

What's Happening

in the AACB

February 2016 Addition issue

The Appalachian Area Chapter of Blacksmiths Monthly email Update

Current Updated Website

<http://aacblacksmiths.org/>

There is a Calender there with lots of info.

The old link still redirects there

<http://www.appalachianblacksmiths.org/>

This issue prepared by: Bud LaMonica



From Left to Right: Jennifer (my wife), Luke (mean muggin), Sam, Pedro (with yellow hat), Izabelle (in the back), Minda (holding Pedro), Angi, Benny (in front), Myself (with old Nikon), Carmen, Frank, Allison. From a trip to Rock City.



Sometime around a year or so ago, an old friend who I went through college with had her first baby. We have stayed in touch over the last 15 years but live on opposite coasts. I made an exact replica of my anvil to send to her as a keepsake for her son. It is a gift of creativity. The anvil represents Creativity to me. I have been fortunate to have received a good technical education and feel fairly comfortable working within the realm of the sciences, but I feel that having the gift of creativity has been far more important to allow me to be successful in any activity or career that I pursue. Everyone of us is creative, and we need to exercise that part of our character.

AACB Blacksmith Conference 2016

May 20 & 21 , 2016

Cannonsburgh Village, Murfreesboro, TN

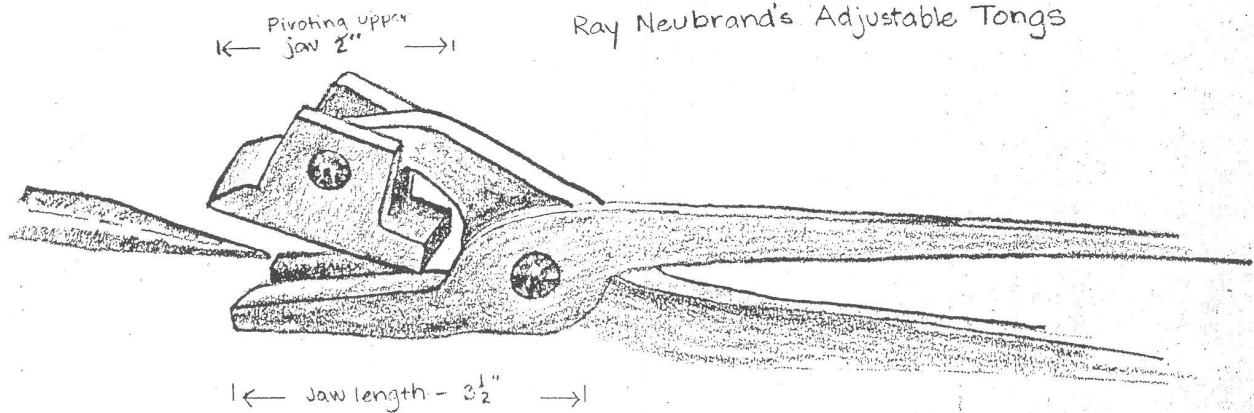
The 2016 AACB Conference info is up on the website. I have registered.

The following article archives are taken from Ryan Johnson's archive database of old AACB articles.
<https://sites.google.com/site/aacblibrary/home>

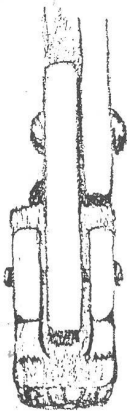
Blacksmith Hints

(From Pittsburgh Area Artist-Blacksmiths)
(Association News Letter)

Ray Neubrand's Adjustable Tongs



Top
View



overall length = 17"
width = 1"

Ray made these tongs with an upper jaw that pivots enough to adjust to the shape of tapered work. The lower jaw has a groove running up the middle. These two features combine to produce a pair of tongs that dependably grip work on the taper itself. This way Ray is not forced to use a pair of tongs that will grip the work above the taper or struggle with a wobbly grasp of the taper.

A Request from The Medieval fair:

Good Morning!

I am contacting you on behalf of the Tennessee Medieval Faire. This is an annual 3 weekend outdoor event that attempts to recreate an English village during the Middle Ages. The Faire includes crafts, food, beer, stage acts and real jousting.

We are currently looking for a blacksmith interested in selling wares out of a tent/booth and perhaps demonstrating on the side. Another possibility is a group such as yours that would set up a demo area and use it as a recruiting/advertising venue for your organization. If this is of interest please contact me at:

Phone: 865-248-8414

Email: tnmedievalfaire@gmail.com

Thank you for your consideration!

Warm Regards,

Cara Treadway

From The Metal Museum:

My name is Houston Cofield, and I am the Marketing Coordinator for the Metal Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. I wanted to reach out let you know we have opened our registration for [Forging on the River 2016](#). We are expecting great turn out this year, and would love for the Memphis and regional communities to be aware of this event.

