

# *The Anvil's Horn*

A Publication of the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association

Issue No. 193      July 2018



*Mokumè Gane billet made by Bill Stuart during his demonstration at the Bar-U-Bar ranch on May 19, 2018.*

# President's Message

Well it's finally getting warm for those of us in the hot parts of the state. I hope you are keeping cool and well hydrated during your forging endeavors. I heard we had a great demo at Barry's this past month. I unfortunately was not able to make it, but it sounds like there was a lot of fun including a hammer throw where Steve Miller's son David won after his first time attending a demo and on his birthday too.

On another note, we've had some long time board members who will be stepping down from some very crucial positions. Len Ledet will be stepping away from the Treasurer position, and Beatrice Perret will be taking over this in the coming months. Terry Porter who has been the club's Secretary for many years, will also be stepping back. We do need help in filling this position, so please let me or Terry know if you are interested in helping in this role.

An issue that has been brought to our attention recently is the matter of the security of personal information. In the past, one newsletter a year included the names and contact info for our entire membership base in a roster. It included their addresses as well. In today's world this information in the wrong hands is a dangerous tool so as a board, we have agreed to eliminate the street address from the roster. There's more info in this newsletter on this change.

In some recent conversations with some mentors, a common theme came up. Take the extra time and finish your project the right way the first time. Sometimes we are excited or stressed to get a project done maybe because we are nearing the finish line or we want to get it to a customer. It's these times when you make mistakes or skip a step that may be critical in finishing the project the correct way. By stepping back and slowing down, sometimes even taking a break from the project, you can think more clearly and you take those extra few minutes to do it right. Of course this not only applies to blacksmithing or knifemaking, but to all aspects of life. And if you know the saying, "Do as I say, not as I do" this would apply here for sure. I may be preaching to myself as much as anyone else. That's my little words of wisdom for now!

We've got a great demo coming up in Flagstaff on July 28 where there will be some fun hands on events with Cathi Borthwick at the NAU sculpture studio! I hope to see you all there.

Keep on forging!

*Jason LaBrash*

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Material submitted for publication in the Anvil's Horn may be edited or rejected by the editor. Material submitted must be your own work, not plagiarized. By submitting material, you agree to allow AABA to edit, print, or post on the AABA website. You also give permission for the material to be reprinted by other blacksmith publications (i.e. publications of ABANA and of ABANA affiliates). **Copyright.** The creator may retain copyright for the work. If we publish a copyrighted item, consent of the copyright holder will be obtained before publication. **Graphics.** High-contrast, high-resolution digital picture files and original drawings are preferred, but we can work with lower-contrast, lower-resolution graphics.

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# Demonstration: Saturday, July 28, 2018

Sculpture Studio, Northern Arizona University  
Flagstaff, AZ

## Doing the Splits

Demonstrator: Cathi Borthwick

The July demo is a chance for you to learn something new, show off your skills, and have fun experimenting with new techniques and projects. The demo will emphasize one of blacksmithing's basic techniques - hot splitting steel. Cathi Borthwick will show the basics of the technique and how it can be used in both practical and decorative ways. Then it is your chance to compete and to play. First, there will be a contest with three options. You can choose to make a BBQ fork, a Christoph Frederich split cross, or a creative project of your choice which utilizes hot splitting. Winners will be chosen in each category based on accuracy of forging for the fork and cross, and most creative for the open project. But there will also be a chance for a prize for just participating so give it a go! After the contest is over, there will be open forge and time to play. Try out some of the other projects that utilize splitting or come up with your own idea.

Plan on staying over. The Flagstaff demo was always a time to hang out and get a little crazy as the night wore on. Brian Painter has invited us to stick around the NAU studio and play into the evening. Dinner will be available if there is sufficient interest so let Cathi know if you are planning on sticking around (email her at [flag\\_forge@earthlink.net](mailto:flag_forge@earthlink.net) or text 928-890-9609).

- Please bring your own hand tools - hammers, files, tongs, and a good hot cut chisel, if you have them.
- Registration begins at 8:00 AM, the demonstration starts at 9:00 AM.
- Registration fee:
  - \$15 for members
  - \$20 for non-members
- Lunch will be on your own. There are several good eating places near the NAU campus.
- Tailgating is encouraged. Tailgaters, please consider donating to Iron-in-the-Hat.
- Bring things for Iron-In-the-Hat and Show-and-Tell.  
Don't forget to put your name on anything you bring for Show-and-Tell.

Thanks to the efforts of our own Denise Edwards and other AABA members, the Botanical Blacksmiths Show at the Arboretum at Flagstaff is growing. When planning your trip to Flagstaff, be sure to include at least a couple of hours to go out to the Arboretum and see some of the pieces your friends submitted for the show. Admission is \$10.00 for an adult. More information at: <http://www.thearb.org>

### Remember Iron in the Hat

Thanks to all of you who have participated in Iron in the Hat. By purchasing tickets and donating items, you help support AABA events and projects. Items for donation can be a tool, piece of art, something you made specifically for iron in the hat, something you don't need in your shop, a great book, a t-shirt, a hat ... something an AABA member would enjoy.

### Directions to the NAU Sculpture Studio Flagstaff, AZ

- North on I-17
- Exit McConnell Dr (First exit north of I-40)
- Right on McConnell Dr
- Right on Pine Knoll Dr
- Right into Parking Lot for Facility Services (Marked "Parking" at the east side of the map on page 4)
- The Sculpture Studio is building 84 (yellow arrow) on the map.

**As always, safety glasses are required in the demonstration area.**

Hearing protection, closed-toe shoes, and long clothes of natural fibers are highly recommended.

