



# Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

January 2020



Greetings!

Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and wishing all a happy and exciting new year. Welcome to 2020!

Our last meeting in October was hosted by Jerry and Marsha Whitley

at the Rystic Forge in Devine and was excellent as always. The Whitleys provided all the food and Tom Lundquist from On Alaska, Texas was our demonstrator. Jerry's BBQ was top shelf, Tom put on a good show for the crowd. Thanks to all who helped out for this event including the auction.

Sue and Randy will host the January meeting on the 25th at their smithy in New Berlin. Sue will show a few of her eye pleasing organic shapes as well as some of her handmade tooling she uses to create them. I will bring an assortment of "tools form scrap" that I have made over the years.

I would like for each of you to also bring a show-n-tell tool or jig that you have built for a specific purpose in your forging process. We have all built one of a kind tools that they just don't sell at Home Depot. Bring yours and show us.

Sue and Randy will provide lunch (Frito pie) and water, bring your own adult beverage if you like as well as a chair. The trade item: A garden trowel. That would be a little shovel or garden digging tool. One piece, two or even three pieces. Metal or wood handle, it doesn't matter, but ya gotta make one to take one.

## Meeting Date is Sat Jan 25

*President's Message continued on page 2.*



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*President's Message continued.*

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT FROM OCTOBER MEETING**

February 22th: The Lee Brothers will once again host the Combo Demo at the Steephollow Forge in Bryan Texas. This has been the best event around for any blacksmith or bladesmith for a few years. Lots of demonstrators, lots of vendors and lots of good food and old friends. Be sure to bring an auction item and some cash to score a few of the many items that need a good home. Alan may still have some room left in one of the classes or workshops. Call him at 979-218-1088. **DO NOT MISS THIS EVENT!**



For the March meeting we will be attending the Austin Forging Competition put on by the Austin Metal Authority at First Community Village which is home to Mobil Loaves and Fishes in Austin on March 7th. This is another event that you won't want to miss. Eight teams of well known blacksmiths will be hammering in this competition that will last for most of the day. Bring a chair, bring a camera, bring \$10 to get in. Balcones Forge will sponsor one of the teams again this year. Go to : <https://mlf.org/afc/> for more info and watch the video. This is your chance to see 16 world class blacksmiths in action on the same day. 9301 Hog Eye Road, Austin. Food will be available. **DON'T MISS THIS EVENT EITHER!**

Balcones Forge call for help. We are looking for a few good hardworking people to help with the monthly activities like preparing meetings sites and materials for meetings and cleaning up after the events as well as taking over some the board vacancies. Some of our folks have just become too busy or just too damn old to carry on and need a well deserved break. I you would like to help please give me a call at 210-842-3049 or email me at [treefarm@swbell.net](mailto:treefarm@swbell.net) .

See ya'll in New Berlin.  
Jerry Achterberg – Pres. Balcones Forge

Our Balcones Forge meeting in Devine, Texas at Jerry Whitley's Rustyk Forge featured Tom Lundquist from Onalaska, Texas. This seasoned blacksmith started out his demo by forging a bottle opener in the form of a mouse. Now this may seem like a simple project to some, but I noticed great interest from the crowd and lots of photos were taken. As we all know, there are a lot of steps to produce a quality blacksmith project and Tom made sure he verbalized each step. Another neat project was an iron rose (again using 1x1/8" flat stock), and larger the stock - larger the rose. Since he has a lot of acquaintances that shoot black powder rifles, he used 3/8 square stock to forge a screwdriver for tightening rifle screws with a point on the other end for cleaning out the black-powder fuse orifice. A handy little tool that necessitated quenching and drawing back to a proper temper.

