



Blacksmiths of Central Texas

President's Corner

February 2011

Greetings!



What a great meeting! Jerry Whitley took us on a tour of the San Antonio Botanical Center for "Art in the Garden". On display were pieces by Albert Paley and George Schroeder, two of my favorite artists. Both of these guys do things on such a large

scale that you feel rather insignificant standing under one of their sculptures and looking up. Some of Paley's pieces weighed more than a ton, and that was just the working models! (I think I'll stick to my little stuff.)

Trade item participants outdid themselves, they really turned out some good pieces. Tom Lupton went over the limit! I won't even try and describe his gorget but it will reappear at the April meeting.

The February meeting is a week early (the 19th) in Bryan at the Lee brother's shop. It also starts earlier than usual too, 8AM, and will probably run all day. The guys from HABA will be there along with a few other people of interest. Jeff, Alan and Carlton have a large day planned for us. You won't want to miss this one!

Also, the trade is a "trade hawk" made from a ball peen hammer. These tomahawks were used as money during the fur trading days at places like the Hudson Bay Trading Company more than 340 years ago. But, don't use your good hammer or buy a new one to beat into a hawk. I find them at garage sales and flea markets for a dollar. Rudy has a neat prize for the best "hawk", you get to keep your own, and HABA is invited to make one too.

Don't forget to put something aside for the big auction in April. We'll need lots of stuff to sell and lots of people with big bucks to buy it. There are some high dollar events planned for this year and we need a way to support our habit. You can't get a better return for your money.

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Officers

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treefarm@swbell.net
210/710-2919

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nitty@mecwb.com
830/665-2285

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512/461-7375

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john@texaswroughtiron.com
830/798-3710



Editor

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

See ya'll in Bryan!

Jerry Achterberg
Balcones Forge President

Meeting Date is February 19 8 AM

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Minutes of the Meeting
January 29, 2011
San Antonio Botanical Gardens

We met at 9:30 am at La Madeliene Restaurant on Broadway in San Antonio. President Jerry Achterberg called the meeting to order once everyone had time for a fine breakfast or a good cup of coffee.

The first order of business was a discussion of the February meeting which will be held in conjunction with the Houston Area Blacksmiths Association at the Lee brothers' forge in Bryan, Texas. This promises to be a big event with multiple simultaneous power hammer demonstrations, small power hammers, large power hammers, and very large power hammers. There will also be a catered barbecue lunch. The trade item will be a tomahawk, forged from a ball pien hammer. Each member will keep their own tomahawk and there will be a prize awarded for "best hawk". Rudy Billings showed

the magnificent prize, carefully crafted especially for this event by a wise old Indian.

The next discussion was the March meeting. This will be our annual public forging exhibition in conjunction with the Zilker Park festival March 26th. The trade item is "something botanical".

Also in March is the annual "Spring Break Celebration" at the Pioneer Museum in Fredericksburg. John Crouchet passed around a sign-up sheet and several members volunteered to help run the blacksmith shop during the festivities. John asked anyone interested to contact him at john@texas-wroughtiron.com.

Next, President Achterberg led a short discussion of our annual "Bluebonnet Demo". Our demonstrator this year will be Brian Brazeal. There was a discussion of the hammer workshops Brian will lead in the week before the big demo and several Balcones members signed up immediately for some of the limited places in the workshops.

Jim Schmidt announced the Wells Branch Festival will be held April 16th and urged members to show up to forge for the public. This was a successful event last year and should be again.

Member Sue Murray confirmed that the May meeting will again be held in conjunction with the annual Swing Fest at the San Marcos Courthouse.

The September meeting will be held at Bob Phiel's forge in Llano.

We discussed our intention to participate again in the "Up the Chisholm Trail" event in Georgetown. This event will be held in October this year.

Vice President Jerry Whitley asked for suggestions for meetings and venues for our July and August meetings. If you have ideas, please contact Jerry.

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James Helm has offered his San Antonio workshop for our June meeting. Thank you, James.

Next, President Achterberg presided over the discussion and trading of multiple excellent gorgets, our January trade item. This turned out to be a popular item to make and several excellent gorgets were shown.

Following the trade item, we adjourned to the San Antonio Botanical Gardens to view works by artist blacksmith Albert Paley. This trip was set up by Vice President Jerry Whitley. It was an excellent educational event, blessed by perfect weather. The Paley sculptures were magnificent, crowds were light, and we were able to spend a good bit of time viewing the forging work on each piece. In addition, the botanical gardens were very interesting themselves. Thanks to Jerry Whitley for a fine event.

