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Blacksmiths of Central Texas

President's Corner...

October 2009

I was talking to someone the other day and was asked whether or not I had a certain type of hook. I didn't, but I quickly determined that I needed to create one and that it had potential to be a good seller if I advertise it right. While discussing design ideas for this hook with a friend, I was asked what I was going to do about other blacksmiths stealing my design. Well, being the open and idea-sharing Texas blacksmith I am, I responded that I would gladly share my idea with other smiths. Through time, blacksmiths have taught others their craft and shared ideas. It's tempting to hog potential money-making ideas, but in our organization, we are about teaching and sharing. Even if someone else uses the idea, they will normally put their own spin on it and make it their own. It's not like we're cranking out items for a big-box store (which will remain nameless). One of Balcones Forge's best examples of sharing is Mr. Charlie Stolte, who showed us how to make his fabulous hummingbird. So, when you come up with some cool idea, don't be afraid to show others how to do it. Being blacksmiths, we probably aren't sitting around thinking we're going to get rich with what we do, so...let us see your cool ideas and amaze us.

Sue Murray, President

**MEETING DATE IS OCTOBER 31
START TIME IS 9:30am**

Remember, Mapquest will get you there!

MEETING INFO

For all you up and coming knifemakers & blade-smiths:

The October meeting will be on October 31st at Johnny Stout's place near New Braunfels. Start time is 9:30. Johnny will talk about marketing your wares and show us how to use his new patterning dies for Damascus billets.

If you would like to have your Damascus billet stamped with a "West Texas wind" or a "raindrop" pattern, bring it along.

He will also show us how to add that cool looking rope pattern to the spine of your knives with just a couple of small files.

Johnny is a world famous knifemaker with a 2 - 3 year waiting list for his custom knives!

You can see Johnny's work at: www.stoutknives.com

Guadalupe Forge School of Knifemaking and Bladesmithing
1205 Forest Trail
New Braunfels, Texas 78132

TRADE ITEM

In honor of this month's meeting topic, the trade item is a knife or some type of blade.

Remember.....oh, you all know by now!!!

GO EAST, YOUNG MAN

Blacksmith Shop Dedication - Oct 24 - 10:00-5:00
Downtown Rockdale -- next to the train depot.
Come out to the newest blacksmith shop in Texas and be part of the dedication of this fantastic shop. This is a working shop - not just one to look at, so bring your hammer. Some hooks, nails and other hardware are needed to help complete the shop. Also, if you have any extra tools you would like to

donate, they would be greatly appreciated. Contact me or Bert at bldeaglerail@sbcglobal.net or 512-466-6023 for more info about this event.

Rudy Billings, Treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The September meeting was held at Bob Pheil's shop in Llano, Texas.

President Sue Murray opened the meeting with announcements of events to be held which would be of interest to blacksmiths: in New Braunfels on Nov 4th at Conservation Plaza where there will be bus loads of kids who will be interested in getting a sample nail or hook (if anyone is interested in volunteering to demonstrate they can show up, hammer in hand); in Rockdale on Oct 24th at 9AM there will be a dedication of the new forge at the old train depot, there will be food and drinks, bring your hammer. October's meeting will be at Johnny Stout's knife shop, directions are in the newsletter, he said to bring some Damascus billet and he will show you how to texture it. November and December's meetings will be held in mid month to avoid the end of the month holiday celebrations. During the October meeting there will be the annual election of officers, all positions are slated to be vacated by their current office holders and new officers need to be elected.

Jerry Acterberg showed us how they made an adjustable stock stand out of a large nut, sawed in half, a length of all thread and a base stand, which could be made of anything, which would serve as a stable platform. If you are drilling or sawing the end of a long piece, the end not being worked on needs to be supported so you can have both hands free to adjust the piece and operate the tool. This is usually done with a support, the height of which is adjusted by loosening and then tightening a setscrew affixed to the larger of two pieces, which slide, one inside the other. The stock stand that Jerry showed us had a base, a support made of all thread and a nut welded between the jaws of a spring clamp and then sawn in half. When you open the clamp, the halves of the nut separate,

as each one is welded to one of the jaws of the clamp. The all thread, which passes freely through a clearance hole in the top of the stand, has a small platform on the end of it to support the work piece. It is held in place by clamping the split nut onto the all thread at the top of the support. It seems to be fairly effective and very quick to adjust.

