



# Blacksmiths of Central Texas

President's Corner

January 2011



Greetings and Happy New Year!

The holidays are over so put down the fork, pick up your hammer and let's get back to forging.

For those that missed the December meeting in Boerne at the Agricultural Heritage museum, it is a very cool place to visit. It's equipped with a boiler and steam engine that used to run various pieces of equipment in the shop including 50 # Little Giant. OSHA and the insurance company finally deemed it unsafe for the public, so they had to shut down the boiler. Everything is still in place and pretty awesome to gawk at. There is also an old wood shop and some antique farm equipment that will take way back in time. They didn't have a good selection of tools for the big anvil so we donated a few hardies to help out Joe Travieso with his Saturday knife making demos.

And, it was also Market Days on the square downtown. It just doesn't get any better than that!

January will take us just north of downtown San Antonio to the Botanical Center for "Art in the Garden". Jerry Whitley has planned a tour of a few pieces of sculpture on display by Albert Paley and George Schroeder. Should be pretty cool.... or it might even be cold. Bundle up!

Don't forget to make a trade item. For January, it's a "gorget". Most were made of copper, brass or silver, but many were from iron. This is a good chance to show off your repose' skills and take home one of the most sought after pieces of American history. Google@ it, do the homework and make one.

We are all looking forward to the coming year and have some really good meetings planned, but we still need your input. Except for one or two very talented individuals, we cannot read your mind, so we need to hear from you.



## Officers

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## Editor

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Thanks and hope to see ya'll at the garden!

Jerry Achterberg  
Balcones Forge President

## Meeting Date is January 29

### SECRETARY'S REPORT



Minutes of the Meeting  
Saturday, December 11, 2010  
Boerne Agricultural Heritage Museum

The December meeting was held early this year to avoid conflict with Christmas holidays. This was our first meeting at the Agricultural Heritage Museum in Boerne. The Museum features a wide variety of exhibits of antique farm machinery and horse-drawn implements, as well as antique wood-working and metal working tools. Of course, the centerpiece is a very large, well equipped blacksmith shop with a number of anvils and forges, swage blocks and other necessary tools.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by President Jerry Achterberg. We were welcomed to the Museum by Balcones member Joe Travieso, who provided a brief explanation of the Museum and the blacksmith shop.

Vice President Jerry Whitley discussed the possibility of having the January meeting at the San Antonio Botanical Center which will be holding an exhibit of ironwork, including pieces from Albert Paley and George Schroeder. If this venue cannot be worked out for the January meeting, Balcones member James Helm graciously offered the use of his blacksmith shop as an alternative. Thanks, James.

The February meeting will be a joint meeting in Bryan, Texas with the Houston Area Blacksmiths Association, hosted by Alan, Jeff, and Carlton Lee. This promises to be a real highlight of a meeting with demos and powerhammer work by the Lee family. In keeping with the big event there will be a special trade item; everyone is requested to make a tomahawk from a ball pein hammer, in the tradition of the trade hawks of the 1800's. Each member will get to keep his own hawk and a prize will be awarded for "Best Hawk". This meeting will be held on Saturday, February 19th. Put it on your calendar! Car-pooling arrangements will be discussed at the January meeting.

Jerry Achterberg explained how to easily modify a pair of tongs to make a "Hammer-head Tong" to hold hammer heads for forging tomahawks. These are easily made from almost any old pair of tongs and make forging a tomahawk much easier.

The March meeting will be held at Zilker Park in conjunction with the Zilker Park Festival. We will be operating the old blacksmith shop by the rose garden in Zilker Botanical Gardens.

April's meeting will be our annual Bluebonnet Demo at Sycamore Creek Ranch in Marble Falls. Our demonstrator will be hammermaster Brian Brazeal.

May's meeting will be the annual Western Swing-fest on the courthouse square at San Marcos. Dress western and plan to show the public how

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old-time blacksmiths did it!

Vice President Jerry Whitley is asking for suggestions for the June, July and August meetings. Would you like to make tools? Know a good place for a meeting? Have other ideas? Please contact Jerry.

Following the discussion, member James Hoenig explained some of the history of the museum and then Joe Travasio did a forging demonstration. Several coal forges were going, so a number of Balcones members forged while others looked over the line shaft equipment and numerous old machines in the large blacksmith shop.

Jerry Achterberg brought large one inch sucker rod for hardies and bicks. He proceeded to build a large bick for one of the big anvils in the blacksmith shop.

This was a well attended meeting with over twenty members showing up, despite an earlier-than-usual meeting date. The Museum is an excellent place for a meeting and we look forward to more meetings there in the future. Very special thanks to Joe Travieso for his hospitality!