Jerry Achteberg called the assembly to attention in order to discuss our next meeting in December at the forge of Gerald Pollard on Dec 14, but at the time of this printing, that meeting has been postponed. Jerry Whitley read the list of deceased blacksmiths and friends of the Balcones Forge Blacksmith group. The ringing of the anvil took

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place in their honor and lunch prepared by Marsha Whitley was served. I had an opportunity to have lunch next to Tom who explained his part in making of the movie Last of The Mohicans, a book written by James Fenimore Cooper. The film produced in 1992 by Michael Mann grossed over 75.5 million dollars, and cost about 6 million to build. The Fort William Henry replica was built in the North Carolina Blue Ridge Mountains, instead of the Adirondacks in upper New York state because of the heavy logging that has taken place over the years. Tom said he and his brother forged dozens of hinges, hooks, door handles and just about every little thing necessary in order to make the set appear period authentic. The original fort was built by the French and the battle took place in 1757. Several months prior to release, Tom said that actors, directors and supportive staff spent months mingling together with builders of the set and he got to meet a lot of interesting people. A list of the craftsmen including the blacksmiths are identified in Country Life magazine (1981). Tom is very proud of the part he played (shall we mention worked) in the making of that movie.

After lunch, he went back out to the forge for one-on-one forging for anyone that wanted a little hammer time with him. I also got to see a small collection of his handmade knives which are built for everyday function, and not end up on a shelf somewhere. For more of his work, he plans on being at the Lee brothers demonstration in February 2020. If you haven't been yet, better go because Allen stated that this would be their last event. I will also be meeting in mid November with the Reforged bladesmithing group at Cheryl Craig's shop along with Jerry Achteberg & John Meyer to present them with the four pair of tongs being donated to them by Balcones.

Tim Tellander  
Balcones Forge Secretary

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Saturday January 25, 2020

Sue Murray  
New Berlin, TX

Saturday February 22, 2020

The Lee Brothers in Bryan, TX  
10th Annual Combo Demo

Saturday March 7, 2020

Austin Forging Competition  
Mobil Loaves & Fishes

April 24 & 25, 2020

Balcones Forge Iron & Wood Festival



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!  
From the ABANA President's Anvil.

I have some very exciting news to share. Three items concerning the 2020 ABANA conference in Saratoga, NY.

#1. The ABANA board has negotiated with Hereford College of Arts for the exhibit – ‘Measured Making – 150 mm Challenge’ as seen in 4 pages of the Anvil’s Ring 2019 Summer issue. It will premiere at the 2020 conference and then tour the United States for a period of 18 months. Board member Laura Armstrong is heading up this committee and is seeking likely galleries, museums, and other venues to book this fabulous exhibit. If you have contacts you wish for her to investigate, please email her at [exhibition@abana.org](mailto:exhibition@abana.org).

#2. The ABANA board has made arrangements with the Fisher Factory Anvil Museum to bring a Fisher exhibit to the 2020 conference. Last seen at the 2014 Harrington, DE conference, this is a fabulous cross section of the manufactory of the longest lasting American anvil maker. Along with this exhibit, Josh Kavett will be introducing his newly published history of the Fisher Anvil.

#3. Returning, also, at the 2020 conference will be John Dittmeier’s ‘ABANA Time Line’ for your enjoyment and there will be a copy available for your bidding at the auction at the close of the conference.

Three very valuable and exciting events included in your package of registration opportunities at the 2020 Saratoga Conference. Register today at <https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?id=5679>

Leigh Morrell

## From the ABANA President's Anvil

Greetings valued ABANA members. Today, I ask again for your help to initiate a mid-term election process to fill three Board seats. One current board member resigned to attend to unanticipated health and business challenges. A second accepted the editorship of the Anvil's Ring and therefore cannot sit on the board. And a third board member has been named president of the University of Maryland, and cannot by state law, sit on any other board.

