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# Blacksmiths of Central Texas

President's Corner...

March 2009

We sure had a great turnout at the February meeting, hosted by William Bastas. As always, he did a really good demo forging a candlestick and a pair of tongs from railroad spikes at the same time! It's always a treat watching him work his power hammers.

Now that spring is almost upon us, we are busier than ever with organizations wanting us to demonstrate at their events. Last weekend, several members forged at an event in Rockdale, where they were so impressed with the response they received the previous year that they are building a blacksmith shop for us to use for future events. Of course, we are manning the blacksmith shop in Fredericksburg's Pioneer Museum during their annual Spring Break event. We have several more events coming up, so watch the newsletter and postings on the website and come on out and get some forge time in.

The Bluebonnet Demo is almost here. Be sure to get your registration forms sent in so you'll have a seat. Don't forget to bring an item to donate for the big auction. It can be something you forged, something you forged and fabricated or something you think a blacksmith might like, like a tool or a book. Remember, this is the auction that allows us to bring blacksmiths like Corrina to demonstrate for us. We'll see you there!

*Sue*



*Courtesy RoyBellows.com*

# Balcones Forge Bluebonnet Workshop

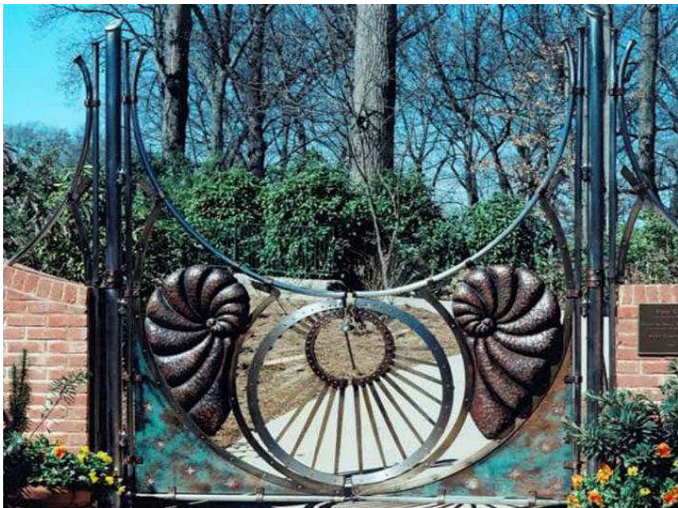
featuring

## **CORRINA MENSOFF**

March 28-29, 2009 Manor, Texas



**BALCONES FORGE** is pleased to bring award-winning artist-blacksmith **CORRINA MENSOFF** to Texas for its annual two-day demonstration event. Corrina began her lifelong interest in metalworking at the age of five in her father's shop. She received her BFA in Sculpture and Metalsmithing from Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, and her MFA in Fine Arts and Sculpture from Georgia State University.



In 1997, Corrina established Phoenix Metalworks of Atlanta, Georgia, a business specializing in sculpture, furniture, and architectural works. Corrina has been a highly sought-after demonstrator for blacksmithing events around the globe. You will come away with an abundance of good, practical knowledge and the inspiration to go home and hammer it out yourself!

The Balcones Workshop will be held March 28-29 in Manor, Texas, just 20 minutes east of Austin. That means **Bluebonnet time** here in **Central Texas!** Plan to ride some of our scenic country back roads and enjoy the finest display of wildflowers in America!

Balcones Forge will present a tasty catered dinner on Saturday evening. Dinner will be followed by our famous annual **Balcones Auction!** Donate a tool, book, or other blacksmithing item and then win yourself a new (or old) blacksmithing hammer, maybe a forge or anvil, some smithing books, or maybe Corrina's latest creation!

