

The Anvil's Horn

A Publication of the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association

Issue No. 226, January 2024



Hoe, Hoe, Hoe!

by

Brian Painter

Botanical Blacksmiths Show at the Tubac Presidio, Tubac, Arizona

Yes, the hoe hoes when you turn the crank.

President's Message

Hello Blacksmiths,

Happy New Year. I hope you all have great blacksmithing aspirations for 2024. There are several new items to look forward to this year both locally and nationally. Here at home, the base was installed for the power hammer in the Barn at Sculpture Tucson, so the 50-lb Little Giant will be fully operational for our Winterfest VI conference. We have some new fun and games for the conference this year that includes everyone.

On the national scale, ABANA is having its 50th anniversary celebration with some exciting elements. The first is a team forging competition; each team will design and forge a project of their own reflecting on ABANA's 50th Anniversary. Let me know if you have a team put together or if you are interested in joining one. There is also the ring project. Blacksmiths are invited to submit a forged 10" diameter ring for a public art project in Johnstown, PA. Details and project rules are available at: <https://abana.org/ring-project/>

This month's **President's Project** is centered around my goals for 2024 of bringing us all closer together in recognizing everyone's uniqueness, strengths, and talents to continue increasing our blacksmith skills. The project is a joinery piece. It can be a complete project or just a sample of the joint. Let's see how many different metal joints we can make.



See you around the forge,

Steve Miller

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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 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.

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AABA Winterfest VI

Thursday - Saturday, January 18-20, 2024

Sculpture Tucson in the Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, Tucson, Arizona

Program (subject to change):

Check the AABA website, www.azblacksmiths.org, for last-minute changes.

Thursday:

- 4:00 - 6:00 pm: Registration
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm: Dinner on your own
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm: Slide shows by demonstrators
- 9:00 - 10:00 pm: Blacksmith games

Friday:

- 7:30 - noon: Registration
- 8:00 - noon: **Demonstrator - Steve Yusko - Bits and Pieces**
- 8:00 - 5:00 pm: Gallery open (Vote for your favorite gallery entry)
- 9:00 - noon: Education Tent
- Noon - 1:00 pm: Lunch on your own
- 1:00 - 4:00 pm: Education Tent
- 1:00 - 5:00 pm: **Demonstrator - Jake Trogden - Flowers and Tools to Make Flowers**
- 5:00 - 7:00 pm: Dinner on your own
- 7:00 - 9:00 pm: Forging contest - bring your own hammers and tongs.
- 9:00 - 10:00 pm - Open Forge

Saturday:

- 7:30 - 8:00: Registration
- 8:00 - 5:00 pm: Gallery open (Vote for your favorite gallery entry. Gallery voting closes at noon.)
- 8:00 - noon: **Demonstrator - John Trogden - Flowers and Tools to Make Flowers**
- 9:00 - noon: Education Tent
- Noon - 1:00 pm: Lunch on your own
- 1:00 - 7:00 pm: Silent Auction bidding
- 1:05 - 1:30 pm: Iron in the Hat
- 1:30 - 5:30 pm: **Demonstrator - Clayton Cowart - Making a Knife From Tagahagane Steel**
- 5:00 - 6:00 pm: Appetizers
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm: Banquet
- 7:00 - 7:30 pm: Silent auction winners announced
- 7:30 - 8:30 pm: Program and awards including the winner of the Lost Dutchman's Treasure Box.
- 8:30 - 10:00 pm: Cleanup

Other attractions:

- Gallery - Bring your best piece to show off.

Full Conference \$165 (The Saturday banquet is separate)

Single Day \$82.50;

Single Day for students currently registered for blacksmith classes at local schools \$20

Saturday Banquet \$25

Register through the AABA website, www.azblacksmiths.org

Meals: • There are many good food places nearby.

Lodging: • Some dry RV Sites are available at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park.

Reserve through the AABA website, www.azblacksmiths.org

- Hotels, motels, and other camping options are available in and around Tucson.

