

The Anvil's Horn

A Publication of the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association

Issue No. 224, September 2023



*The table created by Dylan Cook
at our
July demo in Flagstaff*

President's Message

Hello Blacksmiths,

Wow, what an incredible summer it has been. I missed out on the outrageously high temps in Phoenix. My apologies to those that had to endure it, but I know some of you were soaking it up. I spent 6 weeks in Johnstown, PA at the Center for Metal Arts. Pat Quinn taught the first 4 weeks and Matt Jenkins the last 2. The weather was supposed to be hot and humid, instead it was really pleasant, but you don't want to hear about that.

We began with some basics:

- 2 and 4-sided tapers, 1 and 2-sided shoulders on square stock
- Punching holes in flat and square bar
- Repeated the above on the power hammer

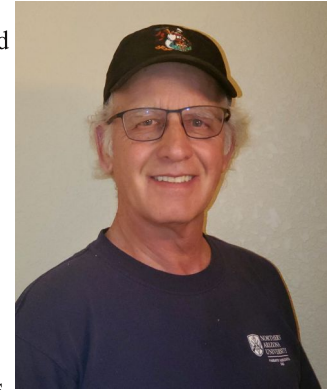
Then used those techniques for more advanced yet simple items

- Made a unique forged hook and mounting bracket
- Made hand tools (chisels, punches (center, round, & square)
- Learned how to make a rhombus (which is easy), a different method to correct a rhombus, and how to avoid making a rhombus in the first place when drawing out stock
- Made a cross-pein hammer and a soft faced hammer for striking hand tools
- Made flat and V-Bit tongs (V-bits were unique and from the industrial revolution times. Pat has several large pairs left in the building he purchased that shut down in 1992 and had operated since the mid 1800s

• Built a deadman stand

• Developed a unique blacksmith product for production and made several iterations for improvements. Mine was a collapsible campfire fork with different cooking attachments and an integrated bottle opener.

I'll be writing a series of articles on the specifics of several topics from the class in following editions of the Anvil's Horn. If anyone is interested in applying to CMA for the Forging Focus class, I highly recommend it. The tuition and housing are covered by grants that Pat Quinn secures. I'd also be happy to discuss the details of what it was like and what you can expect. It was an intense class no doubt, with a limited timeframe. It helped propel me toward by ultimate goal of becoming a professional full-time blacksmith.



See you around the forge,

Steve Miller

Contents

3	September Demo & Workshop Announcement	14-15	The Pencil vs the Hammer
4	September Demonstrator's Bio	16	Book Review - The Home Blacksmith
4	Mark Aspery class in October	17	ABANA Information
5-6	July Demo Report	17	ABANA 2024 Conference
7	Winterfest VI - announcement and jobs list	17	ABANA Website: Smiths to Remember
8-9	What's Up With the Botanical Blacksmiths	17	ABANA Membership Drawing
10-11	Calendar and other AABA news	18	Members' ads
12	Forging Through Time event in October	19	Sources for tools and materials
13	Members Gallery - Brian Hughes	19	AABA Membership Form

AABA OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Steve Miller, Scottsdale, AZ, 602-989-6505, stevemiller.az@cox.net
First VP:	Richard Rozinski, Gilbert, AZ, 602-803-7255, neongod52@gmail.com
Second VP:	David Goodman, Mesa, AZ, 480.620.2744, ironrhinoforge@gmail.com
Secretary:	Jacie Cotterell, Mesa, AZ, 480-319-3522, redfrontforge@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Ali Merriman, Cornville, AZ, 612-385-5981, highwaystar1340@aol.com
Web Master:	Paul Diefenderfer, Cave Creek, AZ, 602-509-1543, dief@phoenixrockgym.com
Librarian:	Jay Griffin, Peoria, AZ,, 623-349-1422, jay.griffin@rtznj.com
Editor:	Bill Ganoe, Tucson, AZ, 520-326-5478, editor@azblacksmiths.org
Directors:	Dylan Cook, Bill Ganoe, Rich Greenwood, Ivan Hill, Jason LaBrash, Len Ledet, Joe Madrid, Terry Porter, Sam Rivera, Peter Sevin, Ira Wiesenfeld

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 need to be obtained before republication. **Graphics.** High-contrast, high-resolution digital picture files and original drawings are preferred, but we can work with lower-contrast, lower-resolution graphics.

The Anvil's Horn is printed by Sundance Press, Tucson, AZ

The Anvil's Horn is created with Scribus 1.4.8

Demonstration: Saturday, September 16, 2023

Workshop: Sunday, September 17, 2023

Dead Horse Ranch State Park

Cottonwood, AZ

Demonstrator: George Witzke

For our September demonstration, George Witzke will forge a 3-piece sign bracket using a variety of traditional, fundamental blacksmith techniques including upsets, tapers, hot splits, scrolls, and hot punched and drifted holes. The pieces will be joined using both riveting and mortise and tenon joinery. George will demonstrate a variety of decorative twist styles that can be incorporated into any of the pieces.

- Registration begins at 8:00 AM, the demonstration starts at 9:00 AM.
- Registration fee:
 - \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members
- Dead Horse Ranch State Park has a \$7.00 entrance fee that gets you a pass for the entire day. Tell the people at the gate that you are with AABA and they should give you a free pass for the day. If not, AABA will reimburse you.
- Lunch is on your own. There are several good eating spots in Cottonwood.
- Tailgating is encouraged. Tailgaters, please consider donating to Iron in the Hat.
- Bring things for Iron-In-the-Hat and Show-and-Tell.

Be sure to put your name on anything you bring for Show-and-Tell.

