

# ***The Anvil's Horn***

A publication of the  
**Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association**

Issue No. 239, March 2026



*The hammer that Jerry Harris uses to texture feathers on his life-like birds.  
From Jerry Harris' demonstration at Winterfest VIII*

# President's Message

Winterfest VIII is wrapped up and, although I don't quite have all the information assembled as of this writing, it appears to have been a great success! I'm extremely proud of our members who participated in producing this event. Everyone took personal pride in their assigned tasks to ensure completion and to give us a memorable event. The demonstrators did a great job providing our members with valuable information and the Education Tent was a big hit judged by the number of people participating. The weather was perfect, the food and drink were plentiful, and the atmosphere was one of comradery. We will have a debriefing on all aspects of the conference to examine what went well, what could be improved, and to determine if any further equipment or tooling might be needed to bring our members a better product. If you have any input, please contact a board member with your thoughts. Contact information for Officers and Board members are listed on the inside cover of the Anvil's Horn.

We are continually looking for new ideas for demonstrations, Hammer-Ins, blacksmithing activities, etc. Your First Vice-President, Dylan Cook, has some excellent ideas for the coming year that we will discuss in further detail at the next BOD meeting. Stay tuned. Good times are ahead!

We want to increase our membership and reengage our current members. Along those lines, we will be scheduling AABA workdays to build a couple of transportable coal forges for the training trailer and to start forging out some AABA hand tools for sale and for use as incentives and prizes. We would welcome anyone who wants to participate. Time and place will be announced soon with contact information.

The strength of our association lies with our members. So, continue to attend our events and training opportunities, encourage others to attend and to join, and take advantage of the knowledge and skills that is freely offered by our members. It's a great time to be a blacksmith in Arizona!

See you at the forge.  
Jaime Escobedo



## Contents

3	March demo announcement	14	Call for Entries - Botanical Blacksmiths Show
4	Our March Demonstrator - Steven Fisher	15	Entry form for Botanical Blacksmiths
4	Mark Aspery's class at Jaime Escobedo's in Oct.	15	Members Gallery - Jaime Escobedo
5 - 9	Winterfest VIII Report	16	Ode to a Backyard Blacksmith
9	Tip for mounting things on a storyboard	16	Interesting Web Links - The Clay Spencer Story
10-11	Calendar and other AABA news	17	ABANA Information - ABANA 2026 Conf.
12	Members Gallery - Jaime Escobedo	18	Members' ads
12	Interesting Web Links - Anvil Anna	19	Sources for tools and materials
13	15th Annual Botanical Blacksmiths Show	19	AABA Membership Form

## AABA OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President:** Jaime Escobedo, Payson, AZ, azoldwestforge@msn.com, 928-978-3111  
**First VP:** Dylan Cook, Prescott, AZ, dylancookforge@gmail.com, 928-830-8168  
**Second VP:** Mike Johnson, Mesa, AZ, 309-310-1266, mikejohnson22@hotmail.com  
**Secretary:** Mikki Rakestrow, Tempe, AZ, 520-405-9212, mikkijo101@gmail.com  
**Treasurer:** Scott Neece, Phoenix, AZ, 920-476-9840, scott.neece2021@gmail.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, 520-850-7940, editor@azblacksmiths.org  
**Directors:** Alfred Cantwell, Monte Crawford, Bill Ganoe, Avi Goodman, Ivan Hill, Len Ledet, John Ledington, Zach Lihatsch, Ali Merriman, Steve Miller, Sam Rivera, Richard Rozinski. Ira Weisenfeld

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 1.6.3

## Demonstration: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Paul Diefenderfer's shop, 7645 E. Highland Rd., Cave Creek, AZ

**Demonstrator: Steven Fisher**

**Theme: Creativity**

For the topic of the demonstrations, I am contemplating the idea of creativity. There are many facets of this inexhaustible subject. Topics will include: *Where is Creativity, Parameters of Creativity, What is Considered to be Creative, Who Actually Decides if an Object Exhibits Creativity, Traits of a Creative Person, and How Creativity can be Fostered.* Admittedly this is an ambitious amount of material to be covered in two days and rest assured I will not exhaust the subject and there will be plenty of opportunity to spend time at the anvil.

For this demonstration some members of the audience will have the opportunity to do hands-on forging using a presented theme. The idea being to incorporate some aspect of an object into a creative forging with the caveat that the object cannot be useful, ie., the object cannot be a tool, it must be an *objet d'art*.