Respectfully submitted,
John Crouchet,
Secretary

BALCONES BOARD

The seven members of the Balcones Board are:

Jerry Achterberg
Rudy Billings
John Crouchet
Jim Elliott
Vince Herod
Tom Lupton
Jerry Whitley

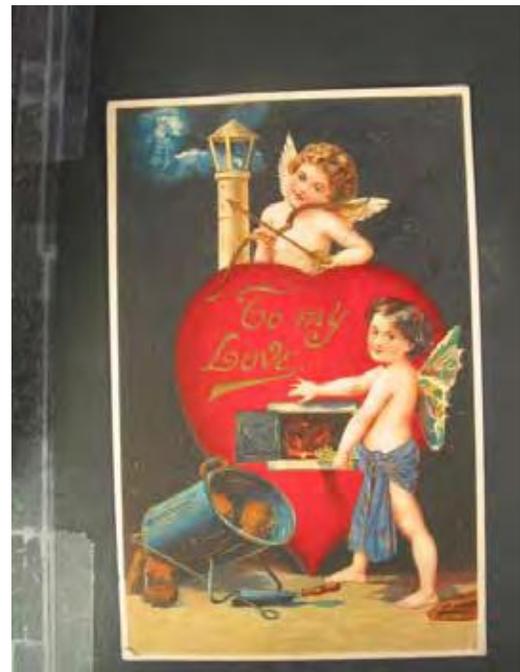
Please send any suggestions for meeting or workshop ideas to any member of the Board.

The list of Officers is on the front cover.

THE BF FACEBOOK PAGE

Hey, all you social butterflies -- Balcones Forge has a Facebook page. Now there is another way to connect with your fellow blacksmiths. Last count -- 55 people like the site. Check it out next time you log on.

Rudy



**PLEASE JOIN STEEPHOLLOW FORGEWORKS IN
WHAT THEY HOPE WILL BECOME A YEARLY
EVENT WHEN THE TWO LARGEST BLACKSMITH-
ING GROUPS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS COME
TOGETHER FOR ONE EVENT!**

The February meeting of HABA and Balcones Forge will be held, Feb. 19, at Steephollow Forgeworks in Bryan, Texas, beginning at 8AM, and it's going to be a big deal! Please join Jeff, Alan, and Carlton Lee as they attempt to repay the blacksmithing community at large, for the mentoring and friendships developed through the members of HABA and Balcones Forge. The demonstration will include as many processes and techniques as can be squeezed into one day, all gleaned from meetings, classes, and conferences they have attended in the last ten years. Examples of their work will be on display, including, four sculptures based on the parables of Jesus. Other examples of their work and event updates can be found at steephollowforgeworks.com or on the Steephollow Forgeworks Facebook page. A big addition will be James Johnson Metalsmith and owner of Anyang Hammer. He will bring one of his power hammers for anyone to test drive. Steephollow Forgeworks shop includes five power hammers which may all get used before it's over. They will also have blacksmithing equipment for sale and hope everyone will tailgate used items. A green coal forge will be available for newbies and lunch is nearby or may be catered if there is enough interest.

Steephollow Forgeworks is located at 7286 Mesco Drive, Bryan, Texas, 77808.

Directions from Houston:

Come into Bryan-College Station on Highway 6 North and exit at Briarcrest Drive. Turn right (Briarcrest Drive will become FM 1179). Continue straight through the next 2 stop-lights, Continue 2.25 miles to Mesco Drive which will be on your right, you will see a big green building that sits on the corner of Mesco Drive. It is the 5th building on the right.

Directions from Austin:

Take Highway 21/190 west into Bryan to Highway South (past Highway 6 Business). Go south on Highway 6 and exit William Joel Bryan Parkway, turn left. Go straight to FM 1179, turn left, Continue 2.25 miles to big green building on the right. This is Mesco Drive, turn right and it is the 5th building on the right.

Check out: www.steephollowforgeworks.com

ABANA NEEDS YOU NOW!

If our recent message looking for Volunteers to run for the board caught your attention, this is your chance to get a head start and join the board today! If you have visited the ABANA website recently, you may have noticed two vacancies on the Board of Directors Page.

As a result to two recent resignations of Board Members, we have two positions we need to fill right now.

This might be just the opportunity you've been looking for. These positions are for the remainder of the vacated term. One is through the end of 2011 (just 11 months) and one is through the end of 2012 just two years. Your chance to serve on the board with less than a three year commitment.

If you want to be considered to fill one of these positions, please let me know or contact any of the board members.