- There are a few camping spots and cabins at Dead Horse Ranch State Park. Call Richard Rozinski at **602-803-7255** to check on current availability.
- The George Witzke workshop on Sunday is \$100.

This workshop will give students hands-on experience with the techniques that George demonstrates on Saturday. The workshop project demands that students possess established hammer control.

All materials and equipment will be provided. **Bring your own safety gear.**

Contact Richard Rozinski at **602-803-7255** or rrozinski@me.com to register.

Tailgate Opportunity: George is preparing to downsize his production blacksmith shop to a more intimate home shop. That means he'll be selling off some equipment. What can be easily trailered will be brought to the September demo to be tailgated. There is a partial list on page 4 of stuff George plans to bring.



The President's Project for September is a pair of kitchen tongs. There are many styles and you may choose your favorite or make up a new one. They could be for salad, cooking, serving, etc. Here's a few examples.

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 Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Cottonwood, AZ

- I-17 to AZ 260 at Camp Verde
- AZ 260 west to AZ 89a in Cottonwood.
- Turn left on AZ 89a to S. Main St. in Cottonwood. AZ 89a turns left at this junction. Go straight ahead on Main.
- Follow Main St. to 10th St.
- Turn right on 10th St. and follow 10th about 3/4 mi. to the Dead Horse Ranch entrance on your right. Follow the signs to the AABA demo area.

Safety glasses are always required in the demonstration area.

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

Our September Demonstrator: George Witzke

Artist blacksmith, George Witzke (wit-ski) has been a professional blacksmith creating hand-forged ironwork since 1994. His journey started with a three day beginner's class taught by Gordon Williams of Zion Blacksmith School. Once bitten with the blacksmith bug, George progressed from a hobby smith into a full-time blacksmith in just a few years. His career advanced from participating in local craft shows to selling at high-end art and crafts shows then on to exclusively crafting custom work.

In 2010, when the economy turned, he switched his focus to galleries and shops. Then, in 2015, he was invited by Gordon, his mentor and blacksmith partner, to build and man a public demonstration shop just outside of the east entrance to Zion National Park in Utah. A shop was built and he and Gordon gave demonstrations and sold their production line of ironwork in local retail shops.

Through that experience, George realized how many people have a desire to play with fire. Thus, a new chapter to his blacksmith career began and the business, Blacksmith Adventures, was born. It's a cross between a blacksmith school and adventure

tour company providing 15 minute to half-day long experiences at the forge. He currently operates out of two locations. The Kanab, Utah shop operates during the Spring and Fall while the Silverton, Colorado location is open through the summer.

Though he no longer accepts custom commissions, in his years as a smith, George Witzke has created a diverse array of beautiful and complex iron work for both residential and commercial properties. Most notably, he worked with Gordon to create the railing at the Grand Canyon's Mather Point Amphitheater.

A biography of George can't be complete without mentioning his wife, April, who has partnered with him on the business side of blacksmithing since 1997. Together, they have made a living creating and selling ironwork.



Some photos taken as George made the example sign bracket for our September demo.

Partial list of stuff George Witzke plans to bring for his tailgate setup at Deadhorse Ranchi:

- 4x8 Arclight Plasma table with Hypertherm Plasma torch, engraver, and Sign Slapper program.
- 4x8 steel layout table
- 3 different product tumblers for clean-up
- Grizzly Industrial band saw
- Wood and metal product display boxes
- Ironworker Industrial sheer
- Anvils
- Forges, both coal and propane
- Vices and Swage blocks
- Hand tools
- Pfaff Industrial Sewing Machine
- Used Forge- Aprons
- And more!!!

Mark Aspery Class October 10 - 14, 2023 Jerome, AZ

The National Curriculum class taught by Mark Aspery will return to Jerome, AZ on Oct 10 thru 14. We will focus on the Level II grill. No matter if you made the first class or not, you can jump in depending on your experience. Contact Steve at stevemiller.az@cox.net or 602-989-6505 to discuss and sign up. The cost will be similar to last yr at approximately \$500 for the 5 days, it mostly depends on how many sign up.

July Demo Report

Wally Warnke

Photos by Wally Warnke unless otherwise noted.

Our July 2023 demo was held on July 15 at the Sculpture Studio at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. Dylan Cook was the demonstrator.

Dylan built legs for an end table of simple design where the top is clamped between parallel bars on the legs. The design is simple, but executing mortise and tenon joints and upsets on 3/4" solid bar may not be the easiest thing you've ever done. The demo was really well focused on the three joinery techniques involved: punching holes, forming 1/2" tenons on 3/4" bars, and both flat and round upsets on the ends of the bars.

Upsetting the ends was done both by pounding the bar on a heavy steel plate on the floor and with a striker. The trick to a good upset without a lot of bending is to keep the heat short, around one inch. That's easy if you heat the work piece with a rosebud, but it requires multiple heats and careful quenching if you heat the bar in a forge. For the round upsets on the foot end of the bar Dylan had a swage block with a small round dimple.

Tenons were done with a Smithin' Magician (home built guillotine fuller). Dylan stressed some subtle but important points with that tool. Marking off 1/2" on the end of 3/4" bar will make a 1/2" tenon long enough to go through and 3/4" bar and have enough material to rivet over. Start with the butcher dies, and use them carefully. Keep the bar parallel with the floor and square with the tooling. Butcher evenly starting off square, then taking the corners off to octagonal and finally to round. Then go to plain flat dies to round down the tenon. Again, square, octagon, round. And finish up with a 1/2" round tenon die.

That die can be made from a set of flat dies with a 1/2" hole drilled through the seam. As a final step

square up and upset the shoulder a bit with a monkey tool. Lay the monkey tool on the anvil, rotate the stock to keep the shoulder straight, strike rapidly but not necessarily hard.

