

On the Anvil NEWSLETTER

PHILIP SIMMONS ARTIST BLACKSMITH GUILD

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Upon the forge of happiness, may your fortune e'er be wrought! That is what is written on Abe Pardee's vent!

Blacksmiths! I would like to start off by wishing you all a belated Merry Christmas, and I hope for you all to have a Wonderful New Year! Our December meeting was held at the American College of the Building Arts. A unique school we are lucky to have in our state.

Our Demonstrator was Abe Pardee (<http://www.pardeemetal.com/>), who forged a Menorah pictured somewhere here in the newsletter, I am sure! Abe said he forges one out for every Hanukkah and did an amazing job! He completed forge welding all the pieces without flux which is always an impressive feat for those who have tried the task! A skill I am going to pursue soon for sure! Ray was our host and successfully acquired fried chicken for the main course, fixings and victuals were provided by the membership! Ray has been a member going on fourteen years now-thirteen as our Secretary/Treasurer, and has been an invaluable help to the guild holding that office with distinction. Thanks for all you've done!!!

We have started to assemble the board officers after meetings now which is helping a lot to further what we offer to our members. This last meeting we have put forth a budget of \$100.00 a year to go towards

growing our library! It may sound small but over time it will grow the books we carry! I would also like to thank Pam and Tony for their dedication to managing those books and storing them! If you would like to donate a book or money specifically to the library you can contact them at your leisure or give it to any of the board officers. One other thing-if you have books on loan, BRING THEM BACK! Someone else might want them!

Our Iron-in-the-hat brought in \$771 and had some neat art prints generously donated by a charter member Ted Mays, who made a long trip from Low Gap, NC to attend! I enjoyed talking to him about his experiences in the Guild. We have grown tremendously since those early days!

Barry and Ray added the requirements you need to follow to be covered by the Guild's insurance on Page 6. Another thing that you should consider is talking to your insurance agent about an umbrella policy. They are relatively cheap. And, they can cover you for just about everything—even blacksmithing!

New Members: Clifton Ivey; Zachariah Simmons; and Michael Vied. It has been a while since we had anyone named Simmons in the Guild. Welcome to you all!

Our next meeting is being held at the Horry County Museum and is hosted by Walter Hill and the Horry County Museum. If you haven't come to a meeting in a while, you're missing out! Bring something for the Iron-in-the-hat and be ready to chow down on something good, maybe even chicken bog.

This is a special meeting as it is our annual election. If you feel a call to become a leader, I encourage you to raise your hand to volunteer, it's a rewarding endeavor!

See you there, Jody!



Here are some Jim Carother's mule trace hooks, bent to better support a pot bail when the hook is hung on a bar and the pot is on the bent loop



Iron in the Hat

Item	Donated By	Won By	Item	Donated By	Won By
2017 Madison Poster	Guild	Chris Carroll	Form Folded Bowl	Barry Myers	Cain Larson
Red Bear Scabbard	Al Jenkins	Chris Carroll	Dragon Slingshot	Chris Carroll	Bill Burgess
Impact Tools	Al Jenkins	Bill Burgess	Cashew Brittle	Eileen Carroll	Pam Bush
C Clamp	Al Jenkins	Vaughn	Cashew Brittle	Eileen Carroll	Owen Reidesel
Pattern	Al Jenkins	Chris Carroll	Harness Hook	Jesse Barfield	Al Jenkins
Forge Beginning	Al Jenkins	Owen Reidesel	Meat Turners	Gerald Alsbrook	Rusty Osborne
Last Round Fired	Al Jenkins	Shelby Larson	Handled Bolster Tool	Phil Rosche	Rusty Osborne
Hand Carved Santa	Pam Etheridge	Bill Burgess	Tong Blank	Rusty Osborne	Tim Rabon
Blacksmith Flame Ret.	Ted Mays	Giacomo	Ornamental Bracket	Davd Bush	Owen Reidesel
God Bless America Print	Ted Mays	Rusty Osborne	Whittling Book	Bruce and Brenda Hester	Tim Mellinchamp
Frick Museum Card	Ted Mays	Rusty Osborne	Rasp and Hammer Head	Bruce and Brenda Hester	Vaughan
Frick Museum Card	Ted Mays	Owen Reidesel	A Dozen Araucana Eggs	Steve Murray	LaDonna Burgess
Frick Museum Card	Ted Mays	Rusty Osborne	Small Crosspeen Hammer	Ryan Calloway	Jody Durham
Frick Museum George Washington Card	Ted Mays	LaDonna Burgess	Green Broom	Ryan Calloway	Tavia Moses
Forged Fork	Todd Elder	Cain Lawson	Menorah Demo Piece	Abe Pardee	Al Jenkins
Springs	Barry Myers	Johnny Marks			

