



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

October 2018



Greetings!

FYI... The "too-hot-to-hammer" season has officially ended. It is now prime forging weather, use your time wisely.

Start making plans for the October meeting on the 27th and Jerry Whitley's Rystik Forge in Devine. Jerry and Marsha have always big plans for us and the food is worth the trip. Come early and stay late. Bring something for the auction like tools and blacksmithing equipment, or just a pocket full of cash to take advantage of the many fine buying opportunities. Jerry has some fine demo's lined up and there will be some open forges if you just want to get in the fire and hammer. We will need a couple of extra anvils and forges.

Be sure to bring your finished toolboxes for the competition, prizes for the best. There will also be a fire starting competition so forge out a nice flint striker and make sure it will throw some sparks and try your luck at starting a fire. Prizes for the best striker and the fastest fire.

This is the Memorial meeting where we remember those who have passed on. By remembering our mentors and passing down their tricks and tips of the trade, we are able to pass them down to our younger smiths who will help to keep the art of blacksmithing alive. Share what you have learned.

Meeting Date is Saturday October 27

President's Message continued on page 2.



Officers

President
Jerry Achterberg
treefarm@swbell.net
210/661-3293

Vice-President
Jerry Whitley
jerry.whitley@ymail.com
210/288-3961

Treasurer
Rudy Billings
rudy@balconesforge.org
512-461-7375

Secretary
Tim Tellander
ttellander@gtvc.com
830/980-2903



Editor

Vince Herod
spotteddogforge@yahoo.com
512/253-6045

President's Message continued.

November will take us to Zorn, TX to Doug Caroselli's Blackhawk Millworks. The meeting will be early, on the 17th. Doug has mastered his sawmill and show off many of his custom creations made from native Texas trees. He also has some very cool things lined up for us to see. You won't want to miss this one. Trade item: Make something of wood and metal. www.blackhawkmillworks.com and look for blackhawkmillworks on facebook.

See you in Devine

Jerry Achterberg – Pres. Balcones Forge

SECRETARY'S REPORT FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING



Zetkamy so w Serbin Festialu is the Slavic exclamation for the Wends of Texas who strive to be engaged in their heritage and culture more than ever before. Not only are they trying to preserve a culture rich in folklore and customs but they

also wish to help visitors as well as descendants understand the tradition. Cultural education takes place at festivals like this by providing an unforgettable meal of sausage and noodles. These delicious Wendish noodles prove to be the strongest as well as the most astonishing part of their contemporary heritage.

Although the exact origin of the noodle is unknown, many people recall childhood memories of cutting

the dough and drying the noodles throughout the house. Since farmers could not sell cracked eggs, they had to use them at home. This unique product of handmade tradition including measuring amounts of water in a half-eggshell, represents its unique origin of being served in the court of the King of Saxony. A special cookbook, according to our host JoAnn, has recently been released. We all enjoyed the meal and it was not unusual seeing visitors to our blacksmith demonstration site totting a bag of dry noodles around visiting the other numerous displays and exhibits.

This was my third visit with Balcones Forge to Serbin, and this time it did not rain. We had 4 forge set-ups and probably a dozen blacksmiths pounding away and answering questions about the process and giving away a few trinkets to kids as well as selling a few forged items. I am always amazed about the number of people that verbalize fond memories of grandpa's forge and the great time they had watching and helping him with chores around his shop.

This event in particular, gives me a sense of the spirit of the Wends coming alive among the many descendants who travel to the Texas Wendish Festival to celebrate their unique culture.

Tim Tellander
Balcones Forge Secretary

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OCTOBER MEETING INFO

We are looking at a forecast of great weather for our event this Saturday. We will have everything ready to go, ready for a great demo by Mr. Bill Epps. It's gonna be a good one.

Things to bring;

A MUST = Eye and Hearing Protection

Lawn Chairs

Iron in the Hat

Items donated to the auction to support the event

Tailgate items

Items that you are wanting to sell (we will have a lot of blacksmiths here)

Tools and stock - for open forge

We have a very nice anvil that will be put up for auction.

We have some that are bringing their travel trailers on Friday. You are welcome to do so as well, you just need to plan to be self contained as we are very limited on hookups.

Don't forget your competition items -

- 1. Finished toolboxes from our meeting in Marble Falls**
- 2. Traditional flint & steel fire starting kit**
- 3. Evening Competition - Fire starting competition - (flint & steel)**

This year we are sporting CASH prizes.

We look forward to seeing everyone here at Rystyk Forge.