For punching holes, Dylan's sequence was to mark, slot punch, upset to open the punched hole, and drift to half inch. He used a 3/4" slot made from sucker rod. For each hole Dylan center-punched marks 3/4" inch apart, centered on the bar, on both sides. Put the marks where you want the top and bottom edges of the holes to end up. In this case 1 3/8" between the top two holes. The layout picture shows the spacing and mark locations. On the first heat make a nice careful mark each side. Punch through from both sides on subsequent heats. You can keep punching down to black heat in order to shear the little biscuit out of the center.

Next step is to upset the hole roughly round. The trick is to keep the heat localized to the punched area, either by heating with a rosebud or by carefully quenching a forge heat. If the hole starts going lopsided it can be straightened out by alternately striking over the far and near sides of the anvil, rotating 180 degrees between strikes. Finally take a good heat and drive a 1/2" round punch through from both sides.

Assembly involved heating the tenons with a rosebud and riveting over in a vise. Concentrate heat on the bottom half and shoulder of the tenon. That part needs to spread and lock into the mortise. On the second side, the cold base of the tenon is buried in the bar before you start heating. Take several heats on the tenon pausing a little between each one to let the heat sink in before hammering over the end.

I didn't stay for Dylan's workshop on Sunday, so I can't report on that aspect of the weekend.

July demo notes from Terry Porter

- * This was all done with heavy material, but Dylan didn't use a power hammer.
- * The picture of the table is an example. He was making a similar table and going to use a skateboard for a top.
- * The guillotine had dies set up to make specific tenons instead of using flat dies and trying to get an acceptable tenon.
- * Dylan used that heavy round plate as a "floor Anvil" to upset the ends of the bars.

July Demo Report (Continued)

Photos by Wally Warnke unless otherwise noted.



Dylan Cook (l.) and Mike Riemer upsetting the round end of a leg using a swage block.



Dylan Cook creating a rivet head on one of the tenons.



The plans that Dylan worked from. (Photo by Richard Rozinski.)



Legs punched, upset, and ready for assembly.



Dylan's guillotine with dies for making the tenons. (photo by Terry Porter)

Notes from Cathi Borthwick

When upsetting, keep the heat confined to the area you want to upset. The most straightforward way to make the upset is to hold the metal piece upright and then slam it down onto a steel block making sure to keep the metal as upright as possible and to rotate it with each hit. If you want a flat end to the upset, use a flat steel block. To get a rounded end, use a concave indentation on a swage block. If there is any unevenness in the upset it can be cleaned up with a hammer on the anvil.

Dylan also passed along a tip he got from Megan Crowley about tape measures - not all tape measures are the same so use the same one for measuring the

elements in a project. If you start by hammering on the rivet holding the end of the tape measure you'll eliminate the wiggle that sometimes occurs and alters the measurement.

Dylan also said that he uses round stock for the crossbars on his table legs so it doesn't mar the wood. I would also pass along the value of this type of leg as a woodworker friend once told me that the best design would not have you attaching the table legs directly to the wood table top. At least in AZ, the wood will swell and contract with the seasons and weather and so the table will often be wobbly. If you can get away with not attaching the wood directly then you eliminate this problem.



Winterfest 2024

January 18-20, 2024
Sculpture Tucson, Tucson, AZ

It's hard to believe next year's conference will be its 6th year. It keeps getting better and better with something new every year. In order to maintain the quality conference, you have grown to know we need your help. So, the Winterfest committee is forming now. We'll start having face to face meetings at a food venue to be determined. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm. Below is a list of managers we need to make this happen. Hoping you will join us for some fun and fellowship along with a little bit of work. Please let your Winterfest Co-chairs, Steve (stevemiller.az@cox.net) or Richard (rrozinski@me.com), know which area(s) you would like to manage.

- Marketing/Advertising – 1 to 2 People 9 months to 2 wks prior to conference
Develop and manage advertising or the conference
- Buy cake, snacks, & utensils several days prior to and the day of the conference
- Printing – 1 Person prior to the conference
Print gallery labels & Auction forms
- Refill propane tanks – 2 people several days prior to the conference
- Setup Education Tent
Unload Education Trailer
- Pickup steel for demonstrator projects, education tent, forging contest
- Clean shop – 2 to 3 people the day before the conference
- Table setup – 4 to 6 People 1 day before the conference
Setup tables in the tent for seating, displays, TV monitor,
- Setup bench seating in Barn – 1 to 2 People the day prior to the conference
- Setup the Projector in the tent – 2 People the day prior to the conference
- Parking lot - 2 People 1 day prior to the conference
Setup the parking lot to keep driveway clear
- Gallery Setup – 2 to 3 people the day prior and 1st day of the conference
Get pedestals out of storage
Receive and set up gallery items
- Gallery Security – 3 to 4 people during conference
- Camera - 2 to 4 people the day of the conference
Setup cameras, cables, & TV monitor
Run cameras during conference
- Demonstrator Drivers – 2 to 3 people prior to, after, and during the conference
Shuttle Demonstrator between their hotel and the conference
- Trash removal 1 to 2 people during conference
Remove trash, replace trash bags
- Photographer – 1 to 2 people
Take photos before and during the conference, submit photos to the editor
- Retail Monitor 3 to 4 people
Manage retail sales
- Silent Auction – 2 to 4 people
Arrange items, complete forms, provide security
- Banquet – 2 people Saturday of the conference
Setup food tables for banquet
- Iron in the hat sales – 1 to 2 people during the conference
Sell Iron in the Hat tickets
- Cleanup – 4 to 6 People after the conference
Tear down Education Tent, pack up Education Trailer, remove trash, inspect entire grounds

What's Up With The Botanical Blacksmiths?