**Times: Saturday:** 9:00–Noon – Morning Demo  
Noon–1:00 – Lunch and drinks will be provided for \$6.00, or bring your own lunch, or hurry to the town of Manor 10 minutes away (Cafe 290 and Sonic Drive-In)  
1:00–5:00 – Afternoon Demo  
6:00 – Tasty catered dinner, only \$15  
7:15 – If you do not attend the dinner, please join us at this time for the Auction  
**Sunday:** 9:00–1:00 – Demo

**Our host is Lee Lanford at his Heart of Texas Forge in Manor, Texas.** Address: 14405 Kimbro West Rd, Manor, TX. Directions: From Austin (I-35) take Hwy 290 east approximately 4 miles from the town of Manor to FM-1100. Turn left and travel 1.6 miles to Kimbro West Rd. Turn left and travel 0.5 mile to Lee's shop on the left. Please park along side the long driveway. Lost? Call Lee for directions at 512-731-6414. Web map: [www.tinyurl.com/d6ch7y](http://www.tinyurl.com/d6ch7y)

**For more info contact:**

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**Jerry Achterberg** 210-661-3293 or [treefarm@swbell.net](mailto:treefarm@swbell.net)

**Hotel Accommodations:**

Quality Inns & Suites  
11301 Hwy. 290 East  
Manor, Texas  
(512) 272-9373

See the latest newsletter or website ([www.BalconesForge.org](http://www.BalconesForge.org)) for Registration Form.

**\$45 - REGISTER BY MARCH 10 – WORKSHOP FEE HIGHER AT THE DOOR**

## Secretary's Report

February 2009

The February meeting was held at local area blacksmith William Bastas's shop located off of Pickle Road in South Austin.

Balcones Forge President Sue Murray opened the meeting on a very cold and windy (boy were we glad the coal fire was burning) day with general announcements about meetings and events in March. At the time of this publication the events at Rockdale and Fredericksburg, Tx have already been held.

About 60 people crammed into Williams' shop to watch him make a vase-like sculpture which stood about 10" tall out of a large piece of steel, and a very nice pair of tongs made out of railroad spikes.

William used power hammers to make these items as if they were an extra pair of hands. Very impressive work, indeed.

The trade item was a pair of tongs and 7 people made very nice examples which ranged from 2" long made from carpenter's nails to over two feet long. There was no iron-in-the-hat auction.

Several people registered for the Bluebonnet Demo on March 28th; however to reduce the work load and to help in planning for the meals, people who have not registered are requested to pre-register as soon as they can in the next couple of weeks. Even an e-mail stating intent to attend would be a help.

Tom Lupton  
Secretary, Balcones Forge

## What Am I Bid?

Folks, it's that time again -- the annual Bluebonnet Workshop Auction that will take place after the Saturday evening dinner. You just might find what you have been looking for, like tools such as forges, blowers, hammers, and maybe an occasional anvil, plus nice ironwork like this from folks like Larry Crawford, Gordon Williams, plus Corrina's latest creation. But wait! In order to bid on these items, they must be donated, and that is where you can also help. Take a few minutes to clean up your shop and bring in that item you haven't used in three years. Also, please consider creating your own work of art to donate. Remember -- it's this auction that keeps the dues at \$15 and brings in demonstrators like Corrina, William Bastas and Gordon Williams for free workshops. So donate much and bid high! You'll be glad you did!

PS. Fill out the auction form and save time at the workshop.



### Balcones Forge Auction

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Item \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your donation!**

Winning Bidder \_\_\_\_\_

Winning Bid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Register Now! It is not too late!

# Balcones Forge 2009 Bluebonnet Workshop

featuring **Corrina Mensoff - March 28-29 - Manor, TX**

Please print clearly

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I prefer the electronic version of the newsletter. (You will be notified by email when the latest newsletter has been posted.)

Current Member.....\$45 \_\_\_\_\_  
\$50 at the door

2009 Membership if unpaid . \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Non-member.....\$60 \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I wish to become a BF member

Saturday Lunch.....\$ 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Evening Meal ... \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to **Balcones Forge.**

Send to Rudy Billings,

1906 Rampart Circle, Austin, TX 78727

**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

See you at the  
Bluebonnet Workshop  
March 28-29  
Manor, Texas

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