



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

March 2012



Greetings and I hope everyone is doing well!

If you missed the Lee Brothers in Bryan at the Steephollow Forgeworks last month, well then you really missed the Lee brothers. There's not much else to say.

After last year's performance, I was anxious to see what they had in store for us this year. I was not disappointed! With all the pieces that were forged last February, nothing was repeated. It was all new except for the format. It was the same, non-stop forging with in-depth directions as each piece was heating up. I can't say enough about this great event. Both the Lee families put in a lot of time to bring folks in from all over Texas and Louisiana to share their knowledge and hospitality. You guys nailed it!

I talked a bit last month about my concerns of having the "old-timers" step up and pass on their knowledge to the "new kids". I spent a lot of time talking to the younger folks that came to Alan and Jeff's forge. Several of them have been visiting the shop regularly to learn blacksmithing. One of them was a former student of mine that moved on to A&M, found the Lee Brothers and kept on forging. He is already planning on building a forge with "teaching" stations so that he can host meetings and give back to the group. I no longer have concerns about folks "stepping up".

Thanks to all who made a bowl for the trade competition. Best turnout to date, and some very creative and beautiful bowls. And thanks to all who donated or bought an "iron-in-the-hat" item. We almost cleared \$1000.

President's Message continued on page 2

Meeting Date is March 17



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President's message continued

I also want to thank all the HABA people who made this happen. Always a pleasure to meet with you guys!

Don't forget the March meeting in Fredericksburg. At present, we are close to having enough volunteers to man the forge for spring break, but we can always use more help. The demo days are March 10, 12-16 with the meeting on the 17th. Please contact Matt Czosnek to volunteer.

mattczosnek@gmail.com

Hope to see everybody in Fredericksburg.

Jerry Achterberg
Balcones Forge President
treefarm@swbell.net



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THANK YOU

Carlton, Jeff, and I would like to thank everyone at Balcones Forge and HABA who helped make the 2nd annual Combo-Demo a success. Especially all who attended, all who brought artwork to see, all who competed with a bowl, all who donated items to the auction, all who purchased same items, and a special shout to Jerry Whitley and Ed Malmgren for their personal support.

Response to the competition was great, with 32 bowls. I'm glad I was not a judge, they were all outstanding. The artwork on display was the best witness to the collective talents of these two groups I've ever seen in one place. The auction was quick and productive, and you can't beat blacksmithing and good Bar-b-Que. No one had more fun than we did.

We're already planning for next year and promise to never do the same demo twice. Thanks again, see you on February 16, 2013.

Alan Lee

GILLESPIE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PIONEER MUSEUM
325 W. Main
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
Phone: 830-990-8441

SPRING BREAK AT THE PIONEER MUSEUM!

FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGE!

Spring Break at the Pioneer Museum starts on Saturday, March 10 and continues Monday through Saturday, March 12 – 17

Wide variety of hands-on activities, demonstrations and reenactments each day.

- making rope
- quilting
- spinning
- hammering at the forge
- Mountain Men
- Buffalo Soldiers
- more surprises every day!
- sit in a one-room schoolhouse
- eat biscuits from an authentic chuck wagon
- share in storytelling and folk singing

The museum's regular exhibits and buildings will be open for viewing and visitors will have the opportunity to chat with our interpreters, who all have wonderful stories of the past to tell.

New!

• Book signing featuring two local authors, Phil Houseal who recently published Finding Fredericksburg and Robert Deming who will sign his adventurous book entitled Enchanted Rock Red. The book signing will take place on Saturday, March 10 from 10:00 A. M. until noon. Both books are available for purchase at the Pioneer Museum at 325 W. Main. Houseal's book is an outstanding guide to historical buildings in Fredericksburg. If you are looking for mystery and adventure, you will find Deming's book a good read.