Bob Pheil showed us his anvil attached to a trailer receiver hitch, which he can affix to his worktable in just a few seconds. The receiver is welded to the underside of the edge of the table and the hitch is bolted to the anvil. If it is in the way, he just pulls the hitch pin and slips the anvil off of the table. Very handy. He also showed us how he makes his signature c-scrolls he uses on the furniture he makes as well as how to make a heavy collar with sharp corners.

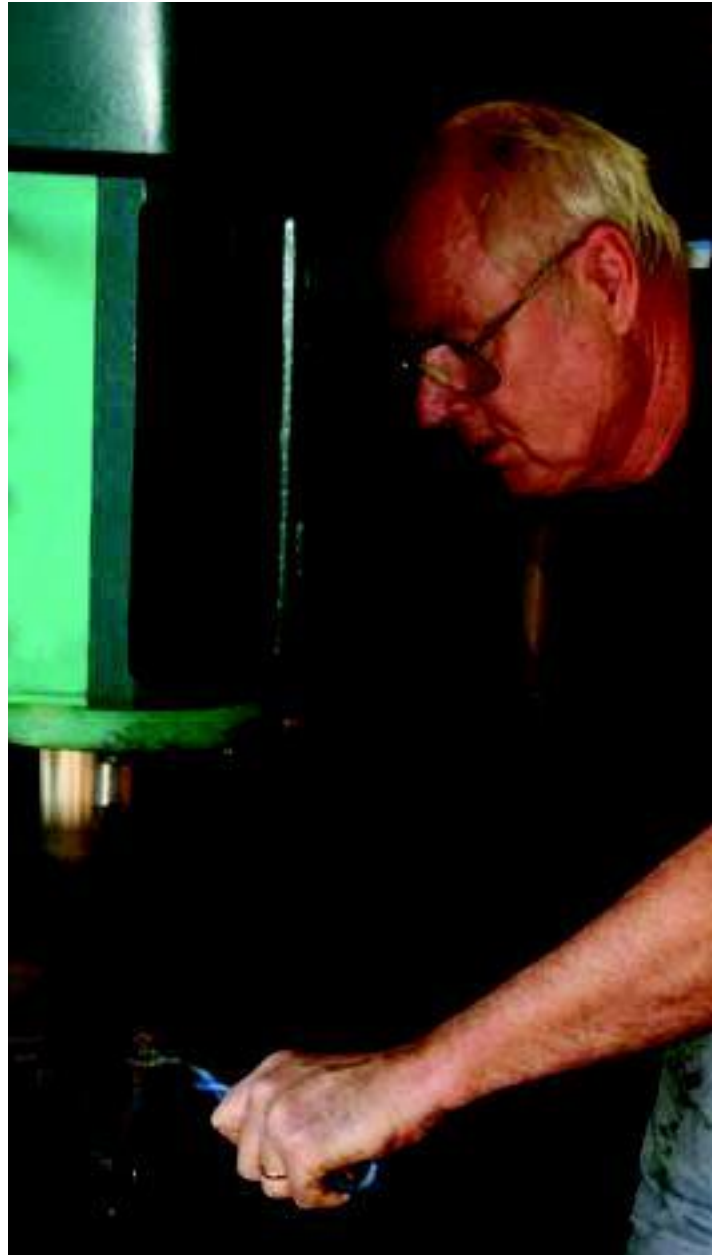
Mary Jo Emrick demonstrated tig welding and showed how to weld stainless and aluminum. She emphasized the necessity of cleaning them prior to welding to avoid pitting and bubbling of the weld puddle.

Larry Crawford finished the demonstration by showing us how to accurately locate points on a bar that are to be pierced by drifting to accept a tennon. He made a tennon on the end of a bar and demonstrated squaring the shoulder with a monkey prior to inserting it into the drifted hold. He finished by heating the end of the tennon which protruded through the bar and riveting it in place producing an attractive faceted rivet face.

