



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

April 2012



Greetings!

I don't see us ever putting Home Depot out of business, but with all the nails that came out of the smithy at the Pioneer Museum in Fredericksburg, I'm sure we could build a house, a very small house, but still a house. Spring break was a blast! The crowds

were bigger than ever and the kids all lined up to turn the crank on the blower while the smiths hammered out nails on the anvil. There were lots of Kodak moments. A big "thanks" to Matt Czosnek for putting all this together. Good job!

A word of warning! Big Jim Elliott has taken charge of the library and found that many of our books and videos are way overdue. Jim is considering buying billboard space all over Texas and posting the names of the offenders. Please check to see if you have any library material and return it before its too late!

Bluebonnet Demo. The event of the year and this year John Crouchet has managed to snag the "Pearl of Penland" -Elizabeth Brim. This is one you do not want to miss! Elizabeth has her own unique style that has changed the art of blacksmithing forever. Be there!

This is also our annual auction-fundraiser and the money raised keeps us going all year. We need donated items and people to buy them. There will be deals to be had.

Texas Swing Music Festival. The May meeting will be on the 19th in San Marcos downtown on the square. Bring a forge if you can and some show-n-tell stuff for the public.

Meeting Dates are May 5 & 6

President's Message continued on page 2



Officers

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210/842-3049

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512/253-6045

President's message continued

Trade item for May: A pie crust jagger or crimping wheel. A baking tool from the past. Some had wheels on both ends while others had a wheel on one end and a waved or curved blade on the other end to pierce the crust for venting while it baked. Google it and make one.

Competition trade item for July: An adjustable cooking trammel. Another early American kitchen and camping item. Lots of styles to choose from.

Competition trade item for November: A goffering iron. This is a hollow tube attached to a stand into which a heated rod was inserted. When the tube heated up, you would iron those ruffled cuffs and collars.

Competition trade item for February: A pair of spurs. We'll give you lots of time on this one and you needed a pair anyway.

All competition trade items are not really trade items at all. You get to keep what you make and a prize will be given for the best. What a deal!

Sure looks like another busy spring & summer! See ya'll at the ranch.

Jerry Achterberg
Balcones Forge President
treefarm@swbell.net

CONE MANDRELS

Our friends in Southern Oklahoma, The Salt Fork Craftsmen, have just recieved an order of 57 of their cone mandrels. Please check their website and let your editor know if you are interested in a purchase. If we get enough to do a bulk order, perhaps we can get someone to drive up and save us a bunch of \$\$\$ on shipping.

The Balcones Forge Newsletter is written by the editor except as noted. Balcones Forge, it's 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.

A THANK YOU

Thank you to all of the blacksmiths who helped the Austin Waldorf School with our vise shortage. Gerald Pollard donated a post vise and Alan Lee as well. Jim Elliot helped get the vise from Alan to me in Austin.

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of our members, we have enough vises to work safely with our students. We will be starting a blacksmithing block in late April. I will make sure they are all mounted and ready.

Thanks again to all who helped the students at Austin Waldorf!

Daniel Smith

OVER DUE

The following is a list of members and past members that have overdue books, videos or other materials taken from the Balcones Forge Library. If you find yourself or a friend on this list please check and email Jim Elliott as to whether you/they have the library item or not.

Craig Carpenter
Gerald Pollard
James Honig
Jose Llamas
Dennis Clark
Jerry Atcherberg
Aaron Tilton
Alan Lee
George Graham
Smokey Thompson
racca/bastas?????
Shannon Bower
Kathryn Kawazoe
Micheal J Harth

Guy Robinson
Mark Gelatt
Wayne Kirkpatrick
John Hawkins

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Please note new email address is:

oldjimelliott@gmail.com

The Balcones Forge Library is worth thousands of dollars and is a benefit of membership. Please return your over due materials NOW!

MEETING NOTES

Balcones Forge 3/17/12
Pioneer Museum, Fredericksburg, TX

Future meetings:
May 5 & 6 Bluebonnet Workshop w/ Elizabeth Brim - Jim Elliott is handling all arrangements.

