

# RAM

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009



Bending a 21" I Beam the hard way

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**Newsletter of the  
Blacksmiths  
Association  
of Missouri**

*Volume 26 No. 6*  
**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER**

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**2009**

The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri is published six times a year and is mailed to members of BAM. The annual fee for regular membership is \$25/year; a portion of this amount is for a subscription to this newsletter for one year. Editorial inquiries should be addressed to: **Bob Ehrenberger 6192 Hwy 168 Shelbyville, Mo 63469;(573)-633-2010 or send e-mail to bameditor@centurytel.net** BAM membership inquiries should be addressed to: **Bruce Herzog, 2212 Aileswick Dr., St. Louis, MO 63129; (314) 892-4690 or send e-mail to bjherzog@msn.com.** Occasionally some material will be copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written consent by the author. BAM welcomes the use of any other material printed in this newslet-

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New Member     Renewal     ABANA member?  
How did you learn about BAM? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are for one year from receipt of dues. Dues are \$25, which includes a subscription to the bimonthly BAM newsletter. Please make checks payable to Blacksmith Association of Missouri.

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- Overseas surface mail .....\$65 yr.
- Contributory .....\$100 yr.
- Public library .....\$45 yr.

*See reverse*



# From the Editor

By Bob Ehrenberger

After a cool, wet summer we had a cold, wet fall. Great for blacksmithing, not so great for doing stuff outside. That all changed for our November meeting at Bob Evans' shop in Liberty, MO. It was sunny and 70 deg. A beautiful day and a great meeting. Bob had his employees come in and work a Saturday so that we could see how all the different machines worked. The only way to describe it was impressive. He also had a huge stock pile of steel drops for sale at \$.15/lb, less than half what you'd normally pay for new steel. The BAM members were eager to pick up the bargains as several thousand pound of steel went home with them. It is the nature of the big rolling machines that there is between 1' to 4' of waste on both ends of the piece being bent. This is perfectly good steel, just a little short.

We had good participation in the trade item. There was a wide variety from very simple to real show pieces. I'm sure that they all would get the job done.

November is going to be a busy month for BAM. In addition to the meeting in Liberty we also have the Frank Turley demonstration the weekend before Thanksgiving and the Black Friday hammer-in at Ken's.

When I did the write-up on my paint shaker, I mentioned that I used springs out of my spring can. My proofreader (Jan) thought that was hilarious, and had never heard of such a thing. I assured her that most, if not all of you, had such a can in your shops. I can't imagine any blacksmith throwing a spring away, when it might be used in a future project.

In the last newsletter I posed the question about how Cap and Trade would affect blacksmithing. I posed the same question on the

ABANA news group, TheForge. While it was generally accepted that they would not directly regulate blacksmiths, because we produce less than 10,000 tons of CO2. It was also believed that the cost of coal would go up and it might become harder to get. Because blacksmiths are such small players, we may not get an allocation to purchase coal. The time table for the serious restrictions are several years out, so we still have time to get artistic exceptions into the bill.



The big news at home is the birth of our first grandson. Jennifer, Daniel's wife, gave birth to Robert Daniel Ehrenberger on October 31st. The vital stats are as follows: Length - 21", Weight - 9 pounds 12.7 ounces, Hair - blond, Eyes - too early to tell. I'm sure that our 5 granddaughters (Tiffany's girls) will welcome him to the family.

A note from Ehrenberger Forge. We had a wonderful fall season. With all the rain we had, we didn't have any events in the rain (only at night). Even with the horrible state of the economy, the people still came out and spent their money. A couple shows were

a little down, but most were as good as usual. My power hammer continues to run well, the hit and miss problem seems to go away if I cut back on the oil. So I'm constantly adjusting the oiler to make sure there is a steady supply, but not too much. To monitor the oil I have mounted a spot light on the side of the hammer. As a result, I discovered that with the bright light shining on the dies, I could forge things down to a near perfect finish, which has really cut down on the amount of hand hammering that was needed to finish things up.

With this issue of the newsletter, I complete five years as editor of BAM. It hardly seems possible. I am very grateful for all the support that I have gotten from the BAM members. There have been very few issues that I did not get a submission from a BAM member, there are several in this one. From reading the other groups newsletters, this is unusual. This shows what a great group of guys we have in BAM and that many of you are actively involved in the craft. Thank you all, keep the articles coming, we all benefit when you share your experiences.

On another personal note, I was notified last week that I have been accepted into the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program, which is run by the Missouri Arts Council. We have not received the final paper work yet, but the application process has taken more time than I expected. I'll keep you informed as we work through it. I know that several BAM members have been in the program in the past. It's a good program and another way to help the craft stay alive and grow.

**The next Newsletter submission deadline is January 23.**



# BAM Meeting November 2009

Bob Evans' shop, Liberty, MO

**Meeting Minutes** by Don Anders

## Old Business

The gas forge purchase is still on. Please contact Ken Jansen by e-mail if you are interested in joining the group forge purchase, he will respond with the details.

Frank Turley Demo November 21 & 22, details are on the BAM web site.

## New Business

Don Nichols January meeting:

Trade item is 2 items made from a horse shoe. Food will not be provided, so bring a sack lunch.

Riverfront Times newspaper has an article in paper and online concerning an anvil shoot

Don Birdsall is not able to continue heading up the MTS program. Don is having a lot of problems with his shoulder and needs a rest. Thanks Don for all your work with the MTS trailer. **We need someone to pick this position up.** It would be good if you have a vehicle capable of moving the MTS trailer.

Kate Dinneen is working on a fund raiser and other efforts for the Black Jack battle site.

Joe Hurley 2010 BAM conference chair gave his report. Conference will be April 29, 30, thru May 1 and 2<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday thru Sunday. Demonstrators so far are Clay Spenser, Doug murkel, and knife maker Al Dippold. Volunteers are still needed, please volunteer and lighten the load for everyone.

Blacksmith tools are needed for an iron in the hat tool box, please donate something. Please make something for the conference auction.

Treasurer's report was given by Bruce Herzog.

Ned Digh is chair of the nominating committee, contact him if you are interested in running for office, or have someone you would like to nominate.

## Trade Item fishing rod holder

### Made by

Bob Evans  
Thomas Ratliff  
Ken Jansen  
Dale Crabb  
Lee Gielow  
Ed Harper  
John Huff  
Harry Weber  
Nicholas Bishop  
Michiah Lancaster  
Kate Dinneen  
Scott Woods  
Don Nichols  
Mark Lawson  
Seth Lancaster  
Dave Edwards  
Mike McLaughlin

### traded to

Seth Lancaster  
Nicholas Bishop  
Thomas Ratliff  
Ken Jansen  
Scott Woods  
Kate Dinneen  
Dave Edwards  
John Huff  
Mike McLaughlin  
Mark Lawson  
Dale Crabb  
Harry Weber  
Ed Harper  
Bob Evans  
Lee Gielow  
Michiah Lancaster  
Don Nichols

## Iron in the Hat

### Donated by

Don Nichols Disc & misc  
Esther Digh welding Magnets  
Mike Jones 2 bars steel  
Karen Bouckaert stainless hammers  
Karen Bouckaert stainless clamps  
Mel Robinett Vise  
Joe Hurley stainless pins  
Andy Herzog 4140 shaft  
Ken Jansen old files  
Kate Dinneen Sweet Coal  
Joe Hurley 4" copper  
Burton Mannell railroad spikes  
Don Nichols back scratchier  
Bruce Herzog large wall chart  
Ned Digh cast sign blacksmith  
John Huff 2" flatter  
Fred Warner buffing compound  
Harry Weber 2 steel pins  
Don Nichols 2 coil springs  
Don Nichols pins and disc  
Shaped Steel Inc Fire pit/grill  
made by David Davisson and Doug Jones

### Item

### Won by

Harry Weber  
Karen Bouckaert  
Karen Bouckaert  
Don Nichols  
Fred Arnold  
Fred Arnold  
Karen Bouckaert  
James Hoopes  
Don Nichols  
Ken Jansen  
Bob Evans  
John Cowlert  
Jacob Hoopes  
Adam Takac  
J.L. Kennedy  
Dale Crabb  
Dave Edwards  
Don Anders  
John Huff  
Richard Kamp  
Jack Nettleton



*BAM members shopping for steel.*

## Letter from the president;

Hello to all of you poor suckers that missed the meeting and scrap pile at Bob Evans' shop (the rest of us will nod and wink knowingly) man what a great meeting. Not just seeing his shop and the chance to buy virgin material at scrap prices (if you weren't looking for full lengths), But to see how a HUGE "I" beam could be bent cold the hard way, that was inspiring. That says nothing about all the other machines that were running and bending all kinds of materials. There was also a pretty darn good feed put on as well. I don't have all the totals in front of me but there were about 70 or so members present, which I believe is a bit more than normal. I think we usually hit between 40 and 50. The fishing pole holder was a success as a trade item. I saw some from the simplest types to a really elaborate one made by Bob Evans himself that was only missing a cup holder I think.

Bob has already volunteered to host a meeting next November again and I have accepted, I think if I turned him down and the membership found out about it I might be keelhauled. I said it at the meeting but it bears repeating. THANK YOU Bob and your guys for putting on a great show and meeting.

Speaking of meeting schedule I want to thank all of those who have volunteered to host meetings in the next year, 2010 is full and March 2011 has already been asked for. On sort of a related note myself and some others have been recently looking at some of the old newsletters from the late 80's and early 90's and have noticed that it seemed to be the norm to have more than one demonstrator at a meeting rather than the exception. I propose we try to gain back some of that ground and if you can get with one of the guys hosting the meetings and offer to help by demonstrating something. A good example is the meeting we had a Mathew Burnett's, we actually had three demo's and that was great. I am not casting blame or fault on anyone who had a meeting that did not have multiple demonstrators please don't think that, I just want to try to get more into each meeting and then maybe we can each get more out of it. On that note, the meeting next September at Wayne Holder's shop in Leon, Iowa is in need of demonstrators. Please contact me or Wayne if you can help out. It doesn't have to be long, just something to share, doesn't even have to be forging.

