



Blacksmiths of Central Texas

President's Corner...

May 2009



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Spring is here and we're already swamped with requests to demonstrate at local events. If you don't have a forge at home and want an opportunity to practice, or if you do have a forge and just like coming out to demonstrate... there are plenty of options. May 9th is Founders Day at Pioneer Museum in Fredericksburg. We have been invited to demonstrate at the smithy for their visitors. On May 16th, we will be demonstrating at the Texas Natural and Swing Festival on the square in San Marcos. That will also be our regular meeting this month. We always get to set up next to the chuck wagon and that means... "hot cobbler"! On May 23rd, a couple of people have been asked to demonstrate at the LBJ State Park. They can't handle the size group we gave them last year, as the shop is pretty small. For that event, the smiths dress in period clothing for authenticity. So... come and join the fun!

Sue Murray, President

MEETING DATE IS MAY 16



MEETING INFO

May 16

3rd weekend instead of the 4th

The May Balcones Forge Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Texas Natural and Western Swing Festival in San Marcos on May 16. Some of us have demonstrated at this festival for several years and we will be setting up on the west side of the square, just south of the sidewalk (by the chuckwagon cook!)

Directions: Go to the courthouse in San Marcos, step outside and look left. Or you can look at the map on page 6!

If you would like to stay and demonstrate, bring your favorite hammer. If you have a portable anvil...bring that too. If you would rather listen to the music, it's free and bands will be playing all day. Come on out! Food and drinks are not free at this festival, so bring what you'd like to munch on or feel free to purchase something from the vendors on-site. We will be allowed to sell things we have made in exchange for our demonstrating. For those that want to set up and demonstrate please be set up by 9:00 am since the event starts at 10:00.

Old Western attire would really be nice but not necessary.

ON THE WEB

Have you checked out the links on the Balcones Forge website lately? You could learn how to make a treadle torch or, if you have the time, read 106 years of Popular Mechanics. There is also a nice list of suppliers. And be sure to check out the websites of several members.

TRADE ITEM

A Nut Cracker

Make 2 -- one to trade and one to sell.



**THIS PHOTO WAS SENT IN BY
JERRY ACHTERBERG JUST TO
SHOW TOM THE BLACKSMITH
FROM WIMBERLY HARD AT
WORK.**



Get your patches, hats and T-shirts at most monthly meetings. And don't forget the great library available to PAID members.



Here is a photo from Pflugerville of Glen Kruger (left), visiting member of the Detroit Blacksmiths Association helping out Jerry Achterberg (right) at the anvil during the April meeting.

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COAL SUPPLY?

I heard a rumor that Callahan's general store is no longer carrying good coal. it might be a blessing, they were expensive. But now i am out of coal. Does anyone know of a RELIABLE source to buy coal from? Close to Austin would be nice.

Thanks,
Dan Smith

Is it time for Balcones Forge to consider ordering a load of coal? Do the members want coal? Let your officers know!

Who will volunteer to store coal and supervise the "selling" to members? Lots of folks say they want coal but someone has to step up!

FOR SALE

Larry Stevens has the following for sale:

Henrob torch complete with video instructions.
Cost \$350 new and can be bought for \$250.

Chicago brand 110 volt flux core welder. New.
\$50.

Larry Stevens
362 Deer Creek
Boerne, TX 78006
830-331-9599

DID YOU KNOW...?

Centaur Forge, Staples, Blacksmiths Depot, Grainger, and Pieh Tool are just a few of the participants in the ABANA Member-Only Discount Program. Become a member -- it pays!

www.ABANA.org

ABANA INSURANCE

ABANA is proud to announce the addition of both Term Life and Universal Life insurance to the family of insurance benefits we already endorse.

We experienced a great response to the existing products and expect similar if not better response with Life insurance products!

Here is the information we promised would be coming. Please see the ABANA website for detailed information on the benefits, pricing, eligibility, etc. or feel free to contact the call center anytime at 866-893-1167 and they will be able to provide more information on the new Group Term & Universal Life products.

Open enrollment until the end of May.

We continue working on adding a full coverage health benefit and shop insurance, so be on the lookout for coming announcements.

New ABANA members may apply for Medical, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance coverage in the first 60 days following the initial membership in ABANA.

On behalf of ABANA's Board of Directors, we thank you for your continued support and hope that you find this insurance coverage an added benefit for you and your family!

We look forward to hearing from you about other products or services that you would find useful.

Sincerely,

Linda Tanner, Business Division Chair

CANIRON VII

The Western Canadian Blacksmiths Guild hosts Caniron VII. The date is August 7, 8 & 9th, 2009

The location will be at Ness Creek Sask. More information to follow but I will say it is beautiful lake country, perfect for a holiday.