May 19 – Texas Natural & Western Swing Music Festival – San Marcos

Library – Jim Elliott is now in charge of the library. Please check to see if you have any books or DVD's. Jim is making a naughty list that will be placed on billboards in downtown Austin & San Antonio. Hurry, you still have time before you become publicly humiliated. *Oops; too late!*

Thanks to Matt Czosnek for getting supplies and scheduling smiths for Spring Break at Pioneer Museum.

Thanks to Vince for another even-better-than-before newsletter. He needs your help. Send him your "nice-to-know" articles and information for the newsletter.

Trade item was: something from a piece of pipe. Jerry Achterberg, Jerry Whitley, Aaron Tilton & Jim Schmidt participated.

Laurie Wicker took charge of the BAM raffle tickets. All donations to aid the ABANA conference. George Craig has donated 600 lbs of coal for demos.

Board meeting: One item of discussion. Jerry Achterberg, Jerry Whitley, Vince Herod, Jim Elliott, Rudy Billings, and John Crouchet in attendance.

Elise addressed the board to ask if Balcones Forge could assist Kainon Baumer & Laurie Wicker with their tuition for Brian Brazeal's forging class in Mississippi in April. A motion was made by John Crockett and seconded by Rudy to give Kainon & Laurie \$1000 each to attend Brian's class. Motion passed by unanimously vote.

Jerry Whitley, Acting Secretary



Arron Tilton's portable anvil stand in use at the Pioneer Museum in March 2012

INTERESTING PROJECT

Folks, here is some information from Tom Vincent. As those of us who have been members for a long time will remember, Tom used to teach blacksmithing at Pioneer Farms.

Here is the link to the Dell page:

<http://www.dellchallenge.org/projects/esteam>

What we really need now is folks who can help with boiler design and with training on a Bridgeport-style milling machine/lathe

Following is an email I sent to someone with additional questions which should fill in some details which may be helpful

Subject: Re: [AustinMetalworkingEtc] Austin- based Steam Generator Project

The Dell page gave us very strict limitations (both word count and description) when we set up the project. We should be getting more information from them this week about what details are needed for the semi-finalist stage, but we will need to provide a lot more information at this point.

Long story short, the idea of using steam is to supplement, not replace, other forms of energy generation in the developing world. Particularly in post-conflict/disaster situations we scramble to provide enough power to provide basic services, and in almost all cases the systems are imported (both diesel generators and solar panels). Our costs go up accordingly, and there is little opportunity to help build or support local skills. At the same time, every other street has at least one machine shop that could contribute something, but instead sits idle because the local economy has broken down, and we NGO's are importing everything.

Not only are we tasked with service provision in direct emergency response, but we have pretty much the same problems when dealing with non-local or cross border emergencies and conflict. In those cases, countries tend to prefer refugee/Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps far away from population centers, and in only rare cases are they willing or able to hook them up to basic services.

Either way, in addition to not being able to provide electricity easily, we end up running kitchens, waste disposal, water purification (which could benefit from boiling as well as alternatives to diesel pumps) and so on with diesel/wood/charcoal/LPG, or sometimes methane and all the heat goes to waste. As you can imagine, just cooking three meals a day of rice and beans for a thousand people generates lots of BTU's... that's when we really wish we could get more out of it, and several of us began to think about steam generation.

Steam has the benefit of being silent, works in bad weather (we still have to cook) and a wood/charcoal system can be fairly easily converted over to solar when things get more stable (either with parabolic dishes or concentrators).

That said, it is just a supplement or back up. Diesel will always be the first choice in emergencies, it's just too ingrained. But it can charge additional batteries that can be used to keep LED lights on later, for health clinics, latrines and security, and study areas for kids. Steam engines can supplement water

pumps and even provide in/direct cooling. By supporting local employment, we also have an additional way to try to contribute to the local economy and get people back on their feet. Any money we save on diesel, and the logistics and security costs that go along, is money that can be used for immediate needs.

Finally, there are a good many development (non-emergency) projects such as community kitchens (Nairobi), community methane digesters, water purification systems, charcoal producers, fish/meat smoking operations and more that could plausibly benefit from the option of incorporating an incidental steam operation. They too are going to be burning fuel and generating heat, all of which goes to waste.