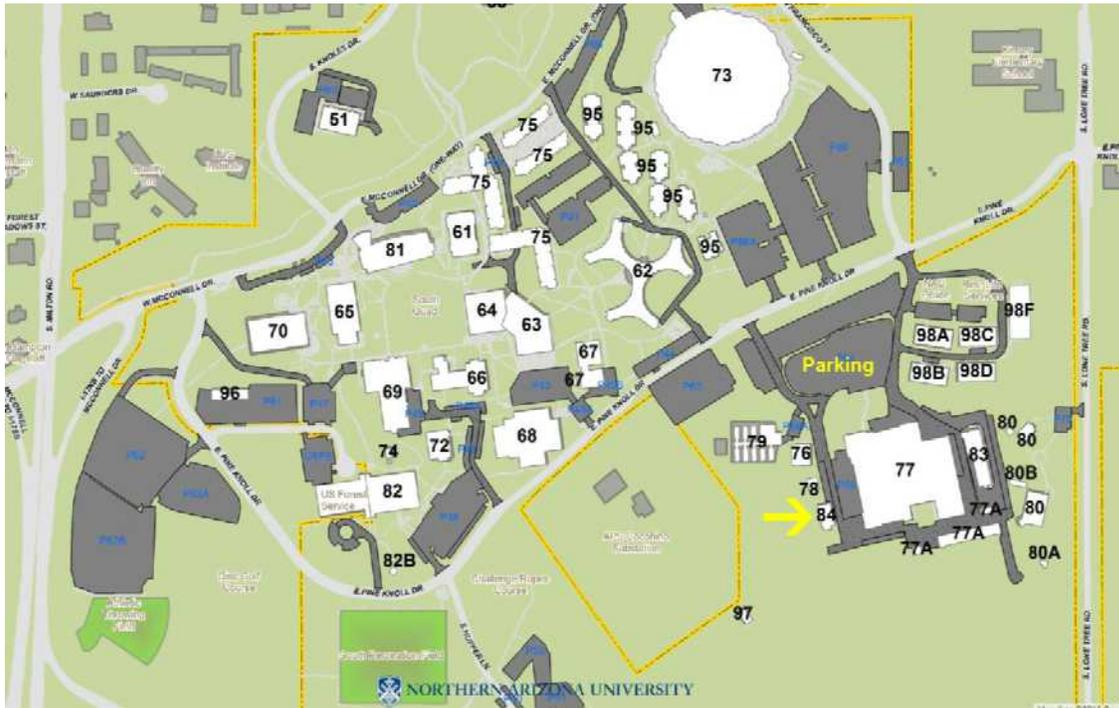
# Our July Demonstrator

Cathi Borthwick

Cathi Borthwick has been forging and running her business, Flag Forge, since 1982. She has demonstrated blacksmithing at the local, state, and national levels, is a past president of AABA, and the 2015 recipient of the Callaway Award. For 20 years, she hosted the Flagstaff hammer-in but is happy now to play at someone else's forge.



*Some of the things Cathi will be demonstrating, and some things that you could be working on at the July demo.*



# Coming Attractions

**June 1, 2018 - September 30, 2018**

Botanical Blacksmiths Show at the Arboretum at Flagstaff. More information at <http://www.thearb.org/calendarofevents/>

**September 15, 2018, Saturday**

AABA demonstration with Tom Willoughby at Bill & Karen Morris' home in Camp Verde

**December 2, 2018, Sunday**

AABA Annual Banquet and Auction, Sahauo Ranch, Glendale, AZ

**January 24 - 26, 2019, Friday - Sunday**

Winterfest-II at the Pima County Fairgrounds in Tucson.

# May Demo Report

Steve Miller

*(photos by Bill Ganoe unless noted otherwise)*

Bill Stuart did an outstanding demo on Damascus patterning and Mokume Gane at the Bar U Bar Ranch. A heart felt thank you and gratitude to our gracious hosts, Barry and Laurel Denton. It is always a pleasure to visit the Bar U Bar and this was no exception. Laurel continues to exceed expectations with a delicious and plentiful lunch. An fun game of tossing the hammer in the horse pail was part of the lunch time entertainment with the cash prize split between a first time attendee, David Miller, and DJ. Iron in the Hat followed with some impressive pieces.

Bill started the demo with a block of layered gray and white clay implementing a Damascus stack up. He used the anvil and hand hammer just as he would the actual steel to show hammer technique and pattern formation. By using clay he was able to demonstrate over a dozen patterns all before noon. Be sure to see the pictures below. After the lunch break, Bill demonstrated Mokume Gane, a technique for Damascus with non-ferrous metals, by forge welding a \$5 stack of quarters and shared his tips to keep the quarters stacked, yet not sticking to the holding fixture. Bill showed it was quite simple and the workshop the following day would prove that is was fairly easy to accomplish. Perhaps the most amazing aspect was that there was no laborious cleaning of the metals required. We're not quite sure why the quarters weld so easily when used right out of your pocket or coin purse, but it works. If using

purchased non-ferrous metals, they definetley need to be clean.

The workshop on Sunday morning was equally impressive and fun. The workshop was filled and everyone made successful billets. There were some anomalies that popped up and we saw first hand how to correct them. It was an energetic and exciting morning. The forge welding and drawing out was much simpler than I expected. Now the hard part: should I make from the billet or leave as is?

Changes to programming for future demos was discussed in the board meeting Saturday evening before dinner. The board voted to add a Teaching Tent element to our demos for those not particularly interested in the demonstration but interested in learning some hands-on blacksmithing techniques. This is for beginner to intermediate levels and for all ages - an ideal setup for a family that wants to come out for a shared blacksmithing event. The details are being worked out, and we may get going by the September demo. Check the website for updates or consult the Anvil's Horn. There is a lot to do to get this going like building forges, gathering tools and anvils, providing a shaded work area, etc. Much help will be needed to get this going and maintained. Everyone is qualified and the more that help the lighter the work for all. If you can lend a helping hand with the Teaching Tent Committee, please contact the 1st Vice-President, Steve Miller. See the inside cover of the Anvil's Horn for contact info.



