



Blacksmiths of Central Texas

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August 2008



THE PREZ SAYS:

The Free Summer Workshop was once again a great happening! William was outstanding, attendance was excellent, lunch was tasty, and the auction brought in over \$2,000! Jerry Achterberg's miniature anvil, stump and tools took the award for highest bid of the day once again. Alan Lee was able to place his prize on his mantle for a mere \$250. As we stated at the workshop, \$1000 was sent to ABANA to further promote our craft. Thanks to all who helped make this another Balcones Forge success!

Even if you never use a computer, you won't want to miss the next meeting at Austin Community College. Terry Ross will show us how to use software to make forging easier -- from design, layout, and material estimation. We'll learn how modern technology fits in with 3,000 year old methods. (Bring your safety glasses just in case we get to tour the shop areas where the metalsmithing classes are held.)

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Forge on,
Rudy

AUGUST 23 - NEXT MEETING - AUGUST 23 9:30am

WWW.BALCONESFORGE.ORG

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The summer blacksmith demonstration took place on Saturday, July 26 2008 at John Crouchet's shop at Sycamore Creek Ranch 5 miles east of Marble Falls. Fifty-eight people signed the attendance sheet.

The meeting was opened by President Rudy Billings at 9:20 a.m. The first item on the agenda was to award Harvey Wise a well-deserved lifetime membership in Balcones Forge to honor his many contributions to the group over the years.

William Bastas, a member of Balcones Forge and a professor of blacksmithing at Austin Community College was the featured demonstrator. He started his demonstration with a recounting of some of his personal history in learning and teaching blacksmithing and showed us several examples of decorative pieces he had made which featured different methods of joinery.

His demonstration consisted of showing how to make a nautilus scroll with smaller scrolls in descending sizes incorporated inside the nautilus. He said he would with a ribbon end scroll but first recounted a meeting he had with Tom Clark in the deep south and a school with Uri Hoffi which he attended in Missouri where he learned the Hoffi system of blacksmithing. He also told us something that few of us in Balcones Forge knew about the group, that is that he, in 1993, was one of three founding members of Balcones Forge, the other two being Austin dentist, Wil Smith and Marble Falls blacksmith Larry Crawford.

William explained that scroll making teaches techniques used to make any type of decorative element or hardware. He emphasized how important it is to make your own tools and to learn techniques you can use for any type of blacksmithing. He said to try to use a forge that is efficient and heats up quickly making your time at the forge more productive.

At about 10:30 Bastas lit his forge instead of the one provided by Chile Forge for the demonstration

saying that he knew what his forge could do and was uncomfortable using an unfamiliar forge for his demonstration. He explained the importance of venting your forge to keep the pressure inside from causing the gas in the gas supply pipe to ignite before it reaches the forge. This condition is evidenced by a popping sound coming from the forge and a resulting decrease in forge efficiency.

William forged the ribbon end scroll followed by scrolls with a snub-end, a ball end, a bolt end and a fishtail emphasizing that you should only hammer on the ends when hot thus reducing the possibility of a stress riser forming and then breaking the end off. Each scroll was of an ascending size and matched to a pattern he had drawn on a board. He told us to be sure not to quench our work after done because the specifications at the steel mills have changed to allow more alloy into structural steel so it can be used in more situations. This addition to the steel classifies it as A992 and causes it to get brittle when quenched and will probably break if struck. We were told by William to be sure to bend a scroll when it is at a yellow heat or risk a kink, which can be removed by placing the kink in the center of two tines of a bending fork and striking it in the center. The bending fork, used for this application should be held in a vice with the tines sticking up so you can have a solid backup when trying to remove the kink with a hammer.

The group broke for lunch and afterwards there was an auction of items brought to the meeting for that purpose. Bastas picked up with the demonstration about 2pm and continued until early evening. During this time, he showed us how to make the bolt end scroll and how to attach the scrolls with collars using a collaring tool to first form the collar into a u-shape in the tool and then hammering it closed while in the tool.

It was a very good demonstration and proved to be very instructive and interesting. He brought several books to the meeting, which he highly recommended: the titles are as follows on the next page:

ABC's of Blacksmithing by Fridolin Wolf

Practical Projects for the Blacksmith by
Ted Tucker

Arts and Crafts Design by Varnum

Wrought Ironwork by the Salisbury Rural
Development Commission

Designing Furniture from Concept to Shop
Drawing: a practical guide by Seth Stem

The Smithys Craft and Tools by Ott
Schmirler



William Bastas (above) and his hammer (below).
photos by Vince Herod

Tom Lupton, Secretary, Balcones Forge

SMALL PARTS

Tom (the blacksmith from Wimberly) Leining has
found a great source for those small parts that
are often hard to find.