Not surprisingly, there really isn't much in the way of expertise anymore, either in the US/Europe or in the developing world. And few steam operations were scaled to these uses or designed for these conditions. Most of the designs we find that are somewhat suitable are in the steam car/boat range but the boilers need to be reconfigured for local conditions/uses. And local shops need to be trained in manufacture and quality control that will meet the standards of NGO's and donors (nothing like the thought of a boiler going haywire and causing more damage in the middle of an emergency response!)

I hope this helps. I really appreciate your interest, and look forward to any other questions you might have.

Tom Jones: tdvtravels@yahoo.com
612-701-2787



Tom "the Blacksmith from Wimberley" and Erin Flores pass on their knowledge at Sherwood Faire.

Balcones Book Return

It is time for another of our "every now and again" Balcones Book Returns. Please bring any books, tapes, or library materials you have checked out to the Big Demo on May 5 & 6.

Our "man of many jobs", Jim Elliott, will head up our library inventory this time. Thanks Jim!!!

It is important that we receive your books in time for the inventory. If you cannot make it to the meeting, please send your books with a friend. If you can't make the meeting and have no friends, call John Crouchet at 830-798-3710 and let us know which books and tapes you have.

Thanks for your help. We need everyone to pitch in for a successful inventory.

Speaking of which: ***Why are we doing this???***

We often take our fabulous library for granted, but it is the single most valuable thing Balcones Forge owns. It serves to educate and entertain lots of our members, especially those all-important beginners who are the life blood of Balcones Forge and who do not yet have their own blacksmithing libraries! It brings us old timers rare and out of print books which we might not find for ourselves. And most importantly, it is one more way to fulfill our obligation to educate ourselves and pass on the knowledge of blacksmithing to those who will follow us.

Please do your part. Gather up those books and make sure they get to Jim!

submitted by John Crouchet



LET'S DISCUSS IT

Do you have a question or some good news you would like to share with the group? In the past, it has been somewhat difficult -- or nonexistent -- to be able to do so. Good news! There are two ways to get info to the group besides our newsletter.

You can email to all members at members@balconesforge.org but you must do it from your Balcones Forge email -- not your personal email. Just login to your BF email account -- you can get there from the www.BalconesForge.org home page near the bottom. Reply to posts you receive like any other email and the discussion begins. If you have forgotten your username and/or password, send a note to Rudy@BalconesForge.org.

The second method is to use the Balcones Forge Facebook page. Of course, you'll need to login to your Facebook account, then search for "Balcones Forge." Feel free to post on the BF wall and let us hear from you.

Either one is easy. Don't worry -- this group is not overly chatty, so you won't be bombarded by a bunch of emails. So let us know what is on your mind. Post away!

Rudy Billings, Webmaster

YEAR 2012 (AND FINAL)

BLACKSMITH CALENDAR

The 2012 calendar contains 20 images of old blacksmith activity. For a number of reasons, this calendar will be the last in the series. I'm not going to want to remain burdened for long with all the accumulated unsold material, so now would be a good time to fill in any gaps if you're interested in having the complete set while it's still available.

1-5 Year 2012 Calendars: \$17.00 each (will be \$20 on eBay due to excessive fees)

CD with over 8000 Blacksmith & Anvil images
(For Windows 2000 and later, not for Macs.)

1-5 CDs: \$15.00 per CD

over 5 CDs: \$10.00 per CD

Set of 25 Blacksmith Postcards

Note: This is not a new set of postcards. Only one set of 25 postcards has been produced.

Postcards: \$6.00 per set

Year 2011 calendars are available for \$12.00 each.

Year 2001 through 2010 calendars are available for \$6.00 each.

The prices shown above include the cost of shipping to a U.S. or Canadian address. Insurance is extra if desired. If interested, please send a check or money order to:

Gill Fahrenwald, P. O. Box 2323, Olympia, WA 98507 or PayPal to anvilman@orcalink.com





Balcones Forge President Jerry Achterberg demonstrates his Texas Star Trivit at the March meeting in Fredricksburg.