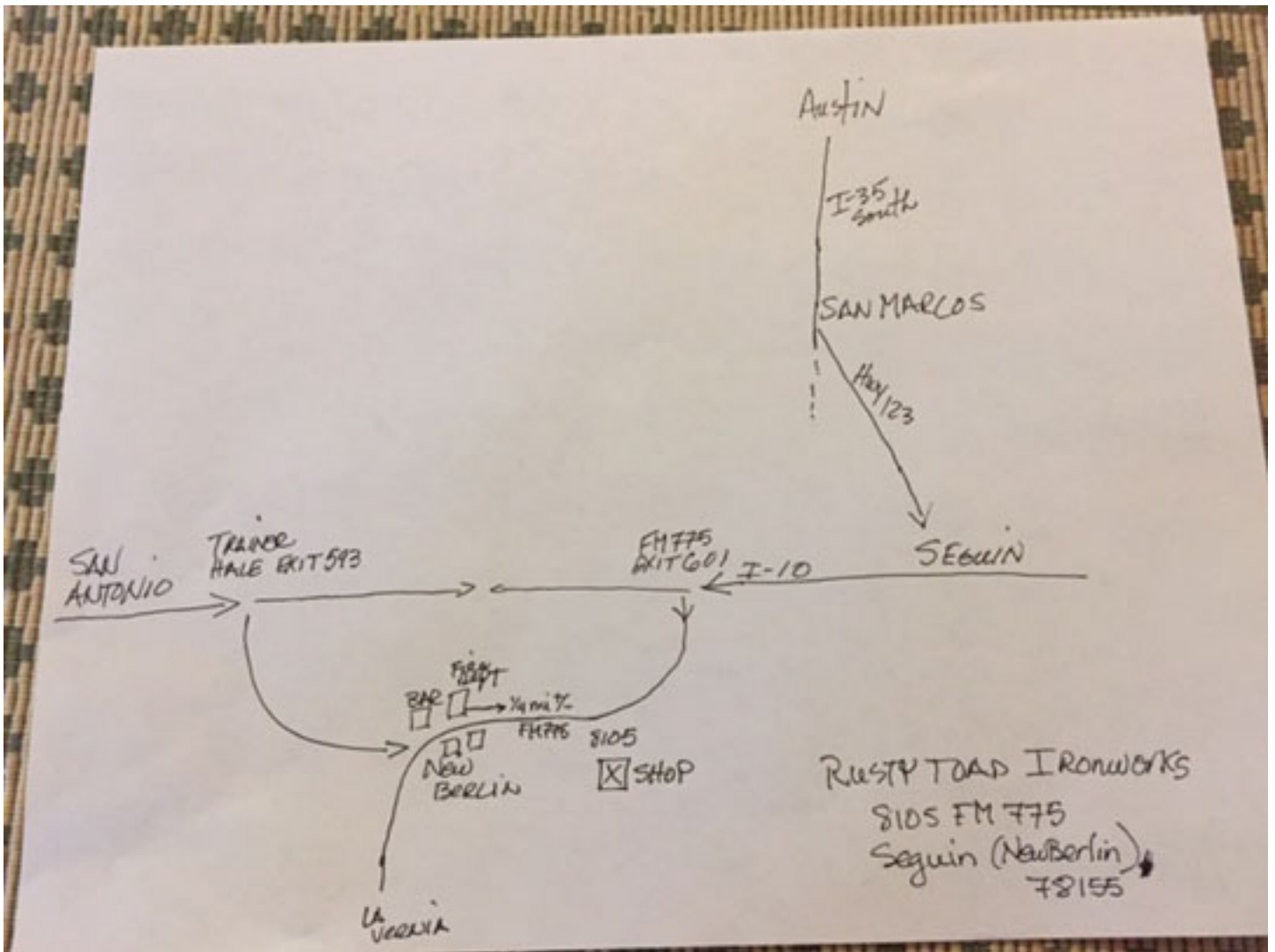
This is an exciting opportunity to provide leadership for two of the most dynamic ABANA initiatives ever: Establishing a suitable permanent home for ABANA and launching an International Blacksmithing Competition, both in Johnstown, PA. And don't forget that ABANA 2020 "360 Degrees of Blacksmithing" is less than six months off.

No matter how you identify as a blacksmith, it is time to get off the proverbial bench: ABANA is what you make it. Please consider running for the ABANA Board and fill these unexpired terms. There are two single-year seats available ending in November 2020 and one two-year seat ending in November of 2021. Successful candidates for the single-year seats will qualify for the full election process in June 2020. The nomination form and instructions can be found on the ABANA.org website under Business – ABANA board – Nomination form.