*Our May demo was held at the Bar-U-Bar ranch in the Skull Valley area near Prescott.*



*Our hosts, Laurel and Barry Denton*

# May Demo Report (cont.)



*Bill Stuart had no trouble keeping peoples' attention.*



*Making a leaf: cut the stack diagonally, then weld the pieces together in the correct orientation.*



*San mai: hard steel for a good edge sandwiched between two pieces of pattern welded steel.*



*Some of the many pattern examples Bill Stuart demonstrated.*



*Examples of Bill Stuart's finished work from his shop.*



*The hammer toss after lunch*

## May Demo Report (cont.)



*A stack of quarters held in a welded cage in preparation for forge welding the coins.*



*The coin stack in the forge.  
(Photo by Steve Miller.)*



*A successfully welded coin stack ready to be flattened and developing the visual pattern.*



*The participants in the Sunday morning Mokumè Gane workshop  
(Photo by Steve Miller.)*



*Show-and-Tell:  
Ira Wiesenfeld*



*Show and Tell:  
Mo Hamburger*



*Show and Tell:  
Roger LaBrash*



*Show and Tell:  
Jim Schremp*

# Botanical Blacksmiths

at the  
**Tucson Botanical Gardens**

Bill Ganoe  
*(Photos by Bill Ganoe)*

Botanical forms are getting a lot of attention from artist blacksmiths and from the public these days. The latest show featuring work by members of the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association opened at the Tucson Botanical Gardens in April of this year and ran through the end of May. This show was spearheaded by Ira Wiesenfeld. We would like to thank the Tucson Botanical Gardens for hosting this show. Ira hopes this will be the beginning of an annual tradition, and he would like to encourage our members to start thinking about pieces that would work well in future shows. The photos below are a sample of the pieces on display this year.

Don't forget that several of our members, some who showed in Tucson and some who didn't, will have pieces at the Arboretum at Flagstaff this summer, from June 4 through September 30. A visit to the Arboretum could be a good excuse to escape the summer heat for a while.



*We had pieces set up all around the Tucson Botanical Gardens.*



*Desert Pond  
Ira Wiesenfeld*



*Blossoms and Butterflies  
Sam Rivera*



*Calle Lily  
Roger LaBrash*

**Botanical Blacksmiths**  
at the  
**Tucson Botanical Gardens (Cont.)**



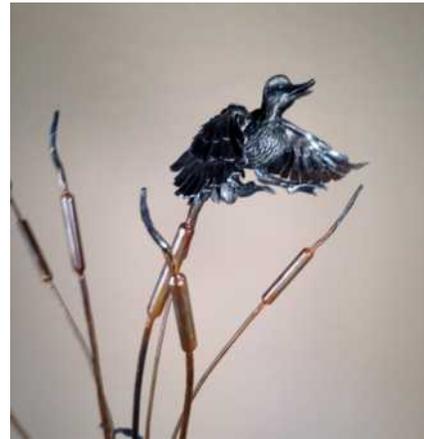
*Arizona Grasses*  
Cathi Borthwick



*Hummingbird Trellis (detail)*  
Jim Dunning



*Bud Grass*  
Paul Diefenderfer



*Heading South*  
Jerry W. Harris



*Rain Tree*  
Cathi Borthwick



*Lilybird and Catpads*  
Jon de Masi and Beverly Greene

## Calendar 2018

July 28, 2018	Demo/Forging Contest/Open Forge	NAU Campus	Flagstaff
Sep 15, 2018	Demo - Tom Willoughby	Bill & Karen Morris' home	Camp Verde
Dec. 2, 2018	AABA Annual Banquet and Auction	Sahuaro Ranch	Glendale
Jan 24 - 26, 2019	Winterfest-II	Pima County Fairgrounds	Tucson

### AABA is Recruiting a New Secretary

"While I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Secretary for the AABA, this is my tenth year, and I think it's time to pass the torch. The main technical requirement is knowledge of Excel, Word and PayPal. I have proposed that we have an Assistant Secretary as backup to the Secretary. I am willing to stay on as Assistant Secretary. If interested please e-mail me at [secretary@azblacksmiths.org](mailto:secretary@azblacksmiths.org), and I can send you more detail. Starting the training during this year end would be valuable. Thank you, Terry Porter"

### Sahuaro Ranch in Glendale

The blacksmith shop at Sahuaro Ranch was destroyed by fire on September 25. That shop has been around since the 1880s. At press time, we still don't have access to the original site. Things like school demonstrations are still going on, but they are off of the original site, and demonstrators still have to bring their own equipment and pop-ups. Repair days will be scheduled as soon as we get access. Keep watching future issues of *The Anvil's Horn* for more details.

Plans are underway to rebuild the shop and make it as historically accurate as possible. If anyone has pictures of the original building, those pictures could be useful in the rebuilding process. Call Steve Miller at 602-989-6505 if you can contribute or loan some old photographs.

### Deadline for the September 2018 issue

August 1, 2018 is the deadline submitting photos and articles for the September issue of the *Anvil's Horn*.

Send articles, pictures, etc. by email to:  
[editor@azblacksmiths.org](mailto:editor@azblacksmiths.org)

or by regular mail to:

Bill Ganoe, PO Box 40233, Tucson, AZ 85717

### New Members

Jeremy Ellis	Mesa, AZ
Rachel Gonzalez	Phoenix, AZ
Wayne Wilson	Surprise, AZ
Jilian Wereb	Tucson, AZ
Jean McBee	Tucson, AZ
Ken Riemersma	Tucson, AZ

### Classes at Pieh Tool Beginning/Intermediate Blacksmithing

• Beginning/Intermediate blacksmithing classes with Dylan Cook

September 21-23, 2018

October 12-14, 2018

Registration is \$550.

Students will make several simple projects to take home.

• Knifemaking class with Master Bladesmith, Ray Rybar

September 28-30, 2018

November 2-4, 2018

Registration is \$550.00.

Students will make one knife.