Not seeing the type of information you want to see? Let me know.



Dave Bush's South Carolina birdfeeder holder

Todd Elder's vise from the Eddie Rainey Class



This 1 page article originally appeared in Pittsburgh Area Artist—Blacksmiths Association, November 2022

A Box that is the Gift! By John Klingler

Here's another great project from the pages of the *Blacksmith Journal*, Keepsake Box #2. This keepsake box measures 4" X 3" and is all about accurate layout. The front and back panels have four tenons that are sawed and filed out of 1/4" plate. Those tenons need to line up with holes that you drill into the end plates. The end plates require some basic forging skills, like splitting, grooving and tapering.



A neat feature of this box is the bottom panel. It has tabs that are pinched out with a flat bottomed round punch. Those tabs are indexed into the four sides that are punched with a 3/8" slot punch.

I had problems in splitting the lid knob (1/2" square) with a hot cut, so I cut with a saw and continued to shape it, which worked out fine.

The lid and floor plate are made from 1/8" plate and the four sides are 1/4" plate and 1/2" square is needed for lid knob.

Tools needed:

Hack Saw
Pillar File
3/8" slot punch
Side Set
Hot Cut
Flat Bottom Round punch, 3/8"

Drill bits
8-32 tap for knob

See issue No. 121 of the *Blacksmith Journal* for step by step details.



The *Blacksmith Journal* is written and created by Jerry Hoffman. You can purchase this project's instructions as a hard copy or digitally, for \$3.00 or \$4.00, refer to the title. There are hundreds of projects to choose from the listings.

www.blacksmithjournal.com



Jody just posted a box he made. Watch for it elsewhere in this newsletter. No prize for spotting it or anything, but it is very nice.

This 1 page article appeared in The New England Blacksmith, Spring 2019

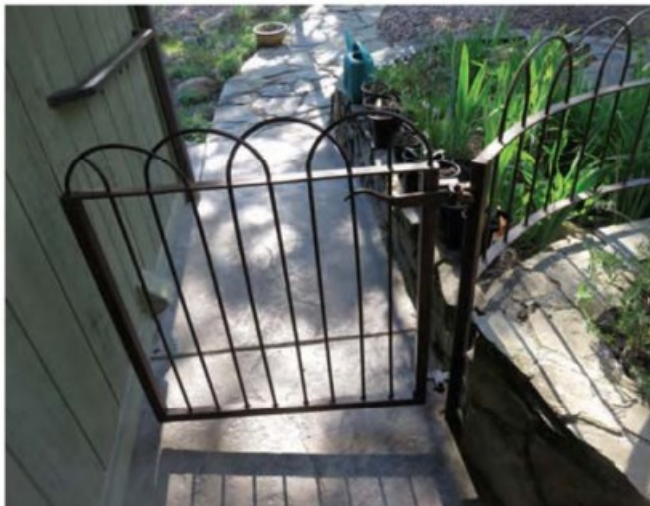


A Brilliant Gate Latch Solution

John West of Phoenix Lake, California built a simple fence around his patio to keep the puppy from chasing the local wildlife. He didn't want to have any hardware attached to the house so he created a latch that caught on the hinge side of the gate.