Attached you will find a press kit outlining the details for [Forging on the River 2016](#) as well as links for registration. We are grateful for any promotional help you can give this event!

Please feel free to contact me for additional information, or for any high-resolution images you might need. Thank you in advance for your help with this, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,
Houston

--

Houston Cofield
Social Media and Marketing Coordinator

METAL MUSEUM
374 METAL MUSEUM DRIVE
MEMPHIS, TN 38106

Many of you know Lyle Wynn and his brother Ricky. We lost Ricky this past month in his battle with cancer. Please keep his family in your prayers.



Mike LaMarre with a team of strickers at the John C. Campbell folk School last November. This was during our open forge night, it was a blast. Mike did the AACB chapter demo for us the following morning, Thank you Mike.

Our Next AACB Chapter meeting has been pushed back to April 16th 2016. This is due to conflict with some of our neighbor chapters who are having events in the previous week.

Please read about the AFC event that follows below and consider attending, They have always been very supportive of our efforts and have contributed to the success of our conferences, They throw a good one and you don't want to miss it.

ATTEND

BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN

**BATSON FORGE DEDICATION and
BLACKSMITH CONFERENCE**

On April 7-9, 2016

At

Burritt on the Mountain

The “Jewel on the Mountain” overlooking Huntsville, Alabama

3101 Burritt Drive, Huntsville, AL 35801 • (256) 536-2882

The Registration fee for the Blacksmith Conference

ALL WEEKEND, 7-9 April 2016, is for

Burritt Members: In advance-\$40/ Onsite registration-\$50

Non-Members: In advance-\$50/ Onsite registration-\$60

For one day

Burritt Members: \$25

Non-Members: \$30

Saturday is free to Blacksmith Conference paid attendees.

The Saturday Show Fee and Burritt on the Mountain Park Fee are included in the Registration.

On Saturday the Park will collect the normal fee from the Public

.

Please pre-register by 3 April 2016.

Send your name, address, and phone number with registration fee

And how many people that will attend the Dinner on Wednesday evening

To Judd Clem, 111 Yorkshire Dr, Athens, AL 35613,

Or contact by phone 256/232-2645, or by e-mail, clem.judd@att.net.

An extra fee of \$10 will be collected at the Site for Hands-On Forging.

Bring an art piece for the Blacksmith Art Exhibit--\$100 to Best of Show

There will be **Suppliers, Tail Gate Sales** and **Tool Venders**

Bring items for the Auction

RAILROAD SPIKE HEADS-----CLAY SPENCER
COLONIAL IRONWORK-----MARK HADDIX
FORKS & SPATULAS -----BUTCH SHEELY
ORNAMENTAL IRONWORK -----TRAVIS FLEMING
BLACKSMITH DEMONSTRATORS-----STEVE WILLIAMSON & ALLAN KRESS
HANDS-ON FORGING-----RON THOMAS & HUNTSVILLE FORGE MEMBERS
FABRICATED IRONWORK -----EARL BURKETT
BLACKSMITH POCKET KNIFE-----STEVE ALFORD
BAR-B-QUE LUNCH-----H C BLAKE CO, INC
AUCTION-----COLONEL TIM RYAN

AGENDA

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

3 to 5 pm.....Register & Check-in at Burritt on the Mountain
5:30 to 7..... Dinner at Gibson Bar-B-Oue

Thursday, April 7, 2016

8-9.....	Register & Check-in at Burritt on the Mountain
9-12.....	Forging Demonstrations
	Hands-on Forging
	Lunch.
1-5.....	Forging Demonstrations
	Hands-on Forging
	Blacksmith Art Exhibit

.Friday, April 8, 2016

8-9.....	Register & Check-in	at Burritt on the Mountain
9-12.....	Forging Demonstrations	Hands-on Forging
		Blacksmith Art Exhibit
	Lunch	
1-5.....	Forging Demonstrations	Hands-on Forging
		Blacksmith Art Exhibit

Saturday, April 9, 2016

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
9-12..... Forging Demonstrations

Blacksmith Art Exhibit

- 12.....Bar-B-Que by H C Blake Co
12:30.....Dedication by Batson Family
1-3.....Auction by Colonel Tim Ryan

BATSON FORGE

The Batson Forge was originally built in Madison, Alabama by James and Barbara Batson. It was started on St Patricks Day and finished on Thanksgiving Day of the same year. It is built like a log cabin with 6X8 inch popular dove tailed timbers. In January of 2015 each timber was numbered and disassembled by the H C Blake Co. The Forge Shop was erected on this site by the H C Blake Co from June to November 2015.

BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN

[William Henry Burritt](#) (1869-1955) willed his estate and mansion, known as Round Top Mountain, to the city of Huntsville to create Huntsville's first museum. The site features Burritt's [eclectic mansion](#), a [historic park](#) with [restored nineteenth-century houses](#), a [barnyard](#) with authentic breeds of farm animals, a series of [nature trails](#), and [concerts, plays, festivals](#) and [exhibits](#). Its mission is to enhance lives and build community through educational, artistic, and recreational experiences while preserving our heritage, land, and historic structures.

DIRECTIONS

The Easiest Route from downtown, take Hwy 431 (Governors Drive) east towards Guntersville until you reach the traffic signal at the top of the mountain, turn on Monte Sano Boulevard, go 0.7 miles and turn left on Burritt Drive at the BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN sign under the Grecian Arch.

BY AIR

Fly into the Huntsville International Airport which is located 17 miles from Burritt on the Mountain.

CAMPING & CABINS are available at Monte Sano State Park. For reservations call 256/534-3757 or 256/534-6589.

Driving Directions to Monte Sano State Park:

From I-565 take exit 17b Governors Drive.
Follow to top of mountain and turn left on Monte Sano Blvd.
Go 2.5 miles and turn right on Nolen Ave.
Follow it 1 mile until you arrive at the park.

MOTELS, There are many fine motels & restaurants in Huntsville, Alabama.

AUCTION

Burritt on the Mountain is a non-profit organization. The proceeds from this auction will be used to support and maintain the Batson Forge to promote the art and craft of blacksmithing.

BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN BLACKSMITH WORKSHOP

DEMONSTRATORS

CLAY SPENCER, Brindley Mountain, Alabama

Clay was raised on a farm in North Alabama, attended Auburn University and worked for Marshall Space Flight Center, NASA on the Space Shuttle Program.

He started blacksmithing in 1987, redesigned the ABANA treadle hammer and designed a roller blade straight line version. He has led workshops to build about 1000 hammers and demonstrated use of treadle hammer and tools at ABANA conferences and many affiliates meetings. He has taught at J. C. Campbell Folk School since 1988 and Francis Whitaker asked him to take over his class when he retired. He has served on the Folk School and ABANA boards. He received the first Joe Humble Newsletter Editor Award, the Alex Bealer Award, life membership in ABANA and 2 affiliates. He has led 15 workshops to build 220 Ray Clontz 50 lb. Tire Hammers in last 2 years. The new Blacksmith Shop at John C Campbell Folk School is named after Clay.

TRAVIS FLEMING, Fleming Ironworks, Athens, Alabama

Travis began blacksmithing in 1994, full time in 2008. He has designed and forged a ram's head that now adorns the main gate of the Globe Theater in London. "He's an extremely skilled artisan," said Sherri Gross an interior decorator. "He's executed so many designs for us."

He was juried into the Roycrofters At Large Association in 2013 and is also a member of the Alabama Forge Council, the Appalachian Area Chapter of Blacksmiths, and ABANA. He has demonstrated and instructed in many venues, and along with friend and fellow blacksmith, Al Stephens, started teaching beginning and intermediate classes in 2011 for Athens State University's Center for Lifelong Learning.

STEVE WILLIAMSON, Columbia, Tennessee

Steve has been blacksmithing for 22 years. He operates a shop in Columbia, TN, where he specializes in custom ironwork. He is an accomplished blacksmith in the architectural, functional, and ornamental fields, and recently completed a five-year restoration project at the Nashville TN City Cemetery. He also completed handrails for the James K. Polk home in Columbia, TN. Steve does commission work for clients from his shop, teaches at various venues, and demonstrates at conferences and blacksmith meetings.

He has studied at the Folk School under many well-known smiths and enjoys sharing his knowledge with others. Steve is an active member of the Alabama Forge Council. His teaching experience includes the Folk School, Appalachian Center for Craft, and Hot Iron Master 2002 in Brisbane, Australia.

BUTCH SHEELY, Beaver Creek Forge, LLC, Grand Rapids, Ohio

Butch started Blacksmithing in 1982, after getting involved with re-enacting. For the next twenty years he forged knives, tomahawks and various items used in the fur trade. . Five years ago he started blacksmithing and bladesmithing full time. He joined the American Bladesmith Society in 2005 and obtained his Journeyman's

stamp in 2009. He is member of the Southern Ohio Forge & Anvil where he teaches.

MARK HADDIX, Birmingham, Alabama

Mark started Blacksmith in 1980s. He was the original Forge Master of the Bay Forge located near Bay Minette, Alabama. He is an experienced and excellent blacksmith. He is the President of the Alabama Forge Council and is on the Board of Directors of the Artist Blacksmiths of North America.

ALLAN KRESS, Cullman, Alabama

Allan has earned his living as a blacksmith since 1995. He has taken classes from many well-known Master Blacksmiths. His work is hand forged, is inspired by nature, and has an organic feel and occasionally a sense of humor.

