



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

June 2021



We're still here!

It's been a while since our last meeting and the road has been rather rough, but we have come a long way and we can now see the tunnel at the end of the light. We are not there yet but things are a lot better than they

were a year ago. We will bear the scars for some time and life may be a little different but as things improve so shall we.

We recently lost three of our longtime favorite beloved members recently. Gerald Pollard, Joel Jamenski, and Harvey Wise. These guys were more than blacksmiths, they were great friends that brought life and joy to our gatherings. We also lost Nina Reetz, wife of Lester Reetz who has been with us for many years. Our hearts go out to their families and friends as we share in their sorrow. We will ring the anvil at the June meeting in honor of our friends and we will add them to the growing of names for our fall memorial meeting where all past members will be remembered.

Our next meeting will be June 26th in Zorn TX, just east of San Marcos on Hwy 123 at Doug Caroselli's Blackhawk Millworks. There will be open forging for the new guys with the help of some of the old guys. Plenty of things to see in the wood shop. Should be fun. Trade item: add a piece of wood to your forging. A wood handle, mount it on a piece of wood. Be creative. Want to join in? Ya gotta make one to take one. That's all there is to it. Bring a chair.

This is our first group gathering or monthly meeting since the pandemic began. Masks are at your discretion and social distancing is encouraged.

Meeting on June 26, 2021

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Officers

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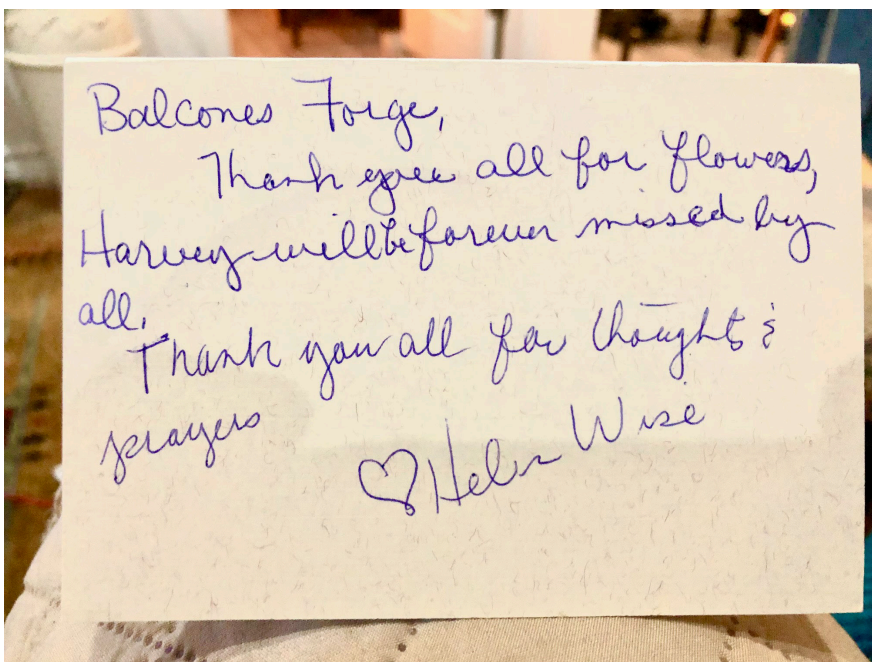
Balcones Forge call for help. We are looking for a few good hardworking people to help with the monthly activities like preparing meetings sites and materials for meetings and cleaning up after the events as well as taking over some the board vacancies. Some of our folks have just become too busy or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

I sincerely hope that all of you are doing well and wish you the best in this troubled time. Keep the faith and help those in need. Can't wait to see you guys again!

Jerry Achterberg – Pres. Balcones Forge



Harvey P. Wise





2021 Christmas Ornament Contest

First Prize \$1000.
Second Prize \$500.
Third Prize \$250.

Entry Fee \$10

The 2021 ABANA Christmas Ornament Contest begins!
Entry fee is \$10
Entries will be displayed on the Christmas tree at the Johnstown headquarters, at the center of local events with many visitors! The ornaments will be on sale online and at Johnstown the gallery shop.