Cathi Borthwick

Photos by Cathi borthwick

We are still presenting two outdoor ironwork exhibits in Arizona - the summer exhibit at The Arboretum in Flagstaff and the winter exhibit at the Tubac Presidio, but 2023 has brought (is bringing) some interesting changes that are resulting in more exposure for the exhibits. Here are the details:

The Arboretum in Flagstaff

May 2023 - September 2023

This past winter was monumental both in terms of snowfall and in how long it lingered so the Arboretum and the exhibit ended up opening up a couple of weeks later than planned. The good news was that all that moisture was good for the gardens, and the Arboretum got some grant money to do work on the road, so everything was in great shape when they opened in mid-May.

When the exhibit opened, it included 25 pieces by 14 artists with some additional pieces added later. Along with work created by AABA members (some participating for the first time), there were pieces by Brian Painter, sculpture instructor at NAU, and several of his students. We decided to move the exhibit locale closer to the stage area where it would benefit from the increased visitation for special events as well as from the regular garden visitors. This area has beautiful ponderosa pines and a variety of plant inventory, and the ironwork shows well. The Arboretum has stepped up their marketing and has been regularly featuring the exhibit in their various posts etc. All this has paid off and so far 14 pieces have sold with 2 months still to go. Most of the sales have been in the \$200-\$600 range but one sale was for \$1200.

The Tubac Presidio

December 2, 2023 - April 12, 2024

The Tubac Presidio has been trying to figure out their footing post pandemic. They have a new director and she is working hard to rebuild their volunteer base and increase the Presidio's visibility. They have started a rebranding effort, they are reworking their website, they have contracted with a marketing professional, and the volunteers have been hard at work cleaning up and revitalizing the gardens. They see the Botanical Blacksmith exhibit as an important part of their operation as it is a hit with staff, volunteers, and visitors and brings visual interest to the gardens.

They are committed to doing more to promote the exhibit this year and would like to see some additional monthly events to provide more opportunities and more exposure for the exhibit. Ideas that have been suggested include an artist reception on opening day, tours of the exhibit by a participating blacksmith, talks and/or slide shows about ironwork, and demos. It has been suggested that participants could set up tables during these events to display and sell smaller pieces and pieces that normally wouldn't fit into an outdoor exhibit. These additional events provide an opportunity for more smiths to get involved as there are some who do not create work appropriate for an outdoor exhibit but might want to be involved in a different way.

The exhibit is scheduled to open on December 2 with an artist reception and it will run until April 12. The other monthly events will be scheduled as we figure out what they are and who will be leading them. If you are interested in being part of the outdoor exhibit and/or are interested in being part of any of the other monthly activities, please contact Cathi Borthwick at **928-890-9609** or **flagforge2023@outlook.com**. She can provide application forms and more exhibit details. The deadline to apply is November 1.

What's Up With The Botanical Blacksmiths? (Cont.)

Cathi Borthwick

Photos by Cathi borthwick

Some of the new pieces in the show at the Arboretum at Flagstaff this summer.



Birdseye
by
Cooper Mallon



Garden Light
by
Cathi Borthwick



Ravi
by
Liz Carlier

Recent Open Forges at Iron Rhino Forge



AABA Calendar 2023-2024

September 16 & 17	Demo: George Witzke	Dead Horse Ranch	Cottonwood
November 18 & 19	Demo: Mark Ling	Grizzly Iron	Phoenix
December 3	Annual Banquet, Meeting, and Auction	TBA	Phoenix area
January 18 - 20	Winterfest VI	Sculpture Tucson	Tucson

Not Seeing the Demonstrations You Would Like? Not Seeing the Articles You Would Like in the *Anvil's Horn*?

Is there a project, tool, ornament you would like to see at an AABA demonstration? Is there a particular demonstrator you would like to see? Send your request(s) to the AABA 1st Vice President, Richard Rozinski, **602-803-7255** or **rrozinski@me.com**

Is there a particular project or technique you would like to see in *The Anvil's Horn*? Is there a general topic you would like to see covered? Send your request(s) to the editor, Bill Ganoe, by email to:

editor@azblacksmiths.org

or by regular mail to:

Bill Ganoe

PO Box 40233

Tucson, AZ 85717

Classes at Pieh Tool in Camp Verde

- Beginning/Intermediate blacksmithing classes taught by Dylan Cook
Sep. 29 - Oct. 1, 2023
Nov. 10 - 12, 2023
Registration is \$585.
Students will make several simple projects to take home.
- Knifemaking class taught by Master Bladesmith, Ray Rybar
No classes were scheduled at press time.
Registration is \$585.
Students will make one knife.

For class dates when they become available, for full details about the classes, or to register call **928-554-0700** or go to **<https://piehtoolco.com>**

Deadline for the November 2023 issue

October 1, 2023 is the deadline submitting photos and articles for the November 2023 issue of *The Anvil's Horn*.

