



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

August 2014



Officers

President

Matt Czosnek

mattzosnek@gmail.com

512/609-9724

Vice-President

Jerry Achterberg

treefarm@swbell.net

210/661-3293

Treasurer

Rudy Billings

Rudy@BalconesForge.org

512/461-7375

Secretary

Tim Tellander

ttellander@gtvc.com

830/980-2903



Editor

Vince Herod

spotteddogforge@yahoo.com

512/253-6045

Meeting Date is August 16

The August 16th meeting will start at 11am, at Willies Grill in New Braunfels.

The competition trade item is a wrench; you pick the style.

The demo is: Show-n-tell.

Hopefully we can have a board meeting to discuss new officers and/or board members, as needed.

www.williesgrillanddicehouse.com

Willie's Grill is located at 2966 Coldsprings Drive, New Brunfels, 78130, just north of Buckeyes.

AUGUST TRADE ITEM

The trade item for June is a wrench.

This is a competition; best wrench wins and you get to keep what you make.

REMEMBER: you gotta make one to **WIN!**

THE BALCONES FORGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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A GREAT DEAL

Balcones Forge has Mark Aspery Books!

All 3 volumes:

- I - Basic Blacksmithing
- II - Leafwork
- III - Joinery

\$50 each -- no tax, no shipping, normal price \$59

Send your requests to Rudy@BalconesForge.org

DEMO OPPORTUNITY

From John Meyer:

I need some blacksmiths to do a demo during the Bulverde Jubilee on 9/20. All who come can sell there wares. I will be the point of contact for this.

My cell is 210-216-1926

E-mail at: justtiger@yahoo.com

Please contact John for more info!



Master Blacksmith/Teacher Jerry Darnell's second book

“Forging Colonial Iron Work II”
is fresh off the press as of June 5th.

Cost \$20.00 plus shipping/handling.

Please contact Jerry directly:

Phone---
(910) 464-3888 (Shop)
(910) 464-2636 (House)

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Metal/Wood Lathe for sale in Bastrop, Texas. Come and get it for \$750, cash.

Exact age unknown but at least 50 yrs old. Well cared for and in excellent condition. Includes base and as many bits and tools as I can find. Current motor (may not be original) is wired for standard household 110v outlet. The rails are about 6' long so chuck to tailstock allows about 4.5' piece to fit. See pictures below. For more info, contact Shane Smith: ss42@txstate.edu or call 512-470-5498.



MARK ASPERY OCT 12-14 GLEN ROSE, TX.

A rare opportunity for 7 to 10 (per class) serious amateur or professional craftsmen to learn from one of the most respected educators in modern blacksmithing.

*Mark is the editor of ABANA's Hammer's Blow magazine. He has written and published three volumes of his book **Mastering the Fundamentals of Blacksmithing.** Most ABANA affiliates recognize Mark for his tireless contribution to blacksmith education through his demonstrations and clinics.*

*If you want to improve your skill as a blacksmith, perhaps now is the time to make a commitment to yourself and your craft. This clinic is open to those who have a **burn to learn!***



INFORMATION

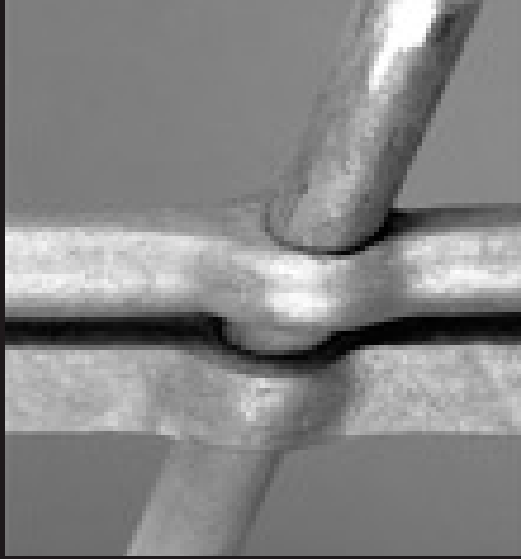
information and reservations.
call or eMail Ron Stafford
209 610 3448
hotshuz002@gmail.com

10/2014

MARK ASPERY



ONE PIECE CORKSCREW FROM
ALLOY STEEL



ANGLED PASS THROUGH

MARK ASPERY WILL CONDUCT A FULL PARTICIPATION HANDS ON CLINIC. COME PREPARED TO WORK AT THE ANVIL AND LEARN.

*You bring your own set up,
anvil, fire, water bucket , basic hand
tools, etc. We will have some set ups
available however they must be
reserved early to guarantee availability.*

Marks web site:

<http://www.markaspery.com/>

[SchoolofBlacksmithing/Home.html](http://www.youtube.com/user/SchoolofBlacksmithing/Home.html)

[https://www.youtube.com/user/](https://www.youtube.com/user/MarkAspery?feature=mhw5)

[MarkAspery?feature=mhw5](https://www.youtube.com/user/MarkAspery?feature=mhw5)

SUNDAY 10/12/2014

For those with limited time or funds we are offering a one day experience. A class that introduces the participant to the Aspery way of tool making. You will feel satisfied with your growth, and your new tools, at the end of the day. \$100.