There were only two trade items offered this month. Folks, I know we can do better than this, there is a lot of talent in this group and this is a good opportunity to show your expertise and get something in return as well. Let's try to make a better showing at the next meeting when we have a trade item.

Tom Lupton
Secretary, Balcones Forge

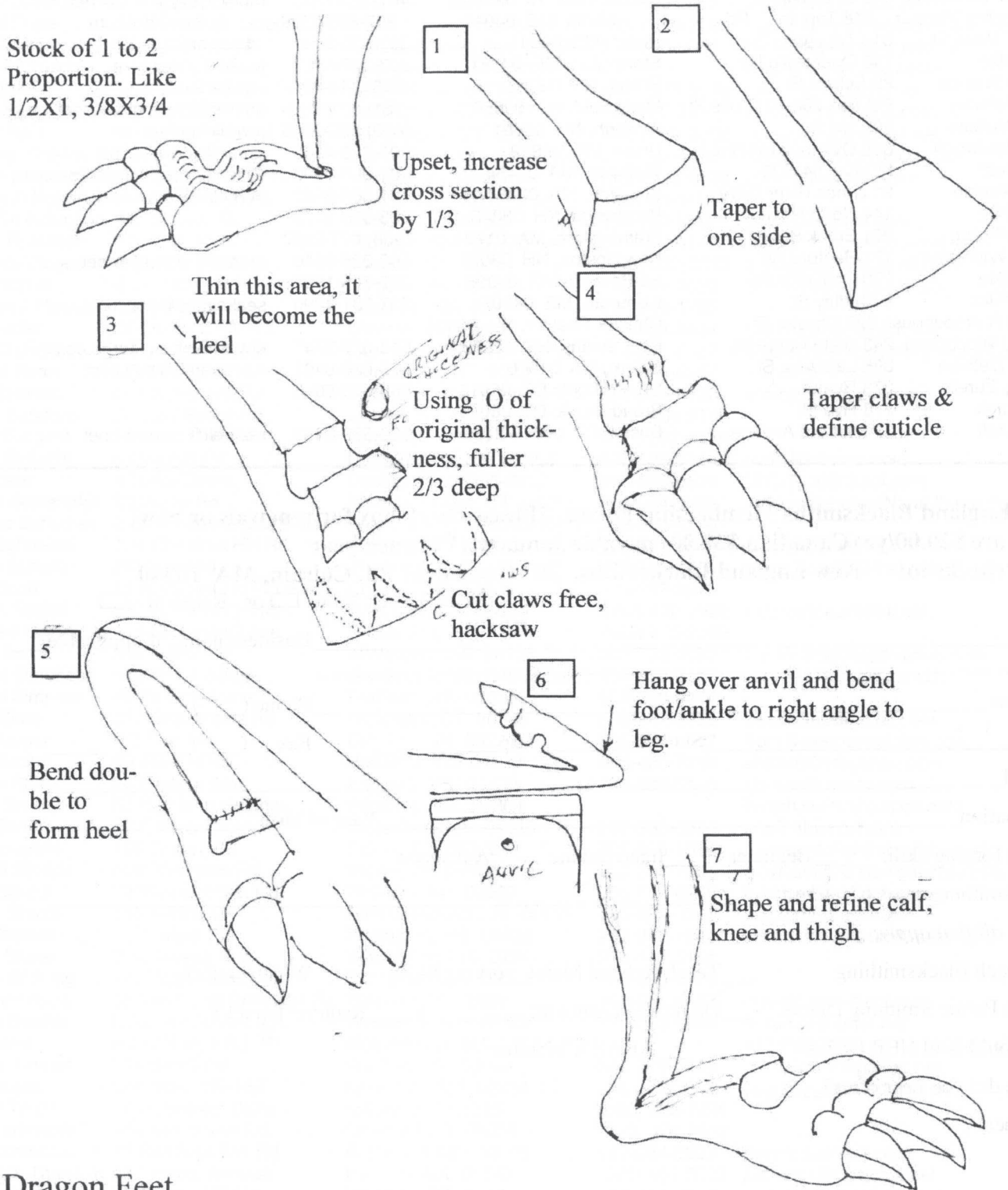
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Bob Pheil at the air hammer during his demo at the September meeting.