Check out:

www.smallparts.com

or give them a call at 1-800-220-4242.



*"A single blow of a blacksmith
is equal to a hundred blows of a goldsmith"*

Hindu Proverb



John and Carolyn Crouchet. photo by Harry Cabluck

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



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August 5, 2008

Rudy L. Billings
President
Balcones Forge
1906 Rampart Circle
Austin, Texas 78727

Dear Rudy,

On behalf of the ABANA membership and the ABANA Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your generous contribution to ABANA. Contributions like yours make it possible for ABANA to further the organization's mission to keep the art and craft of blacksmithing alive!

Your contribution of \$1,000.00 was received and processed in the form of a check (#1259), on August 5, 2008. ABANA has not provided benefits or services that are required to be valued to you in consideration for this gift. ABANA is a 501 (c) (3) organization and you, therefore, may be entitled to a donation deduction for your gift.

ABANA grows more vital each year with donations like yours. Do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information about this fund or your donation status for Internal Revenue Service purposes. Again, thank you for your generous donation.

Sincerely,

Diane Walden
Central Office Administrator
Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.
15754 Widewater Drive
Dumfries, VA 22025-1212

Artist Blacksmith's Association of North America

Greetings from ABANA! This is an Important Announcement!
July 17, 2008

ABANA Central Office on the move

Introduction to our new Central Office Administrator: ABANA announced on July 17, 2008 that Diane Walden, WH&L Associates, LLC, and her team have recently contracted with ABANA to provide services as the new ABANA Central Office Administrator.

Walden brings to her clients more than 24 years of experience in the for-profit and non-profit arenas. Walden and her team, Teresa Hannon, technical services, Victoria Lonergan, membership, and Denise Propps, finance, are looking forward to working with the ABANA organization to help guide and grow the membership.

"We look forward to serving the needs of the ABANA organization to promote membership, to increase member retention efforts, and to assist the organization to create, develop and recommend strategies to move the organization forward," says Walden. Walden further stated, "We realize the importance of preserving the integrity of blacksmithing and promoting the 'love of the craft.' Special thanks to ABANA for honoring us with the mission to serve your membership."

Diane Walden is founder of WH&L Associates, LLC, a consulting and service company, located in Dumfries, VA. WH&L Associates specializes in assisting association and corporate leaders with leadership initiatives, marketing, public relations, and administrative support.

The new Central Office can be contacted at:

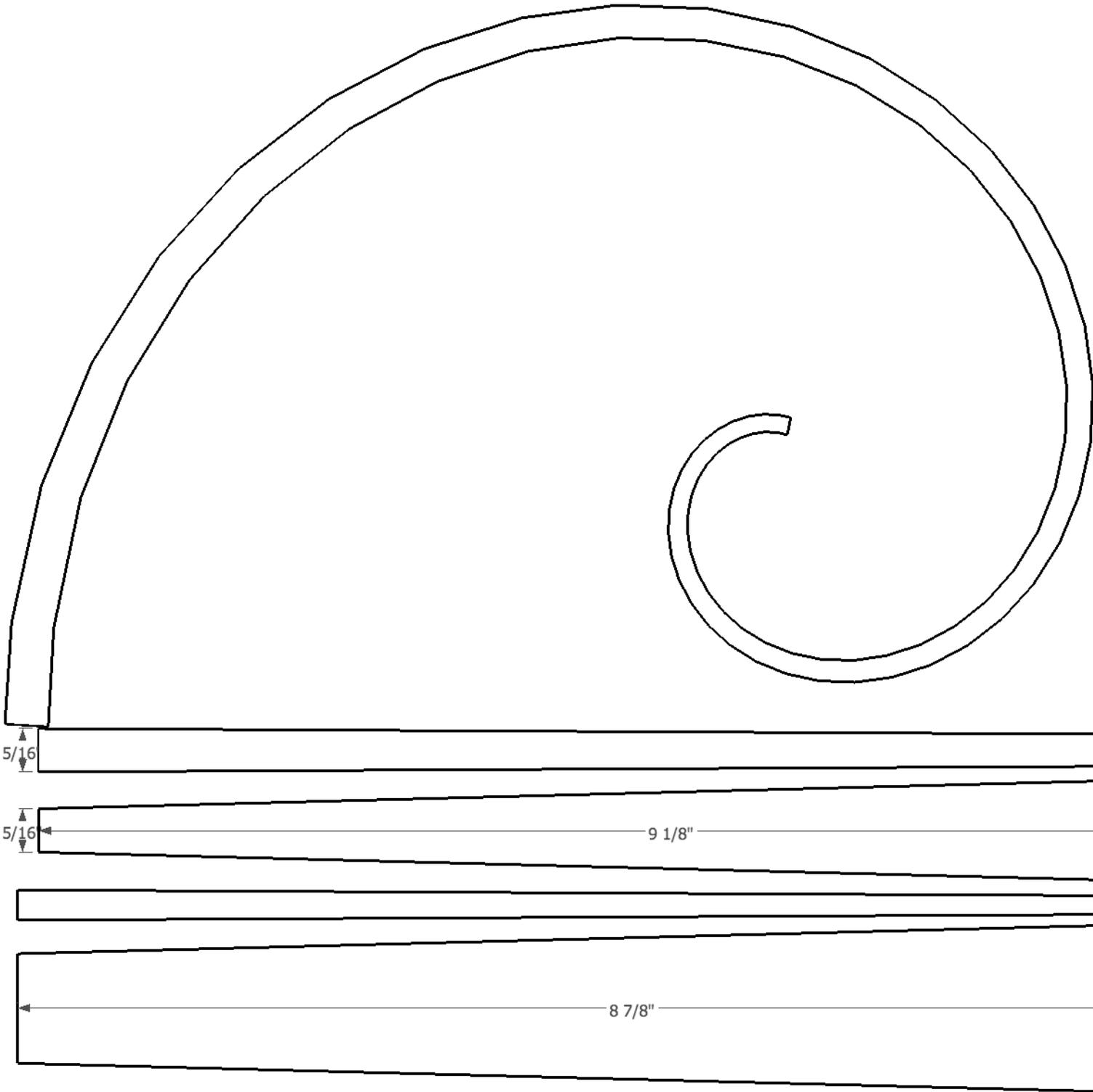
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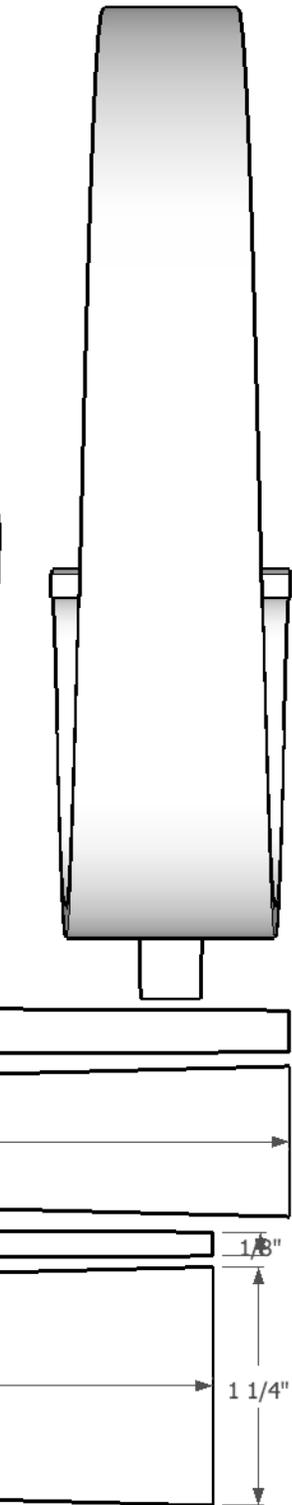
You can contact Diane or her team via email at abana@abana.org

ABANA wishes to thank Heather Hutton for her faithful service over the past two years. Heather decided her talents would better suit moving hot steel than pushing papers so when the opportunity arose to take a position as a blacksmith she took it. Heather will continue to work with Diane and her staff at WHL to ensure a smooth transition for the ABANA membership over the next few months. Again, thanks Heather and best wishes for success in your blacksmithing career.