MONDAY-TUESDAY 10/13-14

Two full days of instruction with Mark. We will begin with more tool making and use those tools to craft an item that is sure to please. This class is designed to stretch your abilities, forge to dimension, and make you a better blacksmith. \$200

ACCOMMODATIONS

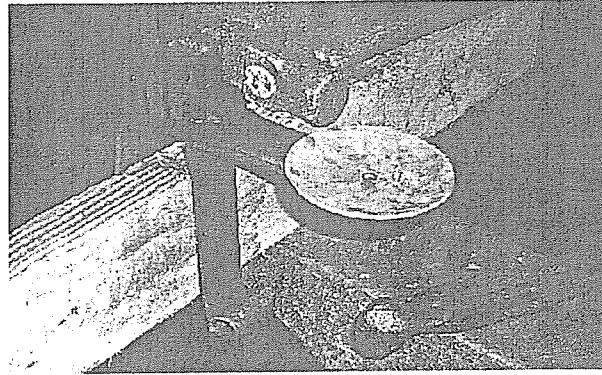
These clinics are being conducted on a pecan covered property in Somerville County, near Glen Rose, Texas. Numerous motels are located just 5 miles away. Camping your thing? There is lots of room for you to park your camper or pitch your tent. Dry camping at no charge. Helps to keep your cost low. We try to accommodate your needs where possible, so if you have any questions please ask.

Call 209 610 3448

Deck Railing Bracket

By Mike Meyer, OKI Forgers

My demonstration for the August meeting was a deck railing bracket - which is what I am calling this item for want of a better name. The deck railing at my house is basically a piece of vertically mounted 2" X 6" pressure treated lumber and I have wanted for some time to make some type of bracket which would allow me to attach candles, lanterns, flower pots, and etcetera to the deck railing in such a way that it would not only safely hold the objects but would also allow me to easily move them from one location to another without having to fuss with wood screws or other hardware.



My answer to this problem was to make the bracket as shown in the illustrations below.

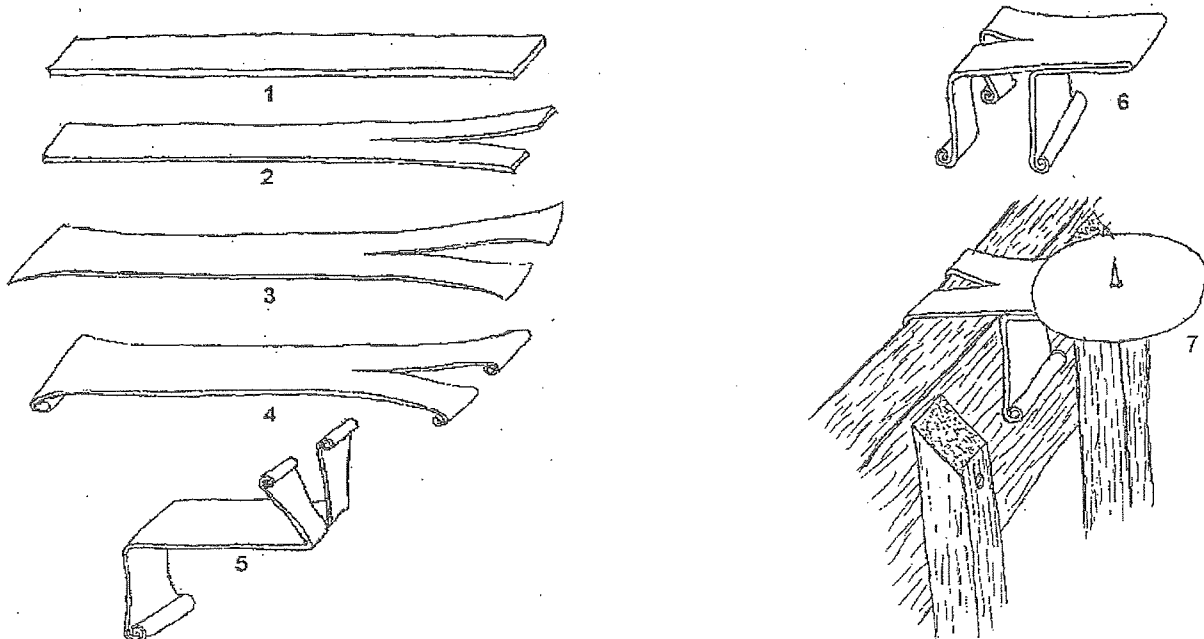
Step 1. - I started with a piece of 1/8 X 11/2 inch flat stock, about 20 inches long.