The feet of the Dragon

You've seen lots of dragon head "how to's" but what about the feet?



Dragon Feet

Adapted from Mississippi Forge Council

Demo'ed at South County Museum

March 23, 2002

FWM

ABANA Conference News

Shelley Thomas added as Demonstrator & Camping Arrangements Finalized

October 2009 - Vol. 1 Issue 3

The 2010 ABANA Conference Committee is pleased to announce the addition of Shelley Thomas as a 2010 conference demonstrator. This addition demonstrator rounds out the conference demonstrator list.

Demonstrator List Addition:

Shelley Thomas - who regularly demonstrates at the Kew Bridge Steam Museum, London, UK, will round out the international demonstrator list for the conference.

You can check out her work at her web site: www.shelleythomas.co.uk

On hearing this announcement, member Paul Casey said:

"I visited Shelly a couple years ago at her shop and admire her work. Good choice! Her work is a bit of whimsy, a bit of fun and the craftsmanship to back it up. Exactly the infusion of energy we all need now. Bravo!"

On-Site Camping:

Camping Arrangements have been finalized. Requests should be directed to the Agricenter RV Park Manager Mark Hoggard at 901-757-7777 ext 7200. All campsites have water and electric @ \$20 per night, if someone would want sewer and or 50 amps service the cost is \$ 30 per night. However there is a dump station on site.

Gallery Open to Public
"Green Coal" Forges
Memphis Style Banquet
Top Demonstrators
Tailgate Heaven
Vendors for the Craft
Lectures & Workshops

"We will preserve a meaningful bond with the past. We will serve the needs of the present, and we will forge a bridge to the future. Function and creativity is our purpose. Our task is great and so is our joy."

Dimitri Gerakaris, 1973



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**Agricenter  
International**

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**Memphis
Tennessee**

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**June 2-5 2010**  
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Log on ABANA.org website and sign-up for Constant Contact emails, email address in the box at the bottom of the home page, click on "Get ABANA Email". You will receive periodic ABANA 2010 Conference News.

The ABANA 2010 Conference will be held at the Agricenter International in Memphis, TN. Located at 7777

Walnut Grove Road, from I-240, on the east side of Memphis, take Exit 13 and drive east on Walnut Grove Road approximately 4.2 miles to Farm Road and turn south, go .1 mile.

ABANA AFFILIATE LIAISON LETTER

To ABANA Affiliates and Affiliate Members,

Bruce Woodward resigned from the Board on November 22 due to personal reasons. Bruce had this letter all but done when he stepped down. Out of respect for his service to ABANA and the hard work he has put forth I have only made minor additions to this. Please join me in thanking Bruce for his enthusiastic service to the ABANA Board. I will be taking over his Affiliate responsibilities. My contact info is as follows:

Peyton Anderson
peyton@abana.org
434-390-6203

The 2010 ABANA Conference

The ABANA Conference next year is first priority in the thoughts and actions of everyone at ABANA. Our great country and most of the world is in the middle of the worst recession since the great depression of the 1930's. Unemployment has hit unbelievable numbers and people have stopped spending money in an effort to survive. And that includes many blacksmiths and unfortunately many of their customers. But blacksmiths can adapt to their situations. What they can't buy, they make. What they can't make, they modify. And that is what the Conference Committee is doing so the conference will fit the times and be a success despite the fickle economy. The Committee is doing everything possible to keep the registration cost and other expenses such as food and lodging as low as possible (car/tent camping and RV hookups permitted) etc. See ABANA's web site under Latest News for the most up to date information as we get closer to June 2010. There is also a blog where you can express your thoughts as well which can also be viewed through the website. Also attached to this letter is the registration form. No better way to get the conference juices flowing than early registration!

