



# Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

January 2019



Greetings!

Greetings and Happy New Year! Hope everybody got what they wanted for Christmas even if it was only coal. This is the time of year that makes blacksmithing very enjoyable while standing next to a burning

forge and hammering out all the gifts for next Christmas. Just make sure that all your fires are contained. Regardless of how much rain we get there is always a danger of fire especially when the wind kicks up a little. Be sure to keep the forge area clean and if you are forging outside, wet down the grass under your forge and keep a charged water hose and a fire extinguisher handy. A little wind goes a long way and coals and hot metal have a way of jumping out of the forge and landing on anything that will burn. Be safe!

Many thanks to Tobin, James and Alex for hosting the December meeting at the South Texas Area Bladesmith headquarters. These three Forged In Fire winners shared their TV experience (but not their winnings) with Balcones Forge and many fellow bladesmiths who came to watch the demo. Very informative meeting. Thanks again!

Sue Howerter and Mary Jo Emrick have volunteered to host the January meeting on the 26th at the Community First Village in Austin for a garden trellis demo. They are also doing a workshop at the village on Friday the 25th, but all slots were sold out within minutes after posting. We probably need to talk them into doing another one sometime soon. Check out the web site: <https://mlf.org/community-first/> . The trade item will be: a plant form... leaf, flower, fern frond, tendril... whatever... something plant related.

## Meeting Date is Saturday January 26

*President's Message continued on page 2.*



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**Vince Herod**  
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*President's Message continued.*

February takes to Bryan for the Lee Brothers 9th annual Combo-Demo at their Steep Hollow Forge on the 16th. As always Alan and Jeff have lots of things planned with lots of people. The Forged in Fire guys will that their own tent, Cowboy Syman-ski, Sam Fontenot, Matt Porhorelsky, and Richard DelaHoussaye will be among the many who will demo this year as well as several tailgaters and venders. The competition trade item will be: A bottle opener. There will be several categories (including a horsehead) with several winners and a "best of show" as well. Do your best!

We will several volunteers to help at this event. Each forge group will need to man chapter table with info about the group. We need help with the parking, with the silent auction, with the live auc-tion, with the meal, and just general help. Please bring an auction item to help with the cost of this "free" event. For more information, please check out the web site: <http://www.steepforge.com/learn.html>

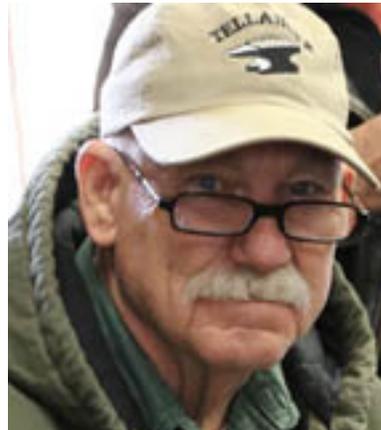
Balcones Forge still needs your help. Vince needs meeting photos and articles for the newsletter, Aaron needs help with the t-shirts, and we need a few members-at-large to help the board with keep-ing this organization running. Please contact one of the board members if you would like to help.

See ya'll in Austin  
Jerry Achterberg – Pres. Balcones Forge

My new address is:

31627 Wildcat Dr.  
Bulverde, TX 78163

## SECRETARY'S REPORT FROM DECEMBER MEETING



Getting to the point did not take long for three win-ners of the Forged in Fire televised challenge. James Helm, Tobin Nieto, and J. Alex Ruiz wel-comed Balcones Forge members into their blade-smith workshop, aptly named STAB Headquarters (South Texas Artist Bladesmiths) on South Presa in San Antonio. There was plenty of knife making equipment to admire as well as lots of show and tell activity going on in the spacious shop before Jerry Achteberg called the meeting to order. Af-ter thanking the trio for hosting our meeting, Jerry pointed out that our next meeting will be in Austin (Loaves and Fishes) on January 26, 2019 where Sue & Mary Jo will participate in a garden trellis demonstration and that a few workshop slots are still available the Friday before (1/25). Jerry en-couraged donations for 'iron in the hat' and as al-ways, able bodied individuals are always needed anytime we have a meeting to assist with setting up and storing equipment afterward. One of the highest items bid on at this particular auction was a handmade hammer donated by William Bastas who was there in person to explain the dynamics of his hammer which brought in about \$300 and of course, not to mention, my forged horseshoe knife which earned our forge \$60 but there was little to said about the dynamics - I kinda let things speak

