



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

February 2018



Greetings!

Although the day started out with a chili rain and drizzle, Sue and Randy managed to put together a memorable event at Sue's Rusty Toad Forge in New Berlin. Sue just has that knack for perfect scrolls, spirals,

bends, and twists in her organic forms. Great job Sue and the Frito pie was a good choice too! Thanks!

Keep watching the Balcones Facebook page for more info on the February combo demo at the Lee brother's Steephollow Forge in Bryan. This is the 8th annual demo where smiths from all over Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi will show up to show off their forging skills. Lots of food and tailgaters, as well as music and home brew. You don't want to miss this one. Bring an item for the auction and make "a champagne cork" for the competition trade item challenge. Again, a prize for the best. The Lees are offering spaces in a hammer making workshop again this year. Contact Allen or Jeff to reserve your slot at 979-218-1088.

Start making plans to attend the 2018 Bluebonnet Demo in April. The demo is April 7th and will serve as the March meeting. Brett Moten is our demonstrator this year. He will also be teaching two workshops on April 5th and 6th. Spaces are limited so call Peter Garza to reserve a space at 909-994-3487 or email him at: pgarza@gmail.com . It's also time to start working on that prized auction item and putting away some cash for some of the many bargains that will be up for auction. Tailgaters are welcome.



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Meeting Date is Feb 17

President's message is continued on page3.

SECRETARY'S REPORT DEC 2017

The anticipation of getting to see Sue & Randy's blackshop met all my expectations and delighted me with even more useful tools, work tables, and



overall layout. The forge to anvil to power hammer is geometrically designed to allow efficient and unobstructed work area. The neatness was obvious with everything in it's place, so much so that it kinda looked like it was staged for a special youtube action video and with

the demonstration Sue had in store for us, it would have been a multiviewed video, indeed. Thanks to Robin Ream, who took some wonderful closeup photos that Vince will professionally edit for the readers pleasure and curiosity.

The competition item for this event was something forged by utilizing the basic design of the Fredrich cross. Sue was successful in winning first place with a hanging flower basket holder, the bottom and top oppositely constructed to create the unique design. Sue went on with her demonstration of forging "fiddlehead fern fronds" using hammer & special made rounding chisel as well as the power hammer. Her numerous display of various styles was very impressive and a pleasure to see.

A pertinent question from the crowd addressed her technique or method in rust prevention. Wire brushing the finished piece and applying a clear coat of Rustoleum was her technique and John Crochet endorsed the procedure as being the best method, of which he referred to as the 'rattle-can' style. Tom Leining (AKA Tom the Blacksmith,

Wimberly, Texas) indicated that he uses BIOshield from Germany which has 3-4 different waxes and oils and secretly mixes them for a successful oil coating product to prevent rust.

Jerry A. and myself had a chance to research (ie trial & error technique) what steel makes the best flint striker and how to successfully obtain proper steel hardness. Forging a Nicholson and Heller file seemed to be the best and then quenching in water produced the desired quality for obtaining a quality spark. My attempts to quench in oil was unsuccessful, so after consultation with Shane Tilton & George Graham I was able to get proper steel quality by quenching in water, also.

Jerry also explained some in's and out's about leg vises. Utilizing a welding torch to heat the vertical jaw support shaft and then bend it into proper alignment of the jaws. Proper maintenance to prevent slag from obstructing function of the acme screw box, proper size thrust washer (usually tapered) and screw box washer. Precaution of preventing injury from the spindle arm by filing the outside stops and applying rubber around the round upset ends. Rebending the spring with sufficient heat to maximize it's capability in keeping jaws open, and no special annealing or quenching is necessary, just throw it on the ground and let it air cool.

The demo's for the day were infomative, the competition event was participated by a large number on contestants, the Frito-pie lunch was on an on-spot favorite, the mingling and talking with others always a pleasure. Thanks to Sue & Randy, and all the help she enlisted to make this a wonderful blacksmith demo for Balcones Forge

Tim Tellander
Secretary, Balcones Forge

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President's messaged continued.

We are looking for volunteers to man the forge (2 per day) on March 10th, and the 12th -17th. Volunteering will pay for one admittance to the Bluebonnet demo.