*** Pima County does not have any COVID restrictions at press time, but this may change as the season progresses.

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

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

Directions

To Brandi Fenton Memorial Park, Tucson, AZ

- I-10 to the Prince Rd. exit
- East on Prince to Campbell Ave.
- North (left) on Campbell to River Rd.
- East (right) on River, drive through several curves to the light at River and Alvernon (about 1.8 mi.).
- Turn right and enter Brandi Fenton Memorial Park.
- Turn right almost immediately at the Sculpture Tucson sign.

Winterfest VI Demonstrators

Steve Yusko



I plan to do several short demos. I sometimes call this "Bits and Pieces"

The objects I make are the result of my appreciation and fascination with materials—specifically with steel. Whether used alone or with other materials, I am drawn to steel's industrial history, working properties, methods of joinery and range of finishes. When heated in the forge, steel moves like clay, allowing this tough material to be transformed into graceful shapes.

I am intrigued by the structure of things—the underside. The bones of buildings, piers, arches and trusses of bridges and roadways, and the tools and equipment used to build them tell a story. The shapes, textures and connections of the materials I use are part of that story. My work expands on this visual vocabulary by exploring themes of balance and tension; distance and perspective and concepts of home.



Stephen Yusko's studio is located in Cleveland, OH, where he creates sculpture, furniture and vessels, using mixed materials combined with forged, machined and fabricated steel. He has taught at several schools and universities, including Haystack School of Crafts (ME), Penland School of Crafts (NC), and SUNY Purchase, where he was a Windgate Artist-in-Residence; and served on the Board of Trustees for the Haystack School. He is currently on the Board of Trustees for La Caravana Escuela. Yusko has exhibited his work widely including the Metal Museum (TN) and the Ruthin Craft Centre (Wales, UK) and has received three Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Excellence Awards and a Cuyahoga County Creative Workforce Fellowship Award.

More at: <http://jeffreyfunkmetalworker.com>

Jake Trogdon



I will demo making the tools to make the flowers, the making the flowers themselves, and applying them to a project.

Jake was introduced to metal work at an early age. He was immediately fascinated, and that fascination has turned into a lifelong passion. Having been lucky enough to be exposed to several skilled craftsmen, he developed a love for quality and refinement of work.

He worked in ornamental iron, fabrication, and served



an apprenticeship for pipeline welding. He has continuously strived to improve both his skills and the quality of his work through intentional practice and attention to detail. Teaching as allowed Jake to share his love for metalwork with other as well as to learn and continue being a student himself.

Clayton Cowart



In this demonstration we will show what is needed to take a bloom of raw Tamahagane steel and turn it into a knife. We will cover consolidation of the bloom, forging, grinding, heat treating, and finishing of this unique Japanese steel.

Clayton Cowart has been a bladesmith for over 12 years. He specializes in making ancient steel, heat treating, and tight tolerance knife making. Clayton has been teaching classes and workshops in Arizona since 2012 and teaching along the west coast since 2017. Clayton's teaching style balances science and art to cut through the mythos make intimidating tasks seem simple and easy.



Winterfest VI

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

**We
Need
Volunteers**

But it takes more than just good ideas and suggestions to put on a great conference. It takes a lot of people doing a lot of real work. Below is a list of work crews we need to make this happen. We need workers for these crews and we need a manager for each crew. If you would like to work on any, or all, of these crews, or if you would like to manage some of the crews, please let your Winterfest cto-chairs, Steve (stevemiller.az@cox.net) or Richard (rrozinski@me.com), know. Hoping you will join us for some fun and fellowship along with a little bit of work.

Help us create the best Winterfest yet.

- **Marketing/Advertising** – 1 to 2 People 9 months to 2 weeks 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 main tent – 2 People the day prior to the conference. Troubleshoot during 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



Volunteers were already hard at work on January 9 getting ready for Winterfest VI. They were preparing the form for the concrete pad that the Little Giant hammer will sit on in the barn at Sculpture Tucson. Beatrice Perret (back row), Len Ledet, Ira Wiesenfeld, and Richard Rozinski (middle row), William Ott and Steve Miller (front row)

Winterfest VI The Lost Dutchman's Treasure Chest

Richard Rozinski

Hey everybody, Winterfest VI is coming up soon, and The Lost Dutchman's Treasure Chest was such a success at previous Winterfests that we'd like your help again this year. We're looking for tools that you've made either especially for the Treasure Chest or that you have made in the past and have lying around that you'd like to donate. Also, we would accept tools that you have laying around your shop that you don't use. Tools that you can live without that someone else would absolutely treasure.

