



# Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

January 2018



Greetings!

Remind me to never complain about summer weather again. Hope everybody made it thru the ice, snow and whatever else the north had to throw at us.

We wish to thank the Whitleys for once again hosting the December Memorial meeting. The food was good, the auction did well, and it seemed that everybody had a good time. There were lots of folks in the forge and lots of spectators. It was a good way to close out the year.

January takes us to Sue and Randy's shop in New Berlin on January 20th. Sue always has something to show us. The trade item will be "something that starts off as a Frederick split cross, and then becomes something else, that is not a cross." This is a competition trade item, which means there is a prize for the best and you take your item back home with you. Folks tend to spend a little more time on an item if they know they are going to keep it.

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.

## Meeting Date is Jan 20

*President's message is continued on page3.*



### Officers

#### President

**Jerry Achterberg**  
treefarm@swbell.net  
210/661-3293

#### Vice-President

**Jerry Whitley**  
jerry.whitley@ymail.com  
210/288-3961

#### Treasurer

**Peter Garza**  
pgarza@gmail.com

#### Secretary

**Tim Tellander**  
ttellander@gtvc.com  
830/980-2903



### Editor

**Vince Herod**  
spotteddogforge@yahoo.com  
512/253-6045

## SECRETARY'S REPORT DEC 2017

Balcones Forge held it's 6th annual blacksmith meeting in Devine Texas at Jerry & Marsha Whitley's Rustyk forge. This event is becoming more



popular every year and Jerry indicates that the date will be moved to October starting next year. The weather was very cooperative and the Whitley hospitality still as warm & welcoming everyone just like one big family. Although we did not have a specific demonstrator, sev-

eral blacksmiths fired up a few forges and began to hammer out a few knives. Quite interesting to walk about from forge to forge observing smiths hammering out just whatever they wanted to. The opportunity, without a timetable, gave the crowd time to mingle and chat as well as renew friendships.

Jerry Achterberg, President Balcones Forge, called the meeting to order. Our next meeting will be at Sue & Randy Howeter's forge in New Berlin which is 17 miles west of Seguin, Saturday Jan 20. The address is 8105 FM 775 / Seguin, Tx 78155. Sue has suggested a competition/trade item with a Frederich cross similarity as the subject and focal point.

A special guest named Stuart Vickers personally thanked Balcones Forge for the thousand dollar donation to benefit families of the recent Sutherland Springs massacre. Mr Vickers is a counselor and coordinator that is still assisting those recovering from this despicable act. Honor and respect was paid to individuals that have passed on, and

Jerry Whitley read the names of the honorees, and Shane Tilton said a prayer which was followed by all guests and blacksmiths ringing the anvil.

Afterwards, we feasted on the delicious food that Marsha & Jerry had prepared. The ribs, brisket, numerous salads and of course a Texas favorite, pinto beans were fantastic. Thanks Jerry & Marsha for politely opening your home to so many of us.

The iron in the hat auction was next, and numerous tools and articles were on display for the silent auction. Vince Herod proceeded with the auction which netted over a thousand dollars according to Rudy Billings. Balcones Forge acquired several new members, as well.

Looking forward to visiting Sue & Randy's forge and hope everyone has a wonderful new year.

Tim Tellander  
Secretary, Balcones Forge

### **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

The Balcones Forge Newsletter is written by the editor except as noted. Balcones Forge, it's officers, members, contributors, editors and writers specifically disclaim any responsibility, or liability for any damage, or injury as a result of the use of any information published in the newsletter or demonstrated at a meeting or conference. Every effort is made to insure the accuracy and safety of information provided but the use by our members and readers of any information published herein or provided at meetings is solely at the user's own risk.

*President's messaged continued.*

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@averconsulting.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.

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.

That's it for now, hammer like you meant it. See ya'll in New Berlin

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

## **JANUARY MEETING INFORMATION**

Happy New Year to all. I hope everyone is managing to keep warm. Our January meeting is quickly approaching. We will be meeting at Randy and Sue's in New Berlin. We will have a "Competition Trade Item" at this meeting. It will be something split in the style of the Friedrich's Cross. For those that don't know, you will keep the item that you make and it will be judged against the other items entered. The best one will take a prize home. The meeting will be a week early. We will be meeting on Saturday, January 20th.

The address for the meeting in January is:

8105 FM 775, Sequin, TX 78155. (It's really in New Berlin... 17 miles west of Sequin.)

**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**

## **All-Day Demonstrations by:**

Kelly Kring and John Haskins, Brookhaven College, Dallas, 18th century meat roaster and bowl ring

Mark Ling (15 years old) assisted by Thomas Shumate. Leaves, hot cut & cupping tool.

Richard DelaHoussaye- Iron Smelt- Louisiana Metalsmiths Asso. Carencro, La.

## **Artist Gallery:**

Metals artists are welcome to participate by bringing their artwork for exhibition! Some of our exhibitors include, Ziwa Forge, K Alexander and Suraiya Howerter

## **Competition Item:**

This year's competition item is a "Champagne Cork ". Champagne corks have a distinctive shape. The cork can be any size. Start now and create your masterpiece! Enter it before noon February 17th at Steephollow Forgeworks. This friendly competition is always incredible for its varied entries. The winner will be crowned "The Best of the Best (for one year)."

When: Saturday, February 17, 2018 at 8 AM - 5 PM

Where: Steephollow Forgeworks

The Event is FREE to all attendees but book your classes before they fill up!

## **Book a Blacksmithing Class!**

The 8th annual Combo-Demo will be February 17, 2018 at Steephollow Forgeworks in Bryan, Texas. This celebration of Blacksmithing.....a combined meeting of all the clubs in Texas and Louisiana, will feature "up and comers" and old reliable smiths. This one-day event free-of-charge will also include an iron smelt, tailgating, vendors, live music, food, art displays, live and silent auctions. Come early or stay late. Artists are welcome to display, sell, or promote their work. The public is invited to come see what Blacksmithing is all about. Blacksmithing is not dead it's ALIVE at Steephollow Forgeworks February 17, 2018

An iron smelt led by Richard DelaHoussaye from Louisiana will begin on Friday with the construction of the furnace. The smelt will be scheduled to be finished by 4pm Saturday. If you would like to be involved, just let us know.

Vendors like James Johnson with Anyang Hammers will have one of his hammers available for a test drive (he is also a Chili Forge dealer) and Richard Epting- knife maker. Eptingknives.com. Also, [www.texasfarriersupply.com](http://www.texasfarriersupply.com)

There will be a large amount of used blacksmithing equipment available by dealers from Austin and Kansas. There will be dozens anvils and vices, hundreds of tongs and hardy tools, and several mechanical hammers. Forges and blowers, swage blocks and hammers.

# 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

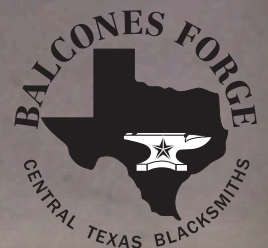
Hands-on forging WORKSHOPS:

### **“JOINERY: FORGING AND TECHNIQUES”**

featuring Brett’s recognizably distinct joinery concepts

For more information ● To register:

[www.BalconesForge.org](http://www.BalconesForge.org)





**TONGS FOR HOLDING A GRUB HOE BY JAMES HONIG**

*photos by Vince Herod*



Pictures from the December Meeting.

*by Vince Herod*



# 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](mailto: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](http://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



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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Chapter Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Application may also be made at the ABANA web site:

[www.abana.org](http://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](mailto: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