There is room for on site camping @ \$10 per day. Also, there are Hotels, B&B's and cabins in the area.

We will have 4 or 5 top notch demonstrators doing their thing and we will also have demonstrators for knife making. We are going to have a Hands On project on the go as well.

The cost to pre-register will be \$200.00 from now to July 1st then the price will increase to \$250.00. The phone number and address will be posted later.

On site meals will be available at a cost of \$120 per person for the event, and again please make your intentions known as soon as possible?

Larry Olm, President
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The Saskatchewan Chapter of the Western Canadian Blacksmith Guild has been asked to host Caniron VII. With less than less than 5 months to plan an event this big we have been busy. We have a great site, and the demonstrators are lining up. Why is it when we ask people to come to the middle of nowhere, work like crazy for three days, they all want to come?

We are trying to get the www.Caniron.ca website set up for us as soon as possible, but it will likely be a couple of weeks yet. I will send it out updates as I get them.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

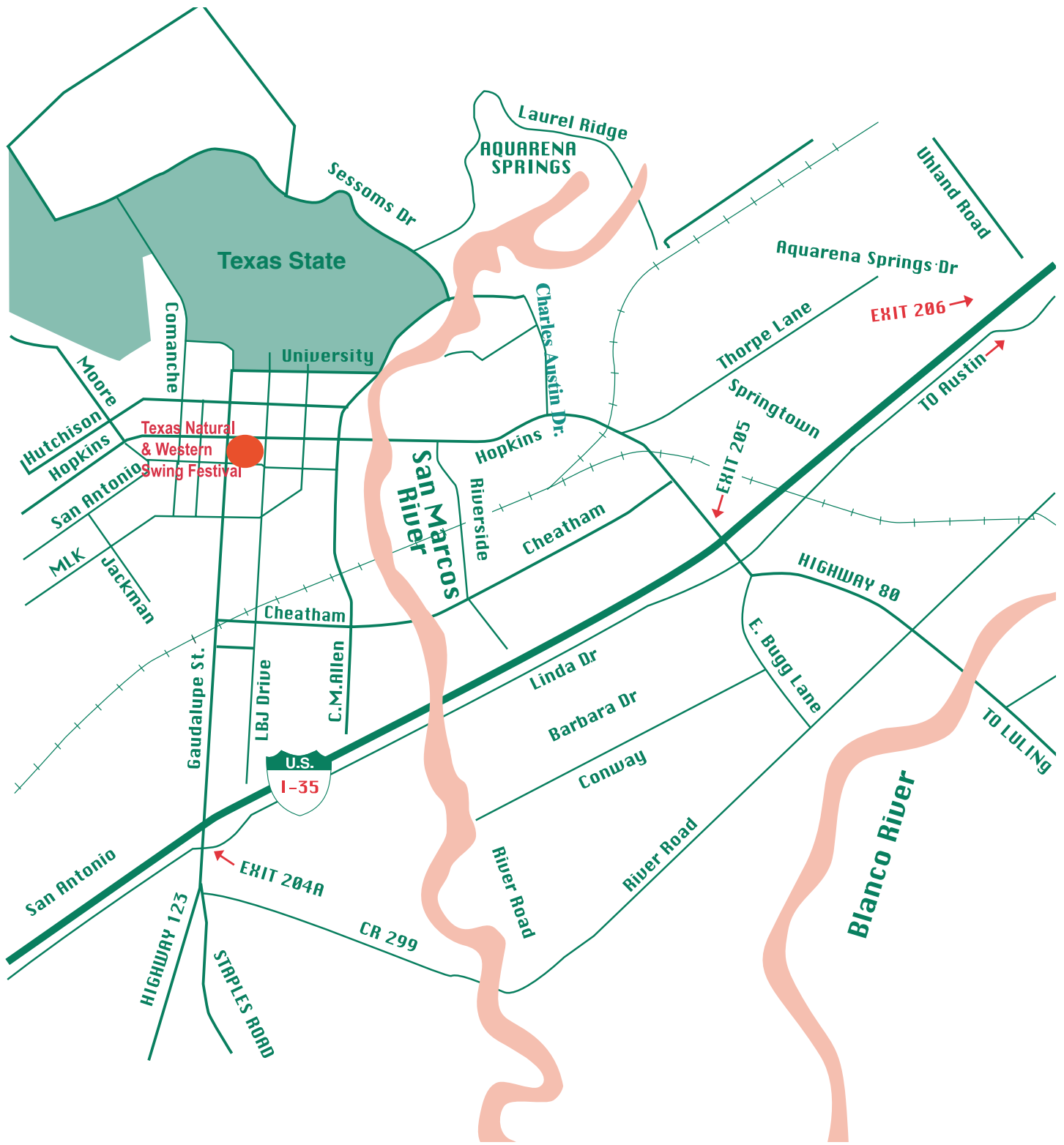
The April meeting was held at the Wells Branch Homestead Park north of Austin. They were having a Pioneer Days event and asked us to demonstrate, so we held our monthly meeting there at the same time. Turnout for the meeting was light this month but being spring there are so many things pulling folks in different directions. Jim Schmidt hosted the meeting and the forge was set up under some nice big shade trees, behind the site's original 1850's log house.