### Getting creative with bottle openers

#### Demonstration:

- Registration begins at 8:00 AM, the demonstration starts at 9:00 AM.
- Registration fee: \$25 for members, \$40 for non-members,
- Tailgating is encouraged.
- Bring things for Iron-In-the-Hat.

NOTE: No folded tickets. Any folded tickets that are drawn will be thrown away.

- Bring things for Show-and-Tell. Don't forget to put your name on anything you bring for Show-and-Tell.
- Lunch is on your own. There are several good restaurants nearby.
- Tailgaters, please consider donating to Iron in the Hat.

#### 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 7645 E. Highland Rd., Cave Creek, AZ

From the 4-way stop at Cave Creek Rd and School House Rd head north on School House 1.2 miles to Highland Rd. Turn right. After a mile+ the road becomes gravel. Stay on the main gravel road for a mile. Turn right when you get to the two buffalo sculptures. Park by the shipping containers. We will shuttle you to the shop or you can walk the 1500 ft along the single lane road. If the shuttle isn't there give us a holler on the radio under the umbrella.

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

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

## Our March Demonstrator Steven Fisher

When I was growing up I used to play with my grandfather's blacksmithing tools at his farm in West Texas. When grandfather retired and moved into town, I got his blacksmith tools. I didn't do much with them though. I was more into woodworking. In high school, I made a grandfather's clock case and a roll-top desk in woodworking shop. After high school, I worked as a carpenter and cabinet maker.

But, then, in the late 1990s I went to the Arizona Renaissance Festival where I met Merlin at the forge there. My daughter, Bethany, liked to stop by the forge and watch the action. She knew I had similar tools in the storage shed and she wanted to get them out and use them.

I didn't know where to start, but I started taking blacksmithing classes. The first one was in 2004 at Pieh Tool in Camp Verde taught by Gordon Williams. After four days there I was hooked.

I didn't get a complete set of tools and equipment from my grandfather's farm. Most notably, I lacked an actual forge. But I went to demonstrations put on by AABA and began to meet other smiths. A conversation with Dough Kluender gave me the knowledge to repair the edges and horn of

grandfather's anvil. At the demonstrations, I looked at the coal forges to get some ideas about what I needed and then I made one of my own that was enough to get me started. My daughter even did some of the welding on it.

Over the next four or five years, I took various classes with Mark Aspery in Phoenix and Tucson as well as participating in workshops with Adrian Legge and Henry Pomfret. I went to demos put on by AABA and helped to run the blacksmith shop at Sahuaro Ranch during events like the tractor shows and demonstrations for the elementary school kids that visited the Ranch.

When my daughter left home to attend college in 2009, I left home too and moved to Tucson. In high school I had learned some of the basics of machining, and, in Tucson, I did some machine at an industrial plastics company -- mostly by default as no one else there could do it. After that business sold out, I took some CNC machining classes and started doing machining work at a specialty shop there.

I moved back to the Valley in 2022, and I am currently working as a Quality Inspector of aerospace parts for a business in Tempe.

## Coming Attractions

**3rd Annual Forging in the Forest class with Mark Aspery,**  
Jaime Escobedo's shop  
Payson, AZ  
October 14-18, 2026

Mark will show students how to forge a one-piece hacksaw frame, a cane bolt, a miner's candlestick, and other projects. Each project will help you develop specific forging skill sets to make you a better blacksmith!

There is room on the property for camping out. There are also several vacation rental properties nearby and a USFS campground only one mile away. Come and enjoy a week of forging with one of the best instructors in the nation. Enjoy evenings cooking out and visiting around the campfire with your fellow smiths. Cost: TBD.

Spots are limited. Make your reservations early, Contact Jaime Escobedo at [azoldwestforge@msn.com](mailto:azoldwestforge@msn.com). More information in the coming weeks!



# Winterfest VIII Report

Bill Ganoe

*Photos by Bill Ganoe unless otherwise noted.*

Winterfest VIII was a two and a half-day gathering at Sculpture Tucson from January 15-17, 2026. It got underway Thursday evening with an informal get-together featuring slide shows by each of the demonstrators scheduled during Friday and Saturday. The demonstrators talked about their background and current work.

Friday morning started off with Jerry Harris demonstrating how he creates his life-like birds. Unfortunately, I didn't get to Jerry's demo until after he had covered most of his demo. There are a few photos of some of Jerry's birds and storyboard below.

Peter Sevin was scheduled to demonstrate how he makes his lamps, but unforeseen circumstances forced him to cancel at the last minute. Steve Grater stepped in on short notice, and Friday afternoon featured his demonstration, Making Small Synclastic and Anticlastic Sculptures. The best way to explain these terms is to check out the picture below. There are several books out there that deal with forms like this and how to create them. One such book is *Form Emphasis for Metalsmiths* by Heikki Seppä.