Balcones Forge is still looking for a few good people to help setting up, cleaning up, and just plain helping at the Bluebonnet. We will be moving bleachers, setting up the forging area and getting the workshop area back into shape. We also need help with the meals and the auctions. We are also looking for a new librarian and someone to take over the t-shirt sales. Contact one of the board members if you would like to help.

There is another event on April 28th in Hye, Texas. It will be Patrick Watson's 3rd annual Hye Founders Day Celebration at his 4B Ranch just east of Hye on Hwy 290. This is an open forge event so bring a forge and anvil as well as all your show-n-tell items. You are welcome to sell your wares to the passersby. Please bring your branding irons again and leave your mark on the tables, benches, fence posts, loose cattle, and probably a few of your friends. Lots of things to see and do including food, beverages and some good music. Check them out on Facebook at HYETX.

The May meeting is on the 5th just west of Seguin on US Hwy 90 at the non-profit Seguin Outdoor Learning Center. The event is the South Texas Cowboy Gathering & Western Music Festival held on the banks of Geronimo Creek. The Learning is raising funds to enhance to facility and they would like our help. Sharon Bettis is the event chairperson and our host. This is also an open forge event to demo to the public, so pack up your anvils and forges. If you've a mind to, you can donate an item to the center and you can also participate in the competition trade item event by making a "potato masher" or "tater tool" as grandma called it. The business end should be made out of some kind of metal and the handle is your choice. Prize for the best. Competition trade means you get to take your masher back home. Check out the website: www.southtexascowboygathering.com

Hope to see ya'll in Bryan

Jerry Achterberg
Balcones Forge President

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Alamo Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, is planning a "Council-wide Campout," March 2nd - 4th, 2018, at Bear Creek Scout Reservation, Hunt, Texas. The theme will be based on what life was like in Texas during the Post-Civil War Period(i.e., cattle drives, etc.). We expect to have 900 to 1,200 scouts and scouters attending and we are interested in expanding our list of vendors / exhibitors.

Contact:
Richard W. Coffin
Event Coordinator
CWC 2018
210/364-4650

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

THE 8TH ANNUAL COMBO-DEMO: BLACKSMITHING DEMONSTRATION & METAL ARTS EXHIBITION

FINAL DEMONSTRATOR LINEUP

**2018 COMBO-DEMO February 17, 2018
Steephollow Forgeworks Bryan, Tx**

The Combo-Demo will feature 3 smiths in the morning and 3 after lunch.

The morning session will showcase Wayne Phifer from Maurice, Louisiana. Learn more about Wayne at irontonforge.com or Ironton Forge on Facebook. Wayne started his career as a farrier who supplemented his income forging decor for restaurants. One thing led to another and he now specializes in High End Residential Lighting and Fireplace accessories. Wayne will forge his signature dragon head tongs and the flat bar braid. He'll do a little work with the Nazel 3B power hammer.

Sharing the stage will be Mark Ling from College Station, Teaxs. Mark is a 15 year old high school student whose hand hammer skills exceed his age by several years. Mark will hand forge several small natural elements demonstrating many forging processes and techniques. Then Mark will be assisted by Thomas Shumate, of College Station, who will strike for him as they make a hot cut hardy and a cupping tool. These two are fun to watch.

After lunch, well known Kelly Kring from Brookhaven College in Dallas with two of his teaching assistants, John Haskins and Sarah Ross, will forge a meat skewer on a 3 leg stand with a bowl ring below. This will involve a lot of traditional joinery. The 3 of them will work on different parts to complete the project by the end of the day. Kelly Kring hosts a number sites on Facebook including;

- Hot off the Anvil**
- Blacksmith's Tongs**
- Inspirational Blacksmithing**
- Hardies. stakes, Top & Bottom Tools**

Not to mention the Iron Smelt outside next to a tent that will have volunteer blacksmiths doing short demos for those that can not squeeze inside.

Several Forged in Fire Winners and contestants will at this year's event. They may do a brief demo and a panel discussion for those interested in sharp pointy things. Come meet these Texas Knife makers who have participated in one of the most watched shows on TV.

- 9:00 am Announcements will be begin**
- 9:30-11:30am Demos begin**
- 11:30am Live auction**
- !2-1:30pm lunch**
- 1;30-4:00pm Demos begin**
- 4:00pm Bloom comes out of smelt**

Spread the word. The 2018 Combo-Demo is going to be a good one.

