



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

April 2024

Greetings,

Hello Everyone,

We had a decent turn out for the March meeting despite the weather. Our resident farrier, Shane Tilton, gave a good demonstration on forging a horseshoe. If you want to witness somebody move metal very efficiently then watch a farrier. We were able to get some new members in the forge to make some "S" hooks.

Mr. Achterberg won the trade item again this month and has suggested a competition trade item for the April meeting. I think it is a great idea! Here's how it works. You make your trade item, but we don't draw numbers. You get to keep your own item. All the entries will be judged, and a winner selected. Perhaps even a runner up too depending on participation. There will be a prize for the winner. Jerry has chosen something from a railroad spike, as long as it's NOT a knife.

The April meeting will be on the 13th at the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture in New Braunfels. This is their Folk Fest and we will have members forging both Saturday and Sunday. So, some good opportunities to get some forge time.

Aaron Tilton
President, Balcones Forge

Meeting is on April 13
Start time is 9:00



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Left: Shane Tilton with starter stock and finished horseshoe.

Right: Carter (one of our newest members) with his trade item entry.

Photos by Shane's Mom!

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More info in the two Balcones Forge Facebook pages. (You can check out the posts without having a Facebook account.)

<https://www.facebook.com/BFCTB/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/688735415468063>

WWW.BALCONESFORGE.ORG

ABANA's 50th Anniversary Celebration & Conference

June 6-9, 2024 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania

We are pleased to hold our 50th Anniversary Celebration & Conference, June 6-9, 2024, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Activities will occur in Peoples Natural Gas Park and Central Park and points in between.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

Wednesday, June 5th:

- Opening Ceremony at 4 pm at Peoples Natural Gas Park
- Competition Teams will have access to select and cut their needed materials at Central Park.

Thursday, June 6th:

- Peoples Natural Gas Park: Demonstrations, vendors, tailgating, and food.
- Central Park: Forging competition sessions, kids activities, and food.
- CraftWork Studios: Craft classes
- Made in Johnstown: Gallery of Ironwork (drop off work only from 2-5 pm)

Friday, June 7th:

- Peoples Natural Gas Park: Demonstrations, vendors, tailgating, broom making class, food, music.
- Central Park: Forging competition sessions, kids activities, craft classes, food, and music.
- CraftWork Studios: Craft classes
- Made in Johnstown: Gallery of Ironwork (drop off work only 8am-noon; Gallery opens at 1 pm with Reception from 7-9pm)
- State Theater of Johnstown: Lectures

Saturday, June 8th:

- Peoples Natural Gas Park: Demonstrations, vendors, tailgating, broom making class, food, music.
- Central Park: Forging competition sessions, kids activities, food, and music.
- CraftWork Studios: Craft classes
- Made in Johnstown: Gallery of Ironwork (Open 9 am-noon; Pick up artwork noon-3 pm)
- State Theater of Johnstown: Lecture and Auction

Sunday, June 9th: Tour the Center for Metal Arts (106 Iron Street) at 9 am.

A more detailed schedule will be released at a later date. Hope to see you there!



Above: Trade Items from the March meeting.

Photo by Lance Jensen

Below: A suggestion for the April Trade Item (but you keep yours this month)





Balcones Forge is dedicated to the teaching and sharing of Blacksmithing.

Shown here is our President helping a new smith to forge an "S" hook.

Photos by Lance Jensen



WWW.BALCONESFORGE.ORG



I am guessing this nice piece was made by Gary Hilton. Rudy Billings looks impressed!

Photos by Lance Jensen





Balcones Forge

Blacksmiths of Central Texas

Membership Form
Family Membership Annual Dues
(January through December)
\$25.00

Balcones Forge, an ABANA affiliate, is a nonprofit organization whose primary focus is education in the area of blacksmithing. Membership entitles the adult family members: attendance to all Balcones Forge functions at the reduced member rate; access to the library of blacksmithing books and videos; a subscription to the monthly newsletter; and the opportunity to increase your knowledge of blacksmithing and related topics through participation in monthly meetings, special workshops and demonstrations.

Date _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Blacksmithing skill level: Beginner _____ Intermediate _____ Advanced _____

Primary Business/Occupation _____

Can you... Host a meeting? _____ Write an article? _____ Demonstrate? _____

Are you an ABANA member? Yes / No (circle one)

In consideration of the Balcones Forge Blacksmith Association providing demonstrations and open forge meetings available and granting permission to enter the area of meetings, I, individually and as parent or guardian of the minor child attending such meetings, hereby waive all claims for damage and/or loss to my person or property, or the person or property of such minor child, which may be caused by an act, or failure to act of the Balcones Forge Blacksmith Association, its officers, directors, agents or employees and the hosts and demonstrators. I understand that there are inherent dangers in blacksmithing and I assume all risk of all dangerous conditions in and about such meeting and waive any and all specific notice of the existence of such conditions. By signing this waiver, I acknowledge that I have read and understand this waiver.

X _____ Date _____

Bring your completed form to the next meeting or send to:

Balcones Forge
PO Box 14, Dime Box, TX 77853

To pay with credit card, please contact Rudy@BalconesForge.org

Please make check payable to "Balcones Forge."

2024

Upcoming Meetings of Balcones Forge

- April 13th. Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture, New Braunfels
- May 11th. Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture, New Braunfels
- June 15th. Pioneer Farms, Austin
- July 13th. Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture, New Braunfels

All meetings start at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted.

