On the Anvil
PHILIP SIMMONS ARTIST BLACKSMITH GUILD
NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Iron –in-the-Hat / 2
Bench vise tip 3
Pewter on Tomahawk Handle.....4
Petitt Fireplace Screen..... 9
STips/Sales/Events.....10
Officers Page.....11
Next Meeting Notice.....12

Hello my fellow blacksmiths,

The cooler weather is coming fast, and I hope it's drawing you all out to the forge a little more often! Speaking of cool weather, our last meeting in Camden was one of the most comfortable I can remember and some of the older guys agreed it was the nicest one we've had there in years.

Our demonstrator was Thomas Bosse, who shared some great copper work and smithing techniques, including forging cookware such as spoons. He also brought along some very clever tools, including a mini gas forge that I thought was especially nifty.

Thomas is a professor at USC and teaches metalwork at the University. He is friends with Logan Woodle who demonstrated the pewter oyster shell at our February meeting a couple years ago.

At the start of the meeting, I had the honor of presenting a lifetime membership to Jesse Barfield. Jesse's hard work and skill have been crucial to the success of the Guild and our role in the SBA conference. He's lead or at the very least guided and supported the last four conference projects (probably more; my memory isn't the best!), and he has taught at many of our hammer-ins as well. Please join me in thanking Jesse for all he has done and continues to do for the guild.

Our next meeting will be at the Lexington County Museum in, no surprise, Lexington! Vice President Dave Bush will be demonstrating scroll making and scroll jig making.

In other news, the Guild recently held its second event at a state park up in the Golden Corner of Oconee County at Oconee State Park. The event, called Heritage and Hinges, was organized and hosted by board members Rusty and Chris. The Guild is building accurate historical pintle hinge replacements for some of the buildings on the Park site. It's an ambitious project, and it appears to have gone well from the videos Chris posted on FaceBook. I'll let you know if they didn't finish all the hinges, I can easily see us coming together again soon to make sure the Park gets the full set they need.

Rusty Osborne has done an outstanding job reaching out to state parks and forming partnerships that help us fulfill our mission to share and teach the craft. Chris Carroll has also been doing a fantastic job publishing events on our social media and volunteering his time to help make these events a success. Cheers to both of you, and thank you!

The Iron-in-the-Hat raised a record $1160! As always, the Guild uses these funds to support scholarships, educational opportunities, and outreach efforts to bring new people into the craft. Every donation helps keep the fires of blacksmithing burning bright. Thank you to all who donated and all that bought the tickets!

Our new members are Darla Bridges, Joe Gifford, Charlie Harper, Ginger Keller, Gideon Powers, Shaun Ward, Andrew Watkins, and Rich Whitehouse. Welcome. Send Barry an email so that he can add you to our email list.

Forge on and hit hard! Jody

One of Thomas' neat tools!

Iron in the Hat

displanItem	Donated By	Won By
Bucket of Coal	Chris Carrol	Tonya Walters
Engineer's Hat	Chris Carrol	John Cook
Madison Signed Poster	Chris Carrol	David Bush
Cast Pewter Juggling Anvil	Chris Carrol	Pat Walters
Fabric Buttons	Kevin Cook	Jody Durham
Other Fabric Buttons	Kevin Cook	Jody Durham
Walnut Blocks	Mark Ramey	Don Powis
Leaf Spring	Larry Wasabi	Rich Whitehouse
Countersink Rivets	Jody Durham	Chris Carroll
Whirly Gig Windvane	Bill Kirkley	Paul Gazda
Horse shoe Bottle Opener	Rich Whitehouse	Bob Kaltenbach
Tongs	Dave Bush	Clyde Umphlet
Mild Steel Drops	Dave Bush	Mike Pryer
Flint Striker	Paul Gazda	Curly Larson
Fire Roaster	Heyward Halta-wanger	Clyde Umphlet
Coil Spring	Rick Thompson	Tonya Walters
Another Coil Sprin	Rick Thompson	Mark Ramey
Angel Wing Begonia	Ginger Keller	Marcye Brown
Ram's Head Poker	Barry Myers	Perry Thomasson
High Carbon Bearing	Raljph Kessler	Tony Etheridge
Coil Spring	Perry Thomasson	Don Powis
Box 'O Grinding Disks	Robert Keller	Heward Haltiwanger
Belt Snndier Belts	David Bliss	Thomas Bosse
Pewter Spoon Demo	Thomas Bosse	Curly Lawson
Second Pewter Spoon	Thomas Bosse	Brenda Hester