We have had an issue with the MTS teaching station. Due to health reasons Don Birdsall, who has been running it for many years now, has had to resign. We need someone to step up and fill his shoes. They are big shoes to fill but we have people who can do it. Maybe we will have more than one person doing it. We have committed to take the teaching station to the ABANA conference next June and I have

assured ABANA that it will get there. I could take it if necessary, since I am going anyway. But back to the MTS situation. I would like the person or persons who take over for Don to be able to haul the trailer. It would be best if they had a truck big enough to haul it. The person or persons will need to be able to organize its use and schedule and hopefully do some of the teaching as well. We usually have others that also do the teaching, but there is never enough. Any volunteers are asked to contact me.

We are getting close to Frank Turley's workshop at Lou's shop, it is just a few weeks away, I look forward to seeing you there.

There was some discussion at the last meeting that we used to have workshop's like that a lot more often than we have in the last few years. So we are going to take the money that is donated at Frank's event that is above and beyond the cost of putting that event on and we are going to put it aside for that reason in the future. I am open to suggestion as to how we utilize it and when/where. We can call it a BAM memorial fund or something in recognition of members who have passed on. We might look at taking some profits from the conference auction and iron in the hat and things like that to supplement this fund. Any of you who have experience in managing something like that and have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me or any board member.

For any of you who make it we are going to be working on the Garden arbor project for the BAM conference auction for 2010. The theme is anything that you would find in a garden. It should be NO larger than life size AND be able to be attached to the arbor, no tractors or other large farm implements please (Phil). I would like to see flowers, fruits, and vegetables, even some hand tools for working on the garden would be cool, acorns, grapes, and leaves etc. On the Friday after Thanksgiving I am having a hammer in at my shop (not sure if this newsletter will be out by then) and then again in the spring, probably the end of March to finish as much as possible. I am going to entertain the possibility of doing some finish work at the conference if it is not too involved.

I am sure I am missing something, feel free to correct me about anything I forgot to bring up.

That is all I have for now.  
Happy forging.

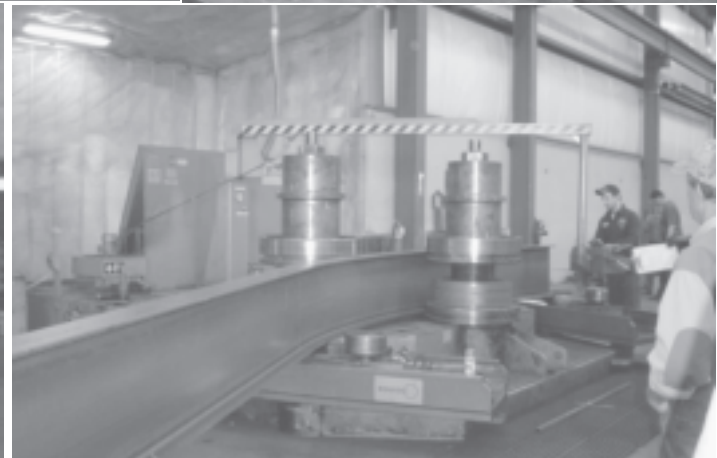
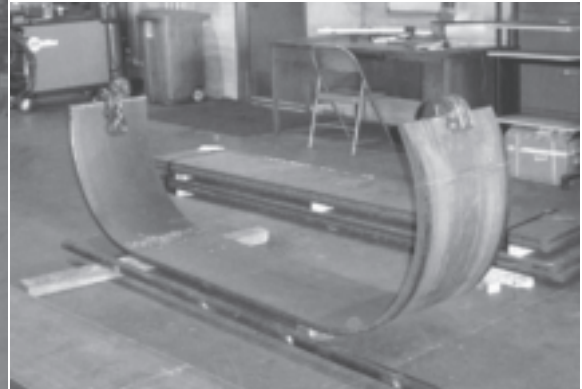
Ken Jansen

[kjjansen@msn.com](mailto:kjjansen@msn.com)

## BAM Meeting at Shaped Steel

Bob Evans was a great host for our November meeting. He even went as far as having his staff come in and work on Saturday so that we could see all his machines in operation. They not only operated the bending machines, he had an employee assigned to weigh and load the remnant steel.

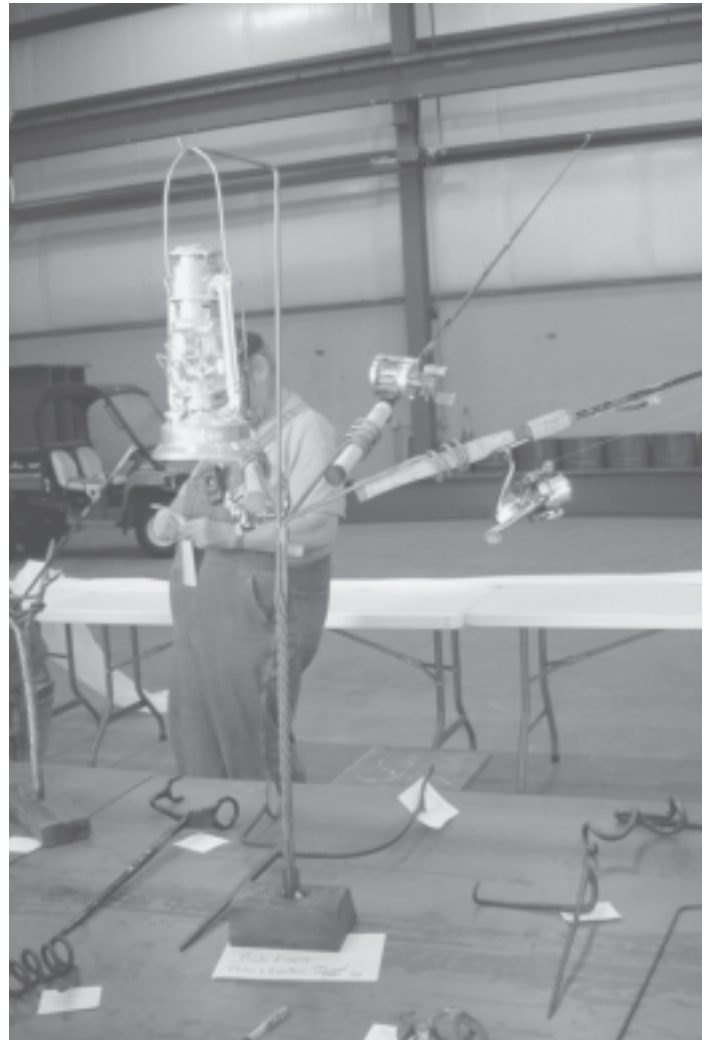
The things we got to see included rolling plate (top), angle iron (middle left), square tubing, and I beams the easy way (middle right), I beams the hard way (bottom). He even let our own Don Nichols operate the big roller once it was set up.





# BAM Goes Fishing

Our trade item this time was something to hold a fishing pole. We had quite a variety of designs as BAM members got into the spirit of it. One of the guys even brought in a machine for bending pole holders cold out of 1/4" round stock. I think I got a picture of everything, via overlapping photos.



# Post Card from Stia, Italy

by Kate Dinneen

In the Tuscany region east of Florence, Italy, there is a village nestled into the hills, along the Arno river, where every two years the valley rings with the sounds of hammers striking anvils. The village of Stia hosted the XVIII Biennale Europea d'Arte Fabbriale from Sept 3-6, 2009. Blacksmiths from around the world gathered to participate in the World Forging Championships which included Team and Individual categories along with a Drawing Competition and a Best Stall Award.

I arrived in Stia on a bus from Florence. For 5 Euros, I had a nice 2 hour ride thru the vineyards and olive groves on a winding hilly road. About 3/4 of the way thru the trip, those of us going to Stia all got off the bus in the middle of the countryside at a fork in the road and waited for another bus to pick us up for the last leg of the trip. As we stood waiting, it became apparent who were the locals and who were the blacksmiths and the smiths traded names and we had a great chat the rest of the way.



a spectacular view of the surrounding countryside. The opening ceremonies were held in the old part of the village near the church and in view of the stalls which were set up by individual smiths, mostly from Italy, to show their wares. Local and regional dignitaries welcomed the smithing community and then we all headed to the castle grounds for the community meal. And what a meal! Several courses including antipasti, pastas, salads, meats and desserts along with water from the local spring and vino from the nearby vineyards. We had a wonderful time greeting old friends and making new ones over the 3 hours or so of eating and drinking. That evening the competition started and the international group of Proctor Taylor, expat living in the UK, Jacob Lefton, a young American traveling Europe and Janne ( didn't get

his last name) also traveling from Finland were in the first flight of competitors.

Friday and Saturday were filled with the competitions, 3 hour sessions which started at 8am and ended at midnight. On Fri, Matt Jenkins and Paul Garrett worked as the team from North America. On Sat afternoon I assisted Matt with his individual piece. And on Sat night from 9-midnight I helped the California lads, Lowell and Herb. The theme for the competition was Balance or Equilibrium and the competitors arrived in various stages of preparation. Some had practiced and perfected their moves and others, like the Americans, came up with a plan at the last minute and worked with strangers. There were a number of different interpretations of the idea of



Upon arrival in Stia, we checked into the event, sorted out our accommodations. There are only a couple of small hotels in Stia, along with a hostel and a camping area set up in the gym and yard of the local school. With over 200 smiths participating in the event, a number of the local townsfolk open their homes and for a small fee (15 Euros) provide a bed. I was paired with Orit, a female smith from Israel and we had a nice room up above the village with

BALANCE, many included an element which balanced on another element, some were a bit more esoteric. One person created a plate with food to signify a balanced meal, the British team of Nigel Barnett and Ian Moran made a single high heeled shoe, there was a yin/yang piece, a beautiful rocking horse, a sculpture of a young child walking hand in hand with an adult using a cane and another piece which was just the walking stick, very nicely done. Walking along the tables with all the different works was quite illuminating.

If you got tired of watching the competition there was an outdoor exhibition of pieces submitted by some of the visiting smiths, a vendor area set up near the river and in the old part of town the lines of blacksmith stalls. These were very interesting, some set up in an attempt to win the best stall award, others designed to show the smiths' work to best advantage.



There were some amazing pieces in these stalls. Among other treats, there were a Damascus smith who had created a beautiful lizard and giraffe, a stall which showed a 'chain' of different twists and a bouquet of different spiral designs. The town of Stia goes all out for this festival,

shop windows sport all different kinds of metal art. The townsfolk spend a lot of time watching the competition, and helping the visiting smiths get around. I know we overwhelmed a couple of the businesses, especially the gelato shop which served some really delicious ice cream and beer and coffee, but the employees were always gracious as were the locals who had to deal with the large influx of bodies.