Balcones Forge presents

18th
annual

Brett Moten

BLUEBONNET DEMO

APRIL 7, 2018



Sycamore Creek Ranch
5828 East Ranch Road 1431
Marble Falls, TX

2018

Featured Demonstrator

April 5 & 6

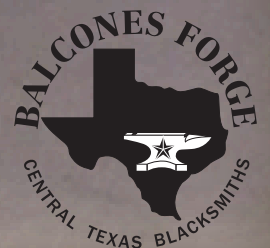
Hands-on forging WORKSHOPS:

“JOINERY: FORGING AND TECHNIQUES”

featuring Brett’s recognizably distinct joinery concepts

For more information ● To register:

www.BalconesForge.org



VENDORS AT THE FEB COMBO DEMO

Anyang Power Hammers

Gizmos Fabrications-
Propane Forge

Texas Farriers Supply-
Coal, coke, Anvils, Tongs, Knife Makers
Supplies

Andrew Alexander- Blacksmith Tools

Two Basterds Tx Smithy & Supplies-
Rehab Tools, Hammers

Texas Knife Makers Guild Members-
Individual Knife Sales

MISSING TONGS FROM DECEMBER MEETING

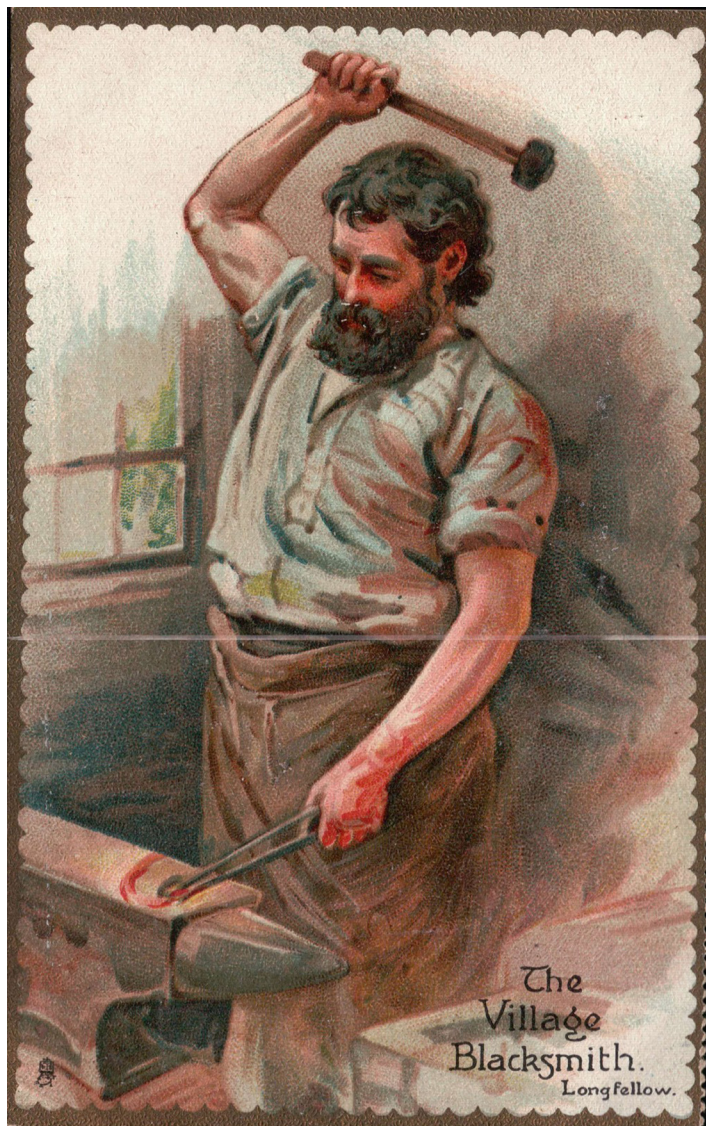
I am missing my pair of 1/2" Tom Tongs and a hold down for the small red fisher anvil. If everyone would please check their tools to see if they accidentally picked them up, it would be greatly appreciated. That was my "go to" pair of tongs.