Item	Donated By	Won By
Fish Tail Hooks	JD Norris	Gerald Alsbrook
Twisted Leaf Trinket	JNorris	David Bliss
Goats Milk Soap	Keith Gunter	David Bush
Key Chain	Keith Gunter	Ray Boone
Fredrick Cross Necklace	Kerith Gunter	Dave Bush
Brass Hammer	Russell Wilson	Mike Pryor
Spring Steel	Jo Marsh	Doug Hinkle
Wall Hanger	Jo Marsh	John Tanner
Napkins/Copper Rings	Jo Marsh	Avin Rombilus
Metal Bucket + O2 Tank	Conal Smith	Curly Lawson
Shine Cup	Tony Etheridge	David Bush
Practial Projects	Griz and Guild	Charles Dotson
Art Deco	Griz and Guild	Doug Hinkle
Treasury of Ironwork	Griz and Guild	Robert Keller
Fireplace Accessories	Griz and Guild	Rich Whitehouse
Art	John Tanner	Clyde Umphlet
Lantern Holder	Ray Pearre	Jerry Mathison
Oil Amsoil Mug	BruceBren/da Hester	Ginger Keller
Shaving Soap and Mug	Bruce/Brenda Hester	Gerald Alsbrook
Scissors/Flashlight	Marcye Brown	Jacob Hutson
Rasp Tomahawk	Will Rombilus	JD Norris
Candle Holder	Charles Dodson	Paul Gazda
Copper Sheet	Donald Powis	John Tanner
Chain Damascus Kit	Donald Powis	Chris Carroll
Steak Turner	Curly Lawson	Ginger Keller
Rim Tool Antique	Rusty Osborne	David Bliss

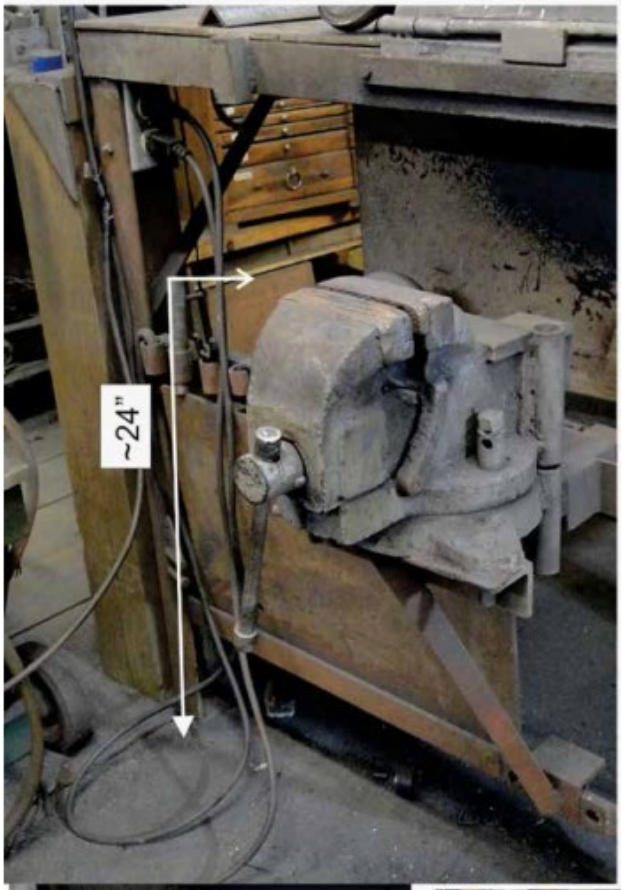
You may not have know that Adam was a blacksmith.. Okay, he wasn't, but the Byzantines evidently didn't!