For more details call 888-743-4866 or browse to [www.piehtoolco.com](http://www.piehtoolco.com).

### MCC Blacksmithing & Welding

The Mesa Community College blacksmithing program is an excellent deal - over 60 hours of instruction including material and propane! Classes are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings with instructor Dan Jennings and on Saturdays with instructor Jaime Escobedo. Blacksmithing is WLD103.

TIG, MIG, Arc, Gas, and Art classes are all available, as is certification in any of those welding methods at Mesa Community College, Southern and Dobson in Mesa.

Classes fill up early, but waiting lists may be available. For more information go to:  
[www.mesacc.edu](http://www.mesacc.edu)

# AABA Website: [www.azblacksmiths.org](http://www.azblacksmiths.org)

## Open Forge: Tucson

The Open Forges schedule for Tucson is on hold for the summer and will restart on Saturday October 6, 2018. Check the September 2018 Anvil's Horn for more details.

## Open Forge: Grizzly Iron

Don't have a power hammer? Use one at Grizzly Iron, 1329 W. Lincoln St., Phoenix, 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM one Wednesday each month (July 18 and August 8) during the summer. \$20 each night. Contact Rodger "Grizz" LaBrash at 602-716-9660 or [grizz@grizzlyiron.com](mailto:grizz@grizzlyiron.com) if you have any questions.

## If You Are Attending An Open Forge...

You might not be aware but this, but these events are not funded by the AABA . They are hosted by our members for all of our benefit. So if you participate in forging ,welding, use shop materials, or accidentally damaged something. Please offer do donate to help out or help with the cost of replacing a item. Thank you! From all of your open forge hosts. **You will need to wear safety glasses. Hearing protection is recommended.**

## Open Forge: Desert Rat Forge (Phoenix area)

Paul Diefenderfer is in the process of moving, and it is not certain when he will be able to restart the open forges at the new location for the Desert Rat Forge. He hopes to be able to restart in September, but that is still up in the are at press time.

## AABA Privacy Policy

The AABA board has recognized that the security of our members personal information in the form of home addresses needs protection and has established to following policy. AABA will no longer publish members home addresses in the yearly roster nor will officer home addresses be published in each newsletter. AABA will publish name, city or town, phone, and email contact information available to members unless requested otherwise upon written notification to the secretary. Mailing addresses are still needed for mailing the Anvil's Horn and will be kept confidential. Officer contact information will be restricted to phone or email as desired by each officer that is published in each edition of the Anvil's Horn. The board is addressing the issue of officer home addresses available online in the Anvil's Horn past editions.

## AABA Membership

Benefits for members include:

- Member discounts at vendors around the state: See page 18 of this issue for more details.
- Reduced registration fees at demonstrations and workshops
- A one year subscription to the bi-monthly newsletter, *The Anvil's Horn*
- Connection to members throughout the state who can answer questions and give advice
- Free classified ads in the *Anvil's Horn* and on the AABA web site.
- eMail notices when event details change or new events are scheduled on short notice.

### AABA New Member and Membership Renewal Form

Name _____	
Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not publish
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	
Phone (home) _____ (mobile) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not publish
Email _____	
Professional blacksmith _____ Hobbyist _____ Farrier _____ Blade smith _____	
Your main blacksmithing interest _____	
Occupation or skill _____	
Please check one:	Mail to: Terry Porter
Regular membership (\$35) _____	2310 E. Melrose St.
Family membership (\$40) _____	Gilbert, AZ 85297
<b>Make Check Payable to AABA</b>	

# Blacksmithing and Belly Dancers

Shawn Chakravarty

*(Photos by Shawn Chakravarty)*

One wouldn't expect it. But setting up a blacksmithing demonstration in a parking lot of a water park will attract belly dancers. True story.

The first Saturday of March and the first Saturday of April blacksmiths from AABA attended the Thieves Market at Big Surf in Tempe. A wide variety of vendors were in attendance - from leather workers to antiques dealers. My wife showed up and went crazy with the handmade artisanal jewelry (much to the dismay of our checking account).

Stationed in a prime location at the end of the first row and right off Hayden Road were three anvils and three forges. Early in the morning team strikers did their best to make noise and draw in a crowd. Before anyone realized it, there was an audience perched on the benches we brought out. They didn't know what we were making (WE didn't know what we were making at first!), but the rhythm of the sledges was hypnotic.

Through the day the kukri (a Nepalese knife) we were working on was taking shape while young boys and girls stepped up to test their hand at a guided demo. They had grins on their faces as they made bottle openers, butterflies, or keychains - all with the assistance of a blacksmith to guide their hammer strikes. Shoppers browsed the metal art and were stunned that the steel roses were scented. Many

visitors to the booth walked away with a handmade treasure or a schedule for upcoming events. There were even people signing up for classes on site.

As the day warmed up a bit we found the lemonade stand on site and rehydrated ourselves for another round of hammering. Visitors (both other vendors and customers) would repeatedly return to see our progress at the demo.

In between heats we could hear music in the distance. Occasionally there was a flare of colored fabric and a flash of skin in rhythm with the music. Hair would toss around and a hip would snap to one side. It was a school for belly dancers a few booths away. Soon thereafter a few of the ladies (and a guy) from the school wandered over to investigate all the noise we were making. They walked through the tables of metal wares and selected some pieces. Who knew that Damascus steel bracelets were the perfect complement to traditional middle eastern dresses (and dancing)? Apparently these ladies did, because they all seemed to want them.

The Thieves Market has shut down for the summer. It will return the first week of October. If any smiths are interested in seeing this spectacle of dancing and metal working, please contact Jason LaBrash for details.