On Sunday, the judges (this year the judges were: Uri Hofi from Israel, Peat Oberon from the UK, Jan Mohr, CZ, Achim Kuhn of Germany and Aldo Cicinelli,



IT) spent the morning figuring out the winners and I took the Quinnells up on their offer to explore the surrounding countryside. We drove up to the edge of the national park where we came upon a mountain bike race and then we drove to Poppi which is the site of a famous battle and is a very picturesque town with a stunning view of the area and a mountain connected to St Francis. We returned in time for the closing ceremonies which took place in the center of town. The main road was closed and chairs set up. The local dignitaries

thanked all responsible, in particular the young volunteers and then the awards were announced. Unfortunately, I did not keep a good list of all the winners but Matt Jenkins and Paul Garrett received an honorable mention for their piece and Zeevik, an Israeli won the overall Individual Competition with an amazing piece.



All in all it was a wonderful experience (even though my luggage did not make it! Offers from various smiths of their knickers or help in washing my own were taken in stride) and I would strongly recommend going in 2011.

Check out the official Stia site at <http://www.comune.stia.ar.it/biennaleferro/>  
Kate Dinneen



# Opening Your Mail With Style

By Christopher J. Miller

One of the projects for beginning Blacksmiths in Lorelei Sim's Backyard Blacksmith is a leaf letter opener. It is a great project for beginners because it not only forces you to use a number of important skills, but it also results in an attractive piece of work that is cost effective in its use of materials and time and easy to sell at craft fairs and demonstrations.

I do a variation on her process that I find works best for my shop.

You will need the following:

## Stock

- 1 Piece of 3/8" round stock 12" long
- Clear Acrylic Glaze for Finish

## Hand Tools (In Addition to Your Anvil and Post Vise)

- Forging Hammer
- Rounding Chisel
- Rounding Hammer
- 3/8" Round Tongs
- Scrolling Tongs
- Bending Fork
- Angle Grinder with Grinding Disc
- Brass Hand Wire Brush
- Power Wire Brush

I start with forging the Leaf and typically work with an orange yellow heat. Using the Forging Hammer, forge a square point on one end of the stock and taper it down to a conical round point. ( See Fig. 1)

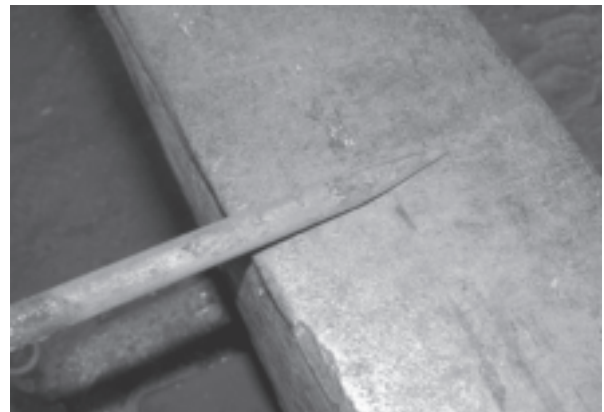


Figure 1

Establish a shoulder on the sharp edge of the anvil about 1 to 1 1/2 inch down the rod from the point. This will be the leaf mass. Then go ahead and draw out another two inches or so back down the rod from the shoulder to form a stem for the leaf. (See Fig. 2)



Figure 2

I use the horn of the anvil to aggressively draw out the stock and then use the face of the anvil to flatten and round a tapering stem. (See Fig.s 3 & 4)



Figure 3

Figure 4



Continued on Page 13



### Letter Opener continued ...

You want the stem about 1/8 inch diameter 2 1/4 inches long from the leaf mass before tapering back into the 3/8 rod. Now flatten out the base of the leaf mass near the stem on the face of the anvil and work your way to the pointed end to develop your leaf shape. (See Fig. 5)

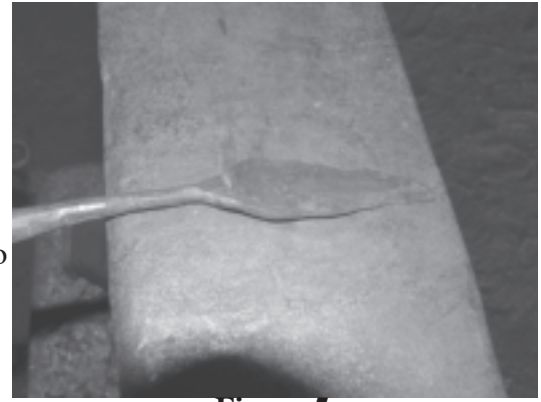


Figure 5

When satisfied with the shape of your leaf, use your rounding Chisel to inscribe the veins in the surface on one side. (See Fig. 6)

In order to give the flat leaf some dimension, use a hard wooden block with a divot cut out of it to sink the leaf, vein side down, into the block and then lift and gently curl back the tip of the leaf in the other direction with your scrolling tongs. (See Fig. 7)

Before losing your heat, gently bend the leaf at the stem about 30 degrees off center of the rod so that you can get your tongs to fit on to the 3/8" section of the rod to work the other end. (See Fig. 8)

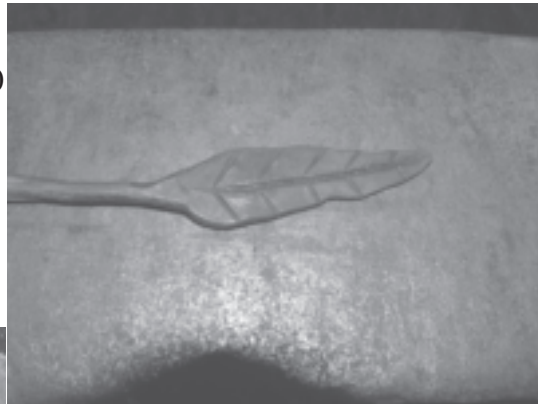


Figure 6

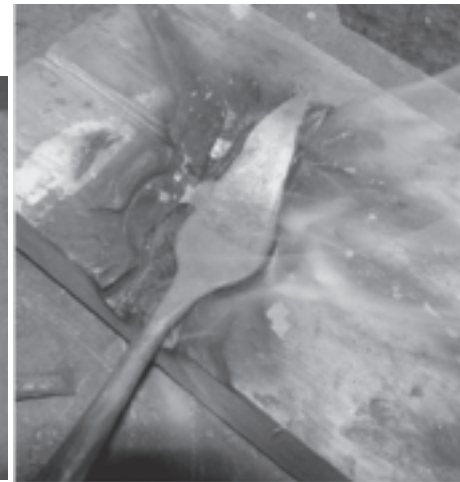


Figure 7

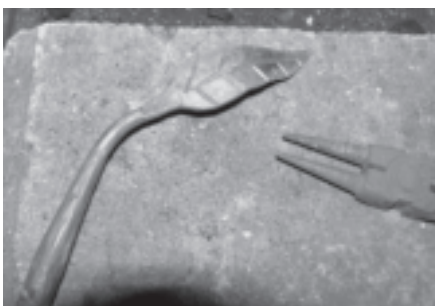


Figure 8

The blade end of the opener is drawn to a slight point and flattened on the face of the anvil for a distance of about 5 inches down the rod toward the leaf end. Try to keep the flat dimension in the same plane as the leaf to facilitate bending the handle later on. (See Fig. 9)



Figure 9

Now comes the most challenging part. You need to take a good orange yellow heat along the entire flattened section and lay it down the center line of the horn of the anvil. I usually mark a soap stone line all the way from the step to the point of the horn on the top of the horn to make it a bit easier to position the work on the horn. (See Fig. 10)



Figure 10



Figure 11

Now use the round head of your rounding hammer to draw out each side of the flattened stock along its entire 5 inch length, alternating blows to each side of the blade to keep it strait. Holding the work on the curved surface of the top of the horn without slipping off to either side takes some getting used to, but once you have the knack of it you will notice that, when the blade is drawn out with the rounding hammer to each side of the center line of the blade, a ridge is formed down the center line of the blade as the blade edges thin out. (See Figs 11& 12)

Continued on page 14

## Letter Opener continued ...

It usually takes me at least three to four heats to finish forging the blade in this fashion. I then straighten and flatten it out on the face of the anvil to get it ready to bend and form the handle.

Prior to bending the handle, take the work to your vise and clamp it in with the blade off to the side parallel to the jaws and use your grinding wheel on your angle grinder to slightly sharpen each edge of the blade and form a reasonably good point on the end of the blade. (See Fig. 13)

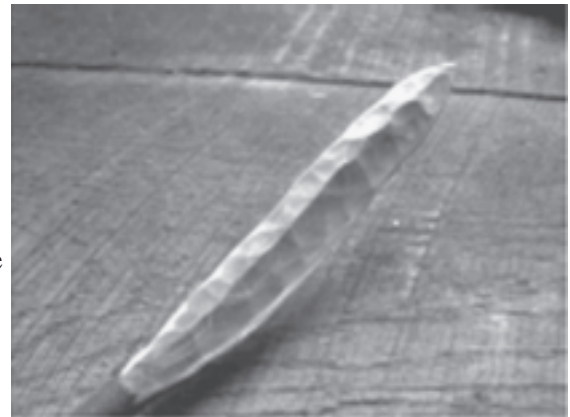


**Figure 13**

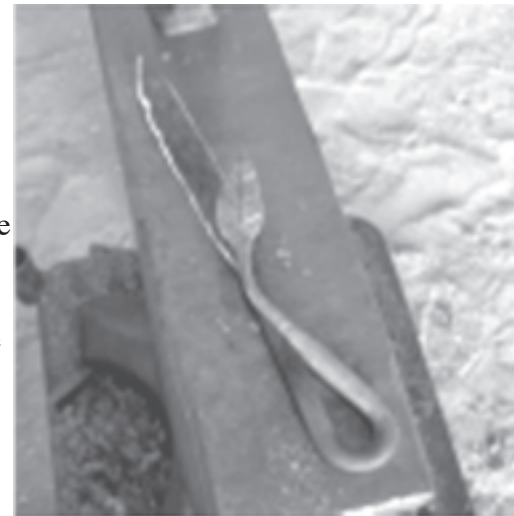
The idea is not to make it knife sharp; just sharp enough to slip inside and along the top of an envelope.