You can see from the photos, the latch works with the offset hinge assembly. It was a brilliant solution. The catch is easily manipulated to allow free movement of the gate and keeps the dog from nudging the gate open.

Well done Mr. West!



Another Article for the Uninitiated
by The Initiated but Simple Minded
Forge Explosions

Roger Lorance once told a joke about a parachutist that jumped out of a plane and his chute didn't open. As he fell toward the earth struggling with his chute, he saw another man rising from the ground toward him. As the rising man neared him, he hollered "do you know anything about parachutes?" The other man hollered back, "no, do you know anything about gas forges?"

All kidding aside, you should be well versed in the use and safe operation of gas forges before you try to use one. The primary danger is the Propane fuel. If a large pocket of gas collects before it ignites, there will be a very unsettling noise, if you are still able to hear it. Leaks are also a danger because propane is heavier than air and will collect in low places and will not dissipate readily without a draft. Unless your shop resembles a corncrib, you will need ventilation. Just because it doesn't smoke, doesn't mean there are no fumes. CO poisoning is deadly. You cannot see or smell carbon monoxide. You might get a headache if you don't pass out and eventually die first. VENTILATE!!

A good old coal forge can also explode. Conditions have to be just right for it to happen, but it can. The nasty yellow, brown smoke that comes off of a pile of freshly fired "green" coal is a combustible gas. The gas usually burns off right at the surface of the coal or makes a quick trip up the vent pipe off the hood, if you have one, and you should. If you cut the draft, the smoke (gas) accumulates in the coal or migrates down the tuyere into the draft pipe. When you restart the draft, there may be a flash or a bang. Hot smoke and fresh air combined is known as backdraft. There was a Ron Howard movie several years ago called "Backdraft". It was very exciting and entertaining but totally fictional. You cannot create a backdraft, it is a phenomenon, but they happen. Usually, such events in the forge are small but can still cause damage or injury. Keep a steady draft on your coal until it is coked up.

Many years back, my friend, the late Rainbo Clary and I were doing a gig at the Clayville historic site. Clayville had a large 3ft. by 5ft. Bellows mounted near the ceiling connected to the brick forge by some 3-inch metal pipe. We had started the morning fire and were leaning against the bench with a cup of coffee and telling stories. Suddenly it sounded as if a bomb went off. Pieces of wood flew through the air, dust and smoke filled the shop; debris rained down on us and into our coffee cups. The fact that Rainbo was an old cannon cocker in Vietnam and deaf in one

ear to boot, is the only reason I can figure that he continued to lean on the bench, while I on the other hand, covered my head, ducked, ran and hollered "what the hell was that". Rainbo smiled and pointed up at the now mortally wound bellows. You have probably guessed what happened. Some {a lot of} smoke had seeped up the air pipe instead of the hood and met with the right amount of air to cause a phenomenon. The bellows was toast but being crafty people, as blacksmiths often are, we drug out an old Buffalo blower and made it through the day. We had always made a joke about it since, especially Rainbo. I think he was jealous of my ability to duck so low and run so fast going nowhere. I have since asked smiths that use bellows if they have seen such a thing, and many said yes. Beware of smoke.

Dave Kervin

Reprinted from the Tuyere, Newsletter of the Illinois Blacksmith Assoc

Insurance Coverage for Guild Sponsored events...

The Guild has purchased Insurance Policies for General Liability (Personal Injury and Property Damage) and for Legal Action against the Guild Officers and Board of Directors. Coverage is not automatic for any and all blacksmith events. If you are being paid by another party or collecting a fee from participants other than cost to cover material, you are not eligible for coverage.

You must request coverage by email or phone to the Secretary/Treasurer at least two weeks before your event. In your request please describe your event, its location, and date(s). For coverage you must meet the following criteria.