Watch for the raffle, and buy your tickets early. We'll see you at Winterfest VI.

Send your donations to:
RICHARD ROZINSKI
2675 E. Elliot Rd.
Gilbert, Arizona, 85234



November Demo Report

Photos by Bill Ganoe unless otherwise noted.

On Saturday November 18, 2023, about 22 people got together at Grizzly Iron in Phoenix to watch Mark Ling make tools, a fire rake with a horse head on the handle, and a hammer. Some of us went back to Grizzly Iron on Sunday, the 19th for a tong making workshop taught by Mark Ling.

We had advertised that Mark Ling would demonstrate how he made hammers without a power hammer or a striker, but Mark covered much more than hammer making. As he pointed out, making a hammer is basically an exercise in punching and drifting a hole for a handle in a thick piece of steel. Obviously, making a great hammer involves a lot more than that, but Mark wanted to demonstrate other techniques.

He started out by making a 3/4" slot punch. Mark likes to make the cross-section of the striking end of a punch a hexagon instead of an octagon. In fact, in general, Mark likes the sequence, square-hex- round instead of square-octagon-round. He pointed out that going from hex to round goes faster than from

octagon to round. Also, if your punch gets stuck, grabbing a hex shape with a wrench works much better than trying to grab an octagon shape with a wrench.

How do you make a hex cross-section. Start with round bar and count hits by threes: hit, rotate 60 degrees, hit, rotate 60 degrees, hit. After a few sequences of threes like this, you should have a good hex cross section. (Yes, you need to get good at estimating that 60 degree rotation.)

Make made the punch by, of course, flattening the business end of the punch, creating the initial point, and then drawing the taper. Make pointed out that the taper on a slot punch needs to be longer and more gentle than the taper on a round or square punch. Yes, the shorter taper will hold up in use better than the long, gradual taper.

Mark went on to make a fire rake with a horse head for end of the handle and a bottle opener opening. He used the 3/4" slot punch for the bottle opener hole. Among other points, Mark advised

people to lift the workpiece off the anvil face after every strike. It helps to minimize heat transfer from the work piece and provides a chance to check the location of the punch on the work piece after every strike.

Mark then went on to make a hammer head. He usually uses sucker rod for the punches he uses to make the handle holes. He started by forging a piece of 2 1/2" 1045 to a square cross section. He then put center punch marks on both the top and the bottom of the stock. His advice was to make sure the center punch mark was in the center of the bar. Don't worry about getting the precise position on the length of the bar. Mark started punching from the top of the hammer blank, drove the punch about 3/4 of the way through, and then started punching from the bottom. From this point on, he would punch from one side, rotate the blank 180 degrees along its axis, drive the punch a little further from the other side, rotate 180 degrees again, drive the punch a little further from that side, and so on until the hole

was completely open. Punching from the top and the bottom creates a handle hole with a slight hour-glass shape that helps to anchor the wooden handle in the hammer head.

Driving the punch through the blank without a power hammer or striker did require some powerful blows. Mark pointed out that his hammer swings involved his hips and knees as well as his upper body. I can attest to the effectiveness of Mark's technique as I tried punching some 1" stock when I got home. I hope that doesn't come back to haunt the joints of either Mark or me in the next few decades.

That pretty well ended the demo on Saturday. Rather than have students make their own hammers in the workshop on Sunday, Mark felt that he could teach more technique by having students make tongs. The tongs that we made in Mark's workshop on Sunday, were made with jaws that would fit 3/4" punch shafts. (Holding punches with tongs is a lot safer for blacksmith's hands.)



Mark Ling at work



Mark finished slot punching the handle hole in the hammer head.



The handle of Mark's fire poker with the horse head and bottle opener.



At the end of the workshop on Sunday the students showed the tongs they had made.