After this shaping with the angle grinder, take another heat in the middle of the work and insert your bending fork in the

hardy hole. When the round portion of the rod and leaf stem are orange yellow, bend the work piece near the middle in the same direction as the leaf is pointing so that the leaf loops around the fork and lines up with the base of the leaf resting along the ridge of the blade. (See Fig. 14)



**Figure 12**



**Figure 14**

Adjust and flatten the handle on the face of the anvil with your forging hammer.



**Figure 15**

Now take another heat of the middle of the work to bring the entire length of the leaf stem up to an orange yellow heat, but when you pull it from the fire immediately quench the handle above the leaf to keep it from deforming your handle while you scroll the leaf stem. Immediately after quenching the handle, place the blade pointing down in the vise and tighten. (See Fig. 15)

Then use your scrolling tongs to rotate the leaf stem at the base of the leaf through an arc of 360 degree so that the point of the leaf again points toward the tip of the blade with the center vein of the leaf aligned with the center line of the blade. (See Fig. 16)



**Figure 16**

Continued on Page 15

## Letter Opener continued...

Make any final adjustments to the handle or blade and let the leaf come down to a black heat. Then wire brush the top of the leaf with a brass brush until the leaf picks up a brass finish. (See Fig. 17)

Quench and dry. Then wire brush on a wire wheel to remove scale along the handle and blade, taking care not to remove the brass coating on the leaf. (See Fig. 18)



Figure 18

Editor's Note:

Using a wire brush in his drill press is a creative idea. It gives you a lot more control than one mounted in an angle grinder, and lets you dial down the speed to reduce the risk of an accident.  
Bob

From: Lorelei  
To: Christopher Miller  
Subject: Re: Review of Article for BAM Newsletter

Good morning Chris,  
That was so very thoughtful and sweet of you to ask for my permission. In today's instant world of text and imagery, it is so hard to instill the value of privacy and permission in the realm of art. I read your submission and viewed the photos, and I am honored to be a part of your article and an influence to you as a smith.  
Many blessings  
Happy Monday  
Lorelei



Figure 17

Finally, finish with a spray finish of clear acrylic sprayed on one side and, upon drying, the other side. This gives a depth dimension to the surface and prevents rust of the finished product. (See Fig. 19)

I find that I can make one of these leaf letter openers in less than an hour (not counting the time it takes to apply finish) and I have had good luck in selling them for \$15.00 to \$20.00.

**Thanks Lorelei,  
For your Book and for the inspiration!**

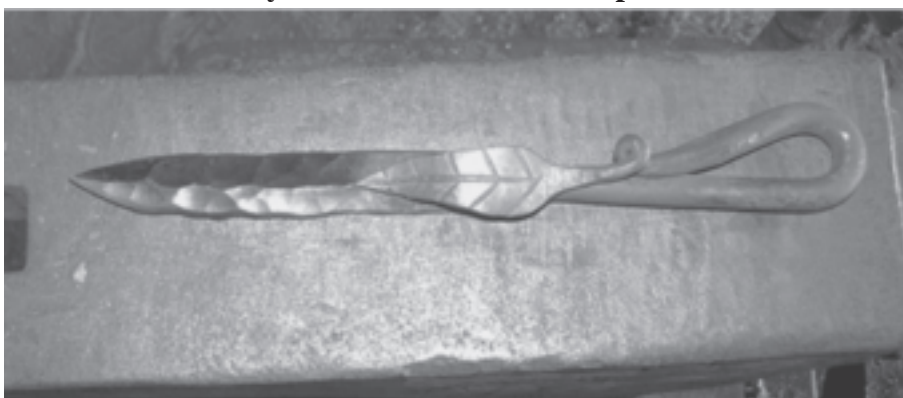


Figure 19



## Bam Members Teach Boy Scout Blacksmithing Merit Badge.

Bam Members Ned and Esther Digh, Edward Durrill, and Steve Lohmeyer taught the metal working merit badge to eight Scouts as part of the Great Rivers Council Merit Badge University at Nedco Forge near Ham's Prairie, MO, Saturday October 3, 2009. Scouts forged several projects both in copper and in iron that they took home with them. Esther Digh instructed working with *non-ferrous metals* and Ned Digh and Edward Durrill taught shop safety and basic Blacksmith skills while Steve Lohmeyer assisted. Phil Reynolds, a local Eagle Scout, graded the exams and practical exercises. Nedco forge will be hosting another Merit Badge class November 21, 2009.

Chris Durrill



Ned Digh and Edward Durrill demonstrate some of the finer points of riveting,



Esther Digh teaches annealing with sheets of copper.

### Dear BAM Members,

The City of Neosho, MO in Newton County has received a grant to remove blighted buildings from downtown. The City has already purchased about a city block just off of the square and directly behind the Newton County Historical Society Park and Museum. The Park Director, Wes Franklin, is proposing that the city use part of the space for permanent structures such as a blacksmith shop. The Historical Society is willing to let local blacksmiths and BAM use the shop for demos, a hammer-in, or a workshop.

If there are any BAM members in the SW area that would like to see this happen, then Wes needs to know. If the Newton County Historical Society is able to persuade the City of Neosho, then are there any members that can assist in the construction and equipment for the forge? (By construction I mean the forge, not the building, but I am sure Wes would appreciate some input on that as well. Personally, I would like to see a historically accurate forge/building.) I have already volunteered to help outfit what I can for the shop and to provide demos at the shop one weekend each month.

Please contact Wes or myself at the following:

Park Director: Wes Franklin  
Newton County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 675  
Neosho, MO 64850  
[mail@newtoncountyhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:mail@newtoncountyhistoricalsociety.org)

Monty Pugh-Towe  
Laughing Dragon Forge  
15661 Hwy H  
Granby, MO 64844  
[mpughtow@crowder.edu](mailto:mpughtow@crowder.edu)

Thanks for your attention!  
Monty Pugh-Towe



# BAM Members Get Medieval

by Edward Durrill

Between September 5 through October 18, BAM members, in association with The Institute for Historic & Educational Arts demonstrated medieval blacksmithing techniques at the Kansas City Renaissance Festival located at Bonner Springs, Kansas.

In addition to teaching and demonstrating Blacksmithing, the Institute also is fully staffed with living history reenactors who teach and demonstrate Armor and Chainmail making, Wood Working and many of the Fiber Arts. BAM members have been involved with the Kansas City Renaissance Festival and the Institute for Historic & Educational Arts from their very beginnings.

IHEA moved into the well-equipped permanent forge site in 1997. This gave them a world-class facility in which to demonstrate, and for several weeks before and after the Festival, teach blacksmithing. Classes range from beginning Blacksmithing to advanced Blade Smithing.

For more information you may want to check out:

The Kansas City Renaissance Festival

<http://www.kcrenfest.com/>

The Institute for Historic & Educational Arts

<http://www.historicarts.com/>

Construction and testing of the great hammer

YouTube

Search for Videos by Kchodaieha1 or "Giant Coconut Crushing Trip Hammer In Use"



Pictured above in front of the enormous coconut crushing trip hammer and the giant water wheel that supplies its power is, (Front Row) William Wolf, Bonnie Miller and holding the medieval applesauce maker is Chris Demmis. (Back Row) Edward Durrill, Ed Harris, Melvin Rice, Mike Name and Gery Hilt.

## Dorothy Steigler's Double Reverse Twist

From notes of Matt Wills, editor of the Great Plains Blacksmith Association-

*as demonstrated at the  
Rocky Mountain Smiths Conference, Carbondale, Colorado*

One of the best things about attending conferences would have to be having the opportunity to learn from some of the best smiths in the country. Dorothy Steigler would definitely be in that category. Dorothy is a past president of ABANA and is a talented artist. She currently works out of the studio of Stephen Worley in Sand City, California. She trained with Frank Turley in her first years as a smith. Frank commented once that a sign of a good smith would be to produce a twist within twist going in opposite directions. After considerable time working out the details, here is what she presented at the conference.

1. Start by making a simple bundle of four pieces of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " round about 8" long. Arc weld the ends and forge weld the bundle for  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " on each end (Figure 1). Dorothy has a step-by-step procedure she uses to forge weld. She uses 20 Mule Team Borax as a flux.
  - A. Heat the bundle to an orange heat. Bring out of the fire, brush and flux moderately.
  - B. Return the metal to the fire; use an open fire and keep the metal covered with coke. Find a place to view the metal through the coke, and watch for the flux to begin to dance around on the metal. Turn the bundle to get an even heat. She said to ignore the sparks produced by the 6011 welding rod on the end of the bundle. Only when the flux is dancing rapidly around are you ready to weld! Pull the metal from the fire, and give it a forceful sling toward the ground to throw off excess flux and contaminants. Place it on the anvil and using medium blows, tack the rods together. Reflux the metal and return to the fire. When the flux dances again, sling as before and this time hammer more forcefully to a round cross section as you rotate the bundle on the anvil. You will hear the sound change as the metal welds together. She said she always takes two heats to weld. In this way the client won't find a marginal weld.
2. After the bundle is welded, heat very evenly to an orange heat; twist clockwise  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times. Make sure the twist is even. If any spots are too loose, use a torch to add heat to the loose areas and tighten evenly. (Figure 1).
3. Important: After you have an even twist, reheat the bundle and twist counter clockwise an eighth of a turn to make it open up slightly. Put the small bundle aside to cool.

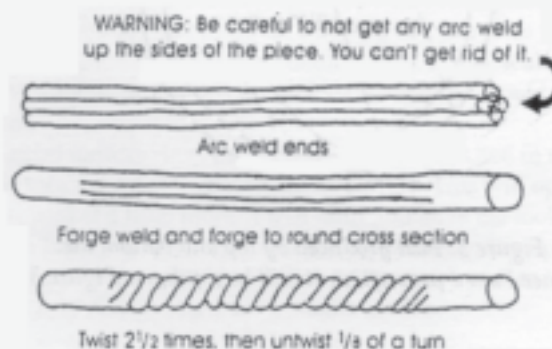


Figure 1.

4. Using the bottom and top dies shown in Figure 2, make the eight pieces for the outside of the twist. Use about  $10\frac{1}{2}$ " of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " round. Space it evenly and clamp on both sides in the V-grooves. The clamps should be set to the same pressure to keep the piece even on both ends. Drive the top die down on top of the work to form the half-round section with about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " straight on each end. This process is done cold (Figures 3 & 4).