Ten finalists will be chosen, then top 3 will be chosen as winners!

Entry forms due by May 28th
Ornament due by June 23rd
Winners announced July 30th
Top 3 must be able to produce 50 ornaments
For more details and to enter, email: exedir@abana.org

3 oz. Max

Ferrous / Non Ferrous Metal

Top 3 entries will produce Qty: 50 for sale with \$15 per ornament to artist

Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America

47 Walnut Street, Suite 200

Johnstown, PA 15901-1521

P.O. 462

Johnstown, PA 15907-0462

(814) 254-4817

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ABANA Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America
PO Box 462, Johnstown, PA 15907-0462 814 254-4817 exedir@abana.org
'The Foremost Metal Arts Association in North America.'



Thank you for supporting ABANA. There are many benefits to membership: *National retailer discounts, ABANA shop discount, access to all digital archives, exclusive invitations, educational videos and materials, voting rights, conference and vendor booth registration, and more!* Discounts can be accessed with log in through your email address.

Please provide an active email address.

Renew online and build your profile with your bio, shop information, touch mark, and photos of your work. You can also access your digital membership card on-line.

Email:	
Name:	
Business Name:	
Street:	City:
State/ Providence and Country:	Zip/ PC:
Phone:	Primary Affiliate:

Consider supporting ABANA in perpetuating the noble art of blacksmithing. Donate to:

FUND:	STEEL \$1-\$99	COPPER \$100	BRONZE \$150	DAMASCUS \$500
General	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grant & Scholarship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ABANA Gallery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exhibitions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disaster Relief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Membership: Renewal **New Membership**

Print \$65 For North America: US, Canada and Mexico only. Publications will be mailed.

Digital \$55 Optional for North America. Outside of North America Publications sent electronically.

Membership includes FREE placement in a searchable 'Find a Blacksmith' database to connect to opportunities.

Check here to be included in the searchable on-line 'Find a Blacksmith Directory'

Credit Card Payment:

If different than above: Name on Card _____ Billing Zip _____

Credit Card Number _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiration _____ CVV _____

TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____

Signature _____ Charge Card Provided Check enclosed Money Order Enclosed

Credit Card Payments can be scanned and sent via email exedir@abana.org or call 814 254-4817. Checks or Money Orders should be made out to ABANA in U.S. funds and mailed to the address above. *Form revised March 2021*

EFFECTIVE APRIL 15, 2021

March 2021

Important Information for ABANA Affiliates

If your club newsletter includes ABANA Membership material, it will need to be changed to reflect the new Membership options. "ABANA encourages affiliate leaders to distribute the information in this newsletter to its club members and/or include any or all content in your club's newsletter."

Membership Options are Changing

We are simplifying our membership offerings.

Beginning April 15, two types of memberships will be available for new and renewing members: a Print membership, and a Digital membership.

Print membership will be available for mailing addresses in North America (USA-Canada-Mexico) for \$65/year, and Digital membership will be available world-wide for \$55/year. (Regular membership is currently \$55/year.)

Digital membership is a new offering: ABANA's two premiere publications (The Anvil's Ring and The Hammer's Blow) will be sent digitally to a member's e-mail address on file; no print copies will be mailed.

ABANA is honoring existing memberships until their expiration date. And, moving forward, ABANA will offer annual memberships only, as the two-year membership option is no longer available.

The ABANA website and other ABANA collateral will reflect these new membership offerings which go into effect next month, April 2021.

ABANA membership benefits include:

Publications - Four quarterly issues each of The Anvil's Ring and The Hammer's Blow

Members-only access:

- to recent 5 years of digital publications
- to educational videos and materials
- to ABANA membership directory

Eligibility for education grants and scholarships

Option to join ABANA's 'Find a Blacksmith' module, searchable by the general public

Discounts: Conference registration, vendor booths, ABANA store

Voting rights, such as annual election of Board members to forge the future of blacksmithing

Participation in ABANA Board committees

<https://abana.org/membership-pricing/>

Sincerely,

Jerry Boyd

ABANA Affiliates Committee

Shop Helper

325-207-8253

<https://abana.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ArtistBlacksmiths>

<https://www.instagram.com/abana.blacksmith/>

Affiliate Newsletter - March 2021

March 2021

Greetings from the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America —

“ABANA encourages affiliate leaders to forward this newsletter directly to its club members and/or include any or all content in your club's newsletter.”