Isaiah 54:16: "Behold, I myself have created the smith who blows the fire of coals and brings out a weapon for its work

Feel good about yourself!

Project Report

Helpful Shop Gear: Dr. Steve Bloom: Ironflower Forge: sabloom@Ironflower.com



The idea is simple — think of a typical hand-grinder with a cut-off wheel or a grinding wheel - Is it easier (and safer) to have an active surface at mid-tight height plus the object thickness (~ 30") or at waist height + the height of the vise (so mid-chest). It is way easier to control the unit at the lower level. Add some sheet metal under the table to defect the sparks and you don't have sparks flying over the top of a table.

As to the use - clamp whatever you want in the jaws. But sometimes you can want to clamp flat things in the vise with the surface parallel to the floor. Take a piece of scrap angle iron & weld some scrap flat steel plate to it. Clamp this in the vise and you have a flat surface at ~30" height. Now use a vise-grip to hold the target to the plate & grind away to your heart content. ..OR.. Make a magnetic chuck (large speaker magnets or grounding magnets) to do the same thing without the vise-grips.

Reprinted from the Florida Artist Blackssmiths Association

Examples of Thomas Bosse's work!

Pewter Pouring Tomahawk Handle

Submitted by Rob & Alicia Robinson

On your tomahawk handle, use a pencil to mark the areas you want chiseled out to pour pewter. *TIP:* When the head is on the handle, I will take a pencil and draw around the bottom of the head. I will ensure that a small area where the pewter is going to be poured is positioned directly under the head. This prevents a line of wood between the pewter and the head on the assembled tomahawk.

Once you have the design on the handle—Chisel out the areas where the pewter is going to be. When you dig out the areas, it needs to be fairly deep to ensure the pewter pours around it before it cools. The pewter will cool off quickly, so if the channel you are pouring it into is too fine/thin, it may not pour all the way around before it cools.

Pic above: Supplies

Pics to right: Handle with areas pewter will be poured chiseled out.

TIP: I put superglue at the tips of the scallops. When you chisel out one side of the scallop, it's not bad, but sometimes when you move to the other side, it wants to chip out. The superglue helps bind it together, preventing the tip from chipping. If it does chip, do not panic, glue it back on. Once you have it all sanded off and stained, no one will ever know you glued it back together.

Pewter Pouring Tomahawk Handle—Continued

I like to put tape on both sides of where my pour is going to be. Doing this will raise the pewter level just slightly above the wood. If you do not do this, the pewter may shrink when it cools, and you may end up with a gap. To avoid this, I like to ensure the pewter is just a little bit higher than the wood.



When I put the tape on, I backed it away from the edge just a little bit. This allows the pewter to come right up to the edge and a little over.

*If the Pewter can find a way out, it is going to run right out onto the ground. Make sure you get the tape secure. This is especially important if you are using a material such as an antler. The tape needs to be down in all those little grooves.

Next, take a piece of paper and cut it into a long strip. This is going to be the dam, so the pewter knows where to go. Put a piece of tape down one side of the paper so that it is half on the paper & half off (on long edge). Set it over the top of the tape on the handle (see pics). Once you have your paper where you want it, add a second piece of tape to the other side and wrap it around the handle to seal the area where the pewter will be poured.


Pewter Pouring Tomahawk Handle—Continued

Use a razor blade to create a small opening in the paper to pour the pewter. We need to reinforce this area with more tape before we pour the pewter.

I use 2 pieces of old tow strap to hold handle in vice to keep it from moving while I pour the pewter.

Before pouring the pewter, go back and make sure that you do not have any gaps for the pewter to escape. *TIP sometimes when you melt pewter you will get a scale (black specs) from the tarnish and impurities in the pewter, try to clean as much of that out of the pewter before you pour to have a cleaner pour.

Ideally when you pour the pewter it will run all the way around and pool at the top above the wood. Once you pour the pewter tap the handle a little near the pour to help the pewter work its way around the handle.

Pewter Pouring Tomahawk Handle—Continued

Remove the tape and paper to see how the pour did. If the pewter did not make it all the way around the handle, pull it out, repeat the preparation process, and pour again. Remember that you can remelt the piece of pewter to use it again.