Steve said he had hosted some jewelers in his shop who did a lot of synclastic and anticlastic forms. He watched them and decided their ideas could translate to larger sculptures. Steve had several of examples of shapes like this that he did cold and hot using various forms including the horn of his anvil. He has made several forming tools using sections of large pipe fittings - in particular tees and elbows. Steve noted that cold metal moves differently than hot metal. He said he does most of his work cold. One tip: Be sure your top tools match your bottom tools. Otherwise, you'll be forever chasing flat spots, dings, and other problems.

Jerry Harris demonstrated making animal heads on Saturday morning. Again, I was occupied elsewhere around Winterfest for much of Jerry's demo, but there are a few photos below showing his work.

Saturday afternoon featured Genevieve Gural's demonstration, "Practical Heat Treating: Theory to Forge". Her demonstration was in three parts. In the first part, she forged a simple knife. It was a quick, interesting, and understandable demo with good explanations. She used 80CRv2 steel which she explained is basically 1084 with a little extra bit of

chromium and vanadium. As she explained later in the demo, those added components made the steel less sensitive to small errors when bringing a workpiece up to critical temperature.

The second part was devoted to hardening the work piece. This involves bringing the work piece up to critical temperature (austenitizing) and then rapidly quenching. While different steel alloys can have different precise critical temperatures, we can assume the steels we usually work with have a critical temperature of around 1,500° F and use a magnet to indicate when that critical temperature is reached. But she went beyond that and explained why it is important to keep that critical temperature in mind as you heat the work piece just prior to quenching.

Many of us have seen demonstrations of how heating a workpiece to well above critical temperature produces large grain structure and how heating the workpiece just to critical temperature before quenching results in much smaller grain structure. But Genevieve went beyond just showing the grain structures. She got volunteers from the audience to come up and break the demonstration pieces, so they could actually feel (and hear) the difference in how hard it is to snap the work piece and how quickly the piece breaks. Of course, the broken piece of overheated steel showed a grain structure that looked like diamonds while the carefully heated steel looked more like velvet.

Genevieve gave a detailed, graphic, and easily understandable explanation of why steel performance is affected by grain size and how you can control it by your heating process. It is critical to frequently check for nonmagnetism as you heat up your workpiece and then quench it immediately on reaching the nonmagnetic point. Note: If you overshoot the critical temperature, you can't get small grains by merely letting your work piece cool down to critical temperature before quenching. You have to let it cool slowly and then go through the whole heating process again.

For the third part of her demonstration, she brought a small chisel made from sucker rod that she had forged and hardened before coming to Winterfest. She carefully went over many details of the tempering process including watching the

## Winterfest VIII Report (cont.)

residual heat from the shaft creep into the cutting edge area, doing a quick "flash quench" of that area, watching the heat creep up to the cutting edge again, doing another "flash quench", and repeating the process for a third time. In other words, tempering the cutting edge 3 times. After cooling the entire chisel, she tested the chisel by cutting a small piece of steel and then showing the chisel with almost no deformation of the cutting edge. (See the photo below.)

But there was a lot more to Winterfest than the featured demonstrations. Berth Padilla-Escobedo, Jaime's wife, kept a coffee and hot chocolate bar going in the big tent all day Friday and Saturday. She also served hotdogs and chips for lunch on Friday and Saturday so people didn't need to drive around off site looking for lunch.

Cathi Borthwick looked after the gallery on Friday and Saturday. War Tomahawks, forged from ball-pein hammers, by AABA's new 2nd Vice President, Mike Johnson, won the Peoples' Choice award. Several photos of gallery submissions, including Miket's appear below.

The Teaching Tent featured instruction and guidance by Jaime Escobedo, Dylan Cook, and Mike Johnson. Several people, including some pre-teens, stopped by the tent to learn new skills or polish their existing skills.

The Friday evening program featured blacksmith games. One game was the popular blacksmith jenga. Players took turns adding a hammer to a pile of precariously balanced hammers on an anvil. The

second game was blacksmith shuffleboard. In this game there were several two-person teams: a striker and a person holding a heated 3/4" square rod and a handled hotcut. The striker drove the hotcut through the hot rod. The anvil was placed just inside the door of the barn, and a shuffleboard court was marked out on the ground outside of the barn. The object was to cut off a 3/4" cube in such a way that it flew off and dropped onto a numbered area of the shuffleboard court. The team collected the points marked in that area. Some of those red-hot cubes flew off to some areas with high numbers. Some cubes just dropped near the anvil stand, and a few never left the anvil face (well, the cutting plate on the anvil face). And then there was the hammer toss in almost total darkness.