ABANA Board of Directors

We'd like a brief statement of why you'd like to be considered to fill one of these positions and also what skills you would bring to the board.

Thanks, hope to hear from you soon!

Bill Clemens
ABANA Member Services



We Need You Now!

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

ABANA CENTRAL OFFICE MOVING TO TENNESSEE

Effective 1 March 2011 ABANA is terminating the Central Office services currently being provided by Diane Walden, WH&L Associates, LLC and will obtain these services from JoAnn Bentley of Jonesborough, Tennessee.

Diane and her team at WH&L will continue to operate the ABANA Central office until the last week of February 2011. On February 21, the ABANA Central office will be closed for the move to Tennessee, where it will reopen for business on March 7, 2011. During the period from 21 February until 7 March, 2011 the central office will be closed to effect the move. Please plan accordingly.

We'd like to thank Diane and her team for the services they have provided for ABANA of the last two and 1/2 years.

Sincerely,
Bill Clemens
ABANA Secretary

Central Office Contact Information

Until February 21, 2011
ABANA Central Office
15754 Widewater Drive,
Dumfries, VA 22025-1212
Phone: 703-680-1632
Fax: 703-680-6222
Email: abana@abana.org

On/After March 7, 2011
ABANA Central Office
259 Muddy Fork Road
Jonesborough, TN 37659
Phone: (423) 913-1022
Fax: (423) 913-1023
Email: abana@abana.org

Meet our new Central Office Administrator

JoAnn F Bentley comes to this position with a strong background in business administration, including a Business Administration Degree from James Madison University and 30 years of service as Executive in the U. S. Department of Education.

JoAnn has also owned and operated a 501(c)3 Educational Non-Profit involved in blacksmithing demonstrations in Pennsylvania as well as a retail Blacksmith Shoppe in Tennessee selling items made by numerous blacksmiths including Dan Boone and Doug Merkel. She has been a hobby blacksmith for ten years and has taken several blacksmith classes at John C. Campbell's Folk Art School. She is a member of several ABANA Affiliates, where she has assisted with their regional event registrations and has published several articles in their newsletters.

JoAnn currently lives in Jonesborough, Tennessee with her husband, ABANA Board Member, Lance Davis.

JoAnn looks forward to assisting ABANA with its mission of preserving and promoting the art and craft of blacksmithing; making a commitment to provide excellent service, honesty and integrity in the performance of her duties as the ABANA Central Office Administrator.

A Resolution of Respect and Appreciation
For
Verl Austin Underwood

Since Almighty God has taken his servant and our faithful brother blacksmith on to his just reward at the forge of heaven, we, the members of Balcones Forge Blacksmiths wish to thank his family for many years of sharing Verl with us and our fellow Texas blacksmiths.

WHEREAS, Verl was a joyous and enthusiastic leader of our continuing effort to preserve the art and knowledge of blacksmithing for future generations.

WHEREAS, the generous spirit and diligence that Verl brought to his hard work over many years enriched our lives and the lives of other blacksmiths.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Verl Austin Underwood is now proclaimed as a permanent member of Balcones Forge Blacksmiths, present always in spirit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we shall convene a gathering of Texas blacksmiths on the date of February 19th in the year of our Lord 2011 for the purpose of conducting our centuries old tradition of the ringing of the anvil in honor of Verl Underwood, thus commending him unto the Lord.

Humbly submitted on this 8th day of February 2011.

On behalf of the officers and members of Balcones Forge Blacksmiths

John Crouchet, Director



Jerry Achterberg's gorget featured an anvil.



Bill Miller's featured his family coat of arms.



Scenes from the January meeting.

Photos by John Crouchet.

It doesn't have to have metal to be pretty.



No doubt one of these smiths was saying "I could do that!"



Wayne Byrd checks the details and Sue Murray checks to see if the fish is fresh.



Ruth Carter and Sue decide to rearrange the placement of Paley's sculpture.

Balcones Forge Bluebonnet Demo

featuring

BRIAN BRAZEAL



April 2-3, 2011



Marble Falls, Texas

BALCONES FORGE is honored to bring blacksmith **BRIAN BRAZEAL** back to Texas for our 11th annual two-day demonstration. This continues our tradition of bringing the world's most outstanding blacksmith to Central Texas! By forging nearly every day for over twenty-five years, Brian has perfected traditional blacksmithing techniques to become a renowned meticulous hand forger. Working entirely with hand hammers, Brian builds "forged to finish" ironwork emphasizing clean work and hammer control. He has become known for his "tools to make tools", his fine hot collaring work, and his unique techniques at the anvil. Don't miss this exciting exhibition of hot forged hammer work at its finest!