The elections committee will be receiving nomination forms until January 31, and we will start an electronic ballot process as we did before with a deadline of February 28th, 2020.

Should you have questions, you may email me at [president@abana.org](mailto:president@abana.org) or you may email [elections@abana.org](mailto:elections@abana.org)

Leigh Morrell



## Map to the January 25th Meeting

I'll demonstrate one of my bottle openers using forge and torch on gas saver to show folks the convenience of having one for spot heating. Also have story board to show people how to get impact from reverse twisting and at what point they lose that flow. Have lots of examples. Jerry A will bring his box of unique tools he's made to show folks and talk about. We'll have chile and Fritos for Frito Pie and Trade item is Hand held garden trowel. Holler if you have questions! It's a long way for you but hope you can make it!

Sue Murray

WWW.BALCONESFORGE.ORG



Photos from October by Tim Tellander



## Basic information for the 2020 ABANA Conference

ABANA 2020 Saratoga is on its way. It is THE blacksmithing get-together that you have been waiting for. We have a distinguished array of demonstrators in eight separate demo sites, a 20 forge teaching area, a youth teaching site, lectures, competitions, vendors, tailgating, family programs, members' gallery, auction and BBQ and the Blacksmith's Arm Pub. There will be a Saturday night dinner and coffee and donuts early mornings. Also there will be food available onsite all four days. Whether you are a novice, a part-time smith or a full time professional there will be something for everyone, including time to sit and share ideas, techniques, and learn from each others' experience. Even for those who are just curious about blacksmithing this is the place to see smithing at its best. You won't find a better place for all things blacksmith whether you come for just a single day or the entire four days.

### Conference Pricing

Before April 1st 2020

Member Registration = \$295

You will receive a FREE T-shirt.

Spouse Registration = \$75

You will receive a FREE T-shirt.

Child Registration = \$35

You will receive a FREE T-shirt.

Non-Member Registration = \$355

You will receive a FREE T-shirt.



Non-Member Spouse Registration = \$90  
You will receive a FREE T-shirt.

## Day Passes

Single Day - Member = \$95

Single day - Spouse or Child = \$30

Single day Non-Member = \$110

Saturday Dinner = \$15

You can purchase this dinner separately for Saturday - single day attendees

After March 31st 2020

Member Registration = \$345

Will not come with t-shirt

Member Spouse = \$100

Will not come with t-shirt

Non-Member Registration = \$415

Will not come with t-shirt

Non-Member Spouse Registration = \$120

Will not come with t-shirt

Extra Goodies

T-Shirt = \$25.68

ABANA Lapel Pin = \$4.28

Conference Hat = \$23.54

2020 Conference Mini Anvil = \$28.89

## Slack-Tub Bourbon

Laser Etched - two liter = \$85.60

This is a Commemorative Cask

Reserve your bottle of Slack-Tub = \$1

Just visit the Springbrook Distillery at the Blacksmith Arms Pub when you arrive to make your purchase. Cost is \$44 for empty Cask or \$84 for the cask filled.

## Camping

4 day - RV/Trailer = \$152

This includes Water/Electric/Graywater

4 day - RV/Trailer = \$128

includes Water/Electric

Additional day RV/Trailer = \$32/\$38

Must have purchased 4 day camping

4 day stay in the Bunkhouse = \$100

This is an on site Bunkhouse

Tent Camping per day = \$20

No water, no electric, pitch your own tent.

## Conference Location

Washington County Fairgrounds

392 Old Schuylerville Road, Greenwich, NY 12834

Registration Contact: Karen Sims

Please call 1-860-300-0013 or email [karensims@gmail.com](mailto:karensims@gmail.com)



Early Registration is now open!

Register early, get a free T-shirt and save \$55.00!