For a Demonstration Event:

1. Do not allow the Public into your work area for close observation or participation. If the location dictates, a barricade must be placed to create a safe space of at least 5 feet between the Public and your work area.
2. Participants in the Work Area should be Guild Members and Acknowledge and Assume Risk for participation in the event. This can be accomplished verbally at the beginning of the event or by signing them up as a New Member. Provide the Secretary/Treasurer a list of participants, New Members applications, and dues collected during the event.

For a Green Coal Event:

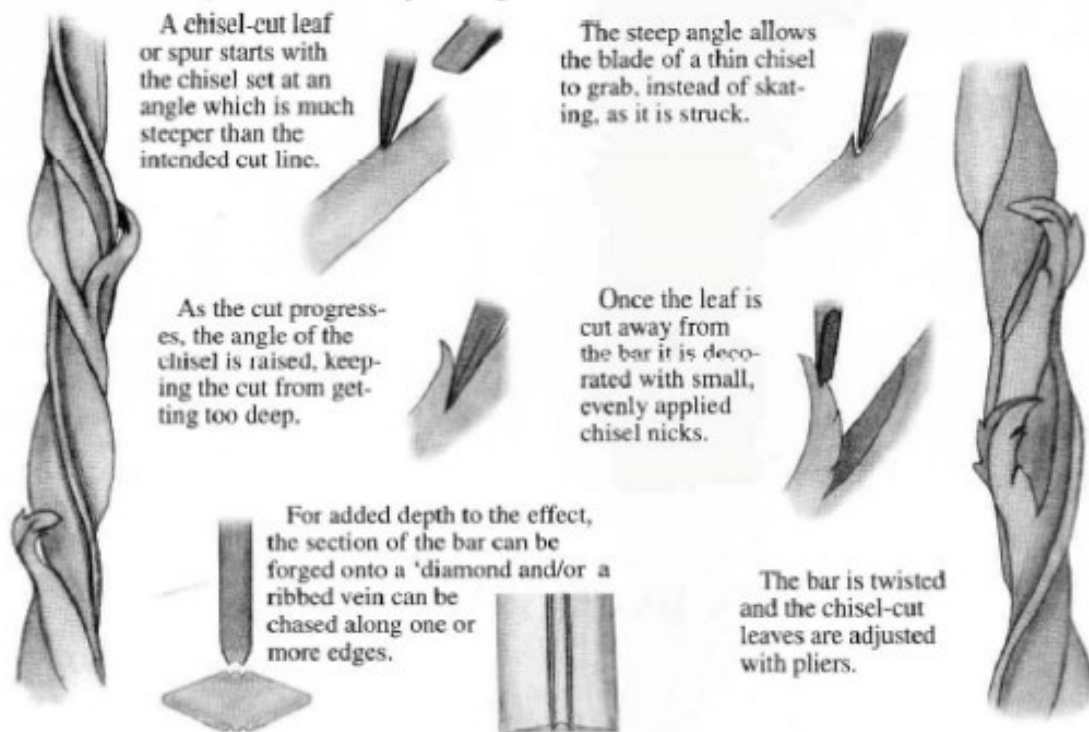
1. Participants less than 18 years old must have a parent or Guardian present during the event. The minimum age to participate is 14 years old.
2. Appropriate attire must be worn. Closed end shoes, long pants, gloves are recommended, safety glasses are required.
3. Conduct a safety briefing before the start of "hot work"
4. Instruction shall be "one on one" with Guild Members as additional Instructors
5. A First Aid Kit must be available.
6. Do not allow the Public into the work area for close observation. If the location dictates, a barricade must be placed to create a safe space of at least 5 feet between the Public and the work area.

Always promote the Guild Mission to educate and preserve the Craft. Guild informational brochures are available to assist you with these requirements. They contain a Membership Application form and Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk Statement.

You will receive a reply and confirmation of coverage. If you have questions contact the Secretary/Treasurer

This 1/2 page article reprinted from BAM - November-December 2002

Gothic Twist, *Illustration by George Dixon*



This 1/2 page article originally appeared in the (June 1975) issue of *The Anvil's Ring*, and is reprinted courtesy of ABANA. All rights reserved.