After lunch on Saturday, we had the usual Iron-in-the-Hat drawing. There were three tables of things for this drawing, so there were a lot of treasures for attendees to take home.

Late Saturday afternoon, after Genevieve's demonstration, people gathered in the big tent for appetizers and a banquet featuring roast beef, chicken and a vegetarian option.

After the banquet, the silent auction closed, the high bidders were marked on the bidding sheets, and the winners queued up to pay for the treasures that they had won. And finally, the winning ticket for the contents of the Lost Dutchman's Treasure Chest was drawn. The winner of all the tools in the Treasure Chest was Daniel Harshfield.



*Jerry Harris working on a wizard head.*



*A selection of animal heads and wizard heads made by Jerry Harris (before his Winterfest demo).*

# Winterfest VIII Report (cont.)

## Non Developable surface : Doubly curved

They are mainly classified as :

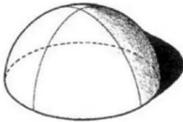
- 1) Synclastic
- 2) Anticlastic

### SYNCLASTIC

These shells are doubly curved and have a similar curvature in each direction. e.g. domes.

Structural behaviour :

Similar to arches under a uniform loading the dome is under compression everywhere, and the stresses act along the arch and hoop lines



SYNCLASTIC



ANTICLASTIC

### Anticlastic shells

Are doubly curved but each of the two curves have the opposite direction to the other. e.g. saddle points. shell roofs, have compression stresses following the convex curvature and the tension stresses follow the concave curvature. ANTICLASTIC



*The saddle form Steve Grater made from an elbow of 6" black pipe. He welded the extra plates on the ends for extra support.*



*Using a ball to provide a specific shape.*



*Another form used by Steve Grater.*



*Genevive forging her simple knife.*



*Tempering the knife.*



*Tempering the chisel.*

## Winterfest VIII Report (cont.)



*Cutting a piece of steel to test the chisel that Genevieve had just finished heat treating,*



*The edge on the chisel after cutting the piece of steel*



*Genevieve's hammer didn't collapse the pile.*



*Blacksmith shuffleboard*



*The storyboard for cats that Jaime Escobedo used in the Teaching Tent.*



*Of course there was tailgating*



*Winterfest provides a good opportunity to reconnect with old friends - Jaime Escobedo and Brian Painter.*

# Winterfest VIII Report (cont.) Gallery entries



*War Tomahawks*  
by  
*Mike Johnson*



*Exuberant Fish Tank*  
by  
*Ira Wiesenfeld*



*Bowl*  
by  
*George Adrian*



*Bird's Nest Candle Holder*  
by  
*Same Rivera*



*Not to be Taken Lightly*  
by  
*Richard Rozinski*



*Deer Rack*  
by  
*Brian Hughes*

## A tip for mounting things on a storyboard from Jerry Harris

An easy way to mount and dismount objects.

Screw a piece of steel on the storyboard where you want an object and glue a small magnet to the back of the object. Take the object off to talk about it and put it back without messing with tie-wraps, loose hooks, etc.



## AABA Calendar 2026

May 16 & 17	Demo and workshop	Pep Gomez	Sculpture Tucson	Tucson, AZ
July 18 & 19	Demo and workshop	Zach Lihatsch	Prescott Blacksmith School	Prescott, AZ
Sept. 19	Demo	Sarah Harms	The Morris' home	Camp Verde, AZ

### Welcome New Members

Tony Emery	San Tan Valley, AZ
Michael Jones	Tucson, AZ
Cody MowBray	Tucson, AZ

### MCC Blacksmithing & Welding Class

The Mesa Community College blacksmithing program is an excellent deal - over 60 hours of instruction including material and propane! Check the Mesa CC website for specific dates and details for classes in the Summer 2026 sessions as they become available. 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](http://www.mesacc.edu)

### Available Positions in AABA:

**Retail Sales** – Richard Rozinski is in charge of Retail Sales, but, after several years of having that responsibility, he thinks its time to pass on the Retail Sales torch to a new person. Richard will provide training and all the info required for this position.

Contact AABA President, Jaime Escobedo, at [azoldwestforge@msn.com](mailto:azoldwestforge@msn.com) to volunteer for Retail Sales. Thank you for your consideration on fulfilling this important role in support of AABA.

