



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

August 2023

Greetings,

I was not able to make the July meeting. Thanks to those who braved the heat to attend. I'm looking forward to seeing y'all at our August meeting at the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture (1370 Churchill Dr. New Braunfels.) The meeting will start at 9:00.

While on vacation, we visited the Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha. This is where the chandeliers made by Lorelei Sims are on display. These are very intricate and impressive works of art. The pictures do not do them justice. We also visited historic Fort Atkinson where they had a very active and well staffed living history group. To the dismay of the rest of my group, I spent quite a bit of time talking to the smiths manning the forge. They had an impressive alternative to an anvil shoot, which involved a couple pieces of 3 inch shaft with a hole drilled in them and a 12 pound shot put. All this to say you can find ironwork fairly easily if you just look.

The August trade item is something incorporating a leaf. Remember you've got to make one to take one.

Arron Tilton, Balcones Forge President

1370 Church Hill Drive, New Braunfels, TX 78130

www.texashandmadeurniture.com

Meeting is on August 12

Start time is 9:00



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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Here is the schedule for the rest of the year.

August 12th	Furniture Museum, New Braunfels	2nd Saturday
September 24th	Wendish Fest, Serbin (yes, this is a Sunday)	
October 21st	Rustyk Forge, Devine: Mark Ling, Demonstrator	
November 11th	Furniture Museum, New Braunfels	2nd saturday
December 9th	Furniture Museum, New Braunfels	2nd Saturday



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>

W W W . B A L C O N E S F O R G E . O R G



Photos of the chandeliers mentioned in the Presidents message.

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PRESENTS:

SECOND SATURDAYS

A FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY
LIVING HISTORY EVENT

10:00 AM-4:00PM

ROTATING DEMOS:

- BLACKSMITHING • WEAVING • BROOM MAKING
- HEARTH COOKING • CANDLE DIPPING • JEWELRY
- SEWING • CABIN LIFE • WOODWORKING
- WEAPONRY • MUSIC

DATES:

- 1/14/2023 • 2/11/2023 • 3/11/2023
- 4/15-16/2023 • 5/13/2023 • 6/10/2023
- 7/8/2023 • 8/12/2023 • 9/9/2023
- 10/14/2023 • 11/11/2023 • 12/9/2023

EVERY SECOND SATURDAY AT
HERITAGE VILLAGE
1370 CHURCH HILL DR.
NEW BRAUNFELS, TX 78130

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📱 @FOLKFESTNB



Not quite an anvil shoot but still pretty cool!



JULY MEETING REPORT

The July meeting was held at the Museum of Handmade Furniture on July 8th. The museum is located at 1370 Churchill Dr, New Braunfels Texas 78130.

Both the temperature and humidity were high but there was a lot of fun to be had. The trade item for this month was anything with a leaf incorporated into it. Phillip Waters won again and wanted to continue with this theme for August's meeting.

Phillip Waters and Brandon Rogers opened the forge and proceeded to make items like horseshoe hearts and nails. Brandon's daughter, Libby, was active making her own iron heart from square stock. Benjamin, one of our young smiths, forged a really nice wall hook and completed the rough forging of a horseshoe knife.

The turnout was light, both the public and Balcones forge members, but fun was had none the less. The next meeting is at the same place on August 12th starting at 9am. As always Carol Potter provided a great lunch for the demonstrators.

The September meeting will be held at the Wendish Fest in Serbin on September 24th.

