



# Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

November 2011



Greetings!

Wow, what an auction. Thanks to all the hardworking Balcones Blacksmiths, Larry Crawford now has very few personal possessions. And that's not a bad thing. It did take all day, but we managed to sell all the lots, get Larry more money than he had hoped for, and people walked away with some very fine tools, equipment and forgings at almost giveaway prices. Larry was overwhelmed and wishes to thank everyone for making this happen and we wish Larry the best of luck with his move to California. Take care and God bless.

November takes us to the Boerne Agriculture Museum in Boerne of course. American Blade Society certified knife maker, Joe Treviso will be our host. Joe roughed out a pretty cool blade at our December meeting last year. Tom Leining will show us few of his forging techniques and then it will be open forging with a few of our old timers. This will be a good opportunity to sharpen your forging skills. Bring a forge and blower, and an anvil if you are able.

Hope to see you all in Boerne.

Jerry Achterberg  
Balcones Forge President

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## Meeting Date is Nov 19



### Officers

**President**  
**Jerry Achterberg**  
treefarm@swbell.net  
210/842-3049

**Vice-President**  
**Jerry Whitley**  
jerry.whitley@ymail.com  
830/665-2285

**Treasurer**  
**Jim Elliot**

**Secretary**



### Editor

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

## LEG VISE

Balcones Forge is on the look out for a leg vise to donate to the Waldorf School. Does anyone out there have an extra that could go to a good cause?

Update: One has been donated. Thanks!

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Bluebonnet Demo for 2012 will feature Elizabeth Brim. Check out the ABANA website for a gallery entry showing off her award winning talent. Once the date is set, you all will be the first to know.

### PICTURES FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING

Did anyone take pictures at the October meeting. If so, please send a few to your Editor so they can be put into the next edition of the BFD.

### NOVEMBER MEETING CHANGE

Gary Hilton has to postpone his demonstration until sometime next year. He is off to Alaska for a while and that is just too far to commute.

### DECEMBER MEETING INFO

The December meeting will take place at Vince Herod's Spotted Dog Forge just east of Bastrop. The date is December 17.

## AN INVITATION

We would like to extend an invitation to all Balcones Forge members and friends to join us at the Rockdale Depot's Blacksmith Shop for a demonstration and open house on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9:00 am til 5:00 pm. This will be Rockdale's downtown Christmas celebration, and will include Arts & Craft booths, food booths, Santa at the depot, parade in late afternoon, and model railroad will be operating. Of course the Blacksmith shop will be demonstrating. This will be a good opportunity for all of our craftsmen to display or sell their items to the public. Table space will be available at no charge. So plan to come and spend the day with us, and bring the family too.

It'll be a lot of fun.

Thanks,

Bert Dockall  
Rockdale I&GN Depot Museum

We can use a few forges & anvils in Boerne on Saturday, Nov 19th.  
Bring em if you can.

Thanks!

Jerry Achterberg  
210-842-3049

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## **TRADE ITEM**

There was no trade item at the October meeting so you had time to keep working on your knife for November! This month is a little different in that everyone will keep their own entry but there will be a prize awarded for best entry.

So in this case, you gotta make one .....to win something!

The knife in the picture above was made by our own President.

What will your entry be?

Metalsmithing Apprenticeship Opportunity  
June 1, 2012 – May 31, 2014

The Metal Museum is seeking an experienced blacksmith interested in a two-year apprenticeship. For over twenty-five years, the Metal Museum has provided blacksmith artists with the opportunity to live and work at the Museum, to create a new body of work and to learn the art and business of blacksmithing. The apprentice program includes working on large- and small-scale private and public projects. Projects include railings for public buildings and private residences, sculpture, furniture, architectural objects and a variety of repairs and restorations.

By the end of two years, the apprentice will be competent in hand-forging techniques (including traditional joinery, tapering, riveting), able to operate power hammers, welders and other shop equipment, and able to design basic fencing, gates and hardware. The apprentice will be exposed to a wide variety of art and artisans, and will have the opportunity to meet and work with prominent blacksmiths from across the country.

In addition to a \$1000 per month stipend, the Museum provides health insurance, worker's compensation, paid and annual leave, onsite housing and studio space. Duties include working in the studio, conducting demonstrations for visitors, assisting with grounds events and maintenance, assisting with exhibition changes and other duties as assigned. The apprentice works under the supervision of the Shop Foreman and the Museum Director.

#### Accommodations

The Museum is located on 3.2 acres on the Mississippi River in a former merchant marine hospital. Apprentices are housed in the east side of a duplex that accommodates up to four people at a time – three rooms for extended stay residences and one room for guests. There is the basement room with private bath and living area, the second floor south room with private bath and the second floor north room with shared bath and private porch. Rooms are assigned as available. All

residents share the common areas, including the kitchen, dining room, living room and basement laundry facilities. There is also one short-term visitor guest room that shares a bath with the north room. Secured onsite parking is provided. No pets permitted.