Photos by Vince Herod



. July 18-21st, 2012 . ABANA Conference . "Reunion on the Plains" .

The ABANA Conference is well under way of becoming the most memorable conference with the widest array of demonstrators from all over North America. Mexico, the United States, and Canada are all covered in the lineup. The only thing that can make this better is affiliate representation in the gallery, sponsor support, banner displays, and much more. The Affiliates are encouraged to set up an information table, at no cost, to share with everyone what you are doing. Feel free to bring your "colors" and display your banner too.

We are also looking for interested individuals and organizations to sponsor all aspects of the conference. With a monetary donation you can sponsor a demonstrator, tent, gallery, set up crew, and well, anything you think is representative of your affiliate. There are some specific amounts for certain aspects, but ABANA wants any support you can give. Your Affiliate name will be proudly displayed in the area of your support along with a listing in the conference booklet. Please contact Peyton Anderson if you are interested in supporting the conference:

peytonanderson@abana.org, 434-390-6203.

Feel free to also contact JoAnn in the Central Office for any information regarding the conference.

JoAnn Bentley
(423) 913-1022 or
centraloffice@abana.org

You can also stay up to date through the website:
<http://www.abana.org/Conferences/2012Conference.shtml>



Register online!!! <http://www.abana.org/Conferences/2012ConferenceRegistration.shtml>

ABANA New and Renewed Membership Form:

Name: _____ Membership ID# _____
(For renewals, if known. Not required)

Street: _____ City: _____ State/Prov: _____

Zip/PC: _____ Country: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____ website: _____

- New
- Renewal Type _____ Amount \$ _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ CVVS _____
_____/_____/_____

ABANA Affiliate: _____

Credit card orders can be faxed, be sure to sign this form. Fax: 423-913-1023
Mail to: ABANA, 259 Muddy Fork Rd, Jonesborough, TN 37659 USA
(Please pay by Check, U.S. Money Order or Credit Card)
Phone: 423-913-1022 or join online at www.abana.org

Membership Rates		
Type	1 yr	2 yr
Regular	55.00	105.00
Senior	50.00	95.00
Foreign	65.00	125.00
Student (Full Time)	45.00	85.00
Youth (18 and Under)	20.00	
<small>(Hammer's Blow Only - Non Voting Member)</small>		
Contributory	150.00 and UP	
Educational Institute	250.00	



Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America

As our members know, blacksmithing has been the cornerstone of all crafts for centuries! In the last few decades, this ancient craft has undergone a contemporary renaissance and a new appreciation of the honest, enduring qualities of forged metal has emerged.

At the heart of this revival has been ABANA and its nearly 4,000 members. And the future of ABANA and of blacksmithing itself lies with our youth, so your ABANA Board has recently announced a new youth membership to promote the craft to younger people.

This new membership is limited to those that are 18 years old and younger, and is a non-voting membership. Even so, these youth members will receive their own copy of the Hammer's Blow Magazine that we hope will inspire them to their own incredible achievements in this wonderful trade.

To take advantage of this new membership, please visit the Join ABANA page: <http://www.abana.org/membership/index.shtml>

You can also download the mail in form here: http://www.abana.org/membership/Index_Files/Membership_Form19Feb2012.pdf

Please consider encouraging young people you know to join using this new youth membership so we can begin to pass blacksmithing skills to the next generation of blacksmiths. They are the future of ABANA and we want them to join us now to begin their lifelong passion for this craft we love.

For additional information on ABANA, you may be interested in visiting one or more of the following links:

- Affiliates Map
- Blacksmithing Schools
- Board Members
- Central Office
- Educational Resources
- Events Calendar
- MarketPlace Vendors Member Discounts

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions by sending email to centraloffice@abana.org.

Sincerely,

Bill Clemens, ABANA Member Services
Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America

BALCONES FORGE BLUEBONNET DEMO

featuring

ELIZABETH BRIM



May 5-6, 2012

Marble Falls, Texas

BALCONES FORGE is honored to bring blacksmith **ELIZABETH BRIM** to Texas for our 12th annual two-day demonstration. This continues our tradition of bringing the world's most outstanding blacksmiths to Central Texas!