Affiliates and affiliate members can also help ABANA keep the cost down so the blacksmithing community can have a successful event at a low cost to blacksmiths by directly sponsoring one of the Conference venues or demonstrators. Contact Lance Davis (lance@bentoaks.org) or Paul Boulay (pboulay@earthlink.net). Several Affiliates have stepped up to sponsor parts of the conference already. Take a look at the demonstrator list. Are any of the demonstrators in your area? If so, why not show your support for them by sponsoring them!

ABANA Conference Demonstrators

Joe Anderson: forged kitchen ware and sculpture.
Mark Aspery: tool -making.
Gerald Boggs: teaching station.
Dan Boone: dragon's heads.
Dan and Judy Boone: round table discussion on how to market their wares.
Phil Cox: mechanical and air hammers use and rebuilding.
Dan Nauman: repousse.
Darryl Nelson: forging animal heads.
Steve Parker: power hammer tools and forging.
Tom Latante and the Meticulous Metalsmiths: forging a lock.
Mark Aspery: run the Green Coal teaching station with Darryl Nelson and Gerald Boggs.
Amit Har-Lev and Tsur Sadan (of Israel): team forging

ABANA Conference Volunteers

Conferences take a lot of labor. People to set up and tear down the demo sites, people to be there during the demo, and many other chores. ABANA also needs experienced area managers who can take charge and get the job done efficiently and well done using the volunteer help available. And for a successful conference many volunteers will be needed. Smiths and affiliates throughout the region are urged to contact the ABANA 2010 Volunteer Coordinator, Ken Preiser (ph: 931-393-1610, email: kpreiser@charter.net).

ABANA Conference Ring Projects

Calling all blacksmiths and metalsmiths. ABANA is sponsoring three different ring projects at the Conference. The themes are: Mississippi River, Memphis Music and Metal Museum. Each theme frame will hold four rings. After the selected rings are installed in their frame they will be auctioned with 50% of sale price returned to the donor. Rings not used with the frames will also be auctioned under the same terms. See ABANA's web site for details (http://www.abana.org/membership/conference/Ring_Page.shtml)

IRON 2010 Exhibit

Congratulations to the selected artist-blacksmiths for the Metal Museum's exhibit of contemporary blacksmithing. See the Metal Museum's web site.

New ABANA Board of Directors Member

Jack Parks from Piedmont, SD is one of the founders of Dakota Artist Blacksmith Association. Jack has been a practicing smith for over twenty years. Welcome on Board, Jack.

Warmest Regards to all!
Forge On!
Peyton Anderson
Affiliate Rep.

MEMBER INSURANCE PROGRAM NOTICE!

Open Enrollment October 1st - October 31st
Now is the time to make any changes to your current benefit package and/or enroll in any benefits available to you as a member of ABANA.

The annual Open Enrollment for member insurance program is now open! We want to make sure that you understand the program coverages you automatically qualify for, you can sign up for one product or as many as fit your needs.

As an ABANA member you can sign up for any of

the types of insurance, Dental, Vision for example. You are not obligated to sign up for the Select Medical Benefit Plan. You get the choice of coverages to sign up for.

October 31st 2009 is the open enrollment closing date for your Open Enrollment. So why not call today and select only the coverage products you need.

Remember the next opening for plan enrollment will be fall of 2010.

Check out the the affordable Vision and Dental plan!

As an ABANA member, you have already received the outline of these benefits via USPS mail and email. For your convenience, all enrollments will be done over the phone. In your letter, you will find a toll free number to call for further information. All enrollments will be completed with a "voice stamp" authorization. That means no filling out application forms and no waiting for acceptance.

New ABANA members may apply for the coverage in the first 60 days following the initial membership in ABANA.

ABANA is pleased to announce that we have made arrangements for our members to participate in a healthcare insurance program being offered by Transamerica Life Insurance Company and Ameritas Group for the Insurance Plans.

Providing Select Medical Benefit Plan for ALL of Our Members

Guaranteed Acceptance

Call (866) 893-1167

*Open Enrollment

October 1st to October 31st, 2009



Return Service Requested

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