Send articles, pictures, etc. by email to:

editor@azblacksmiths.org

or by regular mail to:

Bill Ganoe, PO Box 40233, Tucson, AZ 85717

MCC Blacksmithing & Welding Class

The Mesa Community College blacksmithing program is an excellent deal - over 60 hours of instruction including material and propane! Classes for the Fall 2023 semester started the week of August 19, 2023. Check the Mesa CC website for dates and details related to classes in the Spring 2024 semester. Blacksmithing is listed as **WLD103** in the class schedule. Classes fill up early, but waiting lists may be available. For more information go to: **www.mesacc.edu**

Welcome New Members

Andrew Gerl	Amado, AZ
Wayne McLemore	Chino Valley, AZ
Brandon Cabrera	Goodyear, AZ
Reese Martin	Prescott, AZ
Roger Nash	Prescott, AZ
Daniel Ammons	Tucson, AZ
Hector Valencia	Tucson, AZ
Doug Stearns	Aztec, NM

New AABA Secretary

Jacie Cotterell has volunteered to be AABA secretary. She teaches knife making at Iron Rhino Forge in Tempe, and she appeared on Forged in Fire, Flip the Forge, Season 9, Episode 11, June 22, 2022. She did a great job, but she can explain more about that when you see her.

Terry Porter, retiring AABA secretary, said, "I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Secretary for the AABA. My first stint was 10 years and the second stint is almost 3 years. Thank you every one for your support over the years, but it's time for a change. Please give Jacie your full support during this transition."

Makerspace in Tucson

The blacksmith shop at Xerocraft in Tucson is becoming a reality. Ed Snyder, who has been doing most of the leg work to get this shop up and running, is looking for tool donations and people to teach classes. If you have a hammer or some tongs or some punches that you don't need, or if you are interested in teaching a low-level class, give Ed a call at **520-609-4237**.

AABA Website: www.azblacksmiths.org

Open Forge: Tucson

AABA open forges in Tucson are not scheduled until fall. Watch for listings here or watch for Tucson area email. To get on the Tucson area email list, send a request to editor@azblacksmiths.org

Open Forge: Grizzly Iron

Open forges at Grizzly Iron have been paused. See details below under Classes and Events.

Open Forge: Iron Rhino Forge

2051 E. Cedar St. Suite 6, Tempe

Open forges every Tuesday evening, 6 PM - 10 PM
Free to watch or \$30 to participate. Details at <https://www.arizonablacksmith.wtf/open-forge>.

Teen Social Open Forges, first Sunday of every month from 5 pm to 9 pm. Come practice your blacksmithing skills with other youths, have some pizza, and make new friends! For ages 18 and under. Parents invited as spectators. Details at: <https://ironrhinoforge.as.me/youthsocial>

Open Forge: Desert Rat Forge (Phoenix area)

Paul Diefenderfer will host an open forge at Desert Rat Forge on Saturday, September 2, 2023 and Saturday, October 7, 2023, from 9 AM to noon followed by lunch (You gotta' buy your own.) at the world famous Big Earl's Greasy Eats in Cave Creek. Have fun with a propane or coal forge, flypress, powerhammer, widgets and gadgets.

Desert Rat Forge is at: 7645 E. Highland Rd., Cave Creek. 602-509-1543 or dief@phoenixrockgym.com.

Directions: From the center of Cave Creek – 4-way stop at Cave Creek Rd & School House Rd. Head north on School House 1.2 miles to Highland Rd (if you get to the 4-way stop at Fleming Springs you've gone a tad too far) . Turn right (east) on Highland After about 1 mile the pavement ends. Please drive slow to avoid kicking up dust. As the gravel road makes a turn to the left there will be a single lane gravel road on the right with a sign for 7645. Drive down this road for bit until you see the big anvil. You are there! Park in the pullout if there is room – please do not park on top of any vegetation! If no room, return to main dirt road, park along the north edge, and walk the 700 feet back to property.

If You Are Attending An Open Forge...

These open forges are part of AABA educational activities, but AABA does not provide funds for these events. 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 put something in the donation box to help our hosts with their expenses. Thank you! From all of your open forge hosts.

You will need to wear safety glasses. Hearing protection is recommended. Also, observe the safety requirements of the open forge hosts.

Classes and Events at AABA Members' Shops

Desert Metal Craft

544 E. 24th St., Tucson, AZ

The schedule at Desert Metal Craft features a wide range of classes and workshops. Check the DMC website, <https://www.desertmetalcraft.org>, for on-line events, details of specific events, and to register for each class or workshop. Check out the scholarship opportunities.

Grizzly Iron

1329 W. Lincoln St., Phoenix, AZ

Grizzly Iron has indefinitely paused open forges, classes, and workshops because of the heavy current business work load. Check the website: <https://grizzlyiron.com/core-classes/> or <https://grizzlyiron.com/master-classes/>, or go to the **Grizzly Iron Open Forge and Workshops** group on Facebook for changes as they develop.

Iron Rhino Forge

2051 E. Cedar St. Suite 6, Tempe AZ

The Iron Rhino Forge has a wide range of special blacksmithing and knifemaking classes, demos, and workshops with local instructors and master-level guests from around the country and the world! Classes coming up soon include:

Demo: Advanced Damascus demonstrated by Salem Straub, October 9, 2023

Evening Classes: Forge Welded Damascus Guard taught by Salem Straub, October 10 - 13, 2023

Demo by Mark Aspery, may be the last appearance of Mark in Arizona before retirement, October 15, 2023

Details and registration at: <https://www.arizonablacksmith.wtf/>

Join Blacksmiths From Around The World

Forging Through Time, October 14, 2023

On June 5, 2021, a group of blacksmiths around the world participated in a virtual hammer-in called Forging Through Time. Participants created Zoom links, set up cameras in their shops, and started work on their projects at 14:00 (2 PM) in their local time zones beginning at the International Date Line and working west. For example, if a smith in Germany wanted to see smiths in Australia working on their piece, they would have to go online at 07:00 (7 AM) in Germany. And, if smiths in France wanted to see how a smith in California was working on their piece, they would have to be online at 01:00 (1 AM) in France. Those hours seem a bit of a stretch for many of us, but going online at these times means being able to chat with smiths in different countries. Plus, there are supposed to be some videos posted on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ForgingThroughTime>). (As of July 2023, there were no videos posted in the Forging Through Time group, but some interesting photos and comments were posted there.)