**Mark your calendars!  
Save the dates!  
AABA WINTERFEST-II**



**PIMA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
JAN. 24-26, 2019 TUCSON, AZ**



**CAMPING • FULL RV SITES • BANQUET • GALLERY • DEMONSTRATORS  
PEER COMPETITION • SILENT AUCTION • STUDENT REVIEW**

**DEMONSTRATORS**

**Peter Sevin • Patrick Quinn • Monica Coyne  
Rachel David • Mo Hamburger**



**WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS: [AZ BLACKSMITHS. ORG](http://AZBLACKSMITHS.ORG)**



## Classes at AABA Members' Shops

### Grizzly Iron

1329 W. Lincoln St., Phoenix, AZ

#### Belt Grinder Workshop

Saturday, October 6, 2018 through Monday, October 8, 2018

Build your own 2" x 72" belt grinder with a 2 hp motor and variable speed drive. The design will accept a variety of attachments such as a platen, different diameter contact wheels, or small wheels. The design allows for the grinder to rotate from vertical to horizontal. The base is also incorporated into the design so there is no need to take up space on your workbench. The class includes the flat platen attachment but we will show you how you can make the other attachments or you can purchase them from us if you'd like.

This will be a 3 day workshop where we build all the grinders together. You will have a chance to participate in building each part of the grinder but you may end up focusing on one aspect more than others. It is helpful if you know how to weld (we use MIG welders for this project) but it is not necessary and you may even have the opportunity to improve your skills with someone giving you a few pointers.

Class includes all of the materials for the grinder and one platen attachment. The grinder, when finished, will require 220v single phase power. This class is limited to 8 students. \$1,850.

#### Knife Making for Beginners

Saturday, October 27 through Sunday, October 28, 2018

Learn the basics of forging a knife under the instruction of Rodger LaBrash. You'll go through the processes of forging, grinding, heat treating, and handling the blade. All materials will be provided. \$325 This class is full at press time, but there may be some cancellations between now and October.

For more information about these classes or to register call Roger or Jason at 602-716-9660 or email [jason@grizzlyiron.com](mailto:jason@grizzlyiron.com). Other classes may be listed at: <http://grizzlyiron.com/classes-and-workshops>

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### Words of Wisdom from Peter Ross

by Albin Drzewianowski

There is a new blacksmith club forming at Jerusalem Mill, historical site, in Kingsville, Maryland (near Belair). "They had a Hammer-Down" (sic) on Saturday, 8 October. It was a really nice small event, maybe 20 attendees. The featured demonstrator was Peter Ross, of Colonial Williamsburg fame. One of the things he said has had me thinking. Peter said that "*the use of short cuts curtails skill development.*" e.g. knowing it is there and using the belt sander in your blacksmith shop leads you to being sloppy about hammering out a round taper for a punch because you know you can clean it up with the belt sander. Peter maintains with good hammer skills, you can round up the taper with the hammer faster than it takes to go over and use the belt sander. Plus now you have the skill for when a belt sander is not available.

*Reprinted from Hammer Notes, the newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Smith's Association, Fall 2016*

# Slitting Tips

Background Reading for  
Cathi Borthwick's Demonstration in July.

## Shop Tips

By: Jon McCarty

One of the greatest things about our organization is the number of skilled smiths willing to share their knowledge. I am lucky enough to be related to one such smith. Pat McCarty has taught me any things over the years. One lesson I use often is a method of hot cutting or splitting. Below are some tips I picked up from Pat as well as classes I have taken to help make your hot cuts quick, clean and straight.

To start with, you need a properly ground hot cut chisel. You want a gentle curve to the cutting edge and good sharp corners. You want your cutting edge to have a thin cross section as well.

Next you need to have your work piece held firmly on your anvil. You don't want to waste time or energy chasing a part around or having it jump off onto the floor or onto you.

Stand where you can cut towards you, this keeps the chisel from blocking your view. You want to see both sides of your work piece. This will help keep your cut straight. For longer pieces I stand at the heel of the anvil and keep the piece along the center of my anvil.

When splitting, cut almost completely thru your piece before using your cut plate. This will help keep your cut cleaner and it will take less time to cut your slit.

Check the edge of your chisel and keep it cool. Quench it often, keep a can of water close to quench in.

A 1/4" mild steel cut plate can make a cleaner cut than aluminum but is harder on the chisel edge, particularly if the chisel is not properly heat treated.

Center punch to mark the start of your cut.

1: Set the corner of your chisel into your punch mark.

2: Drive your chisel in 1/8" and rock it towards you. Driving it in as you go.

3: once the corner closest to you is down 1/8"

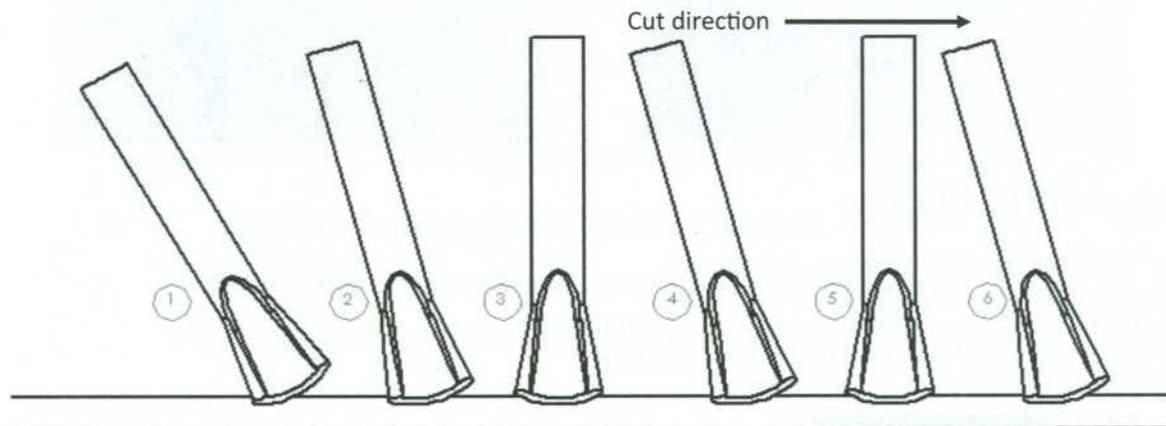
4: Pull the leading 1/4 of your chisel. This is where it gets easy to mess up. If you try to bite more than 1/4 of your chisel then your chisel will wobble. Take small bites and if you started straight you will stay straight.

