

Smashed Thumb

Volume 11 Issue 1

January-February 2005

The Newsletter of the Kentucky Blacksmith Association

An Affiliate of the Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America



NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2005

10:00 A.M. at Lewis's Shop

Fred Hutt's Blacksmith Shop

853 South Seventh St.

Corner of Seventh and Breckenridge streets

This is a general membership meeting we will be electing board members and officers. It is legal and modest to nominate yourself.

Lewis recently made some shackles for an educational program of the KY Center for African American Heritage. The shackle is similar to a padlock shown in Donald Streeter's book "Professional Smithing"

He will demonstrate the making of the lock mechanism and then there will be a little open forging time. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Board of Directors

President: Andy Bennett P.O. Box 366 Brandenburg, KY 40108 270 422-3107

e-mail:qmnforge127@msn.com

Secretary - Treasurer :Lewis Meyer 1101 Mechanic St Jeffersonville, IN 47130 502-445-2654 fciron@yahoo.com

Editor :Larry Zoeller 4312 Lahna Dr. Louisville, KY 40216 (502) 361-0706 e-mail: zman59@earthlink.net

Membership Secretary Mike Bromley C/O General Delivery Hudson, KY 40145 270 257-0087 artisans@creative-net.net

Dave Beatty 9213 Auburn Ave. Louisville, KY 40299 502 491-2505 d_beatty@bellsouth.net

Quartermaster :Danny Downs 6410 Ridge Cliff Rd. Louisville, KY 40228 502 231-3880

Joe Rice 1929 Sullivan Ln. Bardstown, KY 40004 502 348-2810 rice425@bellsouth.net

A Note from Lewis (Secretary and Treasurer)

Welcome to 2005

Last year was very exciting with the biannual ABANA conference in Richmond. I know that several of our members attended this event. I was a volunteer at the conference so I ran myself ragged and didn't get to see as much as I would have hoped.

This year we, as a group, have a big project of our own: the Knob Hill Smithy. Once we complete our blacksmith shop at Bernheim Forest we should be able to do more hands on activities. Between the KBA and my shop I am asked several times a month about how to get started in blacksmithing. I feel that the best way is to get your hands dirty. The shop at Bernheim would give us the opportunity to offer workshops and classes for people who don't have or are not inclined to get their own shop.

Of course first we need to build the shop. The real challenge will be working with Bernheim; we are very hands on group. If it were a matter of sweat equity we would have the shop already. In order to work with our partner we need to generate a construction plan and budget. All of the work that is to be done needs to be listed with costs. After we generate a complete list then we can go through and see what materials and labor can be donated by our members or through Bernheim. Then we can see where we need to spend actual dollars. There is list of work to be done, but we need prices.

I feel that having a place where our members can work would be a tremendous boon to our group. Currently we offer very little of value to our members other than fellowship. While fellowship is great for those of us who do our smithing alone it is cold comfort for beginners. I feel that regular hands on activities would add a lot of vitality to our group.

OK, what I am trying to say is that WE NEED A BUDGET WITH PRICES!! This does not mean that we are promising to spend the money, but it will give Bernheim a way to integrate our project into their operation so that we can get in there and start working.

Board Elections:

We need to have new board elections. Our last elections were almost three years ago, so many of us have been serving without due process. Here is the current status of the board.

Lewis Meyer, Secretary and Treasurer, term ends Jan. 2006
Danny Downs, term ends Jan. 2006

Andy Bennett, President, term ends Jan. 2005; Andy has declined to run for re-election.
David Beatty, Term ends Jan. 2005

Newsletter editor, Larry Zoeller, this is an at will position.
(Whoever agrees to do it gets it.)

Danny Bennet, Joe Rice and everybody else that has been coming to board meetings is way expired. We need to elect six new board members and a slate of officers

It would be good idea for us to establish a regular date for meetings, for instance KBA meetings third Saturday every other month followed by a board meeting after lunch.