### Deadline for the May 2026 issue

April 1, 2026 is the deadline submitting photos and articles for the May 2026 issue of *The Anvil's Horn*.

Send articles, pictures, etc. by email to:

[editor@azblacksmiths.org](mailto:editor@azblacksmiths.org)

or by regular mail to:

Bill Ganoe  
PO Box 40233  
Tucson, AZ 85717

### Articles by AABA authors that were reprinted in other newsletters

**Pine Branches**  
by Roger Degner  
in

**The Anvil's Horn**, March 2025, pg. 13.

reprinted in

**Prairie Blacksmiths Asso.** newsletter, Nov-Dec 2025

### Blacksmith Workshops In Prescott

Individual and Small Group Classes/Workshops are tailored to individual skills, goals and interests of students. Half Day, Full Day and Multiple Day Workshops available.

ABANA LEVEL 1 Certification and LEVEL 2 Instruction also available.

Contact Dylan Cook for more information at [928-830-8168](tel:928-830-8168) or [dylancookforge@gmail.com](mailto:dylancookforge@gmail.com)

### Not Seeing the Demonstrations You Would Like?

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, Dylan Cooki, [928-830-8168](tel:928-830-8168) or [dylancookforge@gmail.com](mailto:dylancookforge@gmail.com)

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

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](mailto:editor@azblacksmiths.org) or by regular mail to:

Bill Ganoe  
PO Box 40233  
Tucson, AZ 85717

### Xerocraft Makerspace in Tucson

Xerocraft is now offering multiple blacksmith classes and open forges at 101 W 6th St #111, Tucson, AZ. A safety class is required for use of the Blacksmith shop. All classes and open forges, along with non-blacksmith classes, can be found at <https://xerocraft.org/calendar>. Be sure to register in advance for any classes to ensure space and supplies."

#### Note

The Xerocraft blacksmith shop is looking for donations of used equipment. If you have a surplus anvil (Is there such a thing?), extra tongs, punches, chisels, etc.. contact Patrick Cassady at [patrick.cassady@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.cassady@gmail.com)

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

## Open Forge: Tucson

There will be an AABA open forge from 9 am to noon at Sculpture Tucson on Saturday, March 7, and Saturday, April 4, 2026. If you are on the email list for southern Arizona, you will get a notice with full details about a week ahead of the open forge. If you aren't on that email list, send a request to [editor@azblacksmiths.org](mailto:editor@azblacksmiths.org)

## Open Forge: Iron Rhino Forge

2051 E. Cedar St. Suite 6, Tempe  
Open forges are scheduled every Tuesday evening from 6 PM to 10 PM. Free to watch, \$30.00 to participate. Check <https://www.arizonablacksmith.wtf/open-forge> for details and to reserve a spot. Since space is limited, reservations are needed.

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

Paul Diefenderfer will host an open forge at Desert Rat Forge on Saturday, March 7, and Saturday, April 4, 2026, 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, fly press, power hammer, widgets and gadgets.

Desert Rat Forge is at: 7645 E. Highland Rd., Cave Creek. **602-509-1543** or [dief@phoenixrockgym.com](mailto: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 pull-out 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. A list of classes and workshops coming up this fall and winter has been released. Of particular interest is an **Herb Chopper Class** on March 7 and a **Throwing Bowie Knife Class** on March 28. Check the DMC website, <https://www.desertmetalcraft.org>, for details of specific events, and to register for each class or workshop. Be sure to check out the scholarship opportunities.

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

### Prescott Blacksmith School

2700 N. Lake Valley Rd. Suite 4E, Prescott Valley AZ

Workshops are now open! Small workshop sizes allow us to work with many skill sets from beginner to advanced and provide instruction based on your interests. National Curriculum Certification available. For more details, visit [prescottblacksmithschool.com](http://prescottblacksmithschool.com) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates on upcoming workshops.

# Members Gallery

## Jaime Escobedo Bill Callaway Award for 2025

Here's my latest piece. I made it as an award for our blacksmithing organization, the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association.

The Bill Callaway Award was presented to the recipient, Bill Ganoe, on Sunday, December 7, 2025, for being selected as the 2025 Outstanding Member for his contributions to the organization. It measures 13" x 10" and is made entirely of mild steel finished with burnt linseed oil. It features twisted and swaged elements, stake repousse leaves on each corner accented by incised spacers. The four elements contained within the frame were each cut, incised and filed from 1/2" and 3/8" steel plate. They include a cornerstone with Bill Callaway's name as the founder, a helping hand, a lamp of knowledge, and an old world European church window anvil. The pieces is displayed on an angular matching stand complemented with decorative incised rivet.