Respectfully submitted,

John Crouchet, Secretary

## 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

## 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.



# 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

## **ABANA 2010 BOARD OFFICERS ELECTION RESULTS**

It is my pleasure to bring you news from the recent ABANA board meeting held on the beautiful grounds of the Metal Museum in Memphis Tennessee. The board spent over 10 hours on Friday with a professional facilitator to better train your board of directors on strategic planning, effective cooperation, meaningful communication, and other useful "tools" to make the job of serving all of you to the very best of our ability.

The board is very excited about the upcoming year and making ABANA the very best it can be. On Saturday we took on some organizational business and discussion regarding the 2012 conference. More exciting details on all of that very soon! Below are the officer election results which also occurred at the meeting.

Officer Election Results:

President: Peyton Anderson - [peyton@abana.org](mailto:peyton@abana.org)

1st Vice President: Paul Boulay - [pboulay@earthlink.com](mailto:pboulay@earthlink.com)

2nd Vice President: David Hutchison - [farmanvil@yahoo.com](mailto:farmanvil@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Linda Tanner - [lindatanner@abana.org](mailto:lindatanner@abana.org)

Secretary: Bill Clemens - [Newky2@dejazzd.com](mailto:Newky2@dejazzd.com)

What makes this organization so great is the direct involvement of the members on all levels from serving on the board of directors down to simply encouraging others to join!

If you are interested in getting involved more with your organization please contact me with your interests and ideas. There is a place for you to get involved from serving on committees as off-board members, to running for the board in 2011, and much more!

Here is a very short list of what we need help with:

Web design - If you do this for a living and want to get involved with helping update and maintain our website please let us know!!!

2012 Conference volunteers!

Candidates for the 2011 ABANA board election.

Affiliate representatives to become a part of the Affiliate Relations Committee to better serve our great affiliates out there!

Your skills and interests are important to ABANA! So, if you want to get involved just let me know your ideas and we can find a place for you! Strike while the iron is hot and get involved!!!

Yours in service,  
Peyton Anderson  
ABANA President

## MEETING INFO

Our meeting for January 2011 will be on the last Saturday of the month as usual (the 29th).

We will meet at La Madeleine's Restaurant at 4820 Broadway in San Antonio. This will be a few blocks north of the Broadway & Hildebrand intersection. If you haven't ever been there, it is a Country French Cafe.

Check out the menu at:

[www.lamadeleine.com/menu/](http://www.lamadeleine.com/menu/)

We will meet there at 9:30am as usual and have the room until 11:00 am. They have room for 15 to 30 attendees and do not charge. They do ask that we do get something while we are there.

From there, we will proceed fourteen blocks South on Broadway to Funston Street and East a couple of blocks to the San Antonio Botanical Center. They are located at 555 Funston. The plan is to gather and enter as a group at approximately 11:30. There is an admission fee of \$8.00 per adult. If we have 15 or more, we get a group rate of \$7.00 per adult. Seniors, students and active military may get an additional discount.

Why the Botanical Gardens in January?

I know this sounds pretty dumb. I had to work up the courage to bring an idea like this to you.

We have an opportunity here that many of us may never have again. The Botanical Gardens is hosting the Art in the Garden Exhibit. Wow you say. Me too. In this exhibit is a sculpture of one of our own Balcones Forge members. George Schroeder. From there we will go into the Conservatory. There we will find sculptures of Albert Paley from Rochester, New York. He has won a number of awards and his work can be found in the permanent collections of many major museums. These exhibits will come to an end prior to our March meeting.

I know it is January and it will be cold. This is an

opportunity that we cannot pass up. We can load up on coffee at La Madeleine's before we go.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Jerry Whitley  
Vice President

## TRADE ITEM

The trade item for January is a GORGET. This one will require some research but if you have a copy of INDIAN TRADE RELICS by Lars Hothem you will find a definition on page 290 and an examples on pages 192, 193, 199, 206, 208, 209, 216, 217 and 218.

Google is your friend on this one!

An example is in the picture below.



**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 TO-  
GETHER 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](http://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:

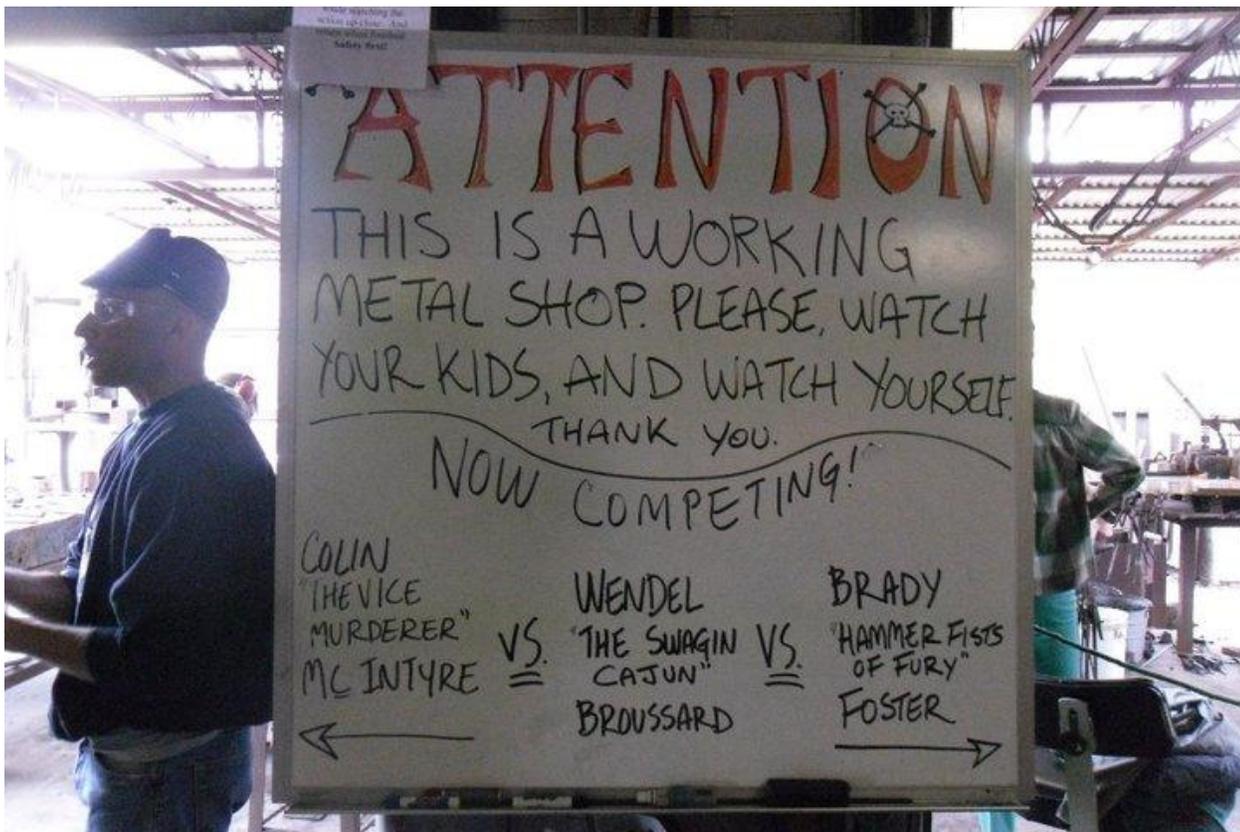
Take Highway 21/190 west into Bryan to Highway South (past Highway 6 Business). Go south on Highway 6 and exit William Joel Bryan Parkway, turn left. Go straight to FM 1179, turn left, Continue 2.25 miles to big green building on the right. This is Mesco Drive, turn right and it is the 5th building on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

Check out: [www.steephollowforgeworks.com](http://www.steephollowforgeworks.com)

The following article and pictures were submitted by Mary Jo Emrick. Your Editor says THANKS!

Austin Metal Authority Showed EAST Austin Studio Tour what Blacksmithing is all about!

Congratulations to the Austin Metal Authority for holding the first Forging Competition during the EAST Austin studio Tour. AMA is owned by Colby Brinkman, Brady Foster, Troy Defrates, and Haley Woodward. It was a great success and a crowd pleaser! The competitors where some of our most famous blacksmith's in central Texas and many are our own members.



Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>: Troy Defrates & Anton Standeiner later that day Colby Brinkman & Erik Haglund

Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup>: Dan Smith & John Beale later that day William Bastas & Robert Abdallah

Wednesday: Todd Campbell

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>: Wendel Broussard & Colin McIntyre & Brady Foster later that day Haley Woodward & Rebekah Frank

The winner's are!!



1<sup>st</sup> Place Colby Brinkman



Rebekah Frank

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Haley Woodward (far right) with



3<sup>rd</sup> Place Colin McIntyre (Far Left) with Wendel

Broussard and Brady Foster

Crowd pleaser (at least for the ladies) William Batas and Henry Stone double sledged for the full 4 hours to produce a handy tool.



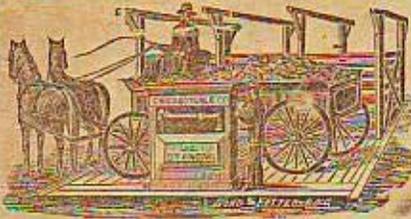


Lee brothers and probably most of the men felt like Wendel and his helper Erin Cabel was the crowd favorite!

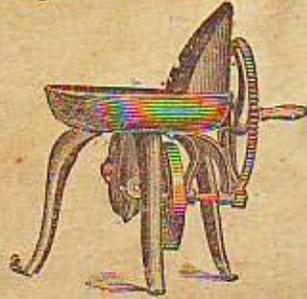


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