In 2021 the online participants included smiths doing the actual forging, assistants handling the cameras, and others who just wanted to see other people's shops, watch them work, and maybe chat with others. For example, it was reported that at 15:30 (3:30 PM) in Finland there were two Zoom screens filled with 40 participants and camera feeds

The event this year, on October 14, 2023, is a joint effort of the Belgian ASG (<https://www.smedergilde.be>), the California Blacksmith Association (<https://www.calsmith.org>), and Blacksmiths Without Borders (<https://www.bswithoutborders.com>).

The theme this year is "Stretching Time" As a participant, you are asked to create a piece illustrating the theme "stretching time". How you interpret the topic is up to you. You can use whatever material you want. All techniques of working metal are fine to use. The organizers want to encourage forging to be part of the process. Each participant has 3 hours (from 2 PM to 5 PM local time) to complete a project.

To participate in the event (as a demonstrator or as a viewer), you must register in advance, by sending an email to forgingthroughtime@gmail.com and include:

- * Your name,
- * Your business name, if you have one.
- * Your website or social media links, and
- * Your country and time zone (preferably in GMT format).

You could also ask questions about other details of the event at forgingthroughtime@gmail.com.

The event link is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85097433801?pwd=UIZiaWw3ZnZqVWgzeVZReVJITys5UT09>.

Some of the projects from the Forging Through Time event in 2021



*Center for Adult Education
Ghent, Belgium*



*Peter Ghequiere
England*



*Koala brewing a pot of tea.
Rick Stadler / Shane Kenny
Australia*

Members Gallery

Brian Hughes

A Stand for A Little Free Library

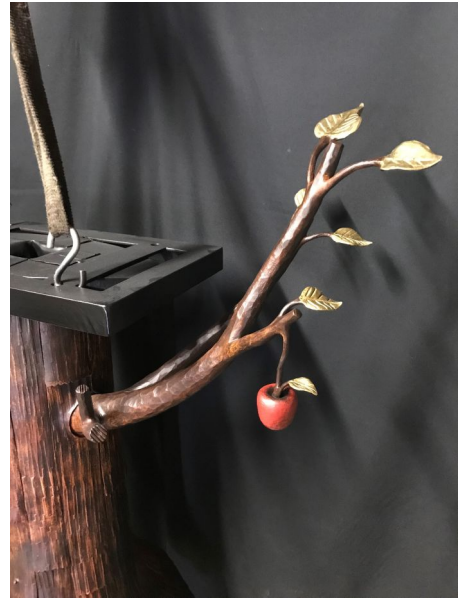
I forged a stand for a little free library. The "bark" is pieces of 3/16" flat stock forged on a texturing die on the power hammer and then trimmed with a serrated chisel, cut and fit to a tapered frame, welded on the inside. The finish is quick rust with a flat lacquer top coat. The snake is coated with African Bronze gilders paste. It is anchored to the branches by two screw pins. The apple is forged from a piece of two inch round bar about two inches long that had a hole through it and the stem is tenoned to the apple through the hole. The mouse is forged from one piece, the ears being chiseled up from the body....not welded on. All in all a really fun two and half month long project!



Branch on the left



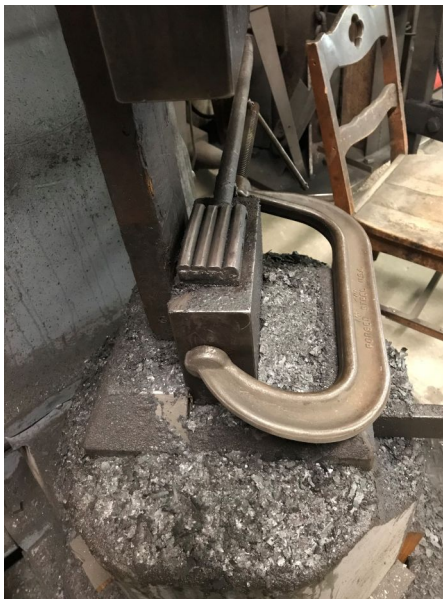
The little free library on the forged stand



Branch on the right



The mouse at the bottom of the stand



Texturing tools to make the bark



The Pencil vs The Hammer

By Russ Jennings

At the 2018 ABANA Conference, I had the opportunity to meet lots of talented smiths, and see numerous examples of beautiful artwork. From the gallery, where I could see and touch amazing sculptures, to slideshows of incredible ironwork hosted by their creators. Best of all, were the blacksmiths at work, creating art right before my eyes.

This was my first exposure to blacksmithing and metalwork as "art." I had only seen functional things made well, like gates or furniture. It had only vaguely occurred to me that you could make something meant to hang on a wall and view as you would a painting. Iron Art was on display at all scales, ranging from small items that one might hang in a living room, to large public installations.

I was driven to ask myself; why does this work look better than my own? What skills do I need to refine, what concepts should I master, what aspects of blacksmithing do I need to improve upon to become an artist? I've been very lucky so far; I've attended some excellent classes as well as worked alongside some talented artists. I have a good understanding of the basics; I can taper, scroll, and bend, I can use tools and jigs. So why doesn't my art look like the stuff that's on display?

One of the demonstrators was Pavel, a European smith who makes dynamic sculptures. He was forging a ballerina in a dress. The dress was made of multiple pieces of steel, forge welded in the center, and then curved gracefully into an arc with a point in the center. These arcs stacked atop one another in such a way that they could spin, yet remain balanced and standing. The sculpture would move and sway just like a real dancer.