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for themselves. The trade item for today's meeting was a letter opener, but since only 2 members (myself & John Meyers) made one, this event was omitted.

James Helm took the floor to inform us about the knife classes offered by STAB as well as those he still offers in the Elmendorf area. Tobin showed a few knife blades and techniques utilized in forging them, and a short sword that his wife had wielded in another TV show in which she successfully chopped into a 400 pound chunk of ice without any blade damage. Grinning broadly and proudly, he admitted to have forged that blade especially for her in that challenge, and was quite proud of her (and blade) performance. James displayed a magnificent 2 piece random titanium damascus spear in style of the Assai warrior that was made by Journeyman smith of the American Bladesmith Society named Mardi Meshejian from New Mexico. Each of these guys had some unusual inside stories to tell about their never to be forgotten TV appearance, and it was very entertaining as well as eye opening. Congratulations to James, Tobin, and Alex for their accomplishment.

After lunch at Che's Chicken, who also allowed free parking adjacent to our event, Tobin & Alex forged several blades so we could watch their techniques in hammering out several large and wicked looking blades. James was explaining his unique way of straightening warps, tying some of those Turkish knots including the special 2 part epoxy that makes them almost indestructible and how to use a kydex sheath making system. The meeting was very interesting and I always learn something new.

Tim Tellander  
Balcones Forge Secretary

## Future Meetings

Jan 26, Austin, TX. Mary Jo and Sue will demo at Mobile Loaves & Fishes.

Feb 16, Bryan, TX. Join the Lee Brothers for their annual Combo-demo.

## Hammer For Sale

There is a guy in Floresville with a 50 lb Moloch power hammer that he has done some upgrading on. He will likely list it on the Balcones website as he is having trouble getting the HABA folks to respond. He's asking \$4000.00 for it. His number is 210-279-3518. I didn't get his name because my hearing is poor but he's a friend of Wayne Byrd.

Submitted by Gary Hilton

# **WILLIAM HENRY STONE**

## **1959 - 2019**

Our friend, Henry Stone, passed away the morning of January 8th. He leaves behind an extended family and many friends who feel privileged to have shared in his life.

Henry worked as a welding professor at Austin Community College and many Balcones Forge members first met Henry as students in his welding classes. Many of us worked with Henry on a remarkably wide variety of blacksmithing projects. However we came to know him, we all found Henry to be a calm, compassionate and generous soul with unlimited energy and unusual creative abilities.

Balcones Forge will hold a traditional blacksmiths' "Ring of the Anvil" to honor Henry's life at our meeting this Saturday, January 26th at Community Forge, located at Community First!Village, 9301 Hog Eye Road, Austin, TX 78724. Everyone is invited to share this time with us. The meeting will begin at 9:30 am.

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

You are invited to join us for our annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar. It will be held Friday March 15 through Saturday March 16, 2019.

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

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

The class is held in our shop in historical Nebraska City, Nebraska. Our city has a nice selection of cafes, 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. Our past classes have been attended

by folks from every walk of life, from students to retirees... anyone who wants to learn can 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 typically ends by Saturday evening. We are available 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).

