Turn right onto Pioneer Farms Drive. GO STRAIGHT, do not turn left. Pioneer Farms Drive dead-ends at the Pioneer Farms parking lot.

Driving North on I-35

Take the Braker Lane Exit. Turn right at the stop light. Go straight until you reach Dessau Road. Turn left onto Dessau road and get into the immediate right-hand lane. Turn right onto Braker Lane (Pioneer Crossing Neighborhood). Go straight until the first road on the right. Turn right onto Pioneer Farms Drive. GO STRAIGHT, do not turn left. Pioneer Farms Drive dead-ends at the Pioneer Farms parking lot.

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Great fun was had by all at the Bluebonnet Workshop last month in Marble Falls.

Christopher Thompson shared far more than just techniques on blacksmithing as he lead the group through the constuction of an Icosidodecahedron.

Christophers easy going style and unique life story were the makings of another highly successful event for Balcones Forge.

Thanks for the demo, Christopher!

photos by Vincent Herod





This leg vise by Jerry Achterberg drew the highest bid in Balcones Forge history.
photos by the artist



PIONEER FARMS RULES:

Children must be properly supervised by adults at all times.

Walk carefully. Paths and surfaces are rough and uneven.

Do not touch or feed any livestock. Animals are unpredictable.

Hooves, horns, wings, claws and teeth can hurt you.

Beware of fire ants, bees, poison ivy, stinging nettles and thorns.

Do not enter livestock pastures or stalls at any time.

Do not climb on or reach through any fences or stalls.

Do not remove natural elements or artifacts from the premises.

Do not sit on, climb upon or touch displayed artifacts and antiques.

Do not litter.

Do not smoke, eat or drink in any buildings.

Do not smoke on the museum grounds.

Do not climb on structures, fences, wagons or farm machinery.

Do not wander off the pathways.

Do not bring pets onto the grounds.

VIOLATORS MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE MUSEUM.

Pioneer Farms is a weapon-free, drug-free zone. Violators will be prosecuted.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2008

So, which month would you like to host a meeting? Come on, show off the hard work you put into building your shop, or all the fantastic equipment you have. Besides, it's a great reason to clean up the place -- you just might find that tool you've been missing. Contact Vice President, Jerry Achterberg (treefarm@swbell.net). We have most of next year open at this time, so get your spot early.

Here is the meeting schedule

May 17 Swing Fest: San Marcos
NOTE THE EARLY DATE!

June Sue Murray: San Marcos
July John Crouchet: Marble Falls
Aug Terry Ross: Austin Community College
Sept Bob Pheil: Llano
Oct George Schroeder: San Antonio

Looks like we need to cover November and December.

GOOD QUOTES:

"Either charge enough or give as a gift."
anon

"Make your iron sweat so you don't have to."
Francis Whitaker



Affiliate Letter March 2008

3/26/2008

Greetings Friends of Blacksmithing,

Spring has come with cherry blossoms and get out of the house weather. Conference season is starting for blacksmiths in many ABANA affiliates. And as usual there's news about ABANA happenings, news for Members, and news for Affiliate groups.

ABANA Happenings:

Long time ABANA board member Dorothy Stiegler stepped down from the board on February 17. Her statement is posted on the web site business main page. (www.ABANA.org/business/index.shtml) Three candidates were identified as potential replacements and in due course, Doug Kluender was appointed to the board. Doug's brief bio is also available on the web site business main page.

In other business news, the By-Laws committee with approval of the ABANA board has completed a thorough revision of the ABANA by-laws. This is posted on the ABANA web site and questions, suggestions and comments from members are sought so that your opinions can be taken into consideration. Comments from members and answers from the board are posted on the By-Laws Blog page.

(www.abana.org/business/Bylaws_blog.shtml) The by-laws revision will be put to a members vote in August.

Please consider running for the ABANA Board. Contact Jim Masterson, Nominations chair. (Jim@ABANA.org)

News for Members:

Last time the members discount program was announced -- now it is fully operational. (See www.abana.org/resources/discount_program.shtml)

Now a brand new program is ready for ABANA members! ABANA has partnered with Grainger to offer members access to the all of the offerings in the mammoth Grainger catalog for at least 10% off catalog each prices and discounts of up to 45 - 55% off list on hand tools from Proto, Blackhawk and Stanley, 46 - 48% off DeWalt and Milwaukee Power tools, 28% off motors and power transmission items, etc. Plus Grainger will pick up the freight cost to deliver these items to your door or you can do business with your local Grainger branch. John Cosenza is Grainger's contact person for ABANA members (800-237-3174 ext. 384 or john.cosenza@grainger.com.) To order you'll need ABANA's Grainger account number: 873522098 and your ABANA member id number -- your ABANA membership must be up to date.

Please get your ABANA dues payments in on time. Dues are payable during the entire quarter ending with your membership expiration date; if your dues are over 15 days late you will miss out on the next quarters Anvil's Ring. A year's membership will still get you 4 Anvil's Rings and 4 Hammer's Blows but late payment will result in a gap in your library.

News for Affiliate groups:

Affiliate libraries may subscribe to ABANA publications at library rates -- but subscriptions are not memberships and thus cannot participate in ABANA member discount programs.

The Affiliate List on the web site (see www.abana.org/affiliates/affiliate_list.shtml) is being enhanced to have major events of affiliate groups. This is a cross reference to the Events calendar. Email me with requests.

The demonstrator list is seriously out of date. Please encourage all those talented demonstrators out there to check it out and submit updates. (see www.abana.org/downloads/demo_web.pdf)

Best Regards and please be in touch (pboulay@abana.org).

Paul Boulay
ABANA Affiliate Relations Board Member



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