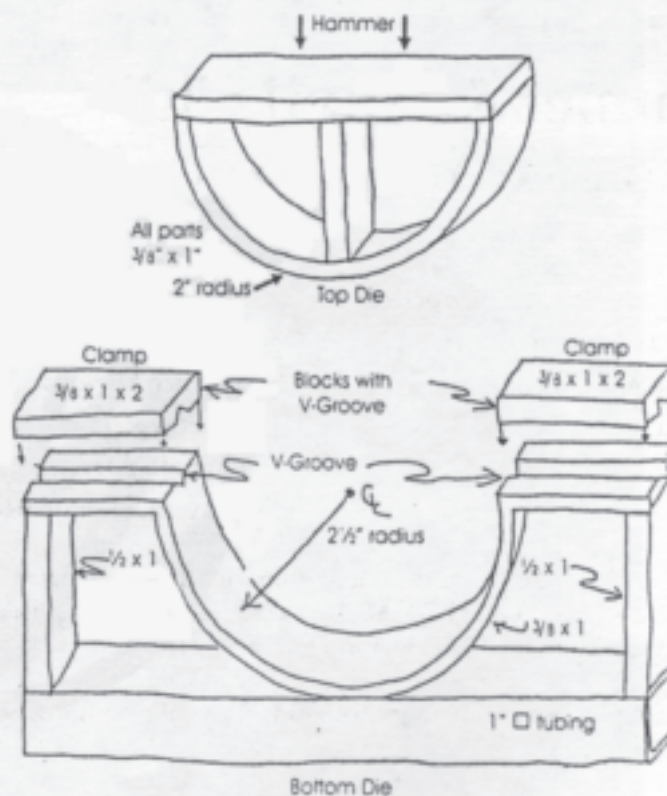


Figure 2.

This article is reprinted from the May/June 2008 Upsetter - Michigan Artist Blacksmith Association



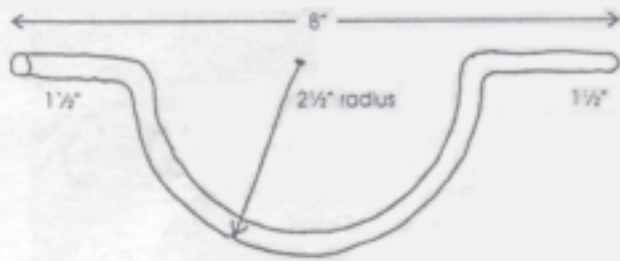


Figure 3. Part produced by top and bottom die.  
Since I am a poor artist, it will be similar to Figure 3.

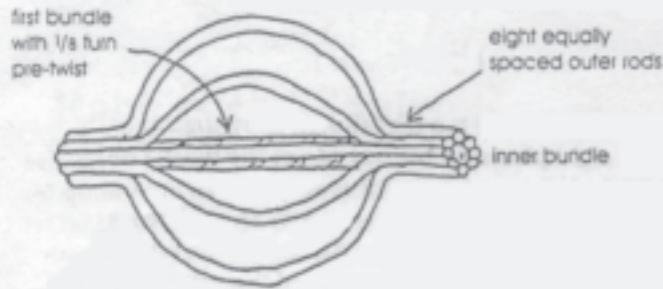


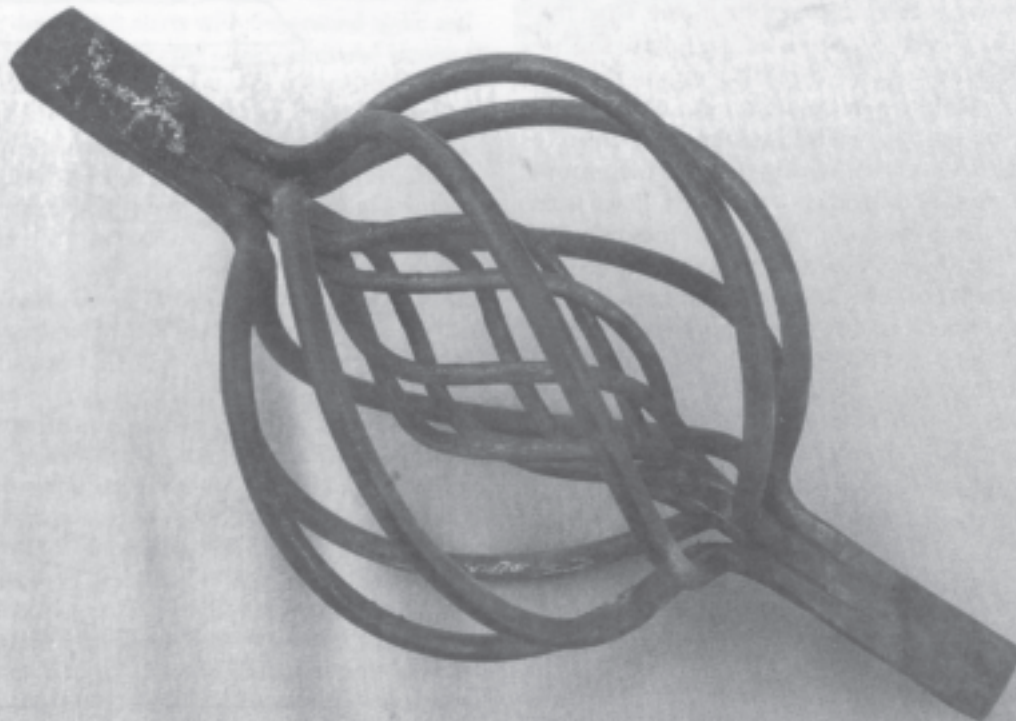
Figure 4. Bundle ready for final twist. Not all rods are shown.

5. Using an arc welder, tack the first two pieces on opposite sides of the inner bundle. Continue adding pieces until you have all eight pieces equally spaced around the inner twist and tack welded on both ends.
6. Forge weld the ends of the entire bundle together on each end using the above welding procedure. The bundle will collect a lot of coke inside. Just ignore it. Have plenty of coke in your fire before you start this weld.
7. After the ends are forge welded, heat the inner and outer bundles to an even heat and twist counterclockwise a quarter of a turn. This will be enough to open the inner twist more so and put the correct twist on the outside rods.
8. There you have it – a twist one way in the middle and the opposite way on the outside. Now you can scarf the ends and forge weld to a shaft for a fireplace tool or other tool.

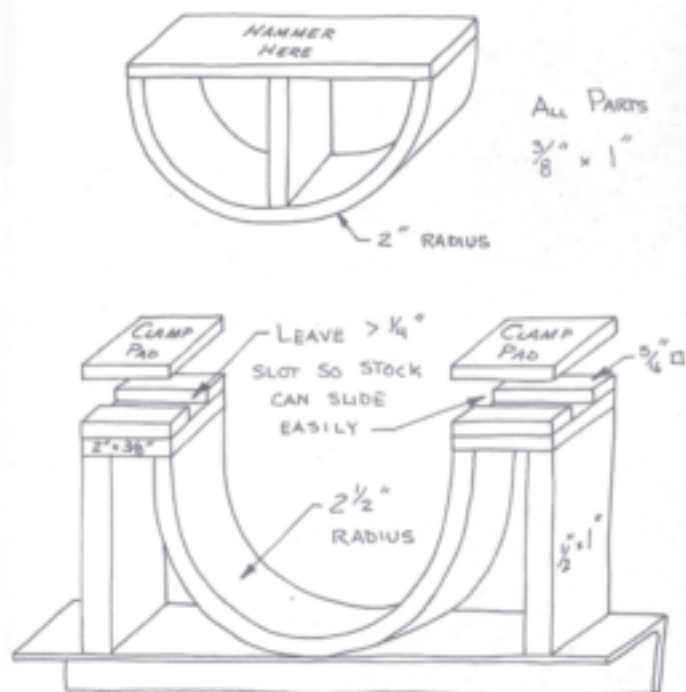
Thanks to Dorothy Steigler for the great demo at the conference. If you ever get the chance to learn from Dorothy, don't miss it.

CBA Editor's Note: Dorothy was pleased with the article and added the warning note in Figure 1. ♣

#### Darla Selander's finished piece—



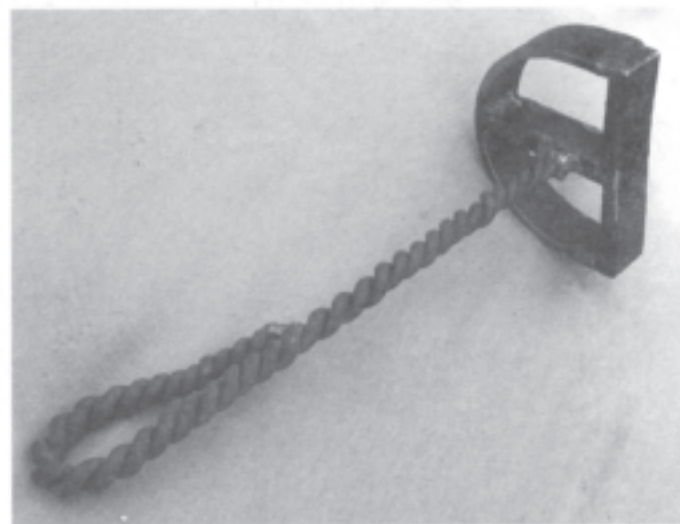
**MABA editors note:** Darla attended a demonstration where the double reverse twist was shown. I mentioned that I had seen a write-up on Dorothy Steigler's demonstration of the twist, and have included it along with Darla's notes and pictures of her tooling and final piece. The jigs are very similar, though Darla's lower jig has a square channel for the strands to rest in rather than a v-groove shown in figure 2 of the earlier article.



eight outer pieces evenly around the inner basket. Cut off ends so they are uniform. You need about 1-1/2" to 2" for welding.

For the final twist it is very important that you have a uniform heat on the entire double basket. Because of the size of this basket, I use my gas forge for this step as I can raise the top of it enough to fit the entire bundle inside. If you scale down the dimensions of this project, the coal forge would work fine.