Jerry & Marsha Whitley



Bill Epps

photo by Harry Cabluck

WWW.BALCONESFORGE.ORG

OCTOBER MEETING INFO

The date for the event is Saturday, October 27th, 2018.

Location is at the Whitley's in Devine, Texas

Make your plans for the 7th Annual Rustyk Forge Memorial and Demo. Mr. Bill Epps will be demonstrating for us. Feel free to arrive on Friday evening for a small social evening and open forge. Bill Epps will be Demonstrating for us on Saturday. Barbeque Dinner will be served along with iced tea. Donations will be accepted to cover the meal.

Please bring items for "Iron in the Hat" and the "Silent Auction" -
These are the things that make events like this possible.

We have room for tents and campers for those that want to stay.
Must be self contained.

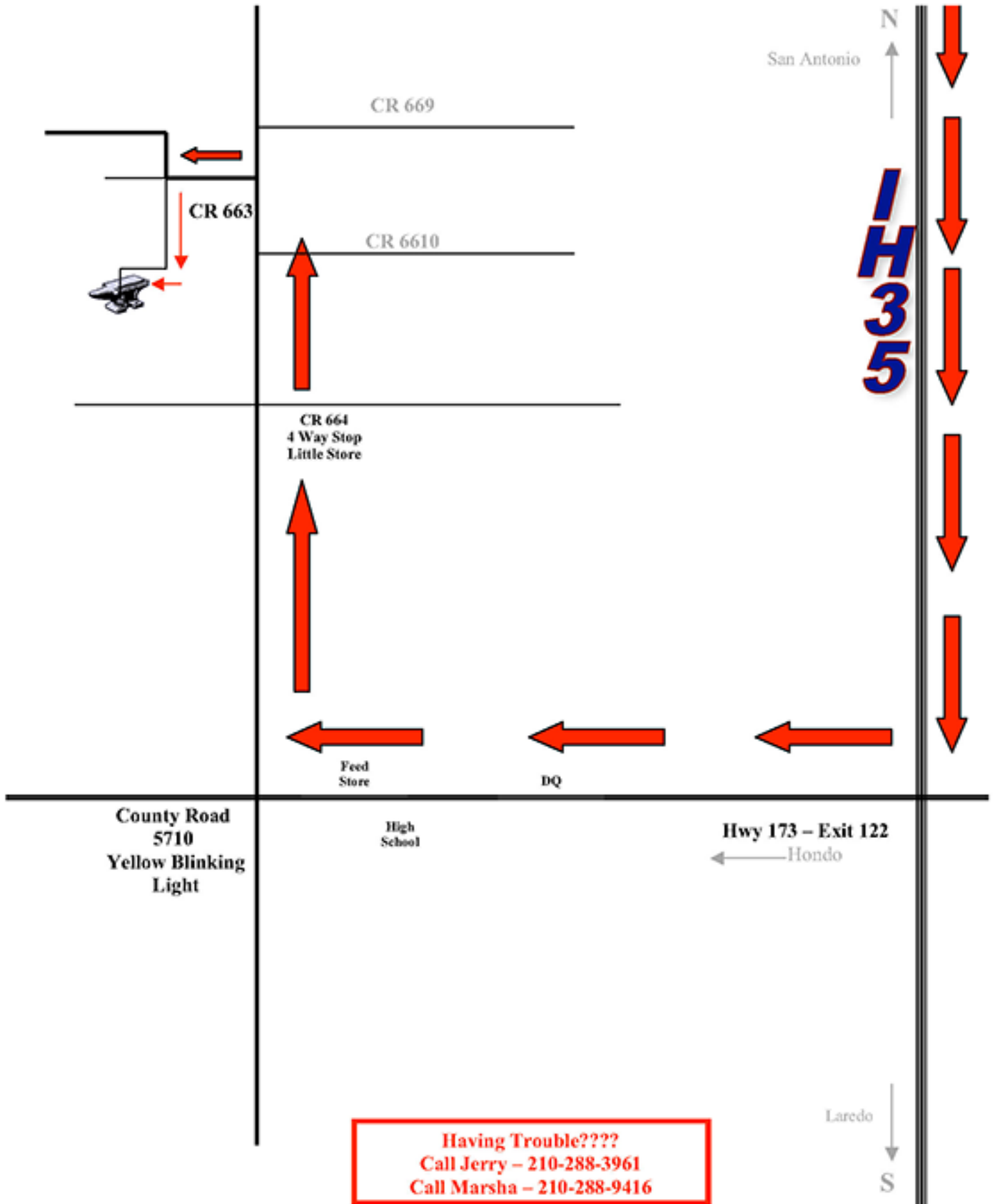
Bring your eye and hearing protection
Lawn Chairs
Forge, Anvil & tools for open forge.