**2019 REGISTRATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT**

- Check enclosed
- Cash in person

(Sorry, we no longer accept credit cards, although credit cards can be used to purchase parts through the Little Giant business owned by Roger Rice, also in Nebraska City)

**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 402/873-6605 or sidsshop@windstream.net*

*You can contact Roger Rice or Greg Rice about parts and repairs at 402/873-6603. Their email address is mm21654@gmail.com. Website is LittleGiantHammer.com*

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

# The 9th Annual Combo-Demo: Blacksmithing Demonstration & Metal Arts Exhibition

## All-Day Demonstrations

### FINAL DEMONSTRATOR LINEUP

Richard Epting EptingKnives.com Wellborn, Texas

Peter "Cowboy" Symanski Phenixknives.com Bellville, Texas

Sam Fontenot- 26 Forgeworks Tyler, Texas

Matt Porhorelsky- Insructor at Creative Side Metal Works Austin, Texas

Richard DelaHoussaye- Iron Smelt- Louisiana Metalsmiths Asso. Carencro, La.

2019 COMBO-DEMO February 16, 2019 Steephollow Forgeworks Bryan, Tx

The Combo-Demo will feature 2 smiths in the morning and 2 after lunch.

The morning session will start with Richard Epting and Cowboy Symanski explaining and forging a Damascus billet and forging a knife. They will end their session by talking about heat treatment of knives.

After lunch, Sam Fontenot will be working with copper and steel to create a number of items for home décor.

Also, Matt Porhorelsky will be using forge welding techniques to create a number of items.

Not to mention the Iron Smelt outside next to a tent that will have volunteer blacksmiths doing short demos for those that can not squeeze inside.

Several Forged in Fire Winners and contestants will at this year's event. They may do a brief demo and a panel discussion for those interested in sharp pointy things. Come meet these Texas Knife makers who have participated in one of the most watched shows on TV.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:00 am Announcements will be begin

1:30-4:00pm Demos begin

9:30-11:30am Demos begin

4:00pm Bloom comes out of smelt

11:30am Live auction

12-1:30pm lunch

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

# Spread the word. The 2018 Combo-Demo is going to be a good one!

## 2019 COMBO-DEMO VENDOR LIST

The 2019 Combo-Demo will have a record number of vendors. Here is the list as of now. More will be added.

\*JACKPINE FORGE- Hammers and more hammers-Nathan Robertson

\*Gizmos Fabrications-Propane Forges

\*Anyang Power HammersUSA- Power Hammers and Forging Presses[James Johnson will be bringing a 25 ton forging press] anyangusa.net

\*Texas Farriers Supply- Anvils, Tongs, Coal, Knife supplies,

\*Matt Marti- forging hammers and sledges

\*Bounty Forge and Steel Wool-Blacksmith items from their forge

\*Blacksmithtools on Instagram- Andrew Alexander always brings the best used tools available

\*Mark Ling Blacksmith-Coke, Tools

\*Terry Dunn-Exotic and Stabilized wood for Knife scales

\*To The Point-Knife Sharpening Service

\*Two Basterds Tx Smithy& Supplies- Recyled Hammers and tools

\*Stringbean AKA Ricard Lowery- Used Blacksmithing Equipment

\*Estes Forge- Terry Estes- Used and improved Anvils, leg vises, Swage Blocks, amd More

\*Blackhawk Forge and Mill- Blacksmith Tools and Custom cut wood

\*Goodwin Homestead- Broom Maker and Fiber artist

\*Erthy Pottery-Original every day use Pottery

\*Jake Sewell- Tomahawk Maker- Jake will bring a throwing cage to learn how to throw a tomahawk.

\*Huse Knives- James Huse custom Knives

\*Epting Knives- Ricahrd Epting is also a Demonstrator

\*Phenix Knives- Cowboy Symanski Is also a Demonstrator

If you are a Vendor and plan to attend please give us a call and we will include you on this list.

## 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

## COMPETITION ITEM for 2019 Combo-Demo

The competition item for this year's Combo-Demo is a bottle opener. Everyone can make a bottle opener and we hope this means there will be many more entries than usual. And since we anticipate a lot more participation there will be 3 categories meaning 3 winners.