With a good uniform heat on the basket, place one end in the vise and turn the other end counter-clockwise. This will open the inner basket a little more. Twist until you have the look you want. Now you have a double reverse basket to incorporate into your project. For this basket I tenon each end and rivet on a drip pan and base for a candle holder



## Double Reverse Basket

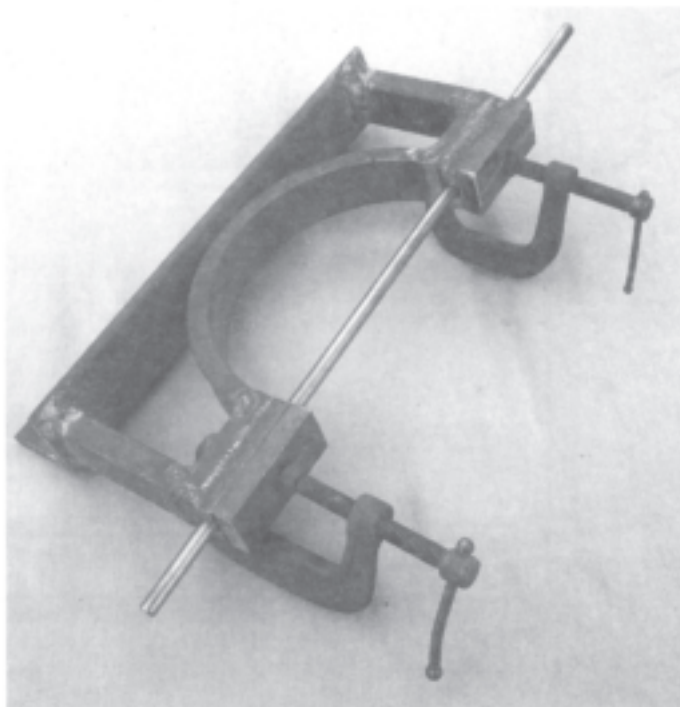
Notes by Darla Selander-

A jig with the dimensions shown needs to be built to form the components for the outer basket. The completed basket will be approximately 5" x 5". The jig for the outer basket will also determine the size of the inner basket. For this example and the jig shown, the inner basket was made from six pieces of 1/4" round stock by 8" long. (you could use four pieces, I just prefer the look of six).

Forge weld each end of the bundle about 1-1/2" and twist clockwise in the vise until you have a tight bundle. (It looks like a rope at this point).

To open the basket, re-heat and twist counter-clockwise not quite as much as you would like (this will get un-twisted more later on in the process).

Make the outer basket from eight pieces of 1/4" round stock "strand" by 13" long. Center a strand in the two top slots of the lower jig. Lay a clamp-pad on each end of the jig and secure firmly with c-clamps. Put the handled upper part of the jig on the round stock and hammer down until the strand conforms to the bottom jig. Repeat this step for all eight strands, making them as uniform as possible. Tack-weld the





28<sup>th</sup> Annual

April 17 & 18, 2010

10 A.M. - 4 P.M. each day

# New Salem Hammer In



Joshua Aldrich Miller's Blacksmith Shop - Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site

## This Year's Demonstrator

Mark Aspery is a European journeyman blacksmith, currently an Associate of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths (A.W.C.B.) established in the United Kingdom in 1325 by Edward II as a blacksmith Guild.

Mark currently owns and operates the Mark Aspery School of Blacksmithing based in Springville, CA. His style is one of a semi-literal, flowing representation of the natural world. He prefers to use traditional methods of joinery in his commissions.

Mark will be a demonstrator at the ABANA conference in Memphis this year.

His website is [www.markaspery.net](http://www.markaspery.net)

**BRING YOUR OLD TOOLS  
AND ITEMS TO SELL  
ON TAILGATE ROW**

Please bring an item for our auction to help support the hammer in.

**A GALLERY TO EXHIBIT YOUR  
WORK WILL BE AVAILABLE**

New Salem State Historic Site is located 20 miles northwest of Springfield, IL on Route 97. Look for the the anvil signs.  
Restaurant and motel facilities are located near the demonstration area.  
New Salem has campsites available with or without electricity.

Contact me at [bluestoneforge@gmail.com](mailto:bluestoneforge@gmail.com) for more information

Registration Fee (before April 2, 2010): \$15/day  
Late Registration or at the door: \$20/day  
Saturday night dinner: \$5/person  
Dinners available with pre-registration only  
Free coffee and doughnuts every morning

If you are interested in attending this unique event please fill out the registration form and mail to:  
Bluestone Forge  
ATTN: Hammer In  
P.O. Box 1077  
Galesburg, IL 61401

**EYE PROTECTION MUST BE WORN IN THE DEMONSTRATION AREA**

Yes, I plan to attend the 28th Annual New Salem Hammer In!

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Name _____                          | Early Registration Fee (\$15/day) _____ |
| Address _____                       | Late Registration Fee (\$20/day) _____  |
| City _____ State _____ Zip _____    | # of meals @ \$5.00 each _____          |
| Phone ( ) _____ - _____ email _____ | Total enclosed _____                    |

Make checks payable to New Salem Lincoln League ♦

## **ABANA Affiliate Liaison Letter**

### **To ABANA Affiliates and Affiliate Members,**

Bruce Woodward resigned from the Board on August 22 due to personal reasons. Bruce had this letter all but done when he stepped down. Out of respect for his service to ABANA and the hard work he has put forth, I have only made minor additions to this. Please join me in thanking Bruce for his enthusiastic service to the ABANA Board. I will be taking over his Affiliate responsibilities. My contact info is as follows:

Peyton Anderson  
peyton@abana.org  
434-390-6203

### **The 2010 ABANA Conference**

The ABANA Conference next year is first priority in the thoughts and actions of everyone at ABANA. Our great country and most of the world is in the middle of the worst recession since the great depression of the 1930's. Unemployment has hit unbelievable numbers and people have stopped spending money in an effort to survive. And that includes many blacksmiths and unfortunately many of their customers. Blacksmiths can adapt to their situations. What they can't buy, they make. What they can't make, they modify. And that is what the Conference Committee is doing so the conference will fit the times and be a success despite the fickle economy. The Committee is doing everything possible to keep the registration cost and other expenses such as food and lodging as low as possible (car/tent camping and RV hookups permitted) etc. See ABANA's web site under Latest News for the most up to date information as we get closer to June 2010. There is also a blog where you can express your thoughts as well which can also be viewed through the website. Also attached to this letter is the registration form. No better way to get the conference juices flowing than early registration!

Affiliates and affiliate members can also help ABANA keep the cost down so the blacksmithing community can have a successful event at a low cost to blacksmiths by directly sponsoring one of the Conference venues or demonstrators. Contact Lance Davis (lance@bentoaks.org) or Paul Boulay (pboulay@earthlink.net). Several Affiliates have stepped up to sponsor parts of the conference already. Take a look at the demonstrator list. Are any of the demonstrators in your area? If so, why not show your support for them by sponsoring them!

### **ABANA Conference Demonstrators**

Joe Anderson : forged kitchen ware and sculpture.  
Mark Aspery : tool -making .  
Gerald Boggs : teaching station.  
Dan Boone : dragon's heads.  
Dan and Judy Boone : round table discussion on how to market their wares.

Phil Cox : mechanical and air hammers use and rebuilding.  
Dan Nauman : repousse.  
Darryl Nelson : forging animal heads.  
Steve Parker : power hammer tools and forging.  
Amit Har-Lev and Tsur Sadan (of Israel): team forging  
Shelley Thomas (of England): techniques for working with pipe.

Tom Latane and the Meticulous Metalsmiths: forging a lock.  
Mark Aspery with Darryl Nelson and Gerald Boggs: Green Coal teaching stations.

### **ABANA Conference Volunteers**

Conferences take a lot of labor. People to set up and tear down the demo sites, people to be there during the demo, and many other chores. ABANA also needs experienced area managers who can take charge and get the job done efficiently and well done using the volunteer help available. And for a successful conference many volunteers will be needed. Smiths and affiliates throughout the region are urged to contact the ABANA 2010 Volunteer Coordinator, Ken Preiser (ph:931-393-1610, email:kpreiser@charter.net).

### **ABANA Conference Ring Projects**

Calling all blacksmiths and metalsmiths. ABANA is sponsoring three different ring projects at the Conference. The themes are: Mississippi River, Memphis Music and Metal Museum. Each theme frame will hold four rings. After the selected rings are installed in their frame, they will be auctioned with 50% of sale price returned to the donor. Rings not used with the frames will also be auctioned under the same terms. See ABANA's web site for details ([http://www.abana.org/membership/conference/Ring\\_Page.shtml](http://www.abana.org/membership/conference/Ring_Page.shtml))

### **IRON 2010 Exhibit**

Congratulations to the selected artist-blacksmiths for the Metal Museum's exhibit of contemporary blacksmithing. See the Metal Museum's web site.

### **New ABANA Board of Directors Member**

Jack Parks from Piedmont, SD is one of the founders of Dakota Artist Blacksmith Association. Jack has been a practicing smith for over twenty years. Welcome on Board, Jack.

Warmest Regards to all!  
Forge On!  
Peyton Anderson  
Affiliate Rep.

## ABANA Conference News

*Shelley Thomas added as Demonstrator & Camping Arrangements Finalized*

October 2009 - Vol. 1 Issue 3

The 2010 ABANA Conference Committee is pleased to announce the addition of Shelley Thomas as a 2010 conference demonstrator. This addition demonstrator rounds out the conference demonstrator list.

### Demonstrator List Addition:

Shelley Thomas - who regularly demonstrates at the Kew Bridge Steam Museum, London, UK, will round out the international demonstrator list for the conference.

You can check out her work at her web site: [www.shelleythomas.co.uk](http://www.shelleythomas.co.uk)

On hearing this announcement, member Paul Casey said:

"I visited Shelly a couple years ago at her shop and admire her work. Good choice! Her work is a bit of whimsy, a bit of fun and the craftsmanship to back it up. Exactly the infusion of energy we all need now. Bravo!"

### On-Site Camping:

Camping Arrangements have been finalized. Requests should be directed to the Agricenter RV Park Manager Mark Hoggard at 901-757-7777 ext 7200. All campsites have water and electric @ \$20 per night, if someone would want sewer and or 50 amps service the cost is \$ 30 per night. However there is a dump station on site.

Gallery Open to Public  
"Green Coal" Forges  
Memphis Style Banquet  
Top Demonstrators  
Tailgate Heaven  
Vendors for the Craft  
Lectures & Workshops

"We will preserve a meaningful bond with the past. We will serve the needs of the present, and we will forge a bridge to the future. Function and creativity is our purpose. Our task is great and so is our joy."

Dimitri Gerakaris, 1973



Agricenter  
International

Memphis  
Tennessee

June 2-5 2010

Log on ABANA.org website and sign-up for Constant Contact emails, email address in the box at the bottom of the home page, click on "Get ABANA Email". You will receive periodic ABANA 2010 Conference News.