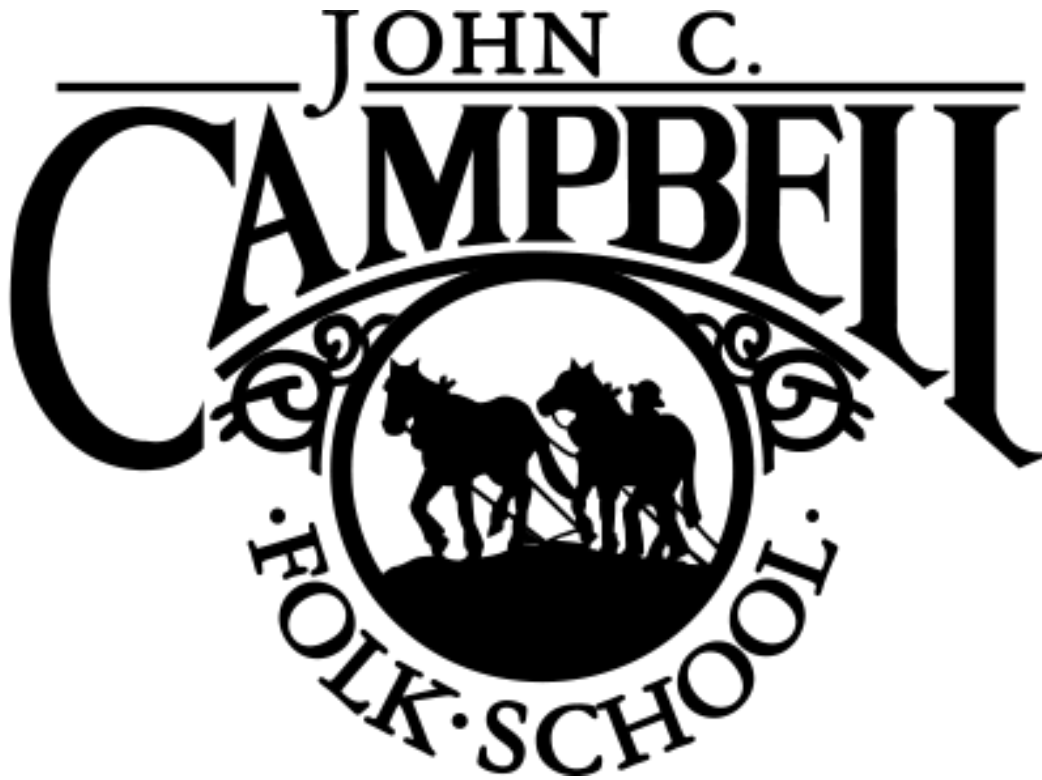
We hope to see more of you at the next meetings. Come on by to catch up with fellow smiths, and to share knowledge with newer smiths. We always like to see the folks who made this a great organization and who's knowledge is irreplaceable.

Lance Jensen,
Secretary
Balcones Forge

TRADE ITEM DETAILS

For August, the trade item is "something incorporating a leaf". To participate, simply make the item chosen for the month. Sometimes there are detailed instructions and sometimes you get to make what ever your imagination tells you. Bring it to the meeting, participate in the trade and you will walk away with another smith's version of the item.

Remember, you gotta make one to take one!



Registration is Now Open
Sign up for 2023–2024 classes now.

It's that time! Explore our brand-new digital catalog and join us at the Folk School for an immersive weeklong or weekend class. We have an extensive range of classes available throughout the rest of the year, along with upcoming events and comprehensive information about our residency programs. These programs include Work Study, Student Host, Artist in Residence, and Traditional Craft Mentorships.

Be sure to check out our latest additions, which include captivating stories featuring our vibrant Folk School community and talented instructors. As we reflect on the Music & Folklore Mentorship: Songs and Stories of Olive Dame Campbell from late 2022, we invite you to join us online to watch the complete presentation. Immerse yourself in this firsthand experience as we hear from both the mentees and the instructor, Alex Cumming.

Paper copies of the catalog will hit mailboxes in late August, but registration is now open for remaining 2023 and first half of 2024 classes. Visit our website or give us a call at 828-837-2775 Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. to sign up.

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W W W . B A L C O N E S F O R G E . O R G



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5 Tips on Keeping Cool in the Forge

- Stay hydrated - Cold water is your friend.
- Wet cloth around the neck - dunk in ice water or keep in the fridge. Note: Wet gloves can lead to steam burns, so be sure to keep them dry.
- Ensure proper ventilation - Generate a breeze if you can (open a window, door, etc.)
- Take breaks - Work on keeping your core cool by taking a break in front of a fan.
- Know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke and appropriate first aid. Heat illnesses can have a lasting impact. Nothing is worth jeopardizing your health. Stay safe out there!

Start talking to your favorite forging friends (teams consist of 4 members) and clear your schedule for next summer's event (June 6-9, 2024)!

Basic rules are now available on our website. Let us know if you are interested in competing and we'll make sure to keep you in the loop.



Somebody said this is from the July meeting. It doesn't look like the temperature was that hot!