AABA Annual Meeting, Auction, and Banquet 2023

Bill Ganoe
(Photos by Bill Ganoe.)

The 2023 AABA Annual Meeting, Banquet, and Auction was held on Sunday, December 3, 2023 at the Sahuaro Ranch in Glendale, Arizona. Again, this year, the event was held in the fruit packing shed southeast of the machine shed where many past events have been held. And, again, the meal was completely catered with trays full of pulled pork, fried chicken, a vegetarian dish, beans and coleslaw. And chocolate brownies to die for.

Our president, Steve Miller, conducted a short membership meeting at which elections results were announced. Steve Miller was reelected President, Richard Rozinski was reelected 1st Vice President. David (Avi) Goodman was reelected 2nd Vice President, Ali Merriman was reelected Treasurer, and Jacie Cotterell was reelected Secretary. All of these officers will serve one year terms for 2024. Six people were elected to serve two-year terms for 2024-25 on the AABA Board of Directors: Bill Ganoe, Rich Greenwood, Ivan Hill, Joe Madrid, Sam Rivera, and John Rosco.

After the membership meeting, we moved on to awards. Trophies were awarded for pieces made by members and donated to the Auction. Jaimie Escobedo won the Best of Class and the Peoples' Choice award for the Advanced Class. Presentation of the Bill Callaway Award for Outstanding Member Contributions to AABA will be made at the Winterfest VI on January 20.

The rest of the afternoon was devoted to the Annual Auction. The larger items were auctioned off by Len Ledet's friend and professional auctioneer, Craig Riggle. The group of larger items included pieces made by members and donated to the auction plus pieces made by our demonstrators when they demonstrated for AABA earlier this year. Those demonstrators included Jaques Gallant, Steve Williams, George Witzke, and Mark Ling. There were also several smaller items that were sold through a silent auction to keep the afternoon from stretching into the evening.

Proceeds from the Annual Auction benefit the Read Carlock Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Fund was established to honor long-time AABA member, Read Carlock. The purpose of the Fund is to provide financial assistance to interested individuals who want to develop their blacksmithing/metalworking skills and abilities. More information about the Scholarship can be found

at www.azblacksmiths.org/read-carlock-scholarship.

In addition to the auction items made by members and demonstrators, vendors donated door prizes and items to be auctioned. Many attendees were lucky enough to have their tickets drawn for the door prizes, and they went home with some real treasures. The vendors' donations included:

- A gift certificate from **King Architectural Metals** (www.kingmetals.com)
- Patinas, coatings, and finishes from **Sculpt Nouveau** (www.sculptnouveau.com)
- Welding helmets, welding starter kits, and other welding accessories from **Vern Lewis Welding Supply** (www.vernlewis.com)
- A set of DeWalt tools from **Six Points Hardware** (www.sixpointshardware.com) in Phoenix.

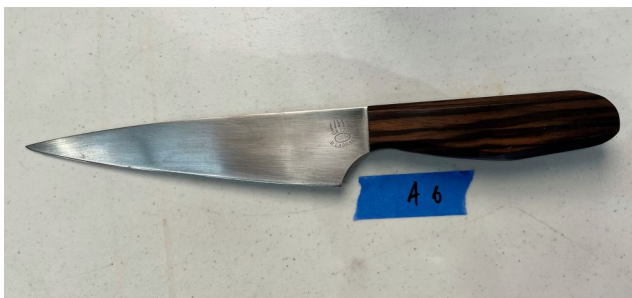




Door Knocker
Jaime Escobedo
Best in Category (Advanced)
Peoples Choice



*Donations from vendors
The chain was part of the free steel cache
offered to AABA members by an AABA member
in Black Canyon City*



Knife
Rodger LaBrash



Mirror frame
Moe Hamburger



Rack for hammers and tongs
Ron Kinyon



Rose
Jaime Escobedo

AABA Calendar 2024

January 7
January 18 - 20
March 16 & 17

AABA potluck
Winterfest VI
Demo: Ed Brazeal

Iron Rhino Forge
Sculpture Tucson
Mesa Community College

Mesa
Tucson
Mesa

Your dues are due now. Renew as soon as you can.