We have big plans for the "Competition Trade Items"
Details to come soon.

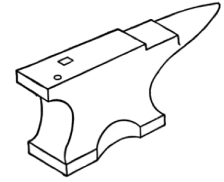
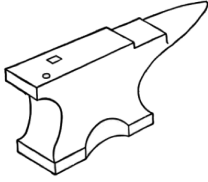
For those that have not been to past events,
this will be at our house / forge.
295 CR 663, Devine, Texas 78016

Save the Date!

We look forward to seeing everyone here!



7th Annual Rustyk Forge Demo & Memorial



Saturday, October 27, 2018

**At: Jerry & Marsha Whitley's
Rustyk Forge
295 CR 663
Devine, Texas 78016**

**We will fire up the forge at 9:00am
Our Featured Artist & Demonstrator will be
Mr. Bill Epps**

Barbeque Dinner will be served
(Donation to cover the dinner will be greatly appreciated)

**For those that would like to participate in the Open Forge,
we will have a shaded area set up away from the demo area.
*Bring your Forge, Anvil & Tools***

**We will have three Competitions with \$\$\$ prizes this year;
Tool Box
Traditional Fire Starter Kit
Fire Starting**

**Please support Balcones Forge and this Event by bringing
something for the Auction.**

Bring your "Tailgate" & "Show & Tell" items.

Fine Print – To participate in the "Open Forge", you must be a member and signed in on the sign in sheet.

We can get you signed up at the event with \$25.00 and a completed Registration Form.

I am sure that we can come up with a hammer or two, but if you plan to forge please try to bring your own tooling and stock.

Feel free to bring your anvil and forge.

DURABLE OUTDOOR FINISHES FOR IRONWORK

BY JOHN CROUCHET

The greatest problem with outdoor ironwork is, well, that it is outdoors. A good enamel paint job can go a long way toward preserving your precious handwork from the ravages of sun, rain, and time, but, unfortunately, it usually leaves your work looking dull, uniform, and just generally uninteresting. That is a sad fate for ironwork that you put sweat, tears, and sometimes a little blood into.

Over the years, I have found a few methods of preserving the interest and uniqueness in forged work that must spend its existence outdoors. Here is one of my favorites:

I have used this technique in various “rust” colors, as well as shades of green with good results. I like the greens for objects that will be associated with the garden, such as the plant hangers I recently forged for our local Master Gardeners group.

This technique requires at least three colors of paint, including a base color. For the green I will use in this example, I picked a flat black base color, a deep green (darker than “Hunter”), and a medium gray-green semi-gloss. This leaves a nice finish on leaves, vines, and “garden” pieces. Buy these enamels in the smallest cans you can find. I often buy them in “test” sizes at paint stores or Home Depot. Even a one-cup “test” size will be much more than you will use on most jobs because we are going to stipple the color onto the piece, rather than coat it.

I add a small amount of “Penetrol” or other paint conditioner to each small can of paint. The reason for this is that we will be working with this paint over a long period of time and we do not want our paint to skin over or dry too quickly while we are slowly stippling our effects. Using a paint conditioner adds “open” time to the painting process.



I begin by wire wheeling the forged piece to remove scale and rust. Wear a face shield and be cautious. Go slowly and dress appropriately. The wire wheel can easily grab your work and cause injury.

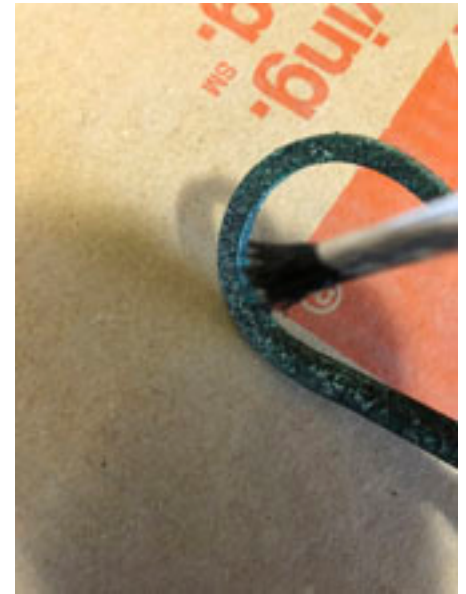
Next, I paint the piece with flat black enamel, usually with a simple rattle can. Multiple light coats leave a much better and more consistent finish than one heavy coat. Allow this to dry, usually overnight. The flat black will form the basis of your finish. For “rust” pieces, I like to start with the darkest shade of rust I plan to use, usually in a non-gloss or flat enamel. You will build up lighter colors from this dark base coat.