5,6,7: repeat only using the leading 1/4 of your chisel.

Once you have your first pass made at least 1/8" deep your golden, you have a good line to follow so drive it home. Just remember to take your time on the first pass and take small bites.

I hope some of you find this helpful.

Jon



*Reprinted from the newsletter of the Blacksmith Association of Missouri  
March/April 2017*

# The Blacksmith's Project Book

Antonello Rizzo

Published in 2018 by Artisan Ideas

Hardcover, 248 pages, over 900 color photos

Reviewed by Ira Wiesenfeld, DVM

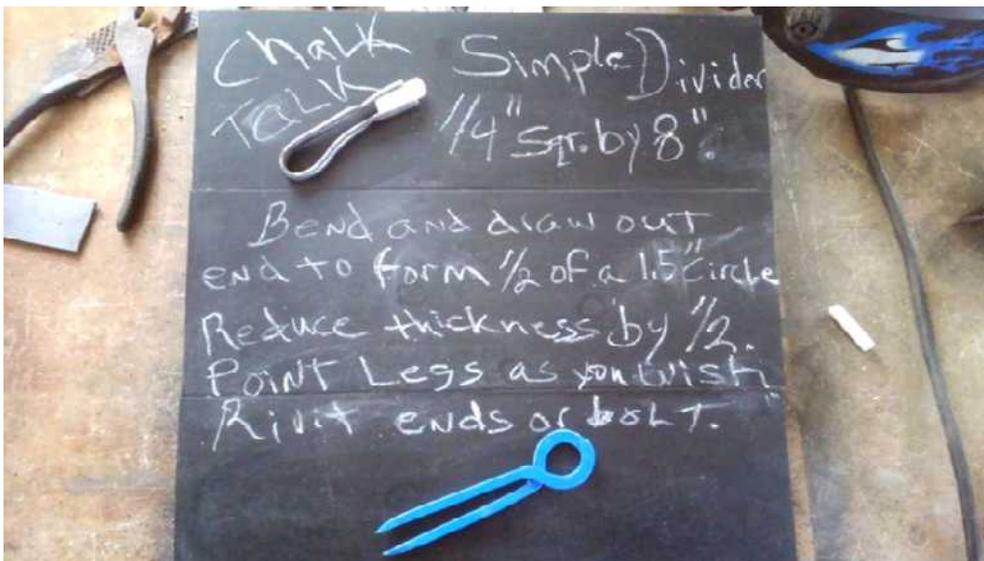
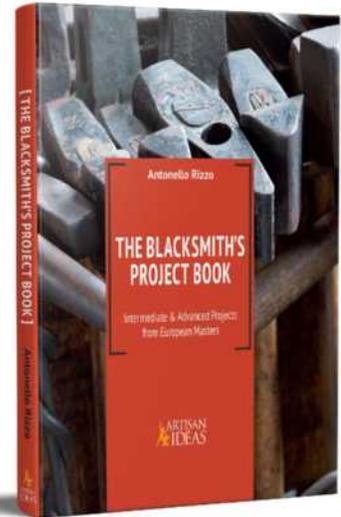
This book contains 21 chapters, each a detailed text and picture description of a piece or process done by mostly Italian smiths. It's a continuation of the author's previous book, Contemporary Italian Blacksmiths (2015). He has also written several other blacksmithing books.

The projects described are quite varied. I think that any smith, with the exception of a bladesmith, would find helpful information, either as a guide to the items made, or in the techniques used to make them. It has several chapters on figurative sculpture, including forging a hand, a full figure, faces and a horsehead. There are functional pieces: a doorknocker, harp, quill pen trophy, a machete-like billhook (the only blade in the book), shutter stop, and a necklace. Interestingly, there's a chapter on Mokumè, done differently than in our recent demo in May 2018. Also some other metalworking techniques are shown, such as damascening, metallic fusion (melting brass into steel), patination and polishing stainless steel.

The book has over 900 high quality, step by step photos of the projects described, with descriptions of what is being illustrated. Unfortunately, in many of

these pictures, the smith is wearing neither eye or ear protection.

When reading The Blacksmith's Project Book, had I not been intending to write a review, I would have skipped many chapters. This would have been a mistake, for even though I wasn't interested in making the article being demonstrated, the techniques used were of interest generally or useful to forge something I do want to make. And a few of the projects shown will be made in my shop in the near future. Perhaps this book would be more help to the serious beginning or intermediate smith, but I believe the advanced smith would also see new ways to forge, and new designs to be forged.



Chalk Talk by Joe Madrid



# Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America

ABANA is widely recognized as the preeminent organization of blacksmithing in the world. Visit us online at [www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org) and like us on Facebook and Twitter. Join or renew your membership at: [www.abana.org/membership](http://www.abana.org/membership)

Blacksmithing, the cornerstone of all crafts for centuries, has come back to life. Once rendered nearly obsolete by the Industrial Revolution and 20th Century technology, this ancient craft has undergone a contemporary renaissance. A new appreciation of the honest, enduring qualities of forged metal has developed.

At the heart of this revival has been the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc., a non-profit educational association dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge about the art and craft. Started by a handful of isolated blacksmiths in Georgia in 1973, ABANA now serves nearly 4,000 members.

As part of your Membership Benefits you will receive 4 issues of the Anvil's Ring and 4 issues of the Hammer's Blow Magazine each year you are a member. These magazines can not be subscribed separately but are only received by our members. We have recently added a youth membership at a reduced rate, this membership available to those 18 or under includes a subscription to only the Hammer's Blow magazine.

