



# Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

November 2012

October 28, 2012



What a great day we had yesterday. It was a lot of work to get everything ready but, in the end it was very much worth the effort. I think everyone had a great time. October is the month of the Balcones Forge business meeting. With that, there has been a changing of the guard. I was elected President

and Matt Czosnek is the Vice President. We will work hard to keep things moving along. We have some big shoes to fill and will be leaning heavily on the other board members. This is sure a great group.

We started off with our business meeting and this was followed with a demonstration by James Honig. He showed us how to make a square corner. He also talked about our tools, specifically hammers and showed us how to properly dress a hammer for blacksmith use. When James was done, Kainon, our very own "Young Smith", with Laurie as his striker, made a hammer drift. As hard as they worked, I am sure they were glad that it was as cool as it was.

We had barbequed brisket, sausage, beans, potato salad with all the trimmings for lunch and we finished with peach cobbler for dessert. This was followed by our trade item, a bottle opener. We almost had to get a bigger table, we had 15 bottle openers. A great job was done by all.

It was my turn to get in the forge and I did my first demo. I wanted to make something a little different but, where do you go? I found a blacksmith making a bulldog bottle opener on YouTube. After watching it several times, I made the tooling (about 5 tools). None of them were too difficult to make. Then I started practicing. There were some that thought I was nuts because I was making so many. I wanted it to turn our right when I demoed. The demo went well, those that watched were happy and I was too.

## Meeting Date is Nov 17



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## *President's Message Continued*

We had a special request for another demonstration on the "Cowboy". Aaron stepped up and showed us how to do it. This time he made a "Wizard". When the demonstrations were all done, we had open forges for all and the anvils were a buzz of activity. This is about the time that the trade items got their field tests. I am happy to say that they all did very well.

For the rabbit lovers out there, we did not have any jack rabbit. We did have some wild pig along with leftover brisket, beans and potato salad for those that were hungry late in the day. We topped this off with a fresh batch of peach cobbler. This pretty much ended a great day.

November will take us to Hunt, Texas and the shop of Gary Hilton. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, our meeting will be moved up to November 17th. It is time for another competition item and I hope you have been working on yours. This one is a goffering iron. You can find many examples on Google images.

A special thank you to Jerry Achterberg for all that he does for Balcones Forge. Thanks also to James Honig, Kainon Baumer and Aaron Tilton for stepping up and demonstrating. Great job.

We will try to keep the updates coming on Facebook and email.

Stay safe and we will see you in November,

Jerry Whitley  
President, Balcones Forge

## **EDITOR'S SOAPBOX**

I need to apologize for a typo I did not catch in the last edition of the BFD. Try as I may, proofreading is a difficulty for me and I did not have Jenny check things over last month. My apologies to the friends and family of Larry Stevens.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



As the new Vice President, I would like to take a moment and say a few things. First off I would like to say thank you to Jerry and Marsha Whitley for hosting the meeting. It was worth the long drive, and I have even more respect for Jerry's regular attendance at our meetings. I would also

like to thank all the members who have become my friends over the last few years, without your help and faith in me I wouldn't be in this position, I hope I don't let you down.

Now on to the heart of the matter,

Balcones Forge is a wonderful organization and can provide lots of outstanding opportunities for the new smith. We have a large group of people who are willing to help "newbies" out, from long time members like John Cruchet, Rudy Billings, and Jerry Achterberg to newer members like Laurie Wicker and Kainon Baumer (to name just a few). There is a tremendous library of both books and videos for you to explore, it's a great way to preview books and videos you might be interested in buying, learn new techniques, and get some inspiration.

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Need some tools, wait for the iron in the hat auctions that happen at regular meetings or save your pennies for the big auction at the Bluebonnet Demo. I know that I've picked up a few nice tools for a good price. And all this helps us pay for the little expenses we incur throughout the year as well as bring in great demonstrators for the Bluebonnet demo.

But what really makes, this organization great is all the members. I would like to see Balcones Forge continue going strong in the future, and to do that we need your help. Talk to the board members; let us know what you would like to see as meeting venues/events, what kind of stuff do you want to learn/see as a demo? And don't be afraid to jump up and lend a hand at events, it's a great way to meet people and start having more fun in this great organization.

Thanks and see you all soon.

Matt Czosnek, Vice President

## **NOVEMBER 2012 MEETING INFO**

November 17 -- 9:30  
Forge of Gary Hilton

If you want to see a great demo and some really cool yard art, then the next meeting will be a treat for all. Gary has a lot of talent and excellent techniques to pass on. Check out his gallery page to see some of the cool things that he creates.

Competition Non-Trade Item  
A Goffering Iron

Goffering Irons were used to iron the rolls of delicate frills and lace on caps, aprons, night-gowns and underskirts. A red hot piece of iron like a poker was inserted into the hollow tube which was fixed on an iron stand. The moist starched fabric would be grasped in both hands and pressed over the tube.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Here is the current list of Balcones Board Members.

Jerry Achterberg  
Rudy Billings, Treasurer  
Matt Czosnek, Vice President  
John Crouchet  
Jim Elliot  
George Graham  
Vince Herod, Editor  
Tom Lupton  
Jerry Whitley, President

And our newest Board member

Laurie Wicker, Secretary



Balcones Forge Board Minutes 10/27/2012  
Jerry Whitley's Rustyk Forge, Devine, TX

Board Memebers in attendance:  
Jerry Achterberg, Jerry Whitley, Tom Lupton, Jim Elliott, Vince Herod, Matt Czosnek, Rudy Billings, George Grahm, John Crouchet.

Jerry Whitley moved from V.P. to President  
Matt Czosnek elected Vice President

Membership elected Lauri Wicker to Balcones board and reelected John Crouchet.

Notes by Tom Lupton.



Bulldog Bottle Opener and tools as demonstrated by Jerry Whitley. Photo by Jerry Whitley.

## **OCTOBER MEETING REPORT 10/27/2012**

Jerry Whitley's, Devine, TX

25 people attended. Jerry Whitley welcomed everyone, warned of rattle snakes & Black widow spiders.

Next meeting – Nov. 17th in Hunt, TX Gary Hilton will host. Competition Trade item: Goffering iron. Prize for best.

December meeting – 12/15 in Marble Falls, TX William Bastas will host. Trade item: forged anvil. 15 trade items – bottle openers

Very good "Iron-in-the-hat" donations auctioned by Vince.

James Honig demo: Forging a square corner in ½" square stock. How to properly dress a forging hammer. How to transfer full size drawing to sheet metal by coating the back of drawing with chalk and tapping on sheet metal. Trace over drawing with heavy pressure and drawing will transfer. Kainon demonstrated a large hammer drift with Lauri's help.

Jerry Whitley made the Bulldog bottle opener and Aaron Tilton made a Cowboy.

Notes by Lauri Wicker



James Honig taught us how to forge a square corner, dress a hammer, transfer patterns, bend scrolls and gave many other pointers.

Photos by Gerald Pollard