Jerry Whitley

A LOSS

Please join the Board of Balcones Forge in sending your best thoughts and prayers to our Treasurer, Peter Garza. His wife Elsa recently passed from this worldly realm.

To help lighten Peter's burden, former Treasurer Rudy Billings has volunteered to once again take that position on the Board.....temporarily.





Randy & Sue

Is Jerry asleep?

photos by Robin Ream

Detail

Hot work



Planning Ahead

The 2018 National Conference

June 27th - 30th

The Artist Blacksmith Association of North America holds a national blacksmithing conference once every two years. The next conference is coming up in June in Richmond, Virginia, just 108 miles south of Washington, D.C., 72 miles from Monticello, and 52 miles from Colonial Williamsburg. If this sounds like a family vacation to you, then you are on the right track.

ABANA makes a sincere effort to make the national conferences family friendly. There are planned activities for spouses and for children who may wish to take a little break while the family blacksmith attends yet another exciting forging demonstration!

There are currently camping and RV sites available right at Meadow Event Park, the location of the conference. These sites may be reserved on a first come, first serve basis and sites are limited. As with most things in life, the early bird gets the worm! Reservations must be made through Meadow Event Park by email, snail mail, or by fax. (No phone reservations.) Contact Pam Daneker at pdaneker@meadoweventpark.com, or fax 804-994-2927, or if you just want to verify that space is still available, call 804-994-2800.

RV CAMPING COST \$30 PER NIGHT PLUS TAX
TENT CAMPING COST \$20 PER NIGHT PLUS TAX
There are restrooms and showers on site.

As we all know, nothing is free. ABANA member registration for the conference is \$225. Non-member registration is \$285. Registration for your significant other is \$105. and registration for children 13 to 17 years old is \$35. Children younger than 13 get in free. (Oh, wait. Some things ARE free!)

For additional information and a registration form, go to www.abana.org. Be aware before you jump onto that web address, however, that websites are not really ABANA's best thing. Some of the links go nowhere. Some of the parts do not load or may be in permanent limbo. Parts of an online form may work and other parts have already left for the national conference.

Fortunately, ABANA seems to do national conferences much better than they do web presence. Ask any blacksmith who has attended an ABANA conference and she will immediately tell you that it is a life changing event. This is a gathering of the best of American blacksmithing. You will see demonstrations by people who are truly legends in the world of forged iron. You will be nose to nose with some of the finest forged art in the world. You will come home with more ideas than you ever imagined. You may also come home with a new anvil and a few extra hammers, so be sure to butter up the significant other before you go!

John Crouchet

GENUINE WROUGHT IRON FOR SALE

Old Globe is offering a Discount of 20% to all members of ABANA!

We are happy to extend a 20% discount to all members of ABANA through July 31, 2018.

With one of the largest supplies of wrought iron available in the USA over 900 tons to harvest.

Visit Oldglobewood.com and select from numerous diameter of rods.

Use "ABANA" to receive your 20% discount on orders over \$250. Feel free to share with membership.

SPRING BREAK AT THE PIONEER MUSEUM

Balcones Forge is again invited to work the forge for Spring Break 2018. Evelyn took my contact information and I am to expect the official request soon. Once I receive the request, I will start filling available slots.

Start looking at your calendars now!

Jerry Whitley



A Fiddle Head Fern in the making

Photo by Robin Ream

Invitation to all Balcones Forge members:

Balcones Forge has been very popular and has seen great success. This success does not just happen. It comes at a cost. The cost is sweat and occasionally, if we are not careful, a little blood. We are looking forward to a great 2018 with our January meeting at Sue and Randy's in New Berlin, followed in February by a trip to Bryan, Texas to Steephollow Forge. There Alan and Jeff Lee are hosting the 6th Annual Combo-Demo. This event draws blacksmiths from all over (Texas - Balcones Forge, HABA & North Texas - Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and I am sure, other places). The March meeting which we will see in early April brings Balcones Forge' big event of the year, The Bluebonnet Demo. All of this and we still have nine more months to go.

These events don't just materialize and happen. Again, it takes work to get these events together. I am working to put a database together with names and contact information of people willing and able to help. The team of workers that generally show up are the same, and it is not a real large group. Please allow us to distribute the workload a little bit by sending me you name and contact information so that I can add you to the list. You will not be asked to do anything that you are not capable of doing, and there is always someone there to offer direction.