Use the renewal form on page 19, or go to the AABA website, azblacksmiths.org

AABA Potluck at Iron Rino Forge

Let's start the New Year together!

The AABA Community Potluck is on Sunday, January, 7th, at 4 pm, at Iron Rhino Forge, 2051 E. Cedar Street, Suite 6, Tempe Az 85281. Spouses are invited. Please let us know you're coming and what dish you will bringing using the following link:

<https://ironrhinoforge.as.me/communitypotluck>

4-H Club needs donations

The Lonesome Valley Wrangles 4-H club in Dewey, AZ, needs help getting their blacksmith shop up and running. They need everything from forges and anvils to tools and supplies. They will also welcome monetary donations.

Call or text Kristen Shafer at **760-985-6103** or email her at kristenshafer88@gmail.com

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 Spring 2024 semester started the week of January 15, 2024. Check the Mesa CC website for specific 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

Deadline for the March 2024 issue

February 1, 2024 is the deadline submitting photos and articles for the March 2024 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

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

No new classes were scheduled at press time.

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>

Welcome New Members

Lupe Jauregui

Christopher Olsen

Bagdad, AZ

Tempe, AZ

AABA Website: www.azblacksmiths.org

Open Forge: Tucson

Ira Wiesenfeld will host an Open Forge at his shop in Tucson from 9 to noon on Saturday, January 6, 2024.

Ira's shop is at 1801 W. Overton Road. Take La Canada to the intersection of Hardy (east)/Overton (west), turn west onto Overton, go down the hill, follow the curve at the bottom of the hill, and look to your left for the boat in the tree

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, one Sunday 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 are invited as spectators. Specific dates and other details at: <https://ironrhinoforge.as.me/youthsocial>

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. Featured classes include:

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:

ABS Master Lin Rhea is doing a Zoom meeting to talk about his creative process, his background as a blacksmith, and his journey from blacksmith to ABS Master Bladesmith. Details will be on the website when the schedule is finalized.

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

2023-24 Tubac Presidio Botanical Blacksmiths Update

The third annual Tubac Presidio Botanical Blacksmiths exhibit should be a good one. The Presidio has been hard at work spiffing up the gardens and reworking their public outreach. There is a lot of new housing construction in the area and the economy is doing well so all things point to good visitation and lots of opportunities for the public to view the ironwork on display in the gardens. There are also a variety of new activities planned in conjunction with the outdoor exhibit to attract more visitors and provide more opportunities for artists. This is the year to get involved! The deadline for submitting work for this exhibit was November 1, 2023, and the opening day and artist reception for this exhibit was December 2, 2023.

Other dates to keep in mind:

February 24, 2024 - Blacksmith demo and talk about Southwest Colonial Ironwork

March 23, 2024 - Art Day at the Presidio. Held in conjunction with the Chamber's Tubac Art Walk, this will give artists a chance to show work that can't normally be part of the Botanical Blacksmith exhibit (i.e. work made for indoors, smaller pieces, etc). This event is open to all members even if not participating in the outdoor exhibit. For more information or to sign up, contact Cathi Borthwick at flagforge2023@outlook.com.

(Note: The Presidio would like to schedule an additional activity each month that the exhibit is up, i so we could use an event in January. If you would like to do a talk or demo, run a tour, or have some other idea, please contact Cathi Borthwick. You do not have to have work in the main exhibit to participate in this).

Here are some shots from the Artist Reception on December 2.



Presidio visitors



*Cephalopod
by Ira Wiesenfeld*



*Dancing Flames
by Steve Miller*



Josh States with several of his knives



Cathi Borthwick with some of her work.

Memorial for Robb Gunter's sons, Chad and Brad

Jaime Escobedo

On Thursday, November 9, 2023 at about noon, our worldwide blacksmithing community suffered the devastating loss of two members of a blacksmithing dynasty – Chad and Brad Gunter, the sons of legendary blacksmith, Robb Gunter. The brothers were killed in a horrific collision in their blacksmith shop located in Moriarty, New Mexico when a semi-truck ran off I-40, traveled several hundred feet off-road and straight into their shop killing them. Chad died on scene and Brad later on in the evening. It's extremely difficult to fathom this nightmarish scenario and just about impossible to imagine the pain Robb and his wife, Bunty are going through.