Repeat the process for each area. If you do scallops—make sure the wood is chiseled a little deeper so that the pewter does not cool before it makes it all the way around. You may also want to heat the pewter slightly hotter to help with the flow. You can also go a little thicker with the tape going around the scallop area to help ensure the pewter fills in all the area. Take a minute to make sure that the tape is secure where it needs to be but is not blocking the flow of the pewter. The more complex the design the greater chance for the pour to not behave.

Once you have completed all the pours and are happy with them, use a file and sandpaper to clean off the extra pewter. Stain handle, fit head, and admire your beautiful piece of work.

*TIP if the handle is round, you may need to drill a few small holes in the channel to keep the pewter from spinning.



All About Pewter

Composition:

- Primarily Tin-Based: Modern pewter is an alloy made mostly of tin, typically 85-99%.
- Other Elements: It also contains antimony (adds strength and workability) and copper (increases strength and hardness).
- Lead-Free: Most modern pewter is lead-free due to toxicity concerns, unlike traditional pewter which often contained lead.

Properties:

- Low Melting Point: typically ranging from 170-230°C (338-446°F), making it suitable for casting at lowe temperatures compared to other metals like steel.
- Malleable and Ductile: easily shaped, bent, or hammered into various forms without cracking, making it ideal for detailed work and intricate designs.
- Good for Casting: Its low melting point and low viscosity (when molten) allow it to be easily cast into complex shapes, which is a common application.
- Low Tensile Strength: Pewter is not as strong as steel, and its low tensile strength makes it less suitable for applications requiring high structural integrity.
- Non-Magnetic: Pewter is not magnetic, primarily because tin, its main component, is non-magnetic.
- Corrosion Resistant: Pewter has good corrosion resistance.

Applications for Blacksmiths:

- Casting: Pewter can be used for casting various decorative elements or components.
- Decorative Elements: Its malleability allows blacksmiths to incorporate pewter into artistic pieces, embellishments, or intricate designs.
- Finishing: Pewter can be polished to a bright, silver-like finish or given a satin look that develops a patina over time

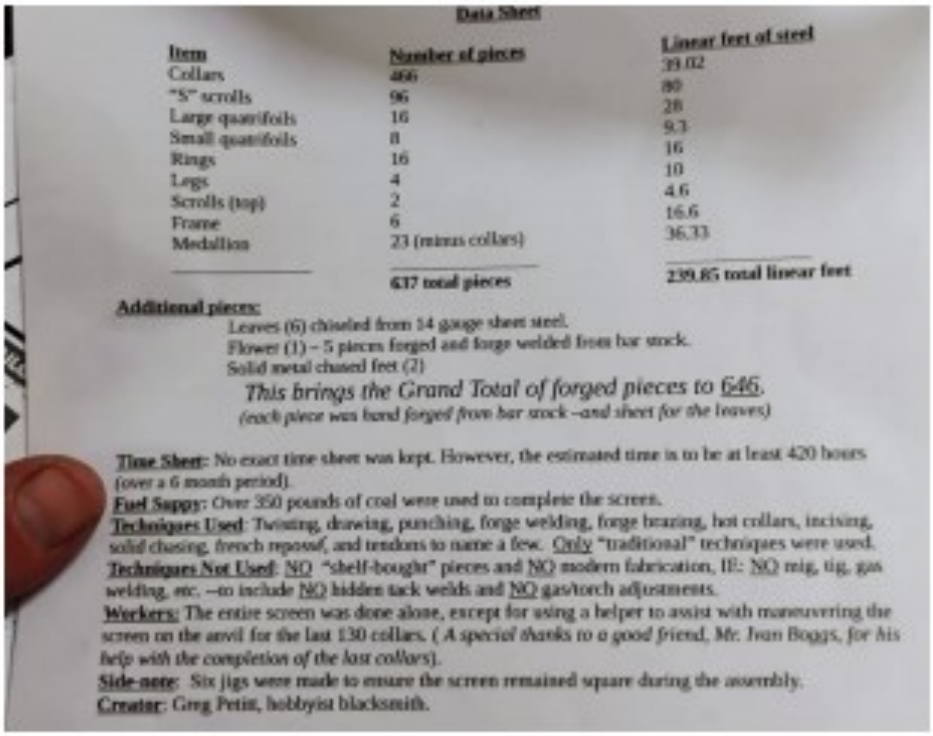
Safety Considerations:

- Melting Pewter: Be extremely cautious when melting pewter as it is hot, and take precautions to avoid spills or burns.
- Ventilation: Ensure good ventilation, as working with hot metal can release fumes.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Wear appropriate safety gear, including eye protection, heat-resistant gloves, and leather aprons, especially during casting.
- Lead Concerns: If using older pewter, test for lead and take precautions to prevent lead poisoning by wearing a respirator while cutting or heating the metal and washing your hands thoroughly.

SBA Conference

Submitted by Keith Brock

This fireplace screen was insane. It was made by **Greg Petitt.** There are 466 collars in this piece and the big collar in the center holds 21 separate pieces. Greg said he did the whole thing in the forge with no torch work. It is a beautiful piece



Data Sheet

Item	Number of pieces	Linear feet of steel
Collars	466	39.02
"S" scrolls	96	80
Large quatrifoils	16	28
Small quatrifoils	8	9.3
Rings	16	16
Legs	4	10
Scrolls (top)	2	4.6
Frame	6	16.6
Medallion	23 (minus collars)	36.33
	637 total pieces	**239.85 total linear feet**

Additional pieces:
Leaves (6) chiseled from 14 gauge sheet steel.
Flower (1) – 5 pieces forged and forge welded from bar stock.
Solid metal chased feet (2)

This brings the Grand Total of forged pieces to 646.
(each piece was hand forged from bar stock –and sheet for the leaves)

Time Sheet: No exact time sheet was kept. However, the estimated time is to be at least 420 hours (over a 6 month period).
Fuel Supply: Over 350 pounds of coal were used to complete the screen.
Techniques Used: Twisting, drawing, punching, forge welding, forge brazing, hot collars, incising, solid chasing, *french repoussé*, and tendons to name a few. Only "traditional" techniques were used.
Techniques Not Used: NO "shelf-bought" pieces and NO modern fabrication, IE: NO mig, tig, gas welding, etc. --to include NO hidden tack welds and NO gas/torch adjustments.
Workers: The entire screen was done alone, except for using a helper to assist with maneuvering the screen on the anvil for the last 130 collars. (*A special thanks to a good friend, Mr. Ivan Boggs, for his help with the completion of the last collars*).
Side-note: Six jigs were made to ensure the screen remained square during the assembly.
Creator: Greg Petitt, hobbyist blacksmith.

Back row (left to right): Cayne Lawson, Curly Lawson, Peter Bhakta, Tony Etheridge, Pat Walters, Chris Caroll,

Front row (left to right): Rich McGuire, Marcye Brown, Rusty Osborne, Rachel Jenson, Pam Etheridge, Troy Smith

Pat Walters, Curly and Cayne Larsen held a hammer-in in Socastee earlier in September with 16 smiths in attendance. They took a video but it wouldn't load here. They did practice work for the hinges made at Oconee New members Darla Bridges and her son participated- Ethan is Meck Hartfield's great nephew! Pat reported that a good time was had by all!

For Sale

Todd Elder is offering Beginning Blacksmithing and Knifemaking Classes. Contact him at (864-978-7232)

Several hand crank blowers and blower parts for sale. Barry Myers 803-640-5504

We have coal. 3 bucket minimum - $50, 6 buckets (30 gal barrel), $100, 11 buckets (55 gal barrel) $150, 30 buckets (1/2 ton) $500, 60 buckets (1 ton) $1000. Located at John Tanner's, 803-422-4714 in Swansea, SC. Weekend pick up is preferred. You must provide your own buckets or barrels and payment is expected at time of pick up (cash or check made out to PSABG).

Clay Spenser's Tire Hammer Plans and his new book on *Flat Dies Power Hammer Tools*, each $30. clay@tirehammer.com or check/mo to 73 Penniston, AL 35670.