## Interesting web links

<https://anvilanna.com/>

(AnvilAnna on Facebook, anvil.anna on Instagram, and anvil anna on Youtube)

Anvil Anna is a young farrier and blacksmith in Ontario, Canada. She's selling the stuff she makes, but she has posted many short videos showing how she forges the things that she's selling: things like 10 minute tongs for holding a small ax head, humming birds, one-piece no-weld spurs from farrier rasps, a musical treble clef, scissors, and lots of other things.

Her videos aren't detailed, step-by-step instruction videos, but most of us should be able to follow her process with no trouble - and without getting bored.



# 15th Annual Botanical Blacksmiths at The Arboretum at Flagstaff May 6 - September 19, 2026



You are invited to be a part of this awesome and eagerly anticipated exhibit that showcases outdoor ironwork in a beautiful high country garden environment. The indoor ironwork exhibit is located in the Visitor's Center. All levels of artists are welcome. This is a chance to show and sell your work to visitors from across the country. The entry form is on the next page.

For questions on the exhibit contact Liz Carlier at [LizCarlier@gmail.com](mailto:LizCarlier@gmail.com) or 623-826-3811.

*Sign up by April 20 and help make this the best exhibit yet!*



# **CALL FOR ENTRIES**

## **Botanical Blacksmiths and Friends 2026**

### **Ironwork at the Arboretum at Flagstaff May 6 – September 19, 2026**

The Botanical Blacksmith exhibit now in its 15th year, is a chance for artists to showcase their ironwork at The Arboretum at Flagstaff. The indoor exhibit, located in the Visitor's Center, is now in its third year. The available space for the indoor portion of the exhibit is limited and will be accepted on a space available basis. Artists are asked to submit separate applications for the indoor and outdoor exhibits.

There are no restrictions on design or size but pieces should not be so large that they can't be manually transported to the exhibit site. Outdoor pieces can be staked but digging in the gardens is prohibited. It is appreciated if the indoor pieces have a design connection to the natural world. You can show work that has been at The Arboretum before but please refrain from entering any piece that was in the exhibit in 2025 so we can present a fresh look.

Work may be offered for sale and the Arboretum takes a 30% commission on all sales. When a piece sells, and the buyer takes the piece with them, you are invited to bring a replacement piece to keep the show looking robust.

While this show is a non-juried exhibit, please include photos and details about your work to aid in planning the layout of the show (also, good photos of the work submitted are much appreciated for use in advertising the show).

Please send your application & photos to Liz Carlier at [LizCarlier@gmail.com](mailto:LizCarlier@gmail.com). If you have questions, please contact Liz via email or at **623-826-3811**.

#### **Calendar**

**April 20 – Application deadline**

**April 30 - May 3– Delivery of artwork – Coordinate your delivery with Arboretum staff**

**May 6 – Opening day of exhibit**

**September 19 – Exhibit closes**

**September 20 - Oct 25 – Pick up work**

#### **Important Information:**

\*Artist is responsible for delivery, installation, and pick up of artwork. Don't count on help from the Arboretum staff although they have been helpful in the past.

\*Artwork will be displayed in an outdoor setting. It must be able to withstand exposure to the elements and to the public.

\*Artwork should be suitable for family viewing and be appropriate for a garden setting.

\*Limited security is provided by The Arboretum at Flagstaff.

\*Commission on artwork sold is 30%

Application for Botanical Blacksmiths 2026 Exhibit  
*Please complete and return by April 20, 2026 to LizCarlier@gmail.com*

Artist Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to ship/deliver your work to the buyer if necessary? Y N  
(This service is between the artist and the buyer. You can add a charge for this service. The Arboretum is not able to facilitate shipping services.)

Please indicate if artwork listed is for the: Outdoor Exhibit or Indoor Exhibit

Artwork Submitted

1. Title \_\_\_\_\_ Will work be offered for sale? Y N  
Dimensions \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description \_\_\_\_\_  
Price or value if NFS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. Title \_\_\_\_\_ Will work be offered for sale? Y N  
Dimensions \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description \_\_\_\_\_  
Price or value if NFS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. Title \_\_\_\_\_ Will work be offered for sale? Y N  
Dimensions \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description \_\_\_\_\_  
Price or value if NFS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. Title \_\_\_\_\_ Will work be offered for sale? Y N  
Dimensions \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description \_\_\_\_\_  
Price or value if NFS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

5. Title \_\_\_\_\_ Will work be offered for sale? Y N  
Dimensions \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description \_\_\_\_\_  
Price or value if NFS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Add additional pages as necessary for more than 5 pieces