In October 2009 I attended a week long Stake Repousse course with Wendel Broussard at Chad and Brad's shop in Moriarty, NM. This is where I first met them. I was pleasantly surprised that Roger "Grizz" LaBrash was also attending the workshop. Their shop was truly impressive and first rate. It was large, spacious, clean and well-appointed with all the equipment and tooling we all dream of having in our own shops. They helped teach the course and were extremely skilled stake repousse artisans in their own right. There are times when you interact with artists at a high level where you can experience some degree of ego and arrogance that has to be suffered or at least tolerated in order to receive training. That was not the case with the entire Gunter family who are all recognized worldwide as high level artists. Immediately when I first walked into their shop I was warmly greeted and treated by both with the respect normally reserved for an old friend. Also, it was apparent that Chad and Brad were close as brothers and were inseparable. They had the type of relationship that you would hope for in your own family. The whole week long experience was comfortable and felt like being with family. It made for an outstanding learning environment.

The teaching trio of Wendel, Chad and Brad was the perfect formula for learning a new metalworking discipline. Not only did we learn stake repousse techniques, but we also learned to make the tooling which for me, has been just as useful as the technique itself.

Mid-way through the training we were all invited to Robb's house in Tijeras, NM for an evening BBQ. When Chad introduced me to his father, Robb, he told him "This is Jaime Escobedo. He's the one I told you about from Payson." Robb told me that he really liked the area and was looking into moving to Payson. We talked about the pros and cons about the area for quite a while. We were treated to an outstanding meal and a personalized tour of Robb's Forgery School of Blacksmithing. Speaking with Robb and his wife throughout the evening it was readily apparent to see where the boys inherited their easy going and friendly mannerisms. Truly a testament to their upbringing.

I had some things in common with Chad besides blacksmithing; he was a reserve Deputy for a local Sheriff's office and had an interest in precision rifles (and I'd say he was an expert in that field). I last spoke with Chad a couple of years ago when I purchased a dozen specially made Ash repousse hammer handles from him. It was a good conversation where we got to catch up a bit.

We lost two giants in our world, but we've been blessed with their memories and all they have accomplished and contributed. I read a post in Facebook from Roger "Grizz" LaBrash stating that he considered Chad and Brad as mentors. A fitting and appropriate heartfelt sentiment.

To help support the Gunter family and employees of their restaurant Ribs BBQ, please consider donating at https://www.givesendgo.com/Gunter_RibsBBQ



Wendel Broussard, Robb Gunter, and Chad Gunter at Robb's shop (The Forgery School of Blacksmithing) in Tijeras, NM.



Jaime Escobedo, Chad Gunter, Wendel Broussard, Brad Gunter, and "Grizz" LaBrash at the Stake Repousse class in Moriarty, NM. October 2009

Blacksmith Camp 2023, Part 2

My Experiences at CMS's Forging Focus Program

Steve Miller

The second weekend of “Blacksmith Camp” (a name coined by my youngest brother when he heard I was accepted into the CMA Forging Focus program) was the weekend before the 4th of July. I had been wanting to get out and explore the local hiking trails to attempt training for my annual Colorado high-elevation backpack trip which followed the Forging Focus program. There are a few hills around Johnstown, but nothing like my hike in the Colorado mountains. I did find a nearby trail that was challenging, but without a car I needed a way to get to the trailhead, which was fraught with truck traffic. I was reluctant to bicycle alongside trucks for 8 miles to the Clark Run Rager Mountain Loop hiking trails. So, I decided to do a little reconnaissance. There were bicycles available in the basement of the rectory where we stayed. The bikes were on a first come first served basis. I picked one with the best brakes - the most important feature I could think of, but if you can't pedal you won't need the brakes. I decided to take the morning off from forging and venture out to look for the trailhead. I grabbed a bike and followed a back road to avoid the trucks on Broad St. I wound through town before coming to an empty lot that still had a sign up for automotive repair. Two large tents were set up for a yard sale, and I couldn't resist stopping to look for old tools. I did find a pizza cutter for \$3 which was huge as Friday nights were reserved for a pizza party and a great time, but no pizza cutter. So, a perfect addition to the house; however, I didn't have a dime on me. When the nice lady asked if she could help me, I explained I wanted the pizza cutter, but needed to go back to the house to get some cash and would be right back. I got on the bike and took off, this time taking the more direct route – the truck route. It wasn't too bad as there was ample sidewalk to ride on, but no room for a bike in the traffic lane. As I rode into the house parking lot, I heard a loud bang. The rear tire on the bike had blown out. Phew, I thought, how lucky to have that happen here where there are more bikes in the basement and I had to get back to get that pizza cutter!