Elizabeth's work has been included in several important invitational exhibitions and is represented in the Horn Collection in Little Rock, AR and the White House Art Collection. About her work, Brim says "My sculptures are made using both innovative and ancient blacksmithing techniques. I am thinking about my heritage and what is expected of me as a Southern woman, making fun of myself and creating the world as I want it to be."

Balcones Forge will present a delicious catered dinner Saturday night followed by our annual **Balcones Forge Auction!** Donate and bid on fantastic blacksmithing tools or maybe Elizabeth's latest creation!

Times: Saturday: 9:00–Noon – Morning Demo
Noon–1:00 – Lunch: Since Marble Falls is about 20 minutes away, it is recommended to bring a sack lunch or order a Schlotzsky's sandwich for \$5.
1:00–5:00 – Afternoon Demo
6:00 – Delicious ArtZ Ribs dinner, only \$15
7:15 – If you do not attend the dinner, please join us at this time for the fantastic auction
Sunday: 9:00–1:00+ – Demo

Our hosts are John and Carolyn Crouchet at their beautiful Sycamore Creek Ranch. **Directions: From Austin:** Hwy 71 northwest to Hwy 281. **From San Antonio:** Hwy 281 north to Marble Falls. Cross the Colorado River into Marble Falls, count 5 stoplights and turn right (east) at Ranch Road 1431. Check your odometer and go 5.6 miles to our gate. As you head out of Marble Falls on 1431, you will notice that you are on a winding, two lane blacktop road with no shoulders. At the top of a long, winding hill, the road changes and suddenly has shoulders. Go fifty yards further and turn left into our driveway between the red reflectors. (Look for the "Anvil" signs.) At our gate, you will see a large oak tree to the left and a small sign to the right that says, "Sycamore Creek Ranch, 5828 East Ranch Road 1431". If the gate is open, just drive on in. If the gate is closed, then there are cattle in this pasture, so please close the gate behind you once you enter. Continue on down our driveway for one mile, crossing 4 cattle guards before you see the big metal shop on your left. Lost? Call John at 830-798-3710. Please do not bring your dogs. We have pet chickens. 'Nuf said.

For more info contact:

John Crouchet, 830-798-3710 or John@TexasWroughtIron.com

Jerry Achterberg 210-842-3049 or treefarm@swbell.net

Rudy Billings, 512-461-7375 or Rudy@BalconesForge.com

Hotel Accommodations:

Hampton Inn on the Lake, 704 First St., 830-798-1895

Quality Inn, 1206 Hwy 281 North, 830-693-7531

Best Western, 1403 N Hwy 281, 830-693-5122

Hill Country Inn, 1101 Hwy 281, 830-693-3637

La Quinta Inn, 501 W. FM 2147, 830-798-2020

See the latest newsletter or website (www.BalconesForge.org) for Registration Form.

PLEASE HELP US BY REGISTERING EARLY!!! REMEMBER TO BRING A FRIEND!

WWW.BALCONESFORGE.ORG

Balcones Forge Spring Workshop

featuring **Elizabeth Brim – May 5-6**

Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Yes, I prefer the electronic version of the BF newsletter. If you would prefer a mailed version, please add \$5 to your membership.

Current Member \$45 _____
\$50 at the door

2012 Membership if unpaid . \$20* _____

Non-member \$65 _____

Yes, I wish to become a BF member

Saturday Evening Meal ... \$15 _____

Total _____

** Please register by April 1 **

Make check payable to Balcones Forge.

Send to Rudy Billings,

12302 Indian Mound, Austin, TX 78758

PLEASE READ AND COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING RELEASE FORM: FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND DATED BY EACH MEMBER, GUEST AND PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF ANY MINOR IN ATTENDANCE.

In consideration of the Balcones Forge Blacksmith Association providing demonstrators and making these demonstrations available and granting permission to enter the area of said demonstration, I, individually and as parent or guardian of the minor child attending such demonstration, 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 demonstration 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

Return Service Requested

Vincent Herod
Spotted Dog Forge
166 Granite Road
Paige, TX 78659-4922