The Pencil vs The Hammer continued

While watching Pavel work I realized he wasn't doing anything that I couldn't do myself. The most complicated part of the project was the simple fagot weld in the center of the bars. No individual piece was complicated or unusually shaped. He did the basics well. After every heat, he would compare the piece he was working on to a full sized drawing he had nearby. By alternating between forging and comparing the piece in his hand to the full size drawing, nothing was left to chance. Each piece was planned, already sized and laid out.

Another talented presenter was Mark Aspery, someone I have met a few times before. I asked him a question, "If things like tapers, bending, hooks, and scrolls are all 'The Basics,' then what is advanced? What skills are 'Blacksmithing 102?'" After a long conversation, we agreed that there aren't any "advanced" forging techniques. Maybe traditional joinery counts, but even that has less to do with how well you forge, and more to do with how well you measure.

Don't get me wrong, I understand there is difficulty in creating masterful art. After all, getting the spacing correct on balusters is plenty difficult, as is ensuring that a myriad of different pieces all match.

What I learned from the conference is that you reach a point where your skill with a pencil matters as much as your skill at the forge. A pleasing design is the most important part of a project. Once you have a good drawing, you can get to the forge and produce results right away.

With that in mind, I did some brainstorming with a sketchbook and designed an artistic sculpture piece. I've always liked sea monsters, and I wanted to create something that looks weightless and sinister, floating weightlessly. It only took a few rough sketches for me to nail down exactly what I had in mind. I broke it down into smaller, simpler shapes, and then set to making it.



Book Review

Bill Ganoe

The Home Blacksmith

Tools, Techniques, and 40 Practical Projects for the Home Blacksmith

by Ryan Ridgway, DVM

222 pages

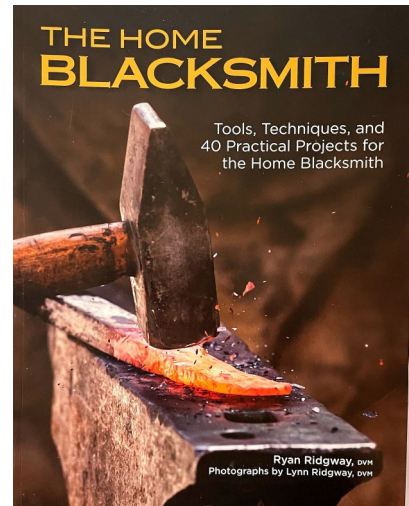
2016

Fox Chapel Publishing Company

Mount Joy, PA

ISBN: 978-1-4971-0126-5

Paperback, \$19.99



Available through:

The Mother Earth News, <https://store.motherearthnews.com>

Barnes and Noble, www.barnesandnoble.com

Amazon, www.amazon.com

and other booksellers

This book provides a lot of information in a compact, information dense form. In many ways, it reminds one of Mark Aspery's three-volume set, *The Skills of A Blacksmith*, although this book doesn't have the level of detail and the step-by-step photos that Mark's books have.

One of the things I like about the book is that every few pages throughout the book, you will find at least one tip on how to overcome problems and improve your results. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced blacksmith, you can find useful information here.

The book is divided into several sections. The first is **Understanding Blacksmithing Basics**. This section includes four pages on types of hammers and developing hammer control. Further on, in the section **Projects for the Farm**, Ridgway recommends making nails as a great way to practice your hammer control. "Try to make a nail in one heat with a centered head. and you will very quickly find out how accurate you are with a hammer."

In the section on **Setting Up Shop**, Ridgway recommends that beginners consider a simple forge built for charcoal. One advantage to charcoal that Ridgway didn't mention was that, unlike coal, coke, and propane, charcoal is carbon neutral. As trees grow, they absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and when you burn the wood (charcoal), the carbon dioxide goes back into the atmosphere. There is no net gain or loss of carbon dioxide. My only complaint about this section is that Ridgway was short on details for building your own forge.

Another section deals with **Steel Types and Heat-Treating**.

In the section on **Basic Blacksmithing Techniques** there is a good discussion on upsetting. There is even a page on Math for Blacksmiths that covers the calculations for figuring out how much stock you will need for tapers, bends, etc. A lot of us get by with ball-park estimates of how much stock we need, but doing the actual calculations can be really important when making several pieces that need to be of uniform size.

In the section on **Making Your Own Tools**, Ridgway shows how he makes a nail header. His approach is simple and doesn't involve trying to fit a drilled out grade 8 bolt into a holder of mild steel.

In **Projects for the Farm**, some of the projects are fairly simple such as nails and gate hooks, but they get more complex with utility knives, chains and hooks, and a bolt latch for a gate.

In **Projects for the Home**, things start out with simple things like a door handle/drawer pull and a dinner triangle and move on to more challenging things like scissors (shears), a fireplace set, and andirons.

Ridgway ends with a section on **Selling Your Items** which includes instructions and advice on selling items locally and online.

I would recommend adding this book to your library.



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** and like us on Facebook and Twitter. Join or renew your membership at: **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 National Conference

June 6-9, 2024
Johnstown, PA

Watch the ABANA website (**www.abana.org**) for details as they become available.

New feature on the website: Smiths to Remember at **<https://abana.org/smiths-to-remember>**

This is a page of memorial tributes to smiths who have passed on recently, such as Joe Koches, who opened and operated The Blacksmith Shop in Ferndale, CA, and Frank Turley, who taught many contemporary blacksmiths, well-known and not-so-well-known.

A Win-Win for You and for AABA

Now through October 31, 2023, when you join ABANA or renew an existing membership, be sure to list your local ABANA Affiliate Organization (Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association). By doing so, both YOU and the AFFILIATE (AABA) will be automatically entered into a drawing!