I quickly went inside, grabbed some cash, swapped out bikes, aired up the tires on the 2nd bike, and headed out the door - only to return for my rain gear. It looked like it was about to rain and I had to make it back to get that crazy pizza cutter. Not two blocks from the house it began to rain. I toughed it out for another block, but it started coming down hard. I ducked under a small overhang on a building and donned my rain gear. Now it was pouring cats and dogs, and I pedaled as fast as I dared in the downpour. When the sidewalk ended, I crossed the street to avoid a field full of stickers. I didn't want to collect any stickers for another flat before getting back to that stupid pizza cutter. I stopped at a cross street to wait for traffic and looked down at the puddle now

engulfing the bike tires. Bubbles were coming up from between the bike tire and the rim!

At this point I was near the wire mill which had sharp rock from the parking lot scattered onto the sidewalk. Many sections of sidewalk in the Cambria City section of Johnstown are removed and replaced with sharp-edged black rock, which I suspected as the cause of the blowout. The same type of rock was scattered across the sidewalk. So, I got off the bike and walked for a bit. Before long the rear tire was completely flat. At least the rain had stopped, but I still needed to get back for that wretched pizza cutter. So, I rode slowly to minimize any damage to the tire. It was a much bumpier ride, but the tire stayed on the rim. The lady was surprised I came back for a stinking \$3 pizza cutter and sold it to me for \$1 after hearing my story. She said they didn't get a drop of rain. She told her son to take the boxes out of their vehicle to give me a ride back to the Rectory. I was grateful.

I returned to the Rectory but, by now the bike show was closed, and, with the Independence Day holiday, it would not open until Wednesday. A fellow student gave me a ride to the bike shop on Wednesday. I had the bike working that evening and started riding to the shop instead of walking after being there for 2 weeks.

The following weekend I rode 20 miles roundtrip to the Rager Trail Loop to keep up my training for the backpack trip. I locked the bike to a tree and made a 6-mile round trip loop.

A couple of weeks later, while at the shop, another colleague was getting her bike tires filled by a compressor. I was a bit alarmed since I've witnessed many youth blow out their tires at a gas station air hose. Hers survived due to how low they were. Mine seemed to be getting a little soft after the riding I had been doing and were in need of topping off. The hand pump at the house did not work, so I decided to take the risk. So, I requested a quick shot so it didn't get too high of pressure. I headed to the Rectory to clean up and change since the class was meeting at the Stone Bridge Brewery for dinner and a beer. I was on my way and half a block from the restaurant when I heard something rubbing. And then POW. Another blowout. I continued riding to the restaurant and caught a ride back from a colleague. I still had the old front tire and tube from the first change out, so I used those. Another colleague had purchased a hand pump to keep at the house, so I pumped it up in the morning and it held through lunchtime. By dinner time, it was completely flat. I was thinking of patching the tube. However, there were no punctures from outside debris, but a rip near a spoke nipple. Back to the bike shop for another tube and this time some rim tape. By this time, there wasn't much time left of the class, but to the 2024 students that wish to ride one of the bikes to the shop and

around town: you're welcome.