Sincerely,

Rome H. Hutchings, Chairman





Trade Item:

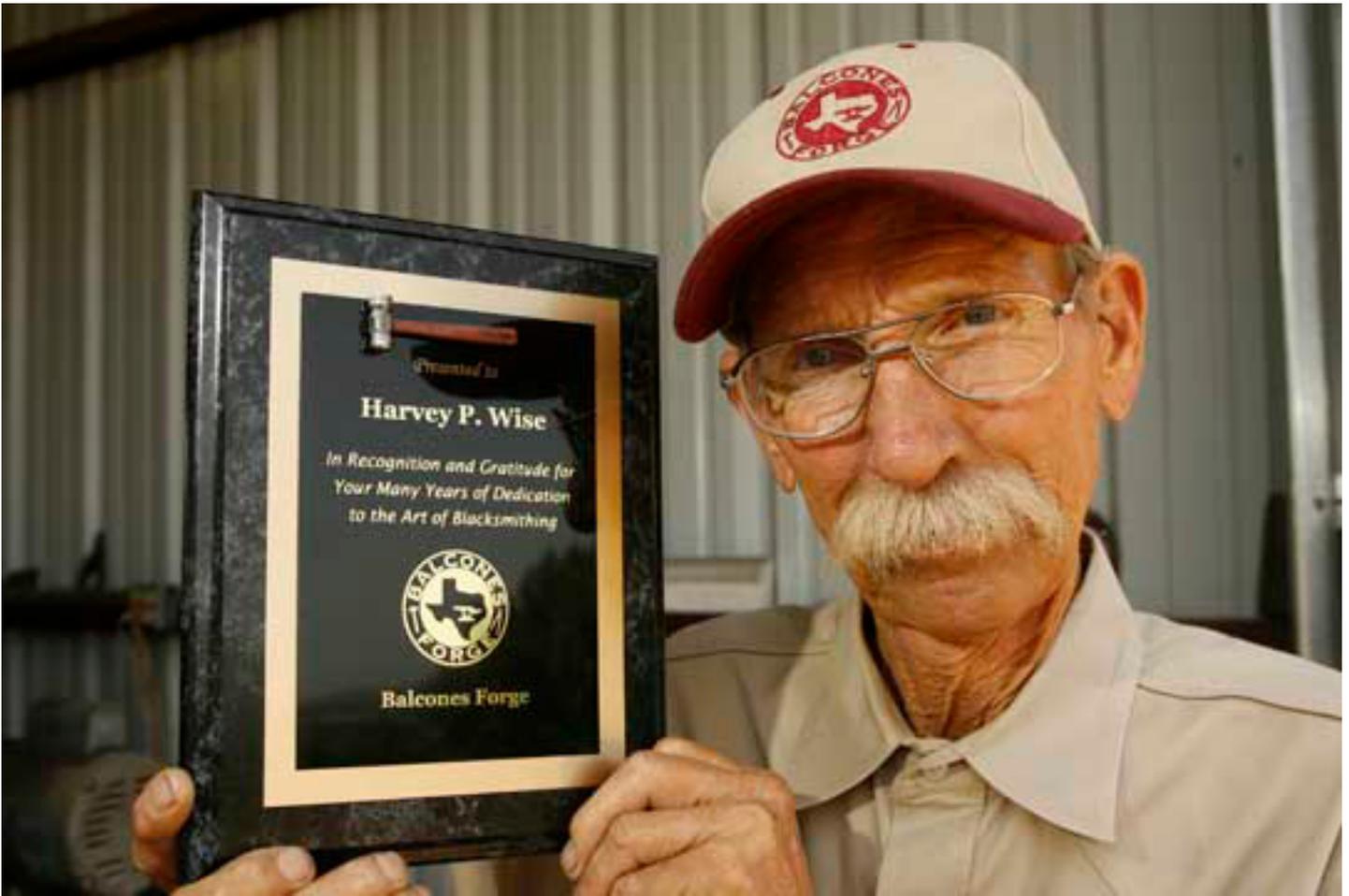
This month's trade item is a challenge to see how close you can forge an item to a specified design: a golden spiral. Feel free to add embellishments as long as you stay within the context of the design.

The figure at left provides several views of the spiral. The side view is shown in the upper left. A head-on view appears in the upper right. The bottom half of the figure provides top and side views of the taper before it is forged into the spiral. (The taper has been split in two pieces to fit on the page.)

The finished taper is approximately 18" long. It is 5/16" x 5/16" square at one end and 1/8" x 1 1/4" at the other. Assuming a 5% stock loss, the taper can be fabricated from 15" of 1/2" round stock.

Our demonstrator for August is Terry Ross. When you host or demonstrate then you will get to pick the trade item!

Remember, you gotta make one to take one.



Lifetime Member, Harvey P. Wise. *photo by Harry Cabluck*

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