



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

February 2019



Greetings!

Be safe!

Thanks to Sue Howerter and Mary Jo Emrick for their garden trellis demo at the January meeting at the Community First Village in Austin and for

putting on the trellis workshop the previous Friday. The workshop was sold out and looked to be a big hit by the attendees. With spring on the way a trellis is just what you need for your spring garden. We probably need to talk them into doing another one sometime soon. Also thanks to Evan Wilson for setting up the workshop and the demo. The workshop folks commented about the wonderful facility at MLF but they only had one lonely old gas forge to work with. John Crockett suggested that Balcones donate four gas forges with stands and gas cylinders so that the residents who work in the forge daily to earn their keep can turn out more products for the onsite store. The forges have been purchased and will be in place very soon. Balcones Forge is also going to sponsor one of the teams at the Austin Forging Competition at MLF which will take place on March 2nd. Please make plans to attend this event. Check out the web site: <https://mlf.org/community-first/>

February takes to Bryan for the Lee Brothers 9th annual Combo-Demo at their Steep Hollow Forge on the 16th. As always Alan and Jeff have lots of things planned with lots of people. The Forged in Fire guys will that their own tent, Cowboy Symanski, Sam Fontenot, Matt Porhorelsky, and Richard DelaHoussaye will be among the many who will demo this year as well as several tailgaters and vendors. The competition trade item will be: A bottle opener. There will be several categories (including a horsehead) with several winners and a "best of show" as well. Do your best!

Meeting Date is Saturday February 16

President's Message continued on page 2.



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SECRETARY'S REPORT FROM JANUARY MEETING

President's Message continued.

We will have several volunteers to help at this event. Each forge group will need to man chapter table with info about the group. We need help with the parking, with the silent auction, with the live auction, with the meal, and just general help. Please bring an auction item to help with the cost of this "free" event. For more information, please check out the web site:

<http://www.steepforge.com/learn.html>



2019 Bluebonnet Demo – featuring Rachel David – March 30th. At John Crockett's Sycamore Creek Ranch in Marble Falls. Make your reservations now! Details to follow.

Balcones Forge still needs your help. Vince needs meeting photos and articles for the newsletter, Aaron needs help with the t-shirts, and we need a few members-at-large to help the board with keeping this organization running. Please contact one of the board members if you would like to help.

Not sure what to do with your leftover deer feeder corn? You can forge with it! Be sure to check out the Balcones Forge Facebook page to find out more.

See ya'll in Bryan

Jerry Achterberg – Pres. Balcones Forge

My new address is:

31627 Wildcat Dr.
Bulverde, TX 78163

Our Saturday morning trip took us to the Mobil Loaves and Fishes / Community Forge establishment off Hog Eye road in Austin. We got to see the pair of trellis pieces that Sue Howeter and Mary Jo Emrick forged the day prior at the competition event (8 competitors) hosted by Austin Community College. Sue highlighted some of the difficulties that she & Mary Jo had to overcome, such as riveting the out spreading metal supports rather than forging a securing clamp, as well as tools and techniques used for the scrolling. Not yet attached, but already forged were the leaves and flowers. The project immediately inspired me and quite a few others judging from the obvious awe of their stares - job well done, forgHERS!! Haley Woodward, Professor of Blacksmith at ACC welcomed the Balcones Forge group by stating the importance and commitment ACC has in collaborating with well known blacksmiths and as Evan Wilson, Lead Blacksmith and Director for Community Forge emphasized that every project that comes through is an opportunity to provide dignified involvement for the homeless craftspeople who work in the shop. Haley and Evan also host an annual forging competition in collaboration with Austin Metal Authority to host these public workshops. Mary Jo and Sue donated 100% of their proceeds to Mobil Loaves

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and Fishes. In addition to that John Crochet identified the need for improving the forging capability of this workshop proposed a motion to donate four gas forges from Balcones Forge to ACC for use by the Community Forge and those craftsman who have finally found a home.