# ODE TO A BACKYARD BLACKSMITH

BY RON MCGOWAN, BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

I DON'T HAVE A CHESTNUT TREE  
SPREADING O'ER MY HEAD  
AND MY SCRAWNY ARMS AT END OF DAY  
SOMETIMES FEEL LIKE LEAD  
MY ELBOWS ACHE AND WRISTS INFLAMED  
IT FEELS LIKE MY ARMS ARE MAIMED  
MY SENSES DULLED FROM SMOKE AND FUME  
I CANNOT SMELL THE FLOWERS BLOOM  
MY BACK FEELS LIKE IT'S BENT AND BROKE  
MY LUNGS ARE CHARRED FROM SOOT AND SMOKE  
WHEN IT'S COLD I SHAKE AND FREEZE  
AND WHEN IT'S HOT I PRAY FOR BREEZE  
THE SUN BEATS DOWN AND SEARS MY SKIN  
AND BAKES MY BRAIN 'TIL MY SENSES SPIN  
MY FEET ARE BURNING IN MY BOOTS  
AND SOMETIMES FEEL THEY'RE GROWING ROOTS

FROM STANDING HERE FROM DAWN 'TIL DARK  
DODGING FROM EACH FLYING SPARK  
MY EYES ARE DULLED FROM SMOKE AND GRIT  
I CAN BARELY SEE THE MARK TO HIT  
WITH FINGERS SMASHED AND CUT AND SPLIT  
GRIPPING TOOLS MAKES ME WANT TO SPIT  
BUT MY LIPS ARE CHAPPED AND MY THROAT IS DRY  
TOO PARCHED TO MAKE SALIVA FLY  
AND WHEN I LAY ME DOWN IN BED  
I STILL HEAR RINGING IN MY HEAD  
THE ANVIL'S RING IS LIKE A GHOST  
AND COMES AT NIGHT TO HAUNT ITS HOST  
BUT PLEASE...  
DON'T THINK I'M NOT HAVING FUN  
I'LL STAY RIGHT HERE 'TIL THE JOB IS DONE



## Interesting Web Links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0A9cJVcnW8>

*By My Plans: The Clay Spencer Story*

A 40 minute tribute to Clay Spencer.

Produced by the John C. Campbell Folk School (where Clay taught many classes over the years).



# Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America

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

## ABANA CONFERENCE

Nov. 11-14, 2026 • Bentonville, Arkansas

**Blacksmithing & Bladesmithing Demos**

**Beginner's Area**

**National Curriculum Demos & Evaluations**

**Fun Competitions**

**Vendors & Suppliers**

**Knife Makers**

**Auction & Iron-in-the-Hat**

**Gallery of Ironwork**

**Craft Classes**



### Site Amenities:

- Tons of space for tailgating.
- Over 8 acres of dedicated event parking on site.
- 21,000 sq. ft. building for vendor & gallery space.
- Dedicated vendor parking lot.
- Fully fenced, dedicated space for tent camping.
- 35 RV sites with water and electric hookups.
- 3,500 sq. ft. outdoor picnic pavilion surrounded by food trucks.



*The Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association is an affiliate of ABANA.*

# Classifieds

Classified ads are free to members and can be submitted by email to: [editor@azblacksmiths.org](mailto: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..

## For Sale

2 hydraulic presses:  
Enerpac horizontal 50 ton press with extra 50 ton cylinder, dies. \$2500 obo.

Vertical press, partially constructed-frame, Hydro-line cylinder and tank. \$700 obo.

Ira 520-780-9076 or [circleofiron47@gmail.com](mailto:circleofiron47@gmail.com)

## I Will Buy

your unwanted blacksmith or horseshoeing tools and supplies.  
Barry Denton, 928-442-3290 any day before 7:00 pm.

## For Sale

25 lb. Little Giant power hammer very good condition, \$4,000  
32" floor cone mandrel, \$400;  
Vertical bandsaw good working condition, \$150  
All items in Flagstaff, AZ  
Cathi Borthwick, 928-890-9609 or [info@flagforge.com](mailto:info@flagforge.com)

## For Sale

206 lb. anvil, double horn, with Hofi-style stand. \$1,500.  
25 lb. Little Giant power hammer with Hofi-Clark dies. \$2,300.  
2-burner gas forge. \$75.  
Jim Poor hand hammers, \$50 ea.  
6" post vice \$500

All "as is".  
602-302-0474 voice message only.