When teaching at John C Campbell Folk School and demonstrating at different conferences, he engages everyone from the beginner to the Master Blacksmith. As an active member of the Alabama Forge Council, Allan has served as President from 2003 to 2005 and is currently on the building committee. The AFC's mission is to promote the craft of blacksmithing by teaching young people as they are the future of the craft.

STEVE ALFORD, Athens, Alabama

Steve started blacksmithing in 2002 after reading a book, "Tool Making for Woodworkers" and liking the idea of making his own tools. He discovered the Alabama Forge Council when he overheard someone in a meeting at work talking about this group the coworker's son was involved in. Steve is a past forge master of the Athens Forge of the AFC and contributes regularly to the Bituminous Bits, the journal of the AFC. He has demonstrated blacksmithing at Constitution Village and numerous other "heritage festivals" around north Alabama.

RON THOMAS, Huntsville, Alabama

Ron started blacksmithing in about 1989. He attended the First Batson Bladesmithing Symposium at the Batson Forge in Madison, Alabama. He is now the Forge Master at the Alabama Forge Council's Huntsville Forge that meets once a month at the old timey blacksmith shop at Burritt on the Mountain.

He teaches blacksmithing at these meetings. You can find Ron demonstrating blacksmithing on U tube on the internet.

EARL BURKETT, New Market Iron Works, Huntsville, Alabama

Established in 1997 New Market Iron Works, Inc. has grown to provide high quality custom ornamental iron for residences and businesses in North Alabama. We do any size job from the simplest rail to the most elaborate staircase. Each job is tailored to the customer's exact budget, design, and required building codes.

TIM RYAN, Brasstown, North Carolina

Tim began auctioning blacksmith crafted items at the first Alabama Forge Council Blacksmith Conference at Tannehill in 1986. To quote Bruce Voyles, "Tim is the best benefit auctioneer."

Tim has raised tons of money to promote the art and craft of blacksmithing for just about every Blacksmithing organization in the United States.



April 7-9, 2016

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At

Burritt on the Mountain

The “Jewel on the Mountain” overlooking Huntsville, Alabama

3101 Burritt Drive, Huntsville, AL 35801

Bring examples of your work for the Blacksmith Craft Show, Blacksmith Art Exhibit
& AUCTION

Judd Clem
111 Yorkshire Dr.
Athens, AL 35613

President

Bud LaMonica *Email Bud your current events for addition in the "What's Happening" update.*
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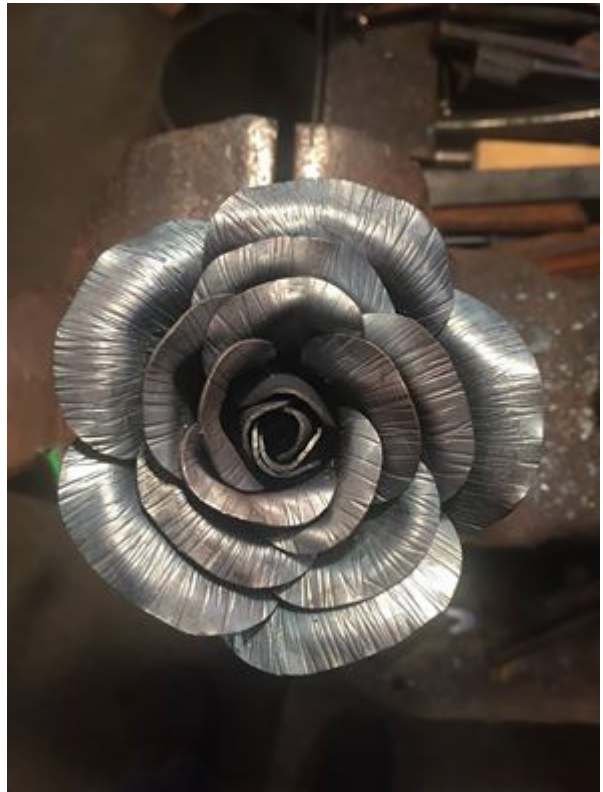
Jeff Jarrett *Please send detailed articles about blacksmithing projects and
demonstrations or meeting write ups to Jeff for consideration
for publication in the Quarterly Printed Newsletter*
jeffrjarrett@gmail.com
Mobile 423-596-4588
Home 423-697-7115

AACB member Allen Dawson has coal for sale. Tons of it. 423-595-3040
It is best sold 40 bags a skid, which is 2000 pounds for \$440/skid, that is \$11/bag.
It can also be purchased \$15/bag individually These are 50 pound bags of metallurgical blacksmithing
coal. He attends our meetings and you can call him to arrange ahead of time to have him bring you
some.



Tyler Freeman first Coal miner's stick'n tommy. Herb Gravitt helped him.

Herb Gravitt's First forged Rose.



Brian Horseman's Yellow Rose



Keith Herendon was making something "Sexy"