## ABANA New and Renewed Membership Form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
 for renewals, if known. (Not required)

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/PC: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

New

Renewal    Type \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVVS \_\_\_\_\_  
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**ABANA Affiliate:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit card orders can be faxed, be sure to sign this form. Fax: 423-913-1023  
 Mail to: ABANA, 259 Muddy Fork Rd, Jonesborough, TN 37659 USA  
 (Please pay by Check, U.S. Money Order or Credit Card)  
 Phone: 423-913-1022 or join online at [www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org)

Membership Rates		
Type	1 yr	2 yr
<b>Regular</b>	<b>55.00</b>	<b>105.00</b>
Senior	50.00	95.00
Foreign	65.00	125.00
Student(Full Time)	45.00	85.00
Youth (18 and Under)	20.00	
<small>(Hammer's Blow Only - Non Voting Member)</small>		
Contributory	150.00 and UP	
Educational Institute	250.00	

*The Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association is an affiliate of the Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America.*

# Classifieds

Classified ads are free to members and can be submitted by email to: editor@azblacksmiths.org. Ads will run for 3 issues. You can renew your ad if you need to run it after the third issue. Please let the editor know when you no longer need to run the ad.

**Will buy your unwanted** blacksmith or horseshoeing tools and supplies.

Barry Denton, 928-442-3290 any day before 7:00 pm.

**Bituminous Coal from the King Coal Mine in Colorado.**

Burns great! \$30 for 50 pounds Pick up near Tanque Verde and Houghton in Tucson. Casey Abbs, 520-869-8778

**Wanted to Buy: Acorn Table**

I am looking for an acorn table. I would prefer a 5' x 5' but I am flexible. Please email [dhallikainen@gmail.com](mailto:dhallikainen@gmail.com) if you have one available. I am located in Phoenix, but willing to drive.

**For Sale**

Titanium Tongs - All sizes and shapes, 50 pairs. Get them while they last. \$100 per pair. Bernhard Heer, 715-205-8786

**Big Blu 65 Power Hammer**

Like new! \$5,000 Mint condition. Used twice. Works perfectly. Comes with 2 sets of dies and a credit to Big Blu for another set of dies of your choosing.

60 Gallon Quincy Compressor - \$750.

Our shop is located in Phoenix, but we are willing to work out a deal to deliver. Please contact Michaela at 623-208-9358 or [mjayde@cox.net](mailto:mjayde@cox.net)

**Saltfork Craftsmen Swage Blocks**

We are offering these swage blocks to AABA members for \$300 each and have six to sell. They are made of high quality cast iron. Weight is about 65 lbs.

First come-first serve. Cash and pickup only at Dragonforge. Some cleanup is needed. They are being sold as-is. We anticipate them moving fast. Call Michael at 480.529.0206.

**Bulk Coal Order**

Dragonforge Ironworks is considering another bulk coal order from the King Coal Mine in Colorado. Last time we got 25 tons of really good forging coal. If interested please email Michael Sobrado at [dragonforge1@cox.net](mailto:dragonforge1@cox.net)

Please only request quantities in 1 Ton increments. Smaller quantities will not be eligible for the Bulk Discount. Last time out the shipping cost more than the coal. I will order when we have enough interest to make this worthwhile. Deposits will be required prior to ordering.

**Marketing Assistance**

Blacksmith's Wife Marketing provides marketing and promotional services, in both digital and print, to the metal working community. Also providing website design and consulting services. Contact April Witzke at (575) 313-4650.

## Advantages of AABA Membership

IMS has offered AABA members two great opportunities. Thanks to members Doug Kluender and Wade Smith for the idea and contacts with IMS.

1) IMS has space for member metal work to be put on display in a glass case and on top of the cut metal rack inside the store. Contact Steve Miller, [stevemiller.az@cox.net](mailto:stevemiller.az@cox.net), to get your items on display. These items may be for show only or they may be offered for sale. Artists are responsible for any financial exchange. IMS will make a nice card to identify the piece, the artist, and the cost.

2) IMS is offering a 10% discount to AABA members. The discount is available at the Phoenix and Tucson stores. You need to establish an account at IMS. It's free. No credit approval is needed. You can pay with cash. Give the staff your account name whenever you buy something, then request the education discount as an AABA member. If questioned, inform the clerk that they should have an AABA member list behind the counter.

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Don't forget that AABA members get discount pricing at the Vern Lewis Welding Supply stores in the Phoenix area.

# Classifieds

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## For Sale

- 1 each Nazel 2b forging hammer, complete with motor, oiler, and dies. \$15,000.00
- 1 each Acorn platens 5ft. X 5ft. \$2,250.00
- 1 each portable shop coal forge 3 1/2 ft. X 3 1/2 ft. with hood, and mounted on a skid. \$475.00.
- 1 each single phase Miller 300 amp tig/stick welding machine with foot control, tig torch, stick leads. No bottle or flow meter. \$650.00
- 1 each single phase P&H tig/stick welding machine, with foot control. No leads. No flow meter, No bottle, just the power source, and the foot control. \$350.00

- 1 each 7 1/2 hp. gas drive air compressor with 10-gallon tank, on wheels, with regulator. \$400.00.
- 1 each Cincinnati/Greeves horizontal/vertical milling machine, with 10 inch X 54-inch table, and some tooling. The table has power all directions. 3 phase. \$1,850.00.

Included in the price of each item is loading onto your truck/ trailer.

I can possibly make local curb side deliveries for an additional fee.

All these items are located in Goodyear Arizona.

I can be reached at [jaegermax@msn.com](mailto:jaegermax@msn.com)

## Picture Rock

**Arizona Sierra Banded Sandstone** makes the perfect base for all your forged iron pieces. Awards, plaques, memorials, water features, furniture or anything you can imagine.

Mined in northeastern Arizona, cut and shaped to your specifications.