Four times throughout the year, we'll do a random drawing. The individual drawn will win a 1-year membership to their local ABANA Affiliate (AABA), compliments of ABANA. The organization drawn will win \$100 to help with operational expenses, courtesy of ABANA.

Just remember to list the name of your local ABANA Affiliate (AABA) when you join or renew and we'll do the rest. It's that easy!

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.

I am including photos, but, if space runs short, photos will be dropped as needed beginning with the oldest..

Will buy your unwanted blacksmith or horseshoeing tools and supplies.

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

For Sale

TREADLE Hammer in excellent condition, with tools. Located in Phoenix. \$1,985

Call for photo and additional info. Len Ledet, **480-221-7411**

For Sale

Welding instructor from Mesa Community College is downsizing and selling his blacksmithing equipment. Includes a homemade 35 lb. power hammer, and multiple handtools. Call him at **928-587-3706** or Richard Rozinski at **602-803-7255**

For Sale

- 3 Gas Forges \$150 each
- Lg Dayton Grinder on stand, 1 hp \$400
- 3 sm Bench Grinders \$25 each
- Sm Gas Welding outfit on cart \$300
- 4" Pole Vise \$165
- Baldor Belt Sander with grinding wheel, 5 hp, 2x48 belt \$400

Pick up in Gilbert AZ
(forklift available for loading)
Ray Brown **(480)993-9315** or lainne@aol.com

For Sale

13 pairs of tongs, \$10 each or all 13 for \$100. Contact Brian Hughes, **928-717-8247**,

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



FORGE-APRONS

Blacksmith aprons that fit you and your needs

Seven styles you can custom-size, personalize & customize



Offering blacksmith related gifts and apparel too!



www.FORGE-APRONS.com

Looking for

worn out horseshoer's rasps; will buy or trade.

Ira Wiesenfeld, **520 780-9076** or circleofiron74@gmail.com.

Gas Forge Building Workshop

Richard Rozinski is offering gas forge building workshops in his shop in Gilbert. Two person minimum. Call Richard for scheduling and prices. **602-803-7255**



For Sale

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

Basic blacksmithing and metal forming workshops

Richard Rozinski is offering basic Blacksmithing and metal shaping workshops in his studio in Gilbert Arizona. Class sizes and complexity vary. Class topics range from basic blacksmithing, copper vessel raising, pewter construction and abstract sculpture fabrication.

For details text or call **602-803-7255**

Free

Granite slabs in Mesa. Various sizes and colors
Call Paul at **602-228-2426**

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
www.barubar.com

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! 12129 W Peoria Ave, El Mirage 602-944-2000

Pieh Tool Company, Inc.

Blacksmith supplies, blacksmith classes by Dylan Cook, knifemaking and damascus classes taught by Ray Rybar, 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 134 Cave Creek, AZ, 480-626-0924
www.piehtoolco.com

Say-Mak Power Hammers

Helmuth Hillenkamp
2873A Industrial Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87507
www.saymakhammers.com

Big Blu Hammer

Power hammers and hand tools. Morganton, NC
Info@BigBLUHammer.com
828 437 5348
<https://secure.bigbluhammer.com>

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.

Superior Steel Stamp Co.

Precision engraved, industrial grade stamping and marking products for any application. Brass dies for Hot Stamping Wood or Leather. Hardened Tool Steel Stamps made for marking stainless steel, forged knives/blades much more. 3200 Lakeside Ave E, Cleveland, OH 44114 216-431-6460 Industrial marking
www.superiorsteelstamp.com
Makers
www.stampyours.com
For either, contact
Sales@superiorsteelstamp.com

Tire Hammer Plans by Clay Spencer.

Send \$30US (PayPal) to clay@tirehammer.com. Or send check/money to Clay Spencer 73 Penniston Pvt. Dr., Somerville, AL 35670. I can mail a copy or email PDFs.

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

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 Membership Form: New Member ☐ or Renewal ☐

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

☐ Do not publish

Phone (home) _____

(mobile) _____

☐ Do not publish

Email _____

Professional blacksmith _____ Hobbyist _____ Farrier _____ Blade smith _____

Your main blacksmithing interest _____

Occupation or skill _____

Please check one:

Regular membership (\$35) _____

Family membership (\$40) _____

Mail to: Jacie Cotterell

2051 E. Cedar St.,

Tempe, AZ 85281

Make Check Payable to AABA

Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association
Attn: Bill Ganoe
P.O. Box 40233
Tucson, AZ 85717
Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT NO. 271

The Anvil's Horn is the official newsletter of the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association (AABA). Published every other month preceding the bimonthly meetings of the Association, the newsletter is oriented toward anyone interested in blacksmithing and related forms of metal work. Membership is available at the rate of \$35 for individuals, \$40 for families, and includes a subscription to the **The Anvil's Horn** for one year.

Every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy of information appearing here, but no liability is assumed by the Association, its officers, directors or editor for errors, damages, or injuries resulting from any design, use, construction or application of said information.

Uncopyrighted material may be used freely by other similar organizations provided proper credit is given. Any copyrighted articles appearing herein should not be reproduced without permission of the author. Matters relating to newsletter submissions, corrections, etc. should be addressed to the editor: Bill Ganoe, P.O. Box 40233, Tucson, AZ 85717, Tel: 520-326-5478, or editor@azblacksmiths.org.

For membership information or address change, contact:

Jacie Cotterell, 2051 E. Cedar St., Suite 6, Tempe, AZ 85281, 480-319-3522, redfrontforge@gmail.com

Some of the items created at recent Iron Rhino open forges