The categories are:

- \*Animal head---this should be obvious
- \*Free style opener---any style, size, color, theme
- \*Non ferrous---copper, stainless steel, aluminum, bronze

Enter in one category or enter in all 3.

Enter as many as you want in each category.

First it has to work and then it just has to be the best. Half the fun is just competing with your friends.

Thanks to Lyle Wynn and Thomas Shumate for images of possible openers.

## COPPER CLASSES WITH/ Patricia McCord Wynn Feb 14 & Feb 15, 2019

This class involves creating sheet copper humming bird feeder, or a magnolia, or rose, or Iris. Students will work to cut shapes, form, and braze(soldering) pieces together. This includes using an Oxy/Acetylene torch to weld these pieces.

Cost of class is \$75+tax all materials provided.

This is a hands on class and could run all day. Patricia Wynn is Lyle Wynn's wife and does beautiful copper work. Let her show you how to work with copper.

Class spots can be purchased at [steepforge.com](http://steepforge.com). Under /products page.

## HAMMER MAKING CLASSES Monday Feb 11, 2019 through Friday 15, 2019.

W/ Lyle Wynn and Stan Bryant from the "Tools to Make the Tools School". Check them out at [Toolstomakethetools.net](http://Toolstomakethetools.net).

Learn to forge a Rounding Hammer with 2 of the best instructors in the nation.

Classes are \$175+tax per student with all materials provided. Purchase a class spot at [steepforge.com](http://steepforge.com) /products.

Class will include forging the hammer head, grinding to finish, hardening, tempering, and handling.

Students will work in pairs, one helping the other.

Take advantage of this opportunity right here in central Texas.

# Balcones Forge Bluebonnet Demo

featuring

## RACHEL DAVID



March 30, 2019

Marble Falls, Texas

**Rachel David**, raised in Maryland and a resident of New Orleans, is a blacksmith, sculptor, designer, and maker. Her practice includes sculpture, custom architectural work, and furniture, all working to convey social and environmental justice, and workshops that build community rather than competition. Rachel's methods for moving metal are extraordinary. You will be amazed and inspired!

**Balcones Forge** will be providing two different hands-on workshops, two days before and two days after the Saturday Demo – one conducted by Rachel, and the other by our own **Tim Tellander**, providing an ever popular knife-making workshop. There are only 20 spots available for each workshop, so check the next newsletter for registration info.

Besides motels five miles away in Marble Falls, free camping spots are available around the pond on beautiful Sycamore Creek. Bring your tent or RV and your fishing pole! Sorry – no dogs or campfires. Show up at the shop Friday night for the Balcones Shrimp Boil, a party that has become a tradition. We would love to see you there!

Don't miss the catered barbeque and vegetarian dinner Saturday night followed by our famous annual **Balcones Forge Auction**. Please create items and find unused tools to donate, then prepare to bid on fantastic creations and blacksmithing tools -- maybe one of Rachel's or Tim's latest creation!

**Demo Times:** 8:57–Noon Morning Demo  
Noon–1:03 Lunch: *Since Marble Falls is about 20 minutes away, it is recommended to order a sandwich, chips and drink.*  
1:03–5:09 Afternoon Demo  
6:01 Dinner  
7:08 If not attending dinner, please join us at this time for the fantastic auction

Our fantastic hosts are John and Carolyn Crouchet at their beautiful Sycamore Creek Ranch, at 5828 East Ranch Road 1431. If the gate is open, just drive in. If the gate is closed, there are cattle in this pasture, so please close the gate behind you. Continue 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 [JohnCrouchet@iCloud.com](mailto:JohnCrouchet@iCloud.com), **Jerry Achterberg** 210-842-3049 or [treefarm@swbell.net](mailto:treefarm@swbell.net), or **Rudy Billings**, 512-461-7375 or [Rudy@BalconesForge.com](mailto:Rudy@BalconesForge.com)

See the latest newsletter or website ([www.BalconesForge.org](http://www.BalconesForge.org)) for Registration Form

**DON'T FORGET YOUR SAFETY GLASSES AND CUSHION. HELP US BY REGISTERING EARLY**

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

# Sign Up Now for Bluebonnet Workshops!

This is your chance to sign up for our annual blacksmithing workshops, held in conjunction with the Bluebonnet Demo!