Terry Horne  
52196 W. Quail Run Rd.  
Maricopa, AZ 85139  
602-672-7085

[www.arrowzonastoneworks.com](http://www.arrowzonastoneworks.com)

## For Sale

Tippman Aerostitch industrial sewing machine. Runs on compressed air. Asking \$1000.00  
See YouTube video at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-xIfTc0tps>  
If interested, send email to:  
[Dosgatosforge1@gmail.com](mailto:Dosgatosforge1@gmail.com)

## Sources

### AZ Tool Steel

520 S. 52nd Street #201  
Tempe, Arizona 85281  
Phone: 480-784-1600  
Toll Free: 877-795-1600

### Bar U Bar Supply

Several 65 lb. & 85 lb. swage blocks for sale. Your source for anvils, post vises, and other new & used blacksmith tools.

Barry Denton. ph 928-442-3290  
email: [barubarranch@gmail.com](mailto:barubarranch@gmail.com)  
[www.barubar.com](http://www.barubar.com)

### General Insulation

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3330 W Papago Street, Suite A  
Phoenix, AZ 85009  
Phone: 602-944-2249  
Toll-Free: (844) 866-1680

### IMS

Full service supplier of steel, stainless, brass, aluminum, copper. Discounts for AABA members. (See details on pg. 18.)  
5150 S. 48th St., Phoenix  
602-454-1500  
3757 E. Columbia St., Tucson  
520-441-5900

### Interstate Steel and Salvage

Specializing in Steel, Aluminum, Stainless Steel, Brass, Copper and some alloyed metals of all types, sizes and shapes. Cutting, Shearing and advanced Flow water jet cutting for all your project needs. Valley wide delivery. Let us quote your next large or small job!  
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602-944-2000

### Old Globe Reclaimed Wood Co.

Wrought iron.  
PO Box 42101, Plymouth, MN 55442  
715-718-4410 or 952-463-8392 (c)  
<http://www.oldglobewood.com>  
Discounts for ABANA members.

### Pieh Tool Company, Inc.

Blacksmith Supplies, Blacksmith Classes with Gordon Williams, Milwaukee, Wilton & JET Tools., Air Hammers, Hand Hammers, Tongs, Books, Coal and Coke.  
661 Howards Road, Suite J,  
Camp Verde, AZ, 928-554-0700  
and  
28255 N Tatum Blvd. Suite 1  
Cave Creek, AZ, 480-626-0924  
[www.piehtoolco.com](http://www.piehtoolco.com)

### Say-Mak Power Hammers

Helmut Hillenkamp  
2873A Industrial Rd.  
Santa Fe, NM 87507  
[www.saymakhammers.com](http://www.saymakhammers.com)

### Superior Steel Stamp Co.

Specializes in manufacturing high quality precision marking dies and hand stamps for all yours needs, from leather to stainless, and all precious metals in between. Call for a free quote! 216-431-6460  
Superior Steel Stamp Co.  
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### Tucson Iron and Metal

Steel, aluminum, stainless, copper and brass for sale by the pound. Open Monday - Friday 8 - 4:30. Also 1st and 3rd Saturdays 6:30 - 8 am. specifically for metal artists.  
690 E. 36th St., Tucson  
520-884-1554

### Vern Lewis Welding Supply

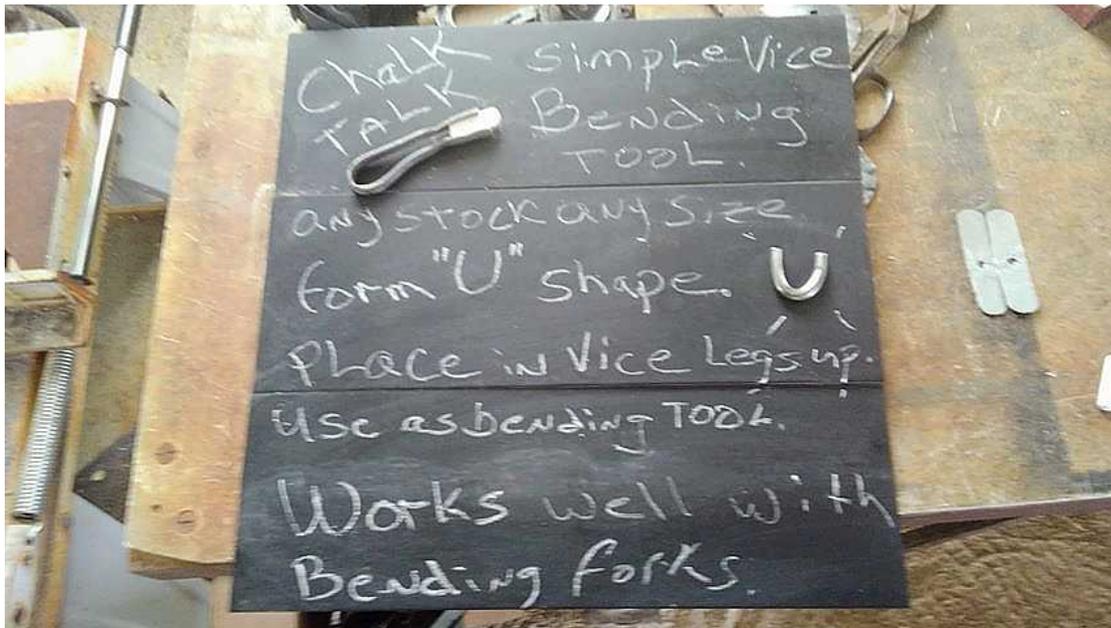
Discount pricing for AABA members. Various locations in the Phoenix area.  
602-252-0341  
Dan, 602-316-4140, for tech support.

Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association  
Attn: Bill Ganoe  
P.O. Box 40233  
Tucson, AZ 85717  
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For membership information or address change, contact: Terry Porter, 2310 E. Melrose St., Gilbert, AZ 85297, 480-988-2070, [trp555@prodigy.net](mailto:trp555@prodigy.net)



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