Admission to the Spring Break activities is the regular Pioneer Museum admission fee of \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-17. Those five and under will receive free admission. The exact schedule of events varies by day, you are welcome to call ahead to inquire about daily activities at 990-8441. The museum gift shop will also be open which features a wide selection of books, gifts and collectibles as well as children's toys from days gone by. Hours of activities will be 10:00 A. M. – 5:00 P. M. each day. The Museum is closed on Sunday, March 11.

Trade Item: Something made from a pipe or tube.

THANKS AGAIN

This time to Tom Lupton for donating stock and purchasing the coal for the upcoming week at the Pioneer Museum.



Photos by Stuart Villanueva
and Vince Herod



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!

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

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 March 17th Balcones Forge meeting at the Pioneer Museum in Fredericksburg.

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





"The Bridge Anvil" is the Affiliate Newsletter from ABANA to better enhance and "Bridge" the continuing relationship between ABANA and its Affiliates. The goal is to better forge a future for the blacksmithing community through constant communication, discussion, and sharing of ideas.

Nothing but the truth...

ABANA Has NOT done enough to assist the Affiliates over the years. I know this first hand because I was the President of one for several years. There have been some great ideas and changes that never quite got off the ground in the past. Challenges within the limited budget, board involvement, and hard feelings from the past have all affected the relationship on both ends. That being said, this ABANA Board spent a long time at the last board meeting having a very honest discussion about this very thing. At the end of the discussion there was a unanimous and very resounding proclamation to begin a rebirth of this extremely important relationship. Things have been coming together to make some opportunities open up to better serve you. Let me point out a few things:

We have a new editor of the Anvil's Ring; a former Affiliate editor who recognizes the importance of the Affiliates and their representation in our publications. I encourage your event planning to entail someone to take some high resolution photos and write a report on it. It is time you get the credit you deserve for your awesome regional events in one of our publications.

With the savings in our budget, due to the editor change, there is some much needed review and research happening with our grants FOR Affiliates and individuals to help you do what you do best. As soon as this is ready we will put the call out!

With the renovations going on with the ABANA website there is research going into the possible creation of a secure area for editors to share newsletters and get the newsletter exchange back up and running online to combat the rising prices from the Post Office and the existence of so many worldwide Affiliates.

This leads me directly into exciting news on both the Bealer and Humble Awards. The committees are putting forth new procedures to open up the doors to suggestions from the Affiliates to better search out the MOST deserving members in our collective ranks. There will also be another press release concerning the details of this in the coming weeks. It is on the board's table and currently being reviewed for approval.

The ABANA Board has been taking a "best guess" approach with Affiliate Relations. It has been a broken system. I am encouraging each Affiliate to designate a "Liaison" to join an off-board Affiliate Advisory Committee to review and suggest ways ABANA can serve you better. There is no better way to hear what is being done wrong and right than from the source. Whomever your Affiliate chooses, elects, or appoints would be a welcome a well heard voice to glean direction from for future enhancements to ABANA. Please contact Peyton Anderson with your "Liaison" or questions: peytonanderson@abana.org, 434-390-6203.

This is YOUR ABANA! Please consider getting involved to help in the pursuit of preservation and education of this wonderful craft! This "bridge" is a two way street! With better traffic we can all serve our collective members better.

Yours in Service,
Peyton Anderson
ABANA President
Pro Tempore Public Relations Chairperson

. 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>

MUCH needed website upgrades:

Bill Clemens, Jeff Dunkelberger, and Jim Bequette have been hard at work updating, fixing, and re-organizing abana.org. There is a survey going on right now to get some feedback to better direct these efforts. Please encourage your members to take a minute or two and visit the site to take the survey.

Like always, please update us with your current Affiliate information. We want visitors to the website to find YOU! We have an interactive Affiliate map and complete listing. Please let us know if our information is out dated.

Just for Affiliates:

Here are a few reminders of things we can do to help you right now!!!