## For Sale

MILLER DYNASTY 200 DX Tig/ Stick Welder. Includes TIG torch, stick stinger, variable foot control, cart, regulator, argon bottle, assorted tungsten's, diffusers and collets. Has been very lightly used by hobbyist, shows as new. \$3200.

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

Chip Uren, Phoenix, 602-809-1200

## 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.arrowzonastonetworks.com](http://www.arrowzonastonetworks.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](http://www.FORGE-APRONS.com)

## Looking for

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

Ira Wiesenfeld, 520 780-9076 or [circleofiron74@gmail.com](mailto:circleofiron74@gmail.com).

## For Sale

Power hammer, home built, single speed, available in Vail, AZ \$800 OBO. Pictures available

Contact Goeff (text preferred) 520-271-2553

## 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

## For Sale

Argon botte, customer owned and partly filled, approximately 300 CF with flowmeter, \$300.  
2" x 72" belt grinder, 4 speeds with five tooling arms on rolling cart, \$850 OBO.  
Dozens of misc. punches, chisels, and files, \$1.00 each or 13 for \$10.00.  
Misc. hammers \$5.00 each.  
Pictures on request.

Jaime Escobedo,  
928-978-3111 or [azoldwestforge@msn.com](mailto:azoldwestforge@msn.com)

# Sources

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

**Bonanza Pipe and Steel**  
Sucker Rod  
5245 S. Desert View Dr.,  
Apache, Junction, Arizona 85120  
Phone: 480-288-2674  
[bonanzapipelineandsteel.com](http://bonanzapipelineandsteel.com)

**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](http://www.superiorsteelstamp.com)  
Makers  
[www.stampyours.com](http://www.stampyours.com)  
For either, contact  
[Sales@superiorsteelstamp.com](mailto:Sales@superiorsteelstamp.com)

**Bar U Bar Supply**  
Several 65 lb. & 85 lb. swage blocks for sale. Your source for anvils, post vises, and other new & used blacksmith tools. Barry Denton. ph 928-442-3290  
email: [barubarranch@gmail.com](mailto:barubarranch@gmail.com)  
[www.barubar.com](http://www.barubar.com)

**Pieh Tool Company, Inc.**  
Blacksmith supplies: Milwaukee, Wilton & JET tools, air hammers, hand hammers, tongs, books, coal and coke.  
[www.piehtoolco.com](http://www.piehtoolco.com)

**IMS**  
Full service supplier of steel, stainless, brass, aluminum, copper. Discounts for AABA members.  
5700 S. 38th St., Phoenix  
602-454-1500  
3757 E. Columbia St., Tucson  
520-441-5900  
[www.industrialmetalsupply.com](http://www.industrialmetalsupply.com)

**Say-Mak Power Hammers**  
Helmut Hillenkamp  
2873A Industrial Rd.  
Santa Fe, NM 87507  
[www.saymakhammers.com](http://www.saymakhammers.com)

**Tire Hammer Plans** by Clay Spencer.  
Send \$30US (PayPal) to  
[clay@tirehammer.com](mailto: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.

**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  
[interstatesteelsalvage.com](http://interstatesteelsalvage.com)

**Big Blu Hammer**  
Power hammers and hand tools.  
Morganton, NC  
[Info@BigBLUHammer.com](mailto: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.

**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 including Vern Lewis Welding Supply and Industrial Metal Supply.

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.

**NOTE:** AABA membership runs from January 1 to December 31 of each year — unless you join in the last 4 months of any given year in which case your membership will expire on December 31 of the following year.

### AABA Membership Form: New Member or Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  Do not publish  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_  Do not publish  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  Do not publish

Professional blacksmith \_\_\_ Hobbyist \_\_\_ Farrier \_\_\_ Blade smith \_\_\_\_\_

Your main blacksmithing interest \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation or skill \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

\_\_\_ Individual or family membership with printed newsletter (\$50)

\_\_\_ Individual membership (electronic newsletter only) (\$35)

\_\_\_ Family membership (electronic newsletter only) (\$40)

Mail to: Steve Miller  
4727 E. Bell Rd.  
Suite 45-310  
Phoenix, AZ 85032

**Make Check Payable to AABA**

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

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](mailto:editor@azblacksmiths.org).

For membership information or address change, contact:  
Steve Miller, 4727 E. Bell Rd., Suite 45-310, Phoenix, AZ 85032, 602-989-6505, [stevemiller.az@cox.net](mailto:stevemiller.az@cox.net)

**Not seeing good coverage of events at your shop?  
Take some pictures, write up some text, and submit everything.**  
— The editor



*Open forge in Tucson  
January 3, 2026*