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WWW.BALCONESFORGE.ORG

# The 10th Annual Combo-Demo: Blacksmithing Demonstration & Metal Arts Exhibition

2020 COMBO-DEMO February 22, 2020

8 AM - 5 PM

Steephollow Forgeworks

7286 Mesco Dr. Bryan, TX 77808

All-Day Demonstrations

FINAL DEMONSTRATOR LINEUP

**Mary Jo Emirck** Georgetown, TX Metallurgy/Welding

**Janelle Engel with Michael Cawthron** Austin, Tx Forging a Turtle

**Sue Howeter** New. Berlin, TX Forging for the garden and plant forms

**James Helm** Hem Helm Enterprises, Forging Division FIF Champ  
Floresville, Tx

**Tobin Nieto** Stonehaven Knives FIF Champ San Antonio, Tx

**Richard DelaHoussaye and Patrick Taylor** Iron Smelt-  
Louisiana Metalsmiths Association. Carencro, La.

The Combo-Demo will feature 3 smiths in the morning and 2 after lunch.

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

9:30-11:30am Demos begin

11:30am Live auction

!2-1:30pm lunch

1;30-4:00pm Demos begin

4:00pm Bloom comes out of smelt

Spread the word. The 2020 Combo-Demo is going to be a good one.

The 10th annual Combo-Demo will be February 22, 2020 at Steephollow Forgeworks in Bryan, Texas. This celebration of Blacksmithing.....a combined meeting of all the clubs in Texas and Louisiana, will feature “up and comers” and old reliable smiths. This one-day event free-of-charge will also include an iron smelt, tailgating, vendors, live music, food, art displays, live and silent auctions. Come early or stay late. Artists are welcome to display, sell, or promote their work. The public is invited to come see what Blacksmithing is all about. Blacksmithing is not dead it's ALIVE at Steephollow Forgeworks February 16, 2019

An iron smelt led by Richard DelaHoussaye from Louisiana will begin on Friday with the construction of the furnace. The smelt will be scheduled to be finished by 4pm Saturday. If you would like to be involved, just let us know.

Vendors like James Johnson with Anyang Hammers will have one of his hammers available for a test drive (he is also a Chili Forge dealer) and Richard Epting- knife maker. Eptingknives.com. Also, [www.texasfarriersupply.com](http://www.texasfarriersupply.com)

The Event is FREE to all attendees but book your classes before they fill up!

## 2020 COMBO-DEMO VENDOR LIST

The 2020 Combo-Demo will have a record number of vendors. Here is the list as of now. More will be added.

\*Gizmos Fabrications-Propane Forges

\*Anyang Power HammersUSA- Power Hammers and Forging Presses[James Johnson will be bringing a 25 ton forging press] [anyangusa.net](http://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- Recycled Hammers and tools

\*Stringbean AKA Ricard Lowery- Used Blacksmithing Equipment

\*Estes Forge- Terry Estes- Used and improved Anvils, leg vises, Swage Blocks, and 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.

## February Hammer Making Blacksmithing Classes

Day-long classes with Lyle Wynn and Stan Bryant of the Mississippi Forge Council

Monday 2/17/20-- Friday 2/21/20 will be hammer making classes. Make a 2-3 pound rounding forging hammer. Participants will work in pairs, striking with sledge hammers for each other to forge a hammer. Lyle Wynn and Stan Bryant are full time teachers from “The Tools to Make the Tools Blacksmithing School” in Mendenhall, Mississippi. They come to Steephollow Forgeworks once a year to offer these classes. Don’t miss this oppurtunity to learn from 2 of the best instructors in the United States.

All classes are \$175 plus tax/student. The hammer classes are going fast. Reserve your spot here or call us at 979-776-2864.

Go to [steepforge.com](http://steepforge.com) click on the store to buy a class.

Alan Lee



Mark your calendars for April 24 & 25!

WWW.BALCONESFORGE.ORG



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership

Regular .....\$55       Overseas .....\$65

Student .....\$45       Contributing.....\$100

Senior (65+)...\$50       Library .....\$45

\$5 discount for two year memberships and renewals

ABANA Chaper Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Application may also be made at the ABANA web site:

[www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

www url: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Information \_\_\_\_\_

Visa       Mastercard

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Submit check, money order (US banks only), or by credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

*Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.*

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M E M B E R S H I P      A P P L I C A T I O N