Submitting Content for the Anvil's Ring and the Hammer's Blow

ABANA produces two of the finest blacksmith publications in the world and the editors of the Hammer's Blow and Anvil's Ring are always looking for interesting articles and pictures. The Anvil's Ring is looking for pictures of your finished projects, no matter what your skill level is, to include in a future “Members Gallery” center fold feature. Also, if your club, organization or even an individual member is doing something special in your community to promote our craft as blacksmiths, we would like to highlight it in one of our quarterly publications. If you have something of interest, please contact Anvil's Ring editor Mark Kochan areditor@abana.org or Hammer's Blow editor Nathan Griffith hbeditor@abana.org

Education Calendar

The Education Calendar and a list of schools will be in the Spring addition of the Anvil's Ring. Please take a look at it for learning opportunities around the country.

Reprinting Articles and Copyright Laws

Communication is important and as stated above we want you to share any part of this newsletter with your membership. Unfortunately, not all information in this world is free to reprint or post and we need to make sure there is no copyright infringement as we put together our own publications, be it paper or electronic. Check out this article from the ABANA website which addresses some of the copyright issues. <https://abana.org/wp-content/uploads/affiliate-resources/Copyright.pdf>

Conference in Texas

Although the next big ABANA event is the Iron To Art Festival to be held at our new Headquarters in Johnstown PA in October of this year, <https://abana.org/abanas-iron-to-art-festival-2021/> be planning down the road. The

ABANA 2022 Conference is a little more than a year away and **will be held in Fort Worth, Texas May 11th through the 14th 2022.** <https://abana.org/2022-abana-conference/>

From the safety checklist, “Aprons, while optional, gives protection from flying or hot objects”. Take care and don't let the apron cause other problems like getting caught in or on other machinery. https://abana.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Safety_First-2-16-21.pdf

Sincerely,
Jerry Boyd
ABANA Affiliates Committee
Shop Helper

JUNE MEETING INFO

The June meeting of Balcones Forge will be on our traditional day which is the last Saturday of the month.

June 26, 2021 in Zorn, TX (just outside San Marcos)

Doug Caroselli's Blackhawk Millworks.

No agenda other than open forging.

Hopefully we will find a demonstrator before we meet.

Trade item: add a piece of wood to your forging.

Start time 9:30AM

Doug Caroselli
Blackhawk Millworks

2780 Dreibrodt Rd, San Marcos, TX 78666.

512-738-1770

Affiliate Newsletter May 2021

Please use and share any of the information in this newsletter with your members.

Welcome to New ABANA Affiliate: Les Forges De Montréal!

Located in Montreal, Quebec, this organization boast 2021 as their 20-year anniversary! Connect with the group and welcome them by emailing: info@lesforgesdemontreal.org
ABANA is proud to include over 36 affiliates world-wide.

Business of Blacksmithing digital class taught by Leigh Morrell

The ABANA Business of Blacksmithing Classes are now complete. We are planning to make the class recordings available to members for purchase at the end of May, AND offer a new series on this topic! Please check our site for more details. If you have any questions, or an interest in classes like this in the future, please email the Executive Director at exedir@abana.org

Iron to Art Festival Tickets are on Sale, Register Early, Save Over 30%

The dates are set, October 14 through October 16, 2021. ABANA will host the Iron to Art Festival at our new headquarters in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Tickets are on sale now. <https://event.abana.org>

Early Registration Discounts Available!

- Member registration: \$125.00 before August 31st. After 8/30 (late registration) \$165.00
- Member Spouse registration: \$50.00 before August 31st. After 8/30 (late registration) \$75.00
- Non-Member registration: \$185.00 before August 31st. After 8/30 (late registration) \$245.00
- Non-Member Spouse registration: \$70.00 before August 31st. After 8/30 (late registration) \$90.00

Interested in being a vendor at this inaugural event in Johnstown's iron to Art corridor? ABANA is expecting around 500 visitors to this new event.