Back to forging – one of the unique items we forged was a Riveted Wall Hook – a design by Pat Quinn. It involves using the skills we developed making tapers and shoulders. It took a few trials to get the desired shape, and

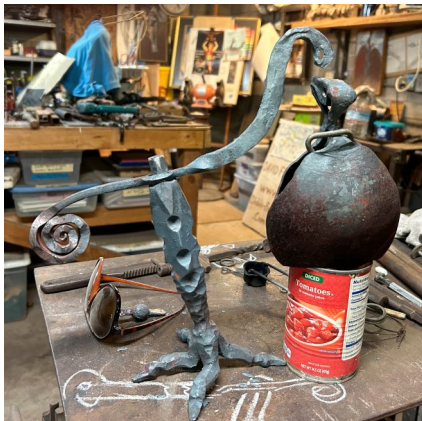
I learned that accurate layout is key to getting the desired alignment and final look. I will be demonstrating this hook at the September demo. I'm saving the forging details for then, so be sure to attend.

Members Gallery

David Flynn

Hell's Bell

by
David Flynn



Recent piece made of forged iron with brass details. Approximately 12"x5"x13" high. The photo on the left is work in progress.



Horny Toad Fuller

by
David Flynn

- 1) Go-to tool for imaginative solutions and conceptual deep thinking.
- 2) Power hammer not required.
- 3) Ant hill a plus for observation.
- 4) Scale and proportion depends on the artist's intention and outcome.
- 5) Samples and pattern recommended if planning to reproduce.
- 6) Keep away from children. Not to be used as a toy!

Members Gallery

David Bridenbaugh

I learned about these bolt flowers from the July 2018 newsletter for the Saltfork Craftsmen Artist Blacksmith Association in Oklahoma. These are made with 5/8 bolts but any size will work. A 5/8 bolt will not fit in a 5/8 pritchel hole since it expands when it is hot. I used a thick plate with a 3/4 hole over the hardy hole.

Start with a chisel and cut from the middle of each flat side, through the center to the opposite side. The center should be a shallow cut and the ends almost all the way down. The points will be for the petals. Use a center punch first then work up through larger sizes of ball punches. If you start with a large ball punch it will be easy to get off center. Clean it with a wire brush on a bench grinder and finish it with linseed oil, Rust Oleum clear or whatever your favorite coating might be.



ABANA's 50th Aniversary Celebration and Conference

June 6-9, 2024 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania

We are pleased to announce that we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary June 6-9, 2024 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania

The event will feature:

Top-notch demonstrators
A gear forging competition
Hands-on educational opportunities
Food, festivities, and more!

More details as they become available will be at
<https://abana.org/upcoming-abana-conference/>



Learn more at:
<https://abana.org/ring-project/>



Join our volunteer email list
to be contacted at a later date!

Learn more at:
<https://tinyurl.com/yqgwzrafr>



Learn more at:
<https://tinyurl.com/ytokob5a>

An AABA team for the Team Forging Competition?

If you are interested in helping to form an AABA team, or participating as a team member, for the Team Forging Competition, contact Steve Miller at stevemiller.az@cox.net



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 website (**<https://abana.org/upcoming-abana-conference/>**) 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.

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**,

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SHARPIE DX VACUUM MODEL hand held tungsten grinding kit. \$275.

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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**

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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 ☐

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For membership information or address change, contact:

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

**Not seeing good coverage of events at your shop?
Take some pictures and submit them.
Write up some text and submit it.**

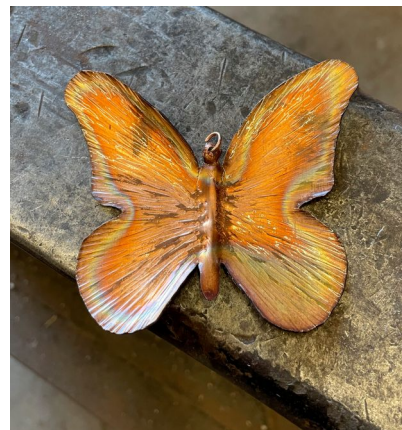
— The editor

Your dues are due now. Renew as soon as you can.

Use the renewal form on page 19, or go to the AABA website, azblacksmiths.org



*December Open Forge at Sam Rivera's shop in
Tucson*



*Some people made butterflies at
Sam's Open Forge.*