Before the forging started, Jim gave us a tour of the log house. It had two sections connected with a dog run for creating a nice flow of air between the two. There were a number of other old buildings on the site, but they had originally been spread further apart and were brought closer to the house as development encroached.

We had a visiting blacksmith, Glen from Detroit, spend the day with us. He was in town and wanted to see what Balcones Forge was like, while connecting with some blacksmiths. He said that his group is about the same size as ours, with 100 to 150 members. They meet on Tuesdays for an open forge at their President's shop. Sometimes they have 50 members in attendance. It was really great having someone from another area look us up. I'm glad it happened to be meeting week-end, so he was able to come out and join in.

The trade item for the month was a piece of yard art. Three items were traded. Remember that you have to make one to take one.

Sue Murray
Stand-in Secretary



MAP FOR THE MAY MEETING

To ABANA Affiliates and Affiliate Members,

New Conference Logo:

The new ABANA Conference logo has a musical theme. "ABANA's Greatest Hits" pays homage to the rich musical heritage of our host city Memphis and to the sweet ring of the anvil when played by a smith. Check out the ABANA web site and come and see us June 2-5, 2010 in Memphis. We will make beautiful music together.

New Board Member:

Andrew Blair was appointed to fill the board position that Kate Dinneen vacated. Andy practiced business law in Denver until his retirement in 2007 and was active with the Rocky Mountain Smiths. He now lives in Stevensville, Montana and is active with the Northern Rockies Blacksmith Association. No matter how many bad jokes there are about lawyers, it is always nice to have one at hand when needed.

The Australian Affiliate's Tree Project:

Early February of this year Victoria, Australia suffered the worst national disaster to ever occur in Australia's recorded history. To honor those that have been lost to the devastating fires and the brave people who battled the elements, Australian Blacksmiths Association (Victoria) Inc., ABANA's newest affiliate is inviting blacksmiths from around the world to contribute to the tree project. Make a leaf and join smiths from around the world forming a memorial and for the spirit of renewal. Visit the ABANA web site and click on The Tree Project under Latest News.

Tom Clark Memorial Gate Project:

BAM is also asking smiths from around the world to contribute a leaf for a memorial gate project to Blacksmith Extraordinaire Tom Clark. The gate is to be completed at the BAM Conference in Sedalia, MO on May 1-3, 2009. Tom was very dedicated to blacksmithing and made friends with smiths and enriched their lives where ever he traveled.

Iron 2010 Exhibit deadline extension:

The call for entries deadline for the international contemporary blacksmith exhibition "Iron 2010" has been extended to May 29, 2009. The exhibit will begin at the National Ornamental Metal Museum during the ABANA Conference 2010 and travel to different locations during the next two years. See ABANA's web site for details.

Fellowships with Coubertin in France:

The American Friends of Coubertin have announced the availability of training fellowships for Sept 2009 to July 2010 in metalwork (not jewelry) and stonework at the Coubertin Foundation outside Paris, France. This is a great opportunity for some in their early 20's. All expenses are covered at one of the leading traditional craft institutions in Europe. See the ABANA web site for details.

Bruce Woodward

ABANA Affiliate Liaison Representative

woodwardiron@roadrunner.com

TIP

A quick and easy way to make a hold-down is to take a piece of one-inch bar six feet long. Lay one end on the anvil and the other end on a stand the appropriate height. In the middle, hang a ten-pound weight from a chain. To increase or decrease the weight, slide the chain back and forth from the anvil.

TIP

If you find tongs that are rusted together, heat them up to a bright red and slowly open and close them. When they work free, cool in water while still working them until cool, then oil the joint.

Fun Link: www.jurustic.com

Patinas - www.sculptnouveau.com

Homemade Hammer - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkUFgoU_LO0

Do you have some steel laying around your shop you will never use and it's taking up valuable space? Give it a good home at Austin Community College. Their budget does not increase as fast as the price of steel. Your donation can make a big difference to this outstanding program. Drops are also welcome. William Bastas, Master Blacksmith and department head, will be grateful to hear from you and will even arrange pickup. Email him at wbastas@austincc.edu. One more thing: you can write off your donation.

Return Service Requested

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