JOIN THE FUN! VOLUNTEER at the Iron to Art Festival. Help out for a while behind the scenes and get a free t shirt! Email exedir@abana.org for more details! Volunteer opportunities, Indoor, outdoor, and tailgating spaces available.

Johnstown's Thunder in the Valley Motorcycle Rally Thursday, June 24– Sunday June 27th

This annual event draws over 1,000 visitors and is held next to ABANA's Home Office in the PNG Festival Park. Let's show them what ANANA is. ABANA is looking for some local smiths, from affiliates, to demonstrate on Saturday, June 26th from 1:00 –3:00 right after the motorcycle parade that ends at the ABANA home office. Stipends are available. For more information, contact exedir@abana.org

Opportunities

A group of European smiths are inviting USA smiths to participate in 'Forging Through Time' on Saturday, June 5th. The concept is that smiths are forging at 2 pm in their time zone for three hours. Filming your time is part of the concept. Remember to take photos of your finished project and also share them with ABANA! It's free to register by contacting: forgingthroughtime@gmail.com See the attachment for more details.

The Artist Hand Gallery in Indiana, PA offers an opportunities exhibit and sell your art. A metal exhibition is being planned in May. If you are interested in a "Steel Show" prospectus, please call Brian at: (724) 463-8710. The gallery also has a gift shop and is nearby the IUP campus. Visit their web site for more information at: www.theartistshandgallery.com/

Christmas Ornament Contest

ABANA is offering a Christmas ornament contest to ABANA members. For a \$10 entry fee, submit your ornament. entries will be displayed on the ABANA Gallery Christmas tree in Johnstown, PA. top three winning entries will be awarded prizes of \$1000, \$500, and \$250 respectively. Additionally, the top three winners must reproduce 50 copies of their ornament for sale in the ABANA Gallery, with \$15 per ornament going to the artist. To enter, visit www.abana.org For more details, e-mail exedir@abana.org call 814-254-4817. Entry forms are due by June 28th.

Discount Providers

There are several vendors that value us as customers and offer discounts to ABANA Members. The ABANA website has a list of those vendors that we can support while saving a few dollars. There is a new offer, a grinder discount, for ABANA members from Beaumont Metals. See the ABANA site for more details. Please visit www.abana.org to find discounts under the marketplace / vendor page.

ABANA Affiliate Contest

We are offering a GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY for never before ABANA members of our ABANA recognized Affiliate groups to vie for a one year ABANA digital subscription membership, with all the perks. Application and inquiries can be emailed to Chris Rowan the ABANA Affiliate Chairman ironcloverforge@gmail.com with the subject line 'AFFILIATE OPPORTUNITY', also in the body of the email post your Affiliate name and your name. All email applications MUST be submitted by June 11th

Blacksmith Gatherings

As hopefully the COVID-19 outlook and the weather improves, more gatherings are planned. Let ABANA know of any gatherings that your group might be hosting. Here is one upcoming event this month: The Blacksmith Gathering 2021 will be four days in Reynoldsville, PA this year, Wednesday-Sunday, May 19-23 in Reynlow Park. \$10/ visitor per day. \$5/ night to camp. Facebook page 'Blacksmith Gathering 2021'

CanIRON Virtual Event --June 4, 7:00PM-6, 5:00PM Tickets \$30-\$50

This year's CanIRON is going to be different from past years' events. You can enjoy CanIRON from the comfort of your own home or workshop. Funds raised by the CanIRON VE event will help support the Manitoba Blacksmith Guild. Sign up for the virtual Event www.hopin.com search for the event under the label caniron-ve

Share Your Stuff!

Remember ABANA is always willing to share affiliate activities, projects and photos. Send any information to exedir@abana.org

Sincerely,
Jerry Boyd
ABANA Affiliates Committee
Shop Helper
325-207-8253

TALES FROM BULVERDE.....