Upcoming events:

SC State Fair is October 10, 11, and 12. . John Tanner is our contact. Let him know if you plan to come. 803-422-4714e

Mythical and Medieval Fest, November 8-9, 15-16. 3833 SC707, Socastee, SC! Pat Walters is contact.

December Guild Meeting: December 6 at Ryan Calloway's Artistry in Greenville.

Philip Simmons Artist Blacksmith Guild

http://philipsimmonsartistblacksmithguild.com/

President: Jody Durham
207 Ridgewood St, Easley, SC 29642
864 985 3919/ironsmith@gmail.com
Vice President: David Bush
811 Windsong Trail, Little Mountain, SC 29075
803-940-0923/davebush157@gmail.com
Secretary/Treasurer: Ben Secrist
PO Box 223, Saint George, SC 29477
843-457-2755/ben@fieryice.us
Webmeister: Jason Jaco
931 1/2 Texas Street, Columbia, SC 29201
803-799-1865/texasstreetworks@gmail.com
Librarians: Tony and Pam Etheridge
420 Prestige Ct, Orangeburg, SC 29115
803-682-5529, auntpam1957@gmail.com
SBA Representative: Jesse Barfield
803-287-0929/jesstersforge@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Barry Myers
1847 Pisgah Rd, N. Augusta, SC29841
803-640-5504/ blmyers647@gmail.com
Board Members
Rusty Osborne
162 Ole Simpson Place, Catawba, SC 29704
803-374-7987 rusty_osborne@yahoo.com
Bob Stukes
3125 Old Hwy 52, Moncks Corner, SC 29461
843-708-3500/**restukes@yahoo.com**
Pat Walters
300 Scotts Mill Ct., Myrtle Beach, SC
843-446-6676/pfw75@gmail.com
Chris Carroll
33 North Commerce St, Liberty, SC 29657
864-608-4030/christizum@gmail.com

Membership Application

___ New Member___ Renewal

Name: _____Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____Phone: _____

email: _____ Sponsor_____

Dues are $20.00 per person/family, per year. **Make checks out to PSABG** Please remit to:

Ray Pearre, 4605 Durant Ave., N. Charleston, SC29405

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSMPUMPTION OF RISK

I acknowledge that blacksmithing and related activities are inherently dangerous and involve risks and dangers to participants and spectators that may result in serious injury or death. I have considered these risks and I knowingly assume them. I agree that I am responsible for my own safety during Guild events, including wearing appropriate clothing and protective gear and remaining a safe distance from all dangerous activities. I agree to hold Philip Simmons Artist Blacksmith Guild and guest demonstrators of our craft harmless from liability and expenses arising from of my actions and/or omissions.

When was the last time you paid dues?

There is a note below your address on the last page of our newsletters. It will say something like…

“"Dues Last Paid 2024, Dues for 2025 are Due, or Dues Paid for 2025"

This note is updated for each newsletter. We appreciate your prompt payments.

Send an email to Barry Myers to get on the email list, address above

October Guild Meeting
Lexington County Museum, 10/18

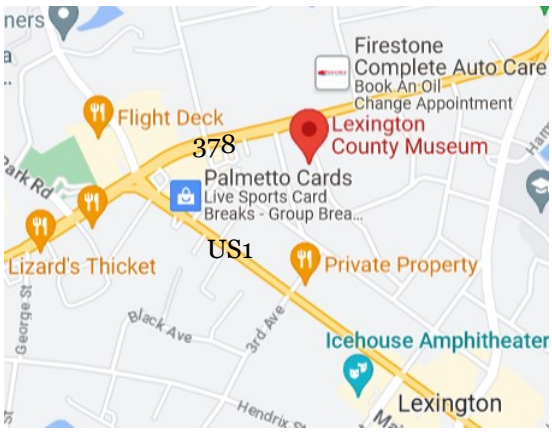
Contact Dave Bush, 803-940-0923

Demo beginning at 10AM

Backslapping and glad handing may start somewhat earlier

Bring a side, dessert, or drinks and forge something nice for the iron-in-the-hat I might want to win!

Dave is planning to demonstrate several types of scrolls. Jason Jaco to assist.



231 Fox St, Lexington, SC 29072

-