MLF began when 5 parishners of St. John Neuman Catholic Church in Austin decided to actually put into practice that well known phrase that says 'love thy neighbor as yourself' and as founder of MLF, Alan Grahm started delivering meals out a a minivan in 1998. Since then over 5 million meals have been served, as well as food, clothing and hygiene products, every day of the year by an astounding 19,000 volunteers. St Francis of Assisi has many other catholic churches doing the same good work and in San Antonio, there are 26 locations for the homeless to seek basic food and shelter. The current 27 acre location acquired in 2014 for MLF houses about 250 people and have acquired an additional 51 acres that will accommodate 500 more homeless individuals. Success is obtained through building and supply donation from individuals and businesses. Cost of renting these beautiful, custom built micro-homes is \$120-450, based on income. Tours of the grounds are available, and Evan invited everyone to accompany him for a look around.

Tim Tellander
Balcones Forge Secretary

Patch Knife Class with Tim Tellander Journeyman Bladesmith American Bladesmith Society & Texas Knife Guild

This knife represents a knife used primarily during the American Civil War by riflemen to open patches of black powder for their muskets, of which the design and use is legendary and useful to the present. The 6 inch piece of high carbon steel (1095) is from a horse or tractor drawn hay rake for drawing fresh cut grass into rows for harvesting.

We will be utilizing gas forges, and the only tools needed is one hammer with both flat & rounded faces, and another with a cross peen. The actual forging and bending will take 3-4 hours, sharpening and heat treat will take the remainder of the day.

The photos identify the round bar and 2 differently sized examples and I forged a 3rd example to show completion. I had it tested by a knife guild member (Gary Powell), and it resulted in a Rockwell hardness of 61.

Class #1 of 10 participants: Thursday March 28 (9:30am - 4:30pm)

Class #2 of 10 participants: Friday March 29 (9:30am - 4:30pm)

Contact: Laura Armstrong (832) 605-6150 with a text message and you will receive an invoice which is paid on line with credit card to reserve a spot.



**LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR
LITTLE GIANT POWER
HAMMER WORK HARDER THAN
EVER!**

You are invited to join us for our annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar. It will be held Friday March 15 through Saturday March 16, 2019.

First taught by our good friend Fred Caylor of Zionsville, Indiana, we carry on his tradition of teaching how to make Little Giants run well and hit hard.

This 2 day class is a hands-on format. You will help transform a 25 LB Little Giant from running but sloppy condition into a well tuned, quiet, hard working machine. Sid Suedmeier, former owner of Little Giant, will share all his knowledge and experience gained from Fred and 25+ years of repairing and rebuilding Little Giants.

An old style 25 LB Little Giant will be rebuilt during the class, but we will also have a new style on hand to demonstrate proper assembly and adjustment of both styles.

The class is held in our shop in historical Nebraska City, Nebraska. Our city has a nice selection of cafes, antique and gift shops, orchards, wineries and museums.

**IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE GIANT,
THIS CLASS IS FOR YOU!**

No experience is required to attend this class. Our past classes have been attended

by folks from every walk of life, from students to retirees... anyone who wants to learn can benefit from this class. We approach the rebuilding process using tools that can be found in the average home workshop.

If you are in the market to buy a power hammer, this class will make you an educated shopper. If you already own a Little Giant, or any other brand of power hammer, this class will teach you how to get the best performance possible.

The class costs \$95, refundable up to 7 days prior to the class, advance registration is required. We limit the class to 25 participants. The class starts at 9 AM sharp on Friday, and typically ends by Saturday evening. We are available Sunday until noon in case we encounter any exceptional problems in rebuilding, and to answer remaining questions.

When we receive your registration, we will send you a city map, along with travel and hotel information.

Airports are located in Omaha (45 miles north), Lincoln (50 miles west) and Kansas City (125 miles south).

2019 REGISTRATION

Name: _____
Business name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

PAYMENT

- Check enclosed
- Cash in person

(Sorry, we no longer accept credit cards, although credit cards can be used to purchase parts through the Little Giant business owned by Roger Rice, also in Nebraska City)

POWER HAMMER INFO

Brand: _____
Size: _____
Serial Number: _____

Please call or email if you have any questions, or prefer to register by phone. You can reach us at 402/873-6605 or sidsshop@windstream.net

You can contact Roger Rice or Greg Rice about parts and repairs at 402/873-6603. Their email address is mm21654@gmail.com. Website is LittleGiantHammer.com

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

The 9th Annual Combo-Demo: Blacksmithing Demonstration & Metal Arts Exhibition

All-Day Demonstrations

FINAL DEMONSTRATOR LINEUP

Richard Epting EptingKnives.com Wellborn, Texas

Peter "Cowboy" Symanski Phenixknives.com Bellville, Texas

Sam Fontenot- 26 Forgeworks Tyler, Texas

Matt Porhorelsky- Insructor at Creative Side Metal Works Austin, Texas

Richard DelaHoussaye- Iron Smelt- Louisiana Metalsmiths Asso. Carencro, La.