Please

Bring a trade related Item for Iron in the Hat Drawings

Mailing Address:

Kentucky Blacksmith Association

P.O. Box 32041

Louisville, KY 40232

Kentucky Blacksmith Association Home Page:

Classified Ads:

Medium size, 2-speed post drill for sale, \$75. Also looking for a post drill worktable and lower wall mount that will fit a 1-inch diameter shaft. Contact: Joe Rice @ **502 348-2810**

Hand Tied Brooms:

Donna Williams will custom hand-tie a broom on your handle. Contact Donna at (502) 845-4229

New Book: Gas Burners
for Forges, Furnaces & Kilns
written by Michael Porter

ISBN: 1879535203 ~ paperback ~ 216 pages
111 illustrations by the author
\$19.95 price ~ \$4.00 shipping

Summary

“Gas Burners for Forges, Furnaces, & Kilns” is a do-it-yourselfers dream book, showing beginners how to make highly efficient gas burners inexpensively. These burners use simple gas accelerators as their central operating principle. All that is needed is a \$2 MIG tip and some plumbing parts. This eliminates the need for a blower to supply combustion air, allowing the burners to be built in any size. Burners are featured, which are small enough to be used for a jewelry torch or large enough to heat any ceramic kiln. Because these burners are both powerful and portable, they can be combined with low cost space age insulating materials and common containers to build light compact heating equipment. Also described is a blacksmith's forge that can be carried anywhere and stored under a workbench; a portable metal melting furnace; a portable farrier's forge; a portable glass furnace/glory hole; and a mobile hot-work station that aids in combining several crafts. The burners and equipment provide an inexpensive way to get started in blacksmithing, foundry work, ceramics, or glasswork. General information and specific designs are given, enabling the craftsperson to build equipment tailored to their own desires.

Zoeller Forge 4312 Lahnna Dr, Louisville, KY 40216
Phone: 502-361-0706 Email: zman59@earthlink.net
Website: www.geocities.com/zoellerforge

Supplier of stainless steel burner flares to fit the Reil, Side arm, Mongo and T-Rex burners. He carries a full line of quality propane regulators, hoses and fittings. He sells all the parts for the burner designs in Michael Porter's book both separately and in kit form. He has 1" and 2" Durablanket 2300 degrees ceramic blanket and a refractory coating, Plistix 900F, that will replace ITC 100. Call for pricing.

Upcoming conferences: **BAM** 14th Annual Ozark Conference

April 29,30th and May 1st 2005

Warrenton Co. Fairgrounds, Warrenton MO.

This years demonstrators are Alice James demonstrating “ Finding the Right Technique to forge Desired Forms”, Bill Epps demonstrating the making of “accent Pieces”, and Joe Szilaski showing how to make knives and tomahawks.

Call Bess Ellis @ 573 766-5346 for additional information.

Contemporary Forged Metal Coming to Kentucky in April!

Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft Presents an Exhibition of American Blacksmiths Saturday, April 2 - Saturday, July 16, 2005

Contemporary Forged Metal

Sponsored by Brown & Williamson, Artist Blacksmith Association of North America,Inc., Lois Mateus and Tim Peters, and Debbie Huddleston

Opening Reception: Friday, April 1, 2004 5-9pm

Louisville, KY -- The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft is proud to present a blockbuster exhibition of American Blacksmiths entitled Contemporary Forged Metal, scheduled to run from Saturday, April 2 through Saturday, July 16, 2005.

"The mission of this exhibition is to put the art of contemporary metalworking on the main stage of American cultural life and to reach out to inform potential collectors of this unique art form," explains curator Brion Clinkingbeard. Over 70 blacksmiths will participate in the show, including well known Louisville artists Craig Kaviar and Lewis Meyer, making this the largest ironwork exhibit ever assembled. After the premier opening in Louisville the show will travel to the Metal Museum in Memphis, Tennessee.

Many other galleries and museums in the Louisville area have been invited to mount related metalwork exhibitions in an effort to make the project a citywide event. Plans are underway for workshops and lectures associated with the show, as the exhibition is expected to bring a large number of visitors.

The Opening Reception will be held on Friday, April 1, 2005 from 5-9pm at the Museum, located at 715 West Main Street, in conjunction with the First Friday Gallery Hop.