The ABANA 2010 Conference will be held at the Agricenter International in Memphis, TN. Located at 7777 Walnut Grove Road, from I-240, on the east side of Memphis, take Exit 13 and drive east on Walnut Grove Road approximately 4.2 miles to Farm Road and turn south, go .1 mile.



# Buy, Sell, Trade

## Individual Classified ads

**For Sale:** 50 lb Little Giant Trip Hammer, Serial number NO293 – originally shipped on 9/17/01 - 3rd owner - Needs new motor. \$2500. New Douglas, IL (45 miles NE of St. Louis) – Call Leonard Kneibel 618-344-7151.

**For Sale:** Two wrought iron post vises. Excellent condition. 5 1/2" Jaws \$200: 5" jaws (museum Quality) \$250. Call Bob Woodard (619)-692-6508.

My father-in-law, Victor Biere passed away a few years ago, he has a blacksmith shop just outside of Owensville, Mo. We are going to sell this shop as a whole or in pieces, if any of your members would be interested, please contact me at castlewoodnbay@thanku.org Thank You, Larry Diestelkamp

## Commercial / Resource ads

### Services:

**Beverly Shear Blades Sharpened.** Remove blades from shear and ship to Clay Spencer, 73 Penniston Pvt. Drive, Somerville, AL 35670 \$35 plus postage, additional cost for deep notches or blades previously sharpened at angle.

**Custom spinning** in copper, brass, pewter, and steel. Contact Ken Markley, 7651 Cabin Creek Lane, Sparta, Ill. 62286. Phone: (618) 443-5284 Fax: (618) 443-5284

**Little Giant--** We can do repairs on any or all components of your Little Giant front assembly. Contact H. "Sid" Suedmeier 420 4th Corso, Nebraska City, NE. 68410 (402) 873-6603

**Roller Blade Treadle Hammers** (Clay Spencer design) for Sale or Workshops led to build hammers. Bob Alexander, e-mail to scruboak4@netzero.com, or call 636-586-5350.

## Information / Education

**Tong Making Class**-Weekend Course 4 people per class - \$125 per person Contact: Charles Comstock Rt.1 Box 20, Deerfield, MO. 64741 (417) 927-3499

Subscribe to Jerry Hoffmann's **Blacksmith's Journal**, a monthly publication for blacksmiths. Call 1-800-944-6134 for more information.

**Classes offered.** The Ornamental Iron Shop Contact the instructor to register and customize your class. John D. Thompson – Metalsmith 3923 Hwy 25; Hodges, SC 29653 864-374-3933

**Classes** at Pieh Tool Company, Inc. - Camp Verde, AZ The Bill Pieh Resource for Metalwork. Call now for more information and to enroll: (928) 554-0700 or (888) 743-4866. [www.piehtoolco.com](http://www.piehtoolco.com).

The Upper Midwest Blacksmiths Assoc (**UMBA**) **video library**. An index list can be viewed at [www.umbaonline.org](http://www.umbaonline.org) They are VHS or DVD-R Cost is \$5 each with \$2 per order shipping There is no return date, you keep the video for this price. All videos are made at group demos, no commercial titles.

### Blacksmithing E-books on CD

Now eight titles are available on CD, \$4/each, or all eight books, \$24 postpaid. More books are in production and will be available soon- order on-line at [www.blacksmithingebooks.com](http://www.blacksmithingebooks.com), or check/MO to Brian Gilbert, 3404 Hartford Dr., Chattanooga, TN 37415.

### Ray Clontz Tire Hammer Plans by Clay Spencer

Price is \$30US including postage to US and Canada, \$32US to other countries. Send check or money order 73 Penniston Private Drive, Somerville, AL 35670, Also, lead workshops for chapters or groups to build 15 to 20 hammers. phone 256 498-1498, cell is 256 558 3658, email is [clay@tirehammer.com](mailto:clay@tirehammer.com)

### New England School of Metalwork

[www.newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com](http://www.newenglandschoolofmetalwork.com)  
1-888-753-7502

**Blacksmithing classes**, Arrowhead Forge, Buffalo, Wyoming. David W. Osmundsen 47 N. Lobban, Buffalo, WY. 82834 [www.arrowhead-forge.com](http://www.arrowhead-forge.com)

## Products

**Heavy duty Frying Pan Blanks:** Steel, approximately 9 inch in diameter with 2 inch sides. 12 gauge (2.5 lb.) or 14 gauge (1.75 lb.) thickness. Contact: Bob Tuftee, 3855 Aspen Hills Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722; [bobforge@hotmail.com](mailto:bobforge@hotmail.com); (563) 332-4800.

The **Ozark School of Blacksmithing** We still have the Sayha air hammers from Turkey, and Tom Clark Memorial anvils. For more info on the tools contact Bob Alexander at 636-586-5350 or order through the school web site: [www.ozarkschool.com](http://www.ozarkschool.com)

**L Brand Forge Coke** now packaged in 50 pound bags, 1,000 pound bulk sacks on pallets and 2,000 pound bulk sacks on pallets. Send your zip code for a quote on price including delivery. 1-678-360-3521 or [LBrandForgeCoke@aol.com](mailto:LBrandForgeCoke@aol.com).

D.L. Schwartz Co. **Blacksmith and Farrier supplies.** 2188 S. US 27, Berne, In. 46711, 1-800-955-3064

**Kayne and Son** Custom Hardware, 100 Daniel Ridge Road, Candler, NC 28715. (828) 667-8868 fax (828) 665-8303, e-mail: [kaynehdwe@charter.net](mailto:kaynehdwe@charter.net), web site: [www.blacksmithsdepot.com](http://www.blacksmithsdepot.com). Offering a full line of blacksmithing equipment. We ship and accept Visa and Mastercard.



## Buy, Sell, Trade, Continued

Persimmon Forge **PEDAL HAMMER** sit down treadle hammers for sale. Contact Dave or Betty Edwards by e-mail at [djedwards@cableone.net](mailto:djedwards@cableone.net), or write us at 3008 Hacienda Ct., Emporia, Ks., 66801, or call us at (620) 343-1947. For more information, go to [www.persimmonforge.com](http://www.persimmonforge.com) and click on both "Pedal Hammer" and "Video Demo of Pedal Hammer."

**SOFA fire pots** are once again available. For information contact Bob Cruishank, 1495 W. Possum Rd., Springfield, OH. 45506 Phone: (937) 323-1300 or [www.creativeironforge.com](http://www.creativeironforge.com) or [www.sofablacksmiths.com](http://www.sofablacksmiths.com)

Chile Forge- Next generation **gas forges**  
[www.chileforge.com](http://www.chileforge.com) David Starr 520/360-2141

USA Dealer for **REFFLINGHAUS ANVILS**, 77 to 1250 lb. European 2 horn with or without upsetting block & side shelf. Over 100 sizes and styles available. Guaranteed face @ HRC59 Dick Nietfeld [www.blksmith.com](http://www.blksmith.com) Phone (308) 384 1088

### Wanted:

**Help Wanted:** The 2010 conference plan has begun. I need input on demonstrators, if you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer, feel free to e-mail me at [acornridge3@yahoo.com](mailto:acornridge3@yahoo.com) Thank You, Joe Hurley (conference chairman)

### Demonstrator List

Fred Weisenborn has started a list of members available for demonstrations, fairs, historic events, and festivals, etc.  
417-589-2497 e-mail: [jweisenb@llion.org](mailto:jweisenb@llion.org)

**Around the Anvil** BAM has it's very own E-Mail news group. If you would like to participate send an E-Mail to Ed Harper at [aramed@grm.net](mailto:aramed@grm.net) and he will get you signed up.

### Letter to Ken Jansen and BAM Members

During the last year there have been several private and personal problems that have come up in my and Jeanette's life. We have discussed these and I find that there is no good answer.

Since my shoulder surgery last October, I have been having a very hard time driving long distances. My right arm does not have the full range of motion that I had before. The arthritis has come back and is causing a problem. I have arthritis in my shoulders, wrists and several of my fingers that are getting worse all the time. I am concerned that should I have to make a sudden, evasive driving maneuver while towing the MTS trailer, I would not be able to successfully do it.

The three to five hour drives just one way for workshops are not fun anymore.

Sleeping for thirty plus nights during the year in the back of Jeanette's pickup this last year while teaching is not something that I was looking forward to this next year. I was not able to get a good night's rest this year.

My passion and love for teaching no longer out weighs the other problems.

So, it is with great regret that I find that I should resign from the BAM MTS Program.

By resigning at this time, it gives Ken Jansen and you the BAM members, time to find someone who will take over the program.

The last seven years that I have been a part of the MTS program has been very enjoyable

I really appreciate the support that the members have shown for the program.

I will be returning the MTS trailer to MTS chairman Lou Mueller in Sunset Hills, Mo. sometime in the next month, unless directed otherwise.

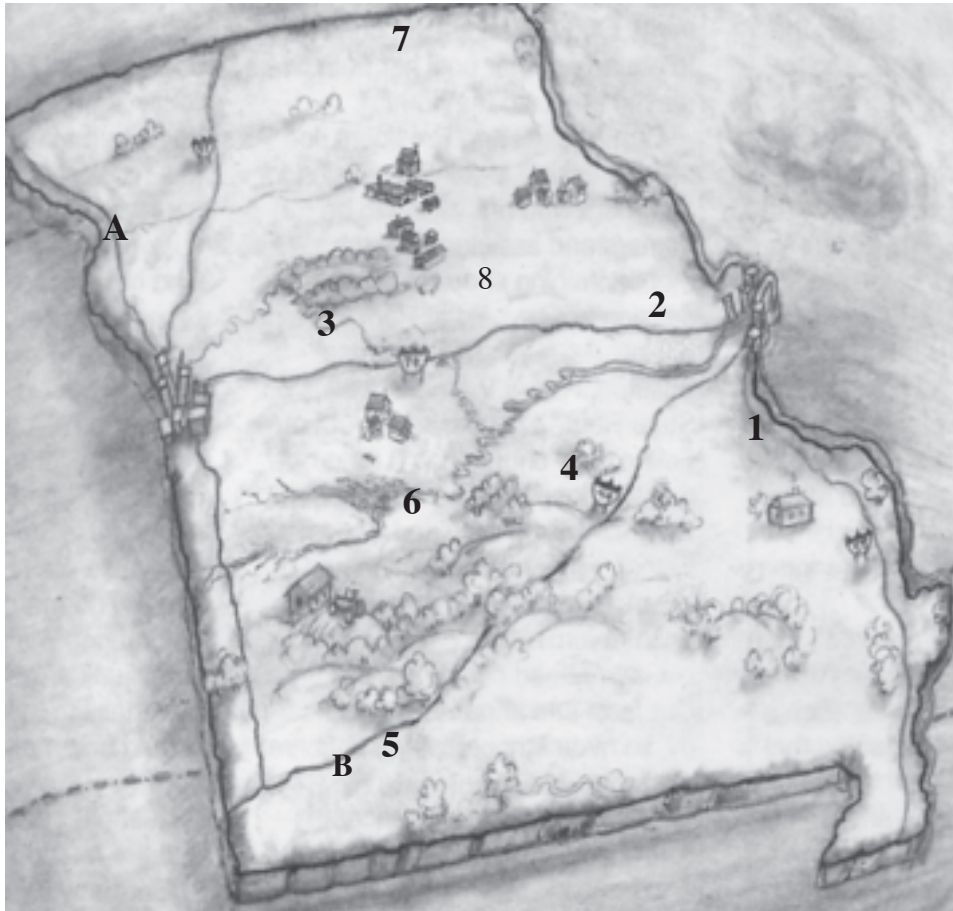
Again, I thank the BAM members for letting me serve you as Operations Officer of the MTS program.