2019 COMBO-DEMO February 16, 2019 Steephollow Forgeworks Bryan, Tx

The Combo-Demo will feature 2 smiths in the morning and 2 after lunch.

The morning session will start with Richard Epting and Cowboy Symanski explaining and forging a Damascus billet and forging a knife. They will end their session by talking about heat treatment of knives.

After lunch, Sam Fontenot will be working with copper and steel to create a number of items for home décor.

Also, Matt Porhorelsky will be using forge welding techniques to create a number of items.

Not to mention the Iron Smelt outside next to a tent that will have volunteer blacksmiths doing short demos for those that can not squeeze inside.

Several Forged in Fire Winners and contestants will at this year's event. They may do a brief demo and a panel discussion for those interested in sharp pointy things. Come meet these Texas Knife makers who have participated in one of the most watched shows on TV.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:00 am Announcements will be begin

1:30-4:00pm Demos begin

9:30-11:30am Demos begin

4:00pm Bloom comes out of smelt

11:30am Live auction

12-1:30pm lunch

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

Spread the word. The 2018 Combo-Demo is going to be a good one!

2019 COMBO-DEMO VENDOR LIST

The 2019 Combo-Demo will have a record number of vendors. Here is the list as of now. More will be added.

*JACKPINE FORGE- Hammers and more hammers-Nathan Robertson

*Gizmos Fabrications-Propane Forges

*Anyang Power HammersUSA- Power Hammers and Forging Presses[James Johnson will be bringing a 25 ton forging press] anyangusa.net

*Texas Farriers Supply- Anvils, Tongs, Coal, Knife supplies,

*Matt Marti- forging hammers and sledges

*Bounty Forge and Steel Wool-Blacksmith items from their forge

*Blacksmithtools on Instagram- Andrew Alexander always brings the best used tools available

*Mark Ling Blacksmith-Coke, Tools

*Terry Dunn-Exotic and Stabilized wood for Knife scales

*To The Point-Knife Sharpening Service

*Two Basterds Tx Smithy& Supplies- Recyled Hammers and tools

*Stringbean AKA Ricard Lowery- Used Blacksmithing Equipment

*Estes Forge- Terry Estes- Used and improved Anvils, leg vises, Swage Blocks, amd More

*Blackhawk Forge and Mill- Blacksmith Tools and Custom cut wood

*Goodwin Homestead- Broom Maker and Fiber artist

*Erthy Pottery-Original every day use Pottery

*Jake Sewell- Tomahawk Maker- Jake will bring a throwing cage to learn how to throw a tomahawk.

*Huse Knives- James Huse custom Knives

*Epting Knives- Ricahrd Epting is also a Demonstrator

*Phenix Knives- Cowboy Symanski Is also a Demonstrator

If you are a Vendor and plan to attend please give us a call and we will include you on this list.

DEMO OPPORTUNITY

Hello and Happy Fall!

I am president of the Friends of Nameless School, a one-room schoolhouse and the one remaining structure of the Nameless Community on Nameless Road in Northwestern Travis County. You can find us on Facebook to see more about us at Friends of Nameless School.

We are again inviting the community and surrounding areas to spend some time at the school to experience some old-time festivities from the late 1800s to early 1900s.

To that end, we hope to have soap makers, story tellers, spinners and weavers, folks who might present some “living history”, reenactors, and demonstrators from bygone eras (Civil War, early West), music, etc.

In addition to our “Day in Historic Nameless” we will also host our biennial community-wide barbecue. If the April 2019 Saturday is anything like this past April 7, we will be even more crowded inside the schoolhouse—but that’s ok!

We won’t be charging money to attend, nor will we offer remuneration to presenters/participants. We are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) association, so any participating you do will qualify as tax-deductible on your part.