There are two additional areas that we really need help. These will take more time and effort, but are very important positions for Balcones Forge and its members.

First is T-Shirt and Hat sales.

You would inventory the merchandise so that it can be ordered when needed.

Bring (and sell) the merchandise at least to the larger events.

Second is the Library.

We now have an extensive library and need someone with some space and time to manage the books and videos.

Take portions of the library (and books & vids requested) at least to the larger events.

See to the return of loaned books and vids.

There are not a lot of events that we call out for assistance, but usually need help with the following:

Bluebonnet Demo - Set up prior to the event
 Help with the silent & live auctions
 General help that may be needed during the event
 Help with cleanup after the event

Combo-Demo - Help getting people registered when they arrive
 Help with the auction
 General help that may be needed during the event

Setup and teardown if we have a workshop during the year (these have been rare).

Balcones Forge has done very well and with your help, we call all work together to make it better. Please send your name and contact information to jerry.whitley@ymail.com.

Thank you,

Jerry Whitley
Vice President

**LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR
LITTLE GIANT POWER
HAMMER WORK HARDER THAN
EVER!**

You are invited to join us for our annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar. It will be held Friday March 16 through Saturday March 17, 2018.

First taught by our good friend Fred Caylor of Zionsville, Indiana, we carry on his tradition of teaching how to make Little Giants run well and hit hard.

This 2 day class is a hands-on format. You will help transform a 25 LB Little Giant from running but sloppy condition into a well tuned, quiet, hard working machine. Sid Suedmeier, former owner of Little Giant, will share all his knowledge and experience gained from Fred and 26 years of repairing and rebuilding Little Giants.

An old style 25 LB Little Giant will be rebuilt during the class, but we will also have a new style on hand to demonstrate proper assembly and adjustment of both styles.

The class is held in our shop in historical Nebraska City, Nebraska. Our city has a nice selection of cafes, outlets, antique and gift shops, orchards, wineries and museums.

**IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE GIANT,
THIS CLASS IS FOR YOU!**

No experience is required to attend this class. Our past classes have been attended by folks from every walk of life, from

students to retirees ... anyone who wants to learn can benefit from this class. We approach the rebuilding process using tools that can be found in the average home workshop.

If you are in the market to buy a power hammer, this class will make you an educated shopper. If you already own a Little Giant, or any other brand of power hammer, this class will teach you how to get the most performance possible.

The class costs \$95, refundable up to 7 days prior to the class; advance registration is required. We limit the class to 25

participants. The class starts at 9 AM sharp on Friday, and typically ends by Saturday evening. We are available Sunday until noon in case we encounter any exceptional problems in rebuilding, and to answer remaining questions.

When we receive your registration, we will send you a city map, along with travel and hotel information.

Airports are located in Omaha (45 miles north), Lincoln (50 miles west) and Kansas City (125 miles south).

2018 REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Business name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

PAYMENT

- Check enclosed
- Cash in person

(Sorry, we no longer accept credit cards, although credit cards can be used to purchase parts through the Little Giant business owned by Roger Rice, also in Nebraska City)

POWER HAMMER INFO

Brand: _____

Size: _____

Serial Number: _____

Please call or email if you have any questions, or prefer to register by phone. You can reach us at 402/873-6605 or sidshop@windstream.net



ABANA

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip/PC: _____

Country: _____

Type of Membership

Regular\$55 Overseas\$65

Student\$45 Contributing.....\$100

Senior (65+)...\$50 Library\$45

\$5 discount for two year memberships and renewals

ABANA Chaper Affiliation: _____

Application may also be made at the ABANA web site:

www.abana.org

E-mail: _____

www url: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Credit Card Information

Visa Mastercard

Expiration Date: _____

Card# _____

Submit check, money order (US banks only), or by credit card:

Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.
259 Muddy Fork Road
Jonesborough, Tennessee 37659

Phone: [423-913-1022](tel:423-913-1022), Fax: [423-913-1023](tel:423-913-1023)
centraloffice@abana.org

M E M B E R S H I P A P P L I C A T I O N

Vincent Herod
Spotted Dog Forge
166 Granite Road
Paige, TX 78659-4922