Don Birdsall

# Need Coal ?

## Check on Availability

Coal Captain: Bob Alexander



1. Bob Alexander (636) 586-6938  
14009 Hardin Rd,  
DeSoto, MO. 63020

5. Jeff Willard, (417) 742-2572  
P.O. Box 416,  
Willard, MO. 65781

2. Ken Jansen, (636) 366-4353  
2257 Charter Rd.,  
Moscow Mill, MO. 63362

6. Denis Yates, (573) 286-5316  
343 Lamp Dr.  
Sunrise Beach, MO. 65079

3. Doug Clemons, (660) 595-2257  
RR1 Box 124,  
Malta Bend, MO. 65339

7. Joe Hurley (660) 379-2365  
Rt1 Box 50  
Downing, MO. 63536

4. Jerry Rehagen, (573) 744-5454  
390 Bozina Valley Trail,  
Freeburg, MO. 65035

8 Paul Lankford, 573-473-7082  
25849 Audrain Co. Road 820,  
Mexico, MO 65265

Price \$17.00 per bag BAM members, \$18.00 per bag Non-members, \$14.00 per bag at Bob Alexander's  
Coal keepers earn \$4.00 a bag. NOTE: PRICE INCREASE

A. Non BAM coal. \$25.00 per 50#s. The coal is located in Camden Point, Mo. I can be reached at 816-992-3352  
Thanks, Vernon Adkins, adkinsfarms@gmail.com

B. Non BAM coal \$.40/lb check \$.35/lb cash bring your own containers. Tim Johnson Springfield, MO 417-886-8032

# Upcoming Events

January 1 - Application deadline for February Scholarship awards.

January 16, - BAM meeting, Don Nichols and Kent Harbit Sedalia, MO Bring your own food. Trade Item Something from Horse shoe.

## **January 23 - Newsletter Submission Deadline**

February 20 MTS Workshop number one Ray Scott, Eminence, MO 573-226-5541 evenings only

February 27 MTS Workshop number two Ray Scott, Eminence, MO 573-226-5541 evenings only

March 13 MTS Workshop number three (Making Tongs) Ray Scott Eminence, MO

March 27, 2010- BAM meeting, Boy Scout Camp

April 1 - Application deadline for May Scholarship awards

April 17,18 New Salem Hammer-in, Salem Ill.

April 28 - May - 2 **BAM Ozark conference**, Sedalia, MO contact Joe Hurley at acornridge3@yahoo.com

May 2010 - BAM meeting Ham's Prairie, MO Ned Digh (573)-642-9502

June 2-5 ABANA Conference Memphis, Tenn.

June 13 - July10 2010 - Boy Scout Camp, Metal working merit badge classes

July 1 - Application deadline for August Scholarship awards.

July 10 2010- BAM Meeting Bob Ehrenberger, Shelbyville, MO. (573)-633-2010 Trade Item Forged Chain-

August - Missouri State Fair Sedalia, MO contact Kent Harbit (660)-647-2349 to volunteer

September 18 -BAM meeting Wayne Holder, Leon, Iowa.

October 1 - Application deadline for November Scholarship awards.

November 6 - BAM meeting Bob Evans Liberty, MO 816-781-5717

January 2011 BAM meeting Open

March 2011 BAM meeting Fred Warner, Wheeling, MO

## **SHOP TIP** by Mike Gentsch

I was in the local Orscheln's Farm and Home this past Sunday afternoon and was walking by the area where they sell chains. I looked down and there was a container of cut links of various sizes of chain. Since Blacksmiths never waste anything and are notorious collectors, I asked a store employee if I could have them and they said yes. I've already used some of the smaller links to weld to monkey wrench twisters so I will be able to hang them up. I used a big one to weld to a hitch pin for easy removal. I can also see the possibility to use them for texturing under a press or treadle hammer. Best of all they were free. A kid ask me what I was going to do with them and I smiled and told him I was going to weld them up and make my own chain! Any place that sells chain should have a supply and I expect that you can get your very own pile of cut chain links to fill that void in your shop! A word of caution I was trying to bend a piece of S7 chain in a post vise cold and the jaws lost their grip. I had a link missile flying around the shop. Mike

## **New Members**

If you have a new member near you, welcome him to the group and show him the ropes.

Buchanan, James  
343 Weir St N  
Hamilton ON, Canada L8H 5G6  
jbuchanan@cogeco.ca  
905-545-0370

Franklin, Randy  
30239 165 Street  
Kidder, MO 64649  
816-575-2861

Largent, Greg  
14721 Southlake Drive  
Lot 20  
Desoto, MO 63020  
gbkm4480@gmail.com  
636-208-6560

Temme, Patrick  
8768 Hauser Drive Apt J  
Lenexa, KS 66215  
kid2fly4@aim.com  
573-301-3686

Crabb, Dale  
281 Maple Street  
Kidder, MO 64649  
816-575-2439

Hill, Patrick  
513 S. Ventura Ave  
Republic, MO 65738  
photobeagle@gmail.com  
417-693-2858

Shimel, James  
25005 E Blue Mills Road  
Independence, MO 64058  
816-650-3783

Wells, Chuck  
4136 Old Hwy 51  
MaKanda, IL 62958  
indigowells@mchsi.com  
618-559-7790

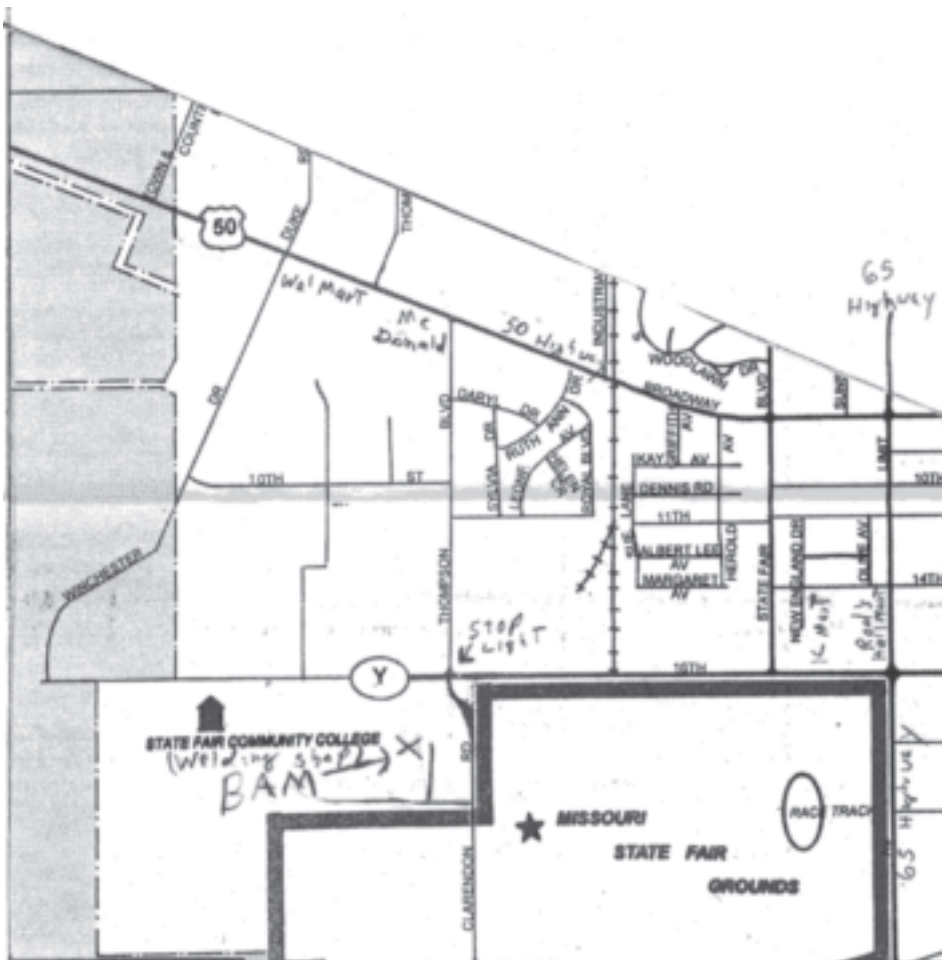
Davis, Jim  
HC 77 Box 17  
Thornfield, MO 65762  
pntbx@hotmail.com  
417-265-3431

## BAM

2212 Aileswick Dr.,  
St. Louis, MO 63129

Please send changes to Bruce Herzog, 2212 Aileswick Dr., St. Louis, MO 63129 or e-mail to [bjherzog@msn.com](mailto:bjherzog@msn.com)

## Next Meeting: January 16 Sedalia, MO.



### Location:

Welding shop at State Fair Community College, Sedalia, MO.

**Host:** Don Nichols &  
Kent Harbit

**Phone:** Don 660-826-9252 or  
Kent 660-647-2349

### Trade item:

2 things made from horse shoes.

**Food:** Bring your own

### Directions:

Take Hwy 65 through Sedalia  
Go West on 15th St by the fair grounds.  
Go South on Clarendon Rd  
Watch for entrance to the West.