



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

December 2023

Greetings,

For the November meeting we met at the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture in New Braunfels. We started the meeting off by ringing the anvil for Chad and Brad Gunter who were tragically killed when a semi ran through their shop in New Mexico. There was a short demo on forging a hot cut chisel followed by an open forge where several people were able to get some forge time. One of our newest members, Stephen Padilla, used the open forge time to make a nice chisel, like he had just learned how to make.

The December meeting will be at the Museum of Teas Handmade Furniture in New Braunfels on Dec. 9. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. We will have a short demonstration on forging a Christmas ornament. The Museum will be hosting their first-annual Renaissance Festival on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. If you would like to volunteer to man the forge for all or part of the day Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, please contact me. If you arrive after 10:00 a.m. you will be charged admission.

Meeting is on December 9

Start time is 9:00

The trade item for December will be a struck tool, such as a chisel, punch, etc. Just a refresher on how the trade item works: after the trade item is announced, anyone who wants to participate forges whatever that month's trade item is and brings it to the meeting. Someone is judged the winner. We draw numbers and then you will take someone else's item

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President's Message continued

home. It is a great way to see different ways to forge similar items. The winner gets to select the trade item to make for the next meeting. Remember, you have to make one to take one.

We will also do a judged competition for the best Christmas ornament with a prize for the winner!

Hope to see y'all there.

Aaron Tilton, President Balcones Forge

Upcoming Meetings

December	9	Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture
January	13	Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture
February	10	Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture

Meetings will start at 9:00 a.m. unless stated otherwise.



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 provided by Stephen Padilla

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

Around the Forge
Official Newsletter of Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America
November 2023



Featured Forgings Online Exhibition
November 15, 2023 - March 15, 2024

We asked smiths and metal artists to show their favorite pieces completed during 2023. The variety of work that was submitted was amazing. This online exhibition is a curated showcase of selected works and all entries received will be posted on our social media accounts over the coming weeks.

To view the exhibition, go to: ABANA.ORG

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The logo for Balcones Forge is circular. It features a stylized red and yellow flame or forge shape in the center. The text "BALCONES FORGE" is written in a circular path around the top half of the logo, and "CENTRAL TEXAS BLACKSMITHS" is written around the bottom half.