- Free Event Calendar listing of your events!
- Free Banner Space to advertise your events!
- Free Constant Contact notification of your events!
- Free Affiliate Map for needing smiths to find you!
- Free use of the ABANA Curriculum!
- Care packages for your auctions and Iron in the Hats!
- Bulk ABANA Membership discounts!
- Free table space at the ABANA Conferences!

Bulk Membership Rates for Affiliates ONLY:

- 5 pack \$160 Download Details:
- 10 Pack \$300 [Bulk Membership PDF](#)

An Affiliate purchases a batch of vouchers that can be exchanged for a 1-year membership starting from the time the "winner" presents the voucher in to the ABANA Central Office. The vouchers expire 2 years after date of issue by the ABANA central office. **Contact the Central Office to order yours!**

FREE Conference Passes to Lucky Affiliates!!!

From now until June 1st ABANA is running an Affiliate Membership Drive. If your Affiliate can recruit 10 new ABANA members your Affiliate will receive one FREE Conference registration to do with what you please. If you get 20 new members you will get 2 FREE passes. That's right! Every 10 new ABANA members you can recruit will equal one free conference pass! There is NO LIMIT to the number of conference passes one Affiliate can get!

ALL participating Affiliates will get an ABANA care package sent to them after the conference with T-shirts, buttons, magazines, and more for you to use in your auctions and Iron in the Hat drawings.

All new members MUST inform the Central Office of their Affiliate designations (one Affiliate per new member) at the time of signing up to have it count towards your totals! Remember that Affiliates have bulk membership purchases too!!!

Central Office Contact Information:

ABANA Central Office
259 Muddy Fork Rd.
Jonesborough, TN 37659
Phone: (423) 913-1022
Fax: (423) 913-1023
centraloffice@abana.org

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Peyton Anderson
6720 Military Rd.
Amelia, VA 23002
Phone: (434) 390-6203
peytonanderson@abana.org

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) <small>(Hammer's Blow Only – Non Voting Member)</small>	20.00	
Contributory	150.00 and up	
Educational Institute	250.00	



Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.
259 Muddy Fork Road
Jonesborough, TN 37659
PH: 423-913-1022; FAX: 423-913-1023
CentralOffice@abana.org

ABANA Bulk Membership Purchase Program

Exclusively for use by ABANA Affiliate organizations

ABANA is making available a new program to allow Affiliate organizations a way to use ABANA memberships as prize items, as raffle items or as a great way to recognize your loyal volunteers.

It works as follows:

The Affiliate contacts the ABANA Central Office and purchases either 5 or 10 membership vouchers. These vouchers are given to members of the Affiliate or other interested parties. The recipient fills out the form on the voucher and sends it to the ABANA Central Office. Their 1-year subscription will start with the next regularly scheduled issue. Recipients will also be eligible for other ABANA membership benefits such as the Grainger and other members discount programs. It is just about that simple.

Here are the rest of the details and program rules:

- 1. Vouchers will only be sold to ABANA Affiliates.**
- 2. Orders must be prepaid for 5 or 10 vouchers at a time.**
- 3. Only one membership per individual.**
- 4. Existing ABANA members can use these vouchers to add a year to their memberships.**
- 5. Not to be sold for less than \$55 normal dues amount.**
- 6. Can be used as a prize or an award.**

Package Prices:

5 Pack \$160
10 Pack \$300

Voucher expiration dates and other timing issues:

An Affiliate purchases a batch of vouchers that can be exchanged for a 1-year membership starting from the time the "winner" presents the voucher to the ABANA Central Office. The vouchers expire 2 years after date of issue by the ABANA Central Office. The expectation is that the vouchers will be transferred to individual "winners" within one year from the ABANA issue date. The recipient must then redeem the voucher within one year of receiving it from the Affiliate.

Any questions should be addressed to the ABANA Central Office.



Photo by Gerald Pollard

Return Service Requested

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

BALCONES FORGE
CENTRAL TEXAS BLACKSMITHS