



# Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

March 2024

Greetings,

We had a very good turnout for the February meeting. The most I've seen for a while. I would like to thank everyone who attended and special thanks to Philip Waters for his horse head demonstration. We also had 6 entries for the trade item. Jerry Achterberg had the winning entry and chose something made from a horseshoe as the trade item for our March meeting.

The next several months are going to be busy for us. Starting in March we will have second Saturday at the Furniture Museum and we will have members demonstrating at the Pioneer Museum in Fredericksburg for spring break.

The March meeting will be on the 16th at the Pioneer Museum in Fredericksburg.

April 13th and 14th will be the Furniture Museum's folk fest and Balcones Forge will have our April meeting on that Saturday (the 13th). Then May 11th will be our monthly meeting at the furniture museum in New Braunfels. The June meeting will be on the 15th at Pioneer Farms in Austin.

Looking forward to seeing y'all,

Aaron Tilton  
President, Balcones Forge

**Meeting is on March 16**  
Start time is 9:00



## Officers

**President**  
**Aaron Tilton**  
txsmith4@att.net  
210-415-7782

**Vice-President**  
???

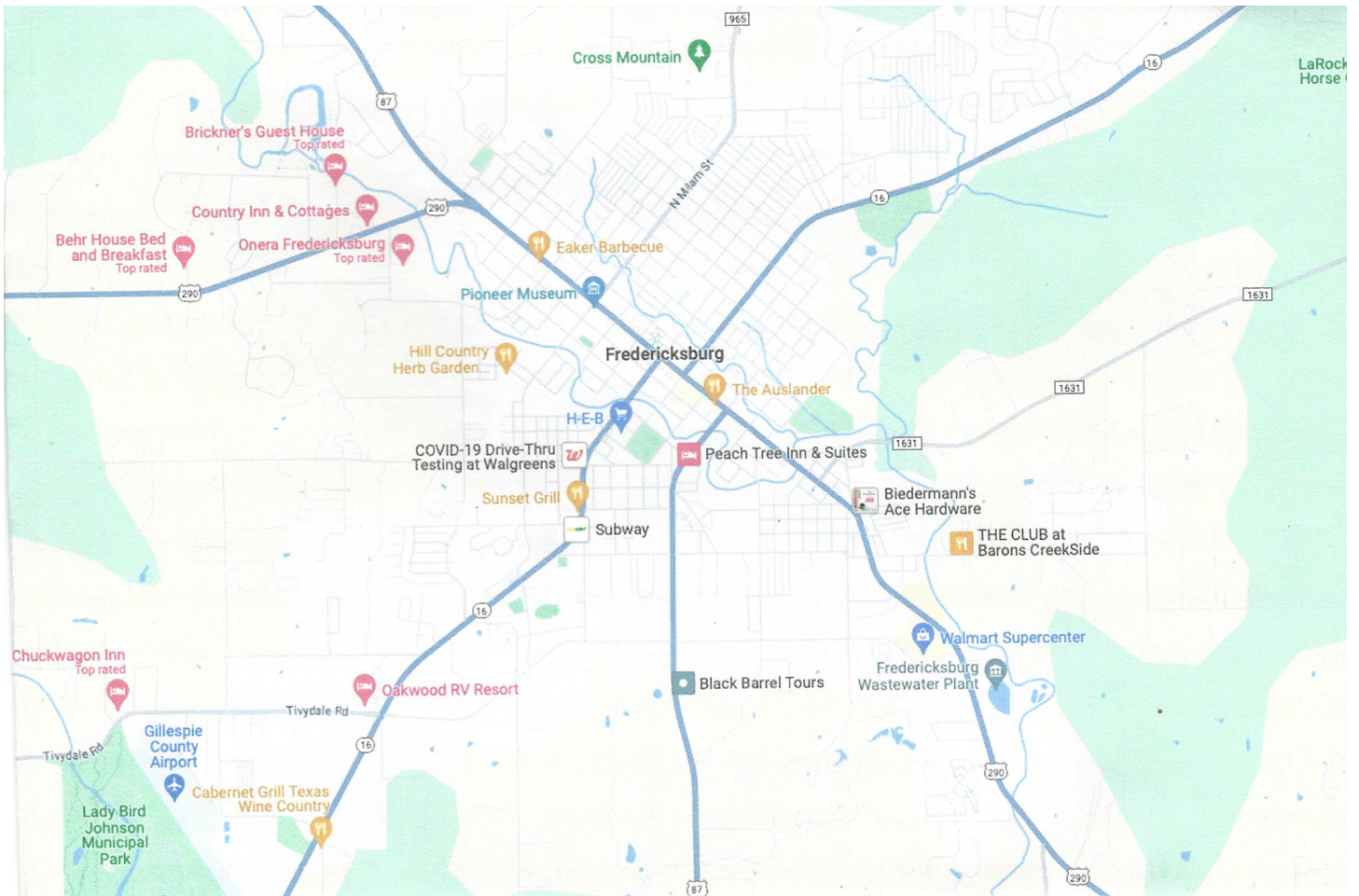
**Treasurer**  
**Rudy Billings**  
rudy@balconesforge.org  
512-461-7375