#### Expectations

Applicants must have completed undergraduate work in metals or have comparable training. Also required are excellent "people" and communication skills, a good sense of humor, the ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines. Applicants must be authorized to work in the United States and must provide a photocopy of a valid driver's license. Please be advised that this position is physically demanding: it requires the ability to tolerate high temperatures, stand for long periods of time, frequently bend and stoop, and lift a minimum of 75 pounds.

The Metal Museum offers employment opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, veteran status, disability, genetic information, or age.

#### Applications

Applications must be received by January 16, 2012 with notification of acceptance by March 1, 2012. Applicants must submit a resume no longer than two pages in length, 20 images of recent work, three references, and a letter of intent no longer than two pages in length.

Please send applications or further inquiries to:

Carissa Hussong  
The Metal Museum  
374 Metal Museum Drive  
Memphis, TN, 38106

or to [carissa@metalmuseum.org](mailto:carissa@metalmuseum.org).



The man in the center of the doorway in this photo is my great-grandfather, Gustov Achterberg. He worked as a blacksmith in the Werner Blacksmith Shop in downtown Cibolo, TX. The photo was taken in 1893.

Jerry Achterberg

# MEETING INFO

Joe Travieso will host the November 2011 meeting. Please note the early date of November 19. Come on out to the hill country and check out the museum. We will be firing up the forges and making tongs and other goodies. If you need or want to make something for your smithy come on and give it a try.

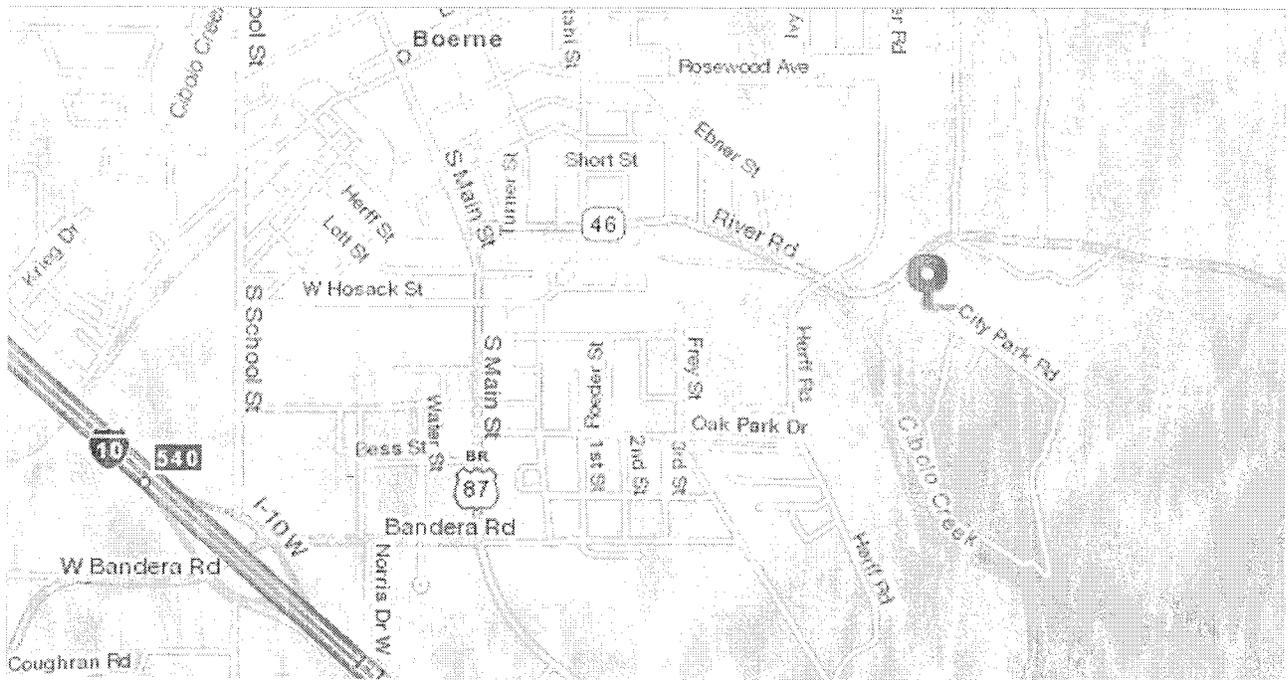
Agricultural Heritage Museum  
102 City Park Road  
Boerne, TX 78006  
(830) 249-6007

The museum is located at the corner of City Park Road & Hwy 46 (River Road) in Boerne City Park next to Kendall County Fair Grounds.

Check out the museum's website at:

[www.agmuseum.us/museum/](http://www.agmuseum.us/museum/)

The meeting will start at 9:30am





Scenes from the September meeting.

Photos by Vince Herod.

## **ELECTION RESULTS**

At the October meeting we elected three new board members, George Craig, George Graham and Matt Czosnek.

John Crouchet is stepping down from the Board.

Since the October meeting was so busy (and succesful) there wasn't time to sort out the rest of the Balcones business. Hopefully the actual make up of the Board as well as the Officers list will be ready for the December edition of the Balcones Forge Dispatch.

Return Service Requested