TWISTS

Here are 4 examples of types of twists made in the Samuel Yellin shop. They may be used for table legs, frames for grills, banisters and newel posts and for other uses. The diagram below each shows the composition of the cross sections. All are made of a combination of rod, square bar, angle iron and flat bar. The twist on the right is composed of rod but is embellished with two square knots (because the rod was not long enough?).



Max Segal Philadelphia, PA



Crane's Head

By Otto Bacon, A MABA member

A couple decades ago I visited a historic site in England. The blacksmith was making fire pokers with this crane's head as the handle. He said it was an ancient English pattern and I was welcome to copy it. Over the years, I have used it in several variations on a number of projects.

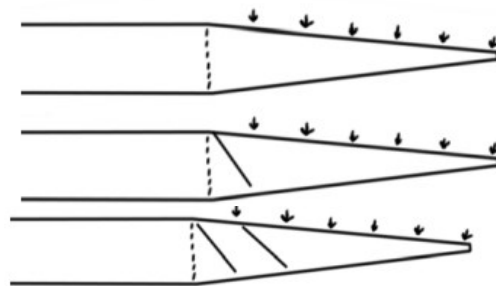
Start out with 1/2" square rod. Make a chisel mark three inches from the end, and one 5 inches from the end

Starting at the three inch mark, draw a taper almost to a point. Slightly chamfer the corners of the tapered section with light hammer taps. The length of this taper determines the length of the cranes feathered plume.



Taper with chamfered corners-

Now you need to twist the tapered plume. If you simply heat it up and try to twist by the small end, you will end up with a twist on the first little bit only. You have to do it in stages. Heat the taper to bright red and clamp the bar in your vise right at the base of the taper. Using tongs, grasp the taper about 3/4" to 1" from the vise and twist to your satisfaction. Now do another heat and twist the next 3/4" to 1". As the taper gets smaller, you must twist a shorter section. Make sure the twist on each section matches the previous. There is no "do over" on this.



Twist the taper in several sections as shown by arrows.



At the 5" mark, completely fold the bar back on itself. Use a wooden mallet to avoid damaging the corners of your twist. (I realize there is a regular hammer in the picture, but I really did use the wooden mallet).

No Dues, No News! Please check your membership expiration date on the mailing address and keep your dues up to date



Using a wooden mallet, form the crane's head over the horn of your anvil. (now you can see my well used and abused wooden mallet).



Add the eyes with an eye punch. Be careful to get them lined up from one side to the other. You think it won't show, but it will.

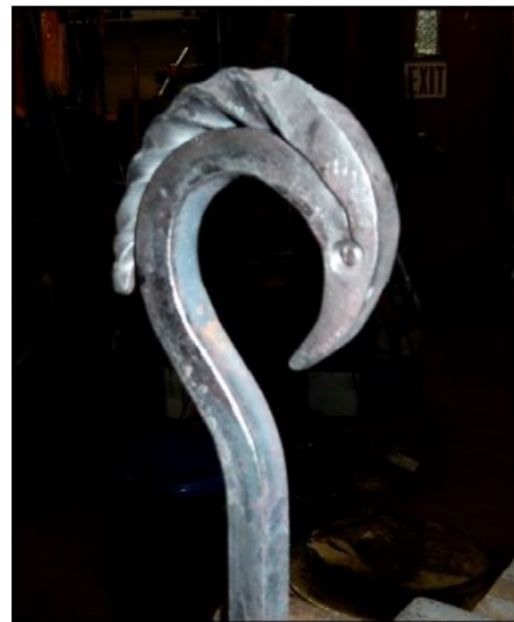


Draw the folded part out to form the beak.



Now add the nostrils with a pointed punch.

Originally published in the Jan-Feb 2023 MABA
The Upsetter



Shape the neck to suit and polish with a wire brush.



Christmas ornaments by newish member, Marcy Brown. Very creative!