**Secretary**  
**Lance Jensen**  
lancejensen707@gmail.com  
707-330-7126



## Editor

**Vince Herod**  
spotteddogforge@yahoo.com  
512-799-3636



## Pioneer Museum

325 W Main Street  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

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



## **Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America**

ABANA is widely recognized as the preeminent organization of blacksmithing in the world.

Visit us online at [www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org) and like us on Facebook and Twitter.

Join or renew your membership at: [www.abana.org/membership](http://www.abana.org/membership)

Blacksmithing, the cornerstone of all crafts for centuries, has come back to life. Once rendered nearly obsolete by the Industrial Revolution and 20th Century technology, this ancient craft has undergone a contemporary renaissance. A new appreciation of the honest, enduring qualities of forged metal has developed.

At the heart of this revival has been the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc., a non-profit educational association dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge about the art and craft. Started by a handful of isolated blacksmiths in Georgia in 1973, ABANA now serves nearly 4,000 members.

As part of your Membership Benefits you will receive 4 issues of the Anvil's Ring and 4 issues of the Hammer's Blow Magazine each year you are a member. These magazines can not be subscribed separately but are only received by our members. We have recently added a youth membership at a reduced rate, this membership available to those 18 or under includes a subscription to only the Hammer's Blow magazine.

### **ABANA Education Grants**

"Since its founding in 1973, ABANA has been committed to the education of its members. The purpose of the ABANA Scholarship Fund is to provide financial assistance to our Affiliates and members to assist them in the development of blacksmithing skills and abilities."

Available to:

ABANA affiliate organizations (such as AABA)

Individuals (who are individual members of ABANA)

More information at: <https://abana.org/education/grants/>

### **New feature on the website: Smiths to Remember**

at <https://abana.org/smiths-to-remember>

This is a page of memorial tributes to smiths who have passed on recently, such as Joe Koches, who opened and operated The Blacksmith Shop in Ferndale, CA, and Frank Turley, who taught many contemporary blacksmiths, well-known and not-so-well-known.

The Balcones Forge Newsletter is written by the editor except as noted. Balcones Forge, its officers, members, contributors, editors and writers specifically disclaim any responsibility, or liability for any damage, or injury as a result of the use of any information published in the newsletter or demonstrated at a meeting or conference. Every effort is made to insure the accuracy and safety of information provided but the use by our members and readers of any information published herein or provided at meetings is solely at the user's own risk.