Just before the big snow ascended on south Texas, Shawn & I were taking a sightseeing drive around the Bulverde area. Our purpose was to observe how many new homes were being built on the beautiful ranches that surround this once quaint little town. The area has a tremendous amount of hills, rivers and creeks that offer splendid views especially if one takes the country back roads. Soon, we noticed yet another ranch with a freshly bull-dozed road with signs offering small acreage tracts of land for sale near the Cibolo creek, so we ventured in to have a look.

The Cibolo has, over thousands of years has cut deeply into the limestone bedrock leaving very high cliffs, insurmountable but for skilled mountain climbers, and caves of various densities. This area is very near the famous tourist attraction Natural Bridge Caverns and not too far from Cave Without a Name close to Boerne which was discovered by a rancher that while trying to rescue one of his goats from a cavass that later turned out to be a huge horizontal cave. Well, my wife & I spotted some smaller caves as we were driving around and stopped to get a better look at one which appeared to have 2 different openings. While we were stumbling along and taking photos, I spotted a rusty single leaf spring -- well I knew immediately, that spring being of high carbon steel would make great knives, so I threw it in the back of our truck.

As we drove around the use of 4-wheel drive was necessary and we soon spotted a windmill between two of the higher rocky hills, and I got out to take a photo. At that time another 4-wheel pickup lumbered up beside us and the guy wanted to know what we were doing up there. I said we were just sight-seeing and explained to him that we were having a great time exploring the Cibolo and all its wonders. I confessed to picking up the old leaf spring - he said, "yeah I saw ya" - and told him that I was a knife maker and would repurpose it into knives but would put it back if he wanted me to. He said nah, just keep it. We chatted awhile about the 300-acre ranch that has been in his family name since the 1800's and the log cabin house & barn that he was re-furbishing and he said we could drive around anywhere we wanted.

Well as we started back home, I told Shawn that I probably should make that guy a knife out of that spring since he didn't call the law on me for stealing it. So, I forged out a 10-inch hunter style complete with a hand sewn sheath and took it over to him. He graciously accepted the knife and said- that's nice - and put it back in the sheath. True, nothing fancy about the piece, just something to be used, not stored away in a gun cabinet. So, that was that.....or so I thought.

In about a week, he called me about replacing the handle on an old meat cleaver he had found in the old cabin. I said sure, and when I returned it to him with some bodark wooden slabs, his appreciation was kinda like - that's nice. OK, fine I thought to myself and as our brief conversation waned, he asked me "how much do I charge for the hunter style knife" - & I told him, hoping he might order another one like it. To my amazement, he said he wanted twenty more. So, over the next few weeks I was quite busy in my shop forging and making those knives. When I delivered the first ten, he was way back in hills of his ranch clearing more roads. I displayed the 10 knives on the tailgate of my truck, and he said - that's nice - and wrote me out a check when we got back to the house. The next ten knives were delivered to him and this time, he picked up each knife, tested it for sharpness, fit and finish, as well as sheath design and fit. He then wrote me out another check and handed it to me. I said - that's nice - and so completes this episode. Truly very thankful for his interest in my craftsmanship of which he plans to give the knives out to individuals who buy acreage from him and hopefully that will generate a few more requests.

Tim Tellander



Seems like an old rancher has kept Tim on the straight and narrow!

photos by Tim Tellander

EDITOR'S SOAPBOX

Well friends, it has been along time coming but here is a fresh edition of the BFD! My sincere thanks to the Board for helping me with hardware upgrades that have already proven to be worth every penny.

Now it is your turn! I need articles and pictures from the membership (thanks Tim). We need to plan out the next few months so a calendar of events can be in each edition. I will ask again.....what do you want to see in the newsletter? What do you want to see at a meeting? What can you do to make it happen?

My goal is to have the newsletter ready at least 10 days before the monthly meeting so keeps those cards and letters (OK emails) coming.

The last 15 months have been hard on so many.....in fact, I think all of us. I look forward to seeing all of you at the end of the month. Thanks in advance to Doug for hosting the meeting.

Vince Herod,

Editor

PS. We need a Secretary. Any volunteers?