Abe Pardee's Menorah demo piece at the December Meeting won by Al Jenkins

For Sale

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

Guild Coal (in Sumter): 3 buckets, \$30; 6 buckets or 30 gal barrel—\$45.00; 11 buckets - 55 gal barrel - \$ 60.00; 15 buckets - 1/4 ton - \$70.00; 30 buckets - 1/2 ton - \$140.00; 60 buckets - 1 ton - \$280.00. Contact **Walt Beard** 803-464-8483 in Sumter.

Forkruck tine sections for striking anvils. \$30. Jody Durham, 864-985-3919 ironsmith@gmail.com

Clay Spenser's Tire Hammer Plans \$30. clay@tirehammer.com or check/mo to 73 Penniston, AL 35670.

Upcoming events:

Meeting Schedule:

January Open Forge: January 13. At Tony and Pam Etheridge's forge at 333 Prestige Ct., Orangeburg. Contact Rusty Osburne, 803-374-7987

March Open Forge: March 9 and 10 at Jim Pender's forge at 1851 Ribaut Rd, Port Royal, SC 29935 Contact Rusty Osborne, 803-374-7987

April Meeting: Magnolia Gardens. Date TBD Contact Ray Pearre 843-860-0532

June Meeting: Roger and Gail Marcengill's. 12 Ringing Anvil Rd. Westminster SC Date TBD.

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: Todd Elder

505 Old Orangeburg Rd., Lexington, SC 29073
864-978-7232/elderusc13@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Ray Pearre

4605 Durant Ave.,
N. Charleston, SC29405
843-860-0532/pearrecr@gmail.com

Librarians: Tony and Pam Etheridge

420 Prestige Ct, Orangeburg, SC 29115
803-682-5529
auntpam1957@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

Jason Jaco TexasStreetWorks

931 1/2 Texas Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803-799-1865/texasstreetworks@gmail.com

Ben Secrist

PO Box 223
Saint George, SC 29477
843-457-2755/ben@fieryice.us

Bob Stukes

3125 Old Hwy 52, Moncks Corner, SC 29461
843-708-3500/restukes@yahoo.com

Membership Application

___ New Member ___ Renewal

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

email: _____ Sponsor _____

Dues are \$15.00 per person/family, per year. **Make checks out to PSABG** Please remit to:

C. Ray Pearre, Jr., 4605 Durant Ave., North Charleston, SC 29405

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

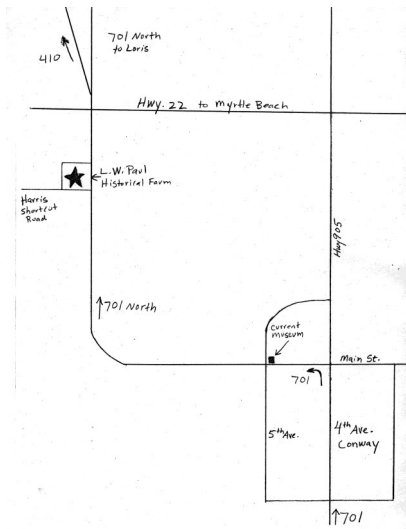
I acknowledge that blacksmithing and related activities are inherently dangerous and involve risks and dangers to participants and spectators that may result in serious injury or death. I have considered these risks and I knowingly assume them. I agree that I am responsible for my own safety during Guild 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 2023, Dues for 2024 are Due, or Dues Paid for 2024"

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



L. W. Paul Living History Farm

February Meeting, 2/10

.2279 Harris Short Cut Rd, Conway, SC 29526

(843) 365-3596

10 AM

Bring a side, dessert, or drinks and something you might put a buck in the iron-in-the-hat for

Walter Hill will be doing the demo, but he has-

n't yet decide what he is going to demonstrate to educate and dazzle you. But, I assure that he will, and you will be dazzled. Prepare to be dazzled!

Jody's Coffin, it is always good to plan ahead...