The Balcones Forge Workshop will present a delicious BBQ dinner Saturday night, catered by our friends **ArtZ Rib House** from Austin. Dinner will be followed by our famous annual **Balcones Forge Auction!** Donate and bid on fantastic blacksmithing tools or maybe Brian'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. Drinks provided by Balcones Forge.
1:00–5:00 – Afternoon Demo
6:00 – Delicious ArtZ BBQ 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 yourself 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. Welcome! Lost? Call John at 830-798-3710.

For more info contact:

John Crouchet, 830-798-3710 or John@TexasWroughtIron.com

Jerry Achterberg 210-661-3293 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!

LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR LITTLE GIANT POWER HAMMER WORK HARDER THAN EVER!

Please join us March 18-20, 2011 for our annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar!

This class was first taught by our good friend Fred Caylor of Zionsville, Indiana. We carry on his tradition of teaching how to make Little Giants run well and hit hard.

This 2 ½ day class is a hands-on format. You will help transform a 25 LB Little Giant hammer from functional but sloppy condition into a well tuned, quiet, hard working hammer. Sid Suedmeier, owner of Little Giant, will share all his knowledge and experience gained from working with Fred and from 20 years of repairing and rebuilding Little Giants.

An old style 25 LB Little Giant will be rebuilt during the class, and a new style machine will be on hand to demonstrate proper assembly and adjustment of both styles.

The class is held in our shop in historical Nebraska City, Nebraska. The city has a wide variety of cafes, outlets (including Pendleton Woolen Mills), antique and gift shops, orchards, wineries and museums.

IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE GIANT, THIS CLASS IS FOR YOU!

No experience is required to attend this class. Past students have ranged from age 15 to 90, and from all walks of life. Anyone who wants to learn will benefit from this class. We approach the rebuilding process using tools that can be found in the average home workshop.

If you are in the market to buy a power hammer, this class will make you an educated shopper. If you already own a Little Giant, or any other brand of power hammer, this class will teach you how to get the best performance possible.

The class costs \$95, refundable up to 7 days prior to the class; advance registration is required. We limit the class to 25 participants. The class starts at 9 AM sharp on Friday, and usually ends by Saturday evening. The schedule runs Sunday until noon in case we encounter any exceptional problems in rebuilding, and to answer remaining questions.

When we receive your registration, we will send you a city map, along with travel and hotel information.

Airports are located in Omaha (45 miles north), Lincoln (50 miles west) and Kansas City (125 miles south).

2011 REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Business name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

PAYMENT

- Check enclosed
- Visa
- MasterCard
- Discover
- American Express
- Number: _____
- Expiration Date: _____

POWER HAMMER INFO

Brand: _____

Size: _____

Serial Number: _____

Please call or email if you have any questions, or prefer to register by phone. You can reach us at 402.873.6603 or Sid@LittleGiantHammer.com Little Giant is located at 420 4th Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

Thanks,
Sid and Keri at Little Giant

Balcones Forge Bluebonnet Demo

featuring **Brian Brazeal - April 2-3**

Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Yes, I prefer a hard-copy of the monthly newsletter mailed to me. I have added \$5 to the normal \$20 annual membership fee.

Current Member \$40 _____

2011 Membership if unpaid. \$20 _____

\$25 if the monthly newsletter is mailed

Non-member \$60 _____

Yes, I wish to become a BF member

Saturday Evening Meal... \$15 _____

Total _____

****Please register by March 15****

Make check payable to Balcones Forge.

Send to Rudy Billings,

1906 Rampart Circle, Austin, TX 78727

PLEASE READ AND COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING RELEASE FORM: FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND DATED BY EACH MEMBER, GUEST AND PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF ANY MINOR IN ATTENDANCE.

In consideration of the Balcones Forge Blacksmith Association providing demonstrators and making these demonstrations available and granting permission to enter the area of said demonstration, I, individually and as parent or guardian of the minor child attending such demonstration, hereby waive all claims for damage and/or loss to my person or property, or the person or property of such minor child, which may be caused by an act, or failure to act of the Balcones Forge Blacksmith Association, its officers, directors, agents or employees and the hosts and demonstrators. I understand that there are inherent dangers in blacksmithing and I assume all risk of all dangerous conditions in and about such demonstration and waive any and all specific notice of the existence of such conditions. By signing this waiver, I acknowledge that I have read and understand this waiver.

X

Date

Return Service Requested

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