Beginning from this flat black base coat, I will next begin to “stipple” a VERY light coat of my lightest color - in this case, gray-green. I do this with a short, stiff brush. (Remember, we are not trying to coat the piece in this color.) I have found cheap one-inch “chip” brushes to work well, but my favorite is to use flux brushes that are intended for applying flux to plumbing joints before soldering. These are very inexpensive and easily available in the plumbing section of hardware stores. They will not hold



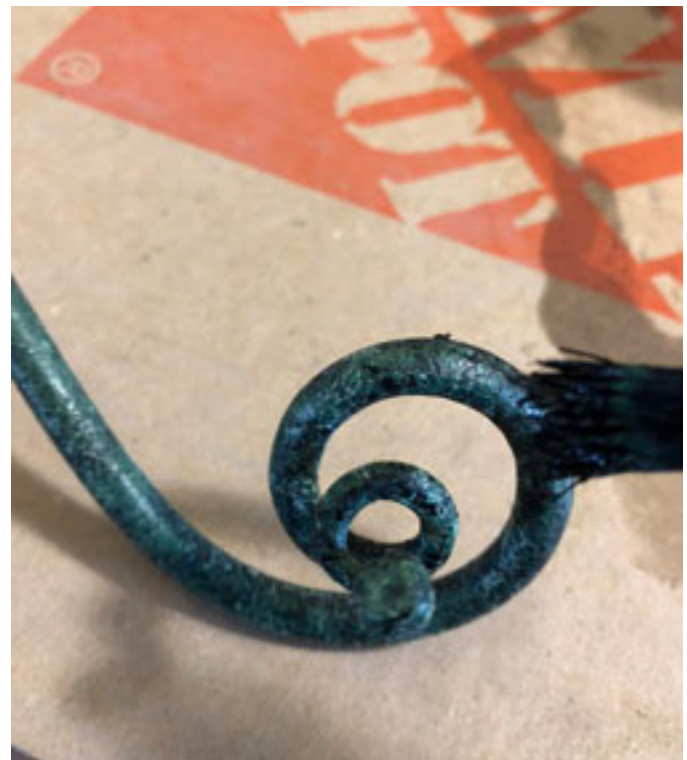
much paint, but that is a big plus when using this technique. Apply the paint by just lightly touching the tips of the brush vertically to the work. I smear a bit of paint on some cardboard and then dip the flux brush vertically into the paint smear. I next test it on the cardboard to be certain that it is not carrying too much paint. Slowly stipple a light “spray” of dots across the surface of your work. Keep this layer very light. You can always add more paint later.

Once you have achieved a fairly even, light stipple with the lightest color, begin the next coat using a darker color, in this case, the dark green. You will notice as you work that the darker green will tone down a lot of the bright effect of the original light color stipple. We are trying to achieve a subtle, layered effect.



Once the darker stipple is uniform and seems satisfactory, it is time to return to the original flat black base color for the final stipple. For this, you will need a small can of flat black enamel. As you apply a flat black stipple over the previous stipples, you will notice it adds a lot more visual depth to the coatings. The coating will also be much more subdued and “natural” than the original light colored stipple.

When the flat black stipple is finished, look the piece over for areas that were too lightly or heavily worked. Now is the time to add light or dark stippling to correct any mistakes.



Let the finished piece dry overnight. The stippling, while not coating the piece, applies paint in tiny “droplet” fashion that is thicker than a normal spray coat and it may take a few extra hours to dry.

I have used this technique on courtyard gates and on sign frames that have endured many years of constant outdoor exposure. It has proven to be a durable and good looking solution.



DEMO OPPORTUNITY

Hello and Happy Fall!

I am president of the Friends of Nameless School, a one-room schoolhouse and the one remaining structure of the Nameless Community on Nameless Road in Northwestern Travis County. You can find us on Facebook to see more about us at Friends of Nameless School.

We are again inviting the community and surrounding areas to spend some time at the school to experience some old-time festivities from the late 1800s to early 1900s.

To that end, we hope to have soap makers, story tellers, spinners and weavers, folks who might present some “living history”, reenactors, and demonstrators from bygone eras (Civil War, early West), music, etc.

In addition to our “Day in Historic Nameless” we will also host our biennial community-wide barbecue. If the April 2019 Saturday is anything like this past April 7, we will be even more crowded inside the schoolhouse—but that’s ok!