We hope you’ll consider sending a representative (or several!) to join us **Saturday, April 13, 2019** for A Day in Historic Nameless. Please forward this to friends who also might be interested in joining us! Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Mary Cameron, President
Friends of Nameless School
maryc2@austin.rr.com

COMPETITION ITEM for 2019 Combo-Demo

The competition item for this year's Combo-Demo is a bottle opener. Everyone can make a bottle opener and we hope this means there will be many more entries than usual. And since we anticipate a lot more participation there will be 3 categories meaning 3 winners.

The categories are:

- *Animal head---this should be obvious
- *Free style opener---any style, size, color, theme
- *Non ferrous---copper, stainless steel, aluminum, bronze

Enter in one category or enter in all 3.

Enter as many as you want in each category.

First it has to work and then it just has to be the best. Half the fun is just competing with your friends.

Pioneer Museum Spring Break Schedule for Balcones Forge

Museum is open from 10 AM to 5 PM

Blacksmith volunteers are:

Monday	March 11	Matt Schreiner and Tim Tellander
Tuesday	March 12	David Kay and Tim Tellander
Wednesday	March 13	David Kay and Tim Tellander
Thursday	March 14	Rudy Billings and Matt Schreiner
Friday	March 15	Aaron and Shane Tilton
Saturday	March 16	Aaron and Shane Tilton

Alternate: Gary Hilton

P. O. Box 728

Hunt, TX., 78024

Cell: 830-459-4015

Off: 830-238-3406

email: gwhilton@hotmail.com

Balcones Forge Bluebonnet Demo

featuring

RACHEL DAVID



March 30, 2019

Marble Falls, Texas

Rachel David, raised in Maryland and a resident of New Orleans, is a blacksmith, sculptor, designer, and maker. Her practice includes sculpture, custom architectural work, and furniture, all working to convey social and environmental justice, and workshops that build community rather than competition. Rachel's methods for moving metal are extraordinary. You will be amazed and inspired!

Balcones Forge will be providing two different hands-on workshops, two days before and two days after the Saturday Demo – one conducted by Rachel, and the other by our own **Tim Tellander**, providing an ever popular knife-making workshop. There are only 20 spots available for each workshop, so check the next newsletter for registration info.

Besides motels five miles away in Marble Falls, free camping spots are available around the pond on beautiful Sycamore Creek. Bring your tent or RV and your fishing pole! Sorry – no dogs or campfires. Show up at the shop Friday night for the Balcones Shrimp Boil, a party that has become a tradition. We would love to see you there!

Don't miss the catered barbeque and vegetarian dinner Saturday night followed by our famous annual **Balcones Forge Auction**. Please create items and find unused tools to donate, then prepare to bid on fantastic creations and blacksmithing tools -- maybe one of Rachel's or Tim's latest creation!

Demo Times: 8:57–Noon Morning Demo
Noon–1:03 Lunch: *Since Marble Falls is about 20 minutes away, it is recommended to order a sandwich, chips and drink.*
1:03–5:09 Afternoon Demo
6:01 Dinner
7:08 If not attending dinner, please join us at this time for the fantastic auction

Our fantastic hosts are John and Carolyn Crouchet at their beautiful Sycamore Creek Ranch, at 5828 East Ranch Road 1431. If the gate is open, just drive in. If the gate is closed, there are cattle in this pasture, so please close the gate behind you. Continue crossing 4 cattle guards before you see the big metal shop on your left. Welcome! Lost? Call John at 830-798-3710.

For more info contact: **John Crouchet**, 830-798-3710 or JohnCrouchet@iCloud.com, **Jerry Achterberg** 210-842-3049 or treefarm@swbell.net, or **Rudy Billings**, 512-461-7375 or Rudy@BalconesForge.com

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

DON'T FORGET YOUR SAFETY GLASSES AND CUSHION. HELP US BY REGISTERING EARLY

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

Sign Up Now for Bluebonnet Workshops!

This is your chance to sign up for our annual blacksmithing workshops, held in conjunction with the Bluebonnet Demo!