About the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft

The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft is a nonprofit organization founded in 1981. Its mission is to promote excellence in the art and craft heritage of Kentucky. The Museum is supported in part by the Fund for the Arts and the Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. It is open Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by appointment. Admission is free. For more information, please call

502.589.0102 or log on to www.KentuckyArts.org. Digital images available.

For additional information contact:
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Rural Craft Publications (formerly COSIRA) now has the following publications listed and described below are available to download free from this website as PDF documents.

The url is

<http://www.countryside.gov.uk/NewEnterprise/Economies/craftpublications.asp>

The Blacksmith's Craft

This book, first published in 1952, aimed to meet the needs of craftsmen, technical schools and apprentices training at the time. Today this book continues to be a valuable resource for those studying and working in the blacksmiths craft.

The Blacksmith's Manual Illustrated

This version is a reprint of the Blacksmith's Illustrated Guide, originally published in 1930. The complete text has been reproduced with new pages on temperature and measurement conversions and safety added to the back of the book.

Wrought Ironwork: a manual of instruction for craftsmen

The techniques in this book are shown by sequences of photographs with concise explanations which are intended to supplement instruction on the anvil. It is hoped this clear and practical method will help the smith to achieve the highest standard of work.

Catalogue of Drawings: Wrought Ironwork Gates

This publication of wrought ironwork designs should prove invaluable as a reference and working tool to all those involved in forgework - or interested in the history of blacksmithing

Catalogue of Drawings for Wrought Ironwork

This "Catalogue of Drawings for Wrought Ironwork" is presented in 15 sections. Drawings include door furniture, fire side furniture, lighting, grilles, sundials, sign stands and brackets, and many more.

Catalogue of Drawings: Weathervanes

Over 200 designs for weathervanes are included ranging from the classic cockerel weathervane design to the more whimsical: St George, the mad hatter, pigs, fish, dogs of all shapes and sizes, sailing ships, cars, witches and of course, blacksmiths.

Decorative Ironwork

The information contained in this book is aimed at the specialist

ironworker and will assist trainees to gain a better understanding of their craft.

Metals for Engineering Craftsmen

A book written to enhance the small user's appreciation and understanding of the structure and properties of metals.

ABANA President's Letter

February, 2005

This is the time of year in my shop for some clean up, sorting and reorganization after the year end flurry of "got to have yesterday" deliveries. Attention to this task seems to allow more productive time as we ramp back up on the larger projects to start the year.

As this first issue of the *Hammer's Blow* speeds to the press, there are a few small items to share with you members as I clean off my desk.

One of the highlights of the past conference at Richmond was the different entries in the "Banners and Standards" exhibit. The creative talents and technical skills exhibited really showed that a little competition is a GREAT motivator of our ABANA Affiliates. The display area for the banners was a favorite of the camera toting crowd. Just look for pictures in the Winter issue of *The Anvil's Ring* (in the mail now) if you missed the display.

The NYSDB affiliate was the sponsor of the banner contest at Richmond, ably chaired by Al Butlak. I have received correspondence from Al that he has a group willing and able to repeat the "Banners and Standards" project at the 2006 ABANA Conference in Seattle, Washington. Look for a news item from his group to your newsletter editor on the "competition" details. It is always fun to see the results of creative juices that flow as your group rises to the challenge. I look forward to seeing your affiliate's banner project in Seattle.

When your ABANA Board met in Seattle, one of the most important business items as usual, was ABANA's Financial Review and Annual Budget approval process. The annual dues structure was reviewed in relationship to its portion of membership income and expenses. After much soul searching, the board, rather reluctantly, approved an increase of basic annual dues to \$55.00, beginning on January 1, 2006.

The good news is the 2005 budget was pared to allow the present dues structure to remain until December 31, 2005. And-----[more good news]--

You may opt for a two-year dues renewal during 2005 at the existing dues structure. The first quarter dues notices are now hitting the mail, so consider opting for two year renewals as you send in your dues.

Well, off to sort out some more of the detritus in my shop. I REALLY wish I could find my favorite twisting wrench-----

Don Kemper

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c/o Larry Zoeller
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Louisville, KY