# TONG

**GIVE  
AWAY!**

# TUESDAY

**Win a pair of tongs!**

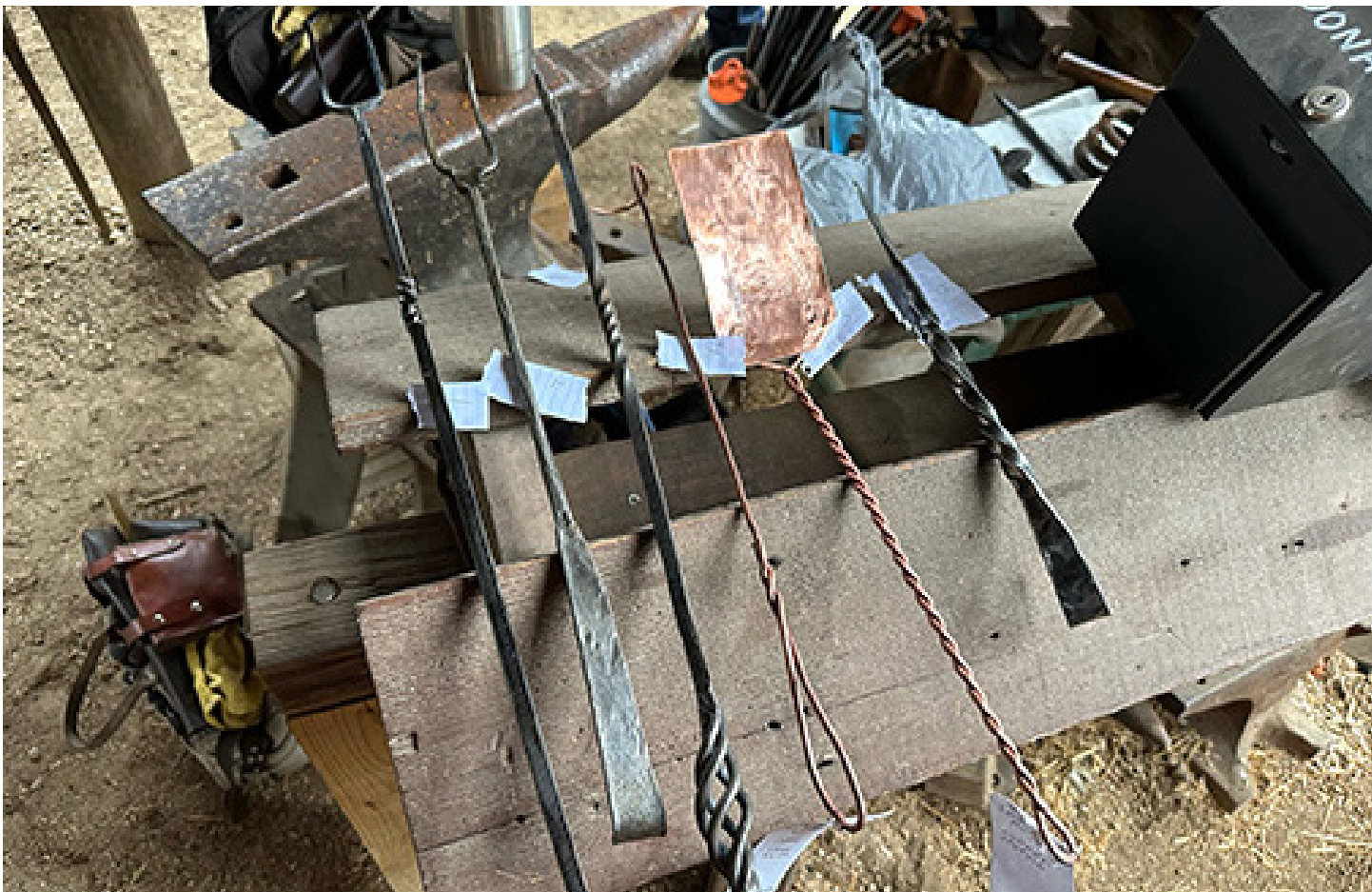
We're giving away tongs forged by  
Board member, Mark Sperry.

Enter the drawing at  
**[abana.org/tongtuesday](https://abana.org/tongtuesday)**  
for your chance to win!

Entries due Mar. 31 at midnight ET.  
Winner announced Tuesday, April 2, 2024.



Demo pieces and trade items from February Meeting.





Lots of folks enjoying the demonstrations at the February meeting.

*photos by Aaron Tilton*





# 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](mailto:Rudy@BalconesForge.org)

Please make check payable to "Balcones Forge."

2024

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.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

Wednesday, June 5th: Opening Ceremony at 4 pm; Competition Teams will have access to select and cut their needed materials.

Thursday, June 6th: Demos, craft classes, forging competition sessions, vending, tailgating.

Friday, June 7th: Demos, craft classes, forging competition sessions, vending, tailgating, and evening lecture.

Saturday, June 8th: Demos, craft classes, forging competition sessions, vending, tailgating, and evening auction.

Sunday, June 9th: Tour the Center for Metal Arts at 9 am.

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