We are offering four days of classes this year:

March 28, Thursday - **“Patch knife making class”** with Tim Tellander

March 29, Friday - **“Patch knife making class”** with Tim Tellander

March 30, Saturday - Bluebonnet Demo

March 31, Sunday - **“Butcher Tools, moving mass”** with Rachel David

April 1, Monday - **“Butcher tools, moving mass”** with Rachel David

On Thursday and Friday before the Demo, our bladesmith extraordinaire, **Tim Tellander**, will be teaching classes on building patch knives. Tim will teach the entire process to forge, file, and finish a completed knife in this class. Balcones members have shown a tremendous interest in bladesmithing this year, and this is a great opportunity to forge your own knife, start to finish! Many of Tim’s beautiful knives are shown in the Balcones Forge website gallery.

Our 2019 Bluebonnet Demo demonstrator is blacksmith **Rachel David** from New Orleans. You can see her work at www.redmetal.net. As you can see from her architectural and sculptural work, she is a master at shifting metal to achieve unusual, flowing forms. She will teach classes on the Sunday and Monday after the Demo focused on “calculating, isolating, and redistributing mass.” This is a chance to take your forging abilities to the next level, learning methods and subtleties of using top and bottom butcher tools in your work.

These popular all day **workshops are limited to only ten students per day**. They will begin at 9:30 each morning and end at 4:30 each afternoon. Blacksmiths and metalworking students sign up for these workshops each year to learn new forging techniques in a hands-on shop environment without spending great wads of cash or traveling long distances.

Balcones Forge provides the anvils, forges, tools, and professional-level instructors.

Cost to take a class is \$125.00. All needed materials and tools will be furnished, along with lunch and drinks for everyone.

Please Note: Class size is limited and is available only on a “first come, first served” basis. If you wish to be in a class, apply quickly.

To sign up for a class, text Laura Armstrong at 830-605-6150. Tell her your email address and what class you want. She will send you an invoice by email which you can pay online by credit card or by ApplePay to reserve your space. If this does not work for you, call Laura directly and she can make other arrangements for you.

Due to our insurance requirements, you must be a Balcones Forge member to take these classes. Dues are a very reasonable twenty dollars per year and you can become a member immediately by contacting Rudy Billings at rudy@balconesforge.org.

All classes and the annual Bluebonnet Demo will be held at Sycamore Creek Ranch, 5828 East FM 1431, Marble Falls, TX 78654. Free camping space is available here on the ranch. Bring your tent or travel trailer. Bring a friend.

We are looking forward to a memorable and exciting Bluebonnet Demo and classes this year. We hope you will join us!

John Crouchet
Text: 830-798-3710

Balcones Forge Trellis Building Workshop at Community First Village
With Sue Howerter and Mary Jo Emerick
By Sue Howerter

At the end of January, Mary Jo Emerick and I conducted a pot/planter size trellis-building workshop at the Community First Village blacksmith shop. We were representing Balcones Forge and funds raised by students signing up went directly to Community First. Our time was donated.

Designing a trellis that could be built in a one-day class, and with unknown student skill levels, was quite challenging. The project was redesigned several times as we thought about space requirements, time, skills and tools required to make each piece. Several were built in my shop ahead of time while working out the details. It proved to be a great exercise in workshop planning, as this was a new experience for me, not having taught a class before.

Workshop attendees practiced quite a few techniques. They made scrolls, did beveling, fullering, chisel cutting, sinking, riveting, made a leaf and a flower. There were several options for how to accomplish the fullering for the center scroll, so that nobody would be waiting for a single piece of equipment that had to be shared by everyone. Leaves could be hammered to shape, or hammered and fullered or chiseled, whatever a person's skill level allowed for time-wise. Although it did remain a fairly challenging project, I think everyone enjoyed the process and I know that Mary Jo and I had a great time. We also had great help from John Crouchet and my husband, Randy, which added to the fun!



WWW.BALCONESFORGE.ORG





From the January meeting

Photo by Tim Tellander

Balcones Forge Bluebonnet Demo

featuring **Rachel David - March 30**

^S
Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Current Member	\$45	_____
2019 Membership if unpaid.	\$20	_____
Non-member	\$65	_____
Saturday Lunch	\$ 7	_____
Saturday Evening Meal...	\$15	_____
	Total \$	_____

Please register by March 15

Make check payable to Balcones Forge.

Send to Rudy Billings

12302 Indian Mound, Austin, TX 78758

To pay by credit card, email

rudy@balconesforge.org

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 workshops and making these events available and granting permission to enter the area of said event, I, individually and as parent or guardian of the minor child attending such event, 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 workshop 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 _____

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

