



Balcones Forge Dispatch

Vice President's Corner

January 2013



It's that busy time of year again, and a lot has happened recently, so I'm going to try to bring us all up to speed.

First up, why is the VP doing the President's Corner article, for those who haven't seen the Facebook posts and emails, Jerry and Marsha Whitley tragically lost their son Matt, a San Antonio fire fighter, during the holidays. I know that we all will be keeping them in our thoughts and prayers in this time of sorrow. I'd also ask, that if you see them at a meeting or anywhere else stop give them a hug and your support.

The January meeting(s) will be (*were*) a bit different, we'll be holding regional open forge events, so we can work on our spurs for February. Keep on reading for more details on the ones that are all ready scheduled and if you'd like to volunteer your shop please let me and Jerry Achterberg know and we'll get the word out.

The February meeting is being planned by our hosts the Lee brothers and will be on the 16th in Bryan and our contest item is spurs. These are always big events so please come out and join the fun. We will also be holding an Anvil Ring for Jerry's son Matt Whitley.

March is always a very busy month, with the Spring Break demos at Pioneer Museum and the Blue Bonnet Demo. More information on each will be coming out in the next month.

Boy there's a whole lot going on, so lets light those fires and hit it while it 's hot.

Matt Czosnek
Vice President, Balcones Forge

Next Meeting Date is Feb16



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Here is the current list of Balcones Board Members.

Jerry Achterberg
Rudy Billings, Treasurer
Matt Czosnek, Vice President
John Crouchet
Jim Elliot
George Graham
Vince Herod, Editor
Tom Lupton
Jerry Whitley, President
Laurie Wicker, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring break at Pioneer Museum the dates are March 9th, March 11-16, I believe the run time for each day is 9am-5pm, lunch is provided, more details coming soon.

Blue Bonnet Demo March 22-24, with Mark Asprey, more information in this edition.

EDITOR'S SOAPBOX

Hey folks; did you notice this edition is kinda short? I Sure could use some pictures and a report from the December meeting.

Thanks,

Vince

Dear Balcones Forge,

*Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts
and prayers during this very difficult time.*

Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Love

Jerry & Marsha

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Balcones Forge Bluebonnet Demo

featuring

MARK ASPERY



March 23-24, 2013

Marble Falls, Texas

BALCONES FORGE continues its tradition of bringing the world's most outstanding blacksmiths to Central Texas and this year we have **MARK ASPERY** for our 13th annual two-day demonstration. Mark is not only an outstanding blacksmith and demonstrator, but also an accomplished author and instructor. His first two books are excellent handbooks for fundamentals of blacksmithing and leafwork, and his third book on joinery is highly anticipated. You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn from a master such as Mark! Check out Mark's website -- www.markaspery.com

Balcones Forge will present a catered dinner Saturday night. Dinner will be followed by our famous annual **Balcones Forge Auction**. Please create items and find unused tools to donate and prepare to bid on fantastic creations and blacksmithing tools, or maybe one of Mark's latest creation!

Times: Saturday: 9:00–Noon – Morning Demo

Noon–1:00 – Lunch: *Since Marble Falls is about 20 minutes away, it is recommended to order a sandwich, chips and drink for \$6 that morning or bring a sack lunch.*

1:00–5:00 – Afternoon Demo

6:00 – Dinner -- only \$15

7:15 – If not attending the dinner, please join us at this time for the fantastic auction

Sunday: 9:00–1:00+ – Demo

Our hosts are John and Carolyn Crouchet at their beautiful Sycamore Creek Ranch. **Directions: From Austin:** Hwy 71 northwest to Hwy 281. **From San Antonio:** Hwy 281 north to Marble Falls. Cross the Colorado River into Marble Falls, count 5 stoplights and turn right (east) at Ranch Road 1431. Check your odometer and go 5.6 miles to our gate. As you head out of Marble Falls on 1431, you will notice that you are on a winding, two lane blacktop road with no shoulders. At the top of a long, winding hill, the road changes and suddenly has shoulders. Go fifty yards further -- you'll see white stripes on the roadway. Also look for the "Anvil" signs. At our gate, you will see a large oak tree to the left and a small sign to the right that says, "Sycamore Creek Ranch, 5828 East Ranch Road 1431." If the gate is open, just drive on in. If the gate is closed, then there are cattle in this pasture, so please close the gate behind you once you enter. Continue on down our driveway for one mile, crossing 4 cattle guards before you see the big metal shop on your left. Welcome! Lost? Call John at 830-798-3710.

For more info contact:

John Crouchet, 830-798-3710 or John@TexasWroughtIron.com

Jerry Achterberg 210-842-3049 or treefarm@swbell.net

Rudy Billings, 512-461-7375 or Rudy@BalconesForge.com

Hotel Accommodations:

Hampton Inn on the Lake, 704 First St., 830-798-1895

Quality Inn, 1206 Hwy 281 North, (866) 307-2224

Best Western, 1403 N Hwy 281, 830-693-5122

Hill Country Inn, 1101 Hwy 281, 830-693-3637

La Quinta Inn, 501 W. FM 2147, 830-798-2020

See the latest newsletter or website (www.BalconesForge.org) for Registration Form

DON'T FORGET YOUR SAFETY GLASSES AND CUSHION. HELP US BY REGISTERING EARLY!!!



Nimba Titan anvil won by Rudy Billings at the 2102 ABANA conference. Rudy will be donating this anvil to the auction at the Bluebonnet Demo in the Spring of 2013. Start saving now, this will have a reserve! *photos by Vince Herod*

Return Service Requested

Vincent Herod
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