We won’t be charging money to attend, nor will we offer remuneration to presenters/participants. We are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) association, so any participating you do will qualify as tax-deductible on your part.

We hope you’ll consider sending a representative (or several!) to join us **Saturday, April 13, 2019** for A Day in Historic Nameless. Please forward this to friends who also might be interested in joining us! Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Mary Cameron, President
Friends of Nameless School
maryc2@austin.rr.com

ANOTHER (MUCH SOONER)

DEMO OPPORTUNITY

I wanted to reach out to Balcones Forge to see if any of your members would be interested in volunteering for a huge field trip we have coming up here at the Pioneer Museum in Fredericksburg.

On **November 26 and 27, 2018** we will have 220 students come through the museum for a field trip tour. Since it’s such a large group, I’m hoping to have several presenters on the grounds to show the children different aspects of pioneer life, and I’d love for blacksmithing to be a part.

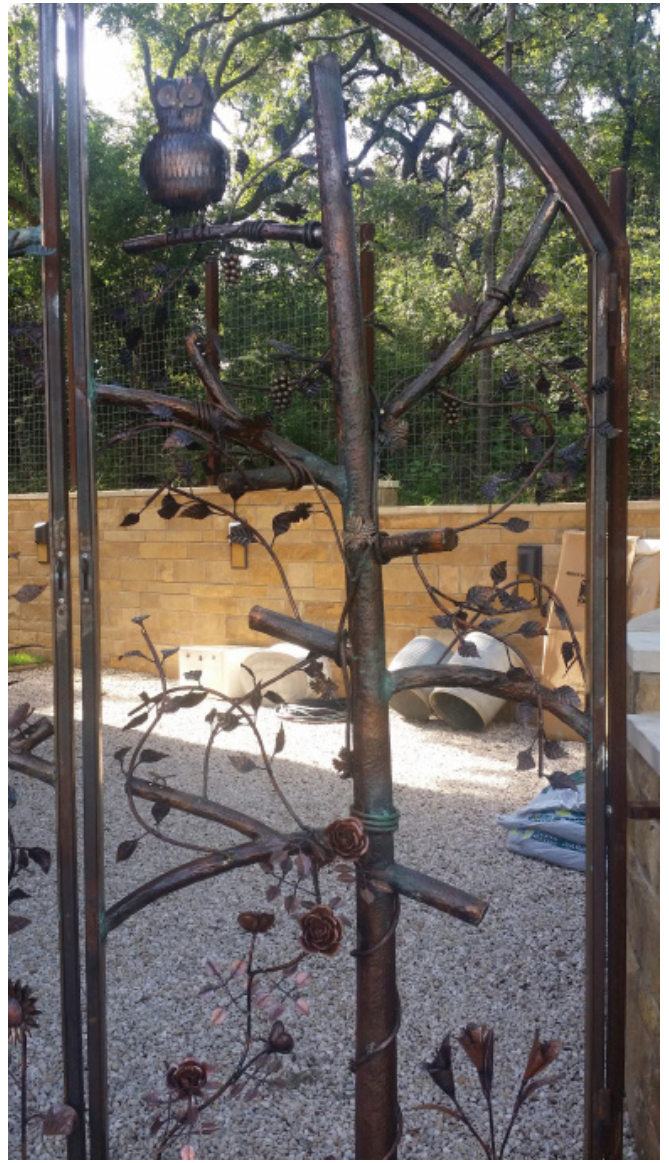
Would any of the Balcones Forge members like to come and volunteer on one or both of those days? It would be 3 or 4 hours each morning, and about 110 children per day coming through in small groups.

If anyone is interested in this opportunity, let me know and send your information to me? I can give any additional details and take it from there.

Thanks, and I look forward to hearing from the members of Balcones Forge!

Caitlin Hoover
Program Director, Pioneer Museum
caitlin.j.hoover@gmail.com
(512)809-9394







Tom the Blacksmith, Wimberley, Texas

Client request: one arched entry gate with two panels. gate is 8 ft tall each panel is 33 inches wide. Main frames steel. Every thing else is 100 % copper. Made from sheets, round bars, and copper balls. All cut and hand hammered and put together using mig, tig, and torch. it took 157 man hours to do the copper work



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

Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.
 259 Muddy Fork Road
 Jonesborough, Tennessee 37659

Phone: [423-913-1022](tel:423-913-1022), Fax: [423-913-1023](tel:423-913-1023)
centraloffice@abana.org

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

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