Step 2. - Slit one end of the stock down the middle for about a third of it's length (about 6-7 inches). This can be done with cold chisel, hacksaw, or any other method that works.

Step 3. - Heat the ends of the stock and peen the ends of the stock in order to spread and thin them out into a fishtail shape for scrolling. This step is optional, since it really doesn't affect the functionality of the finished product. However, my personal opinion is if I'm going to go to the trouble to make something like this I'd like to make it look halfway decent so I added the scrolled ends.

Step 4. - Heat the ends of the stock and use your scrolling pliers or the anvil and hammer to curl the ends into nice scrolls. As with step 3, this step is optional. If you are adding the scrolled ends, be sure that both scrolls are on the same side of the stock, as shown in drawing #4.

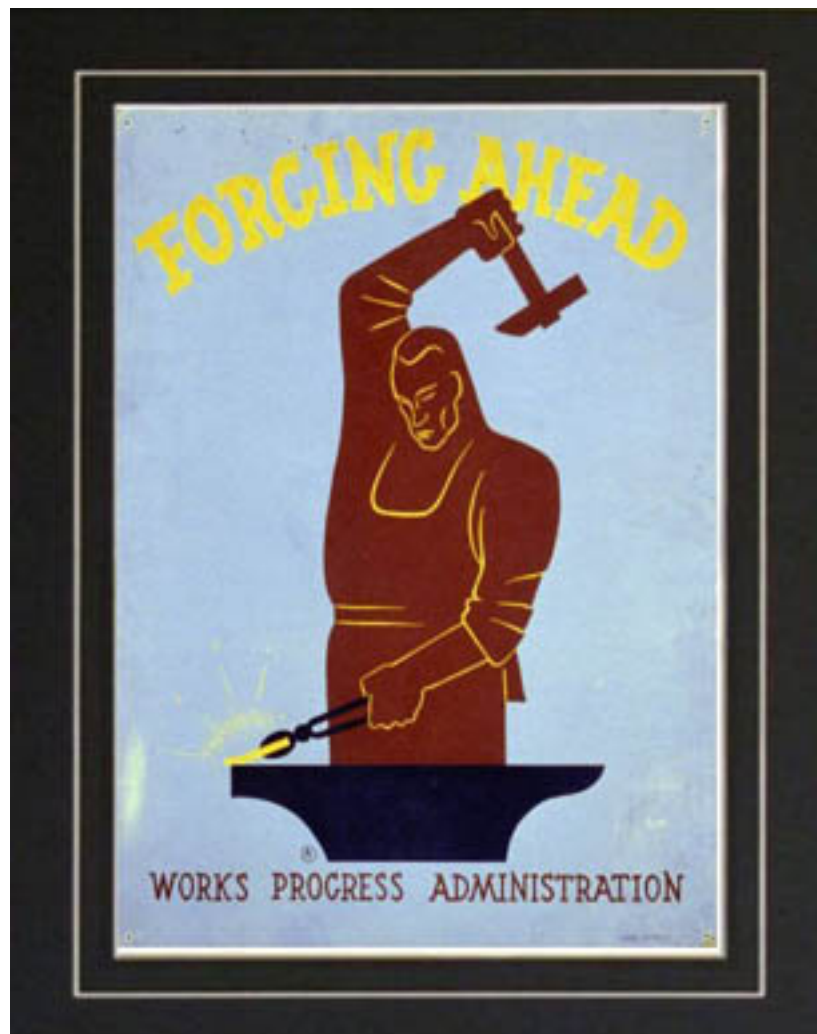
Step 5. - Heat the stock and make right angle bends in it about 6 to 7 inches from each end to form legs on the stock. If you lay the stock with the scrolled ends facing down, the end which isn't slit should be bent down and the end which is slit should be bent up, as shown in drawing #5.



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Step 6 - Heat the stock in the middle and fold it over to produce the finished railing bracket. The only tricky part with this step is to decide where to make the fold at. You should be able to do this by locating the midpoint between the two sets of legs, and offsetting the fold 1 1/2 inches (1 1/2 inches in my case since that's the thickness of my deck railing) towards the leg which was not slit.

Step 7 - Once the bracket is finished, you can modify it in whatever way you want to attach things to your deck railing. The one I made for the demo, and also illustrated in drawing #7, is made to hold a large candle, With other variations you could also adapt it to hold flower pots, birdbaths, or any number of other items.



FUTURE BALCONES FORGE MEETINGS

September 2014- not yet scheduled

October 18, 2014- Chisholm Trail Days
San Gabriel Park, Georgetown- looking for volunteers the 17th

November 8, 2014- Buggy Barn Museum - Blanco
December 13, 2014 (TENTATIVE) Jerry Whitley - Devine

January 2015- not yet scheduled

February 2015- Lee Brothers - Steep Hollow Forge - Bryan
March 2015- Pioneer Museum - Fredericksburg
April 2015- Bluebonnet - Marble Falls
May 2015- Swing Music Fest - San Marcos