We are offering four days of classes this year:

March 28, Thursday - **“Patch knife making class”** with Tim Tellander

March 29, Friday - **“Patch knife making class”** with Tim Tellander

March 30, Saturday - Bluebonnet Demo

March 31, Sunday - **“Butcher Tools, moving mass”** with Rachel David

April 1, Monday - **“Butcher tools, moving mass”** with Rachel David

On Thursday and Friday before the Demo, our bladesmith extraordinaire, **Tim Tellander**, will be teaching classes on building patch knives. Tim will teach the entire process to forge, file, and finish a completed knife in this class. Balcones members have shown a tremendous interest in bladesmithing this year, and this is a great opportunity to forge your own knife, start to finish! Many of Tim’s beautiful knives are shown in the Balcones Forge website gallery.

Our 2019 Bluebonnet Demo demonstrator is blacksmith **Rachel David** from New Orleans. You can see her work at [www.redmetal.net](http://www.redmetal.net). As you can see from her architectural and sculptural work, she is a master at shifting metal to achieve unusual, flowing forms. She will teach classes on the Sunday and Monday after the Demo focused on “calculating, isolating, and redistributing mass.” This is a chance to take your forging abilities to the next level, learning methods and subtleties of using top and bottom butcher tools in your work.

These popular all day **workshops are limited to only ten students per day**. They will begin at 9:30 each morning and end at 4:30 each afternoon. Blacksmiths and metalworking students sign up for these workshops each year to learn new forging techniques in a hands-on shop environment without spending great wads of cash or traveling long distances.

Balcones Forge provides the anvils, forges, tools, and professional-level instructors.

Cost to take a class is \$125.00. All needed materials and tools will be furnished, along with lunch and drinks for everyone.

**Please Note:** Class size is limited and is available only on a “first come, first served” basis. If you wish to be in a class, apply quickly.

***To sign up for a class, text Laura Armstrong at 830-605-6150. Tell her your email address and what class you want. She will send you an invoice by email which you can pay online by credit card or by ApplePay to reserve your space. If this does not work for you, call Laura directly and she can make other arrangements for you.***

Due to our insurance requirements, you must be a Balcones Forge member to take these classes. Dues are a very reasonable twenty dollars per year and you can become a member immediately by contacting Rudy Billings at [rudy@balconesforge.org](mailto:rudy@balconesforge.org).

All classes and the annual Bluebonnet Demo will be held at Sycamore Creek Ranch, 5828 East FM 1431, Marble Falls, TX 78654. Free camping space is available here on the ranch. Bring your tent or travel trailer. Bring a friend.

We are looking forward to a memorable and exciting Bluebonnet Demo and classes this year. We hope you will join us!

*John Crouchet*  
*Text: 830-798-3710*

# Balcones Forge Bluebonnet Demo

featuring **Rachel David - March 30**

<sup>S</sup>  
Please print clearly

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Current Member .....	\$45	_____
2019 Membership if unpaid.	\$20	_____
Non-member .....	\$65	_____
Saturday Lunch .....	\$ 7	_____
Saturday Evening Meal...	\$15	_____
	<b>Total \$</b>	_____

**Please register by March 15**

**Make check payable to Balcones Forge.**

Send to Rudy Billings

12302 Indian Mound, Austin, TX 78758

**To pay by credit card, email**

**rudy@balconesforge.org**

**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 workshops and making these events available and granting permission to enter the area of said event, I, individually and as parent or guardian of the minor child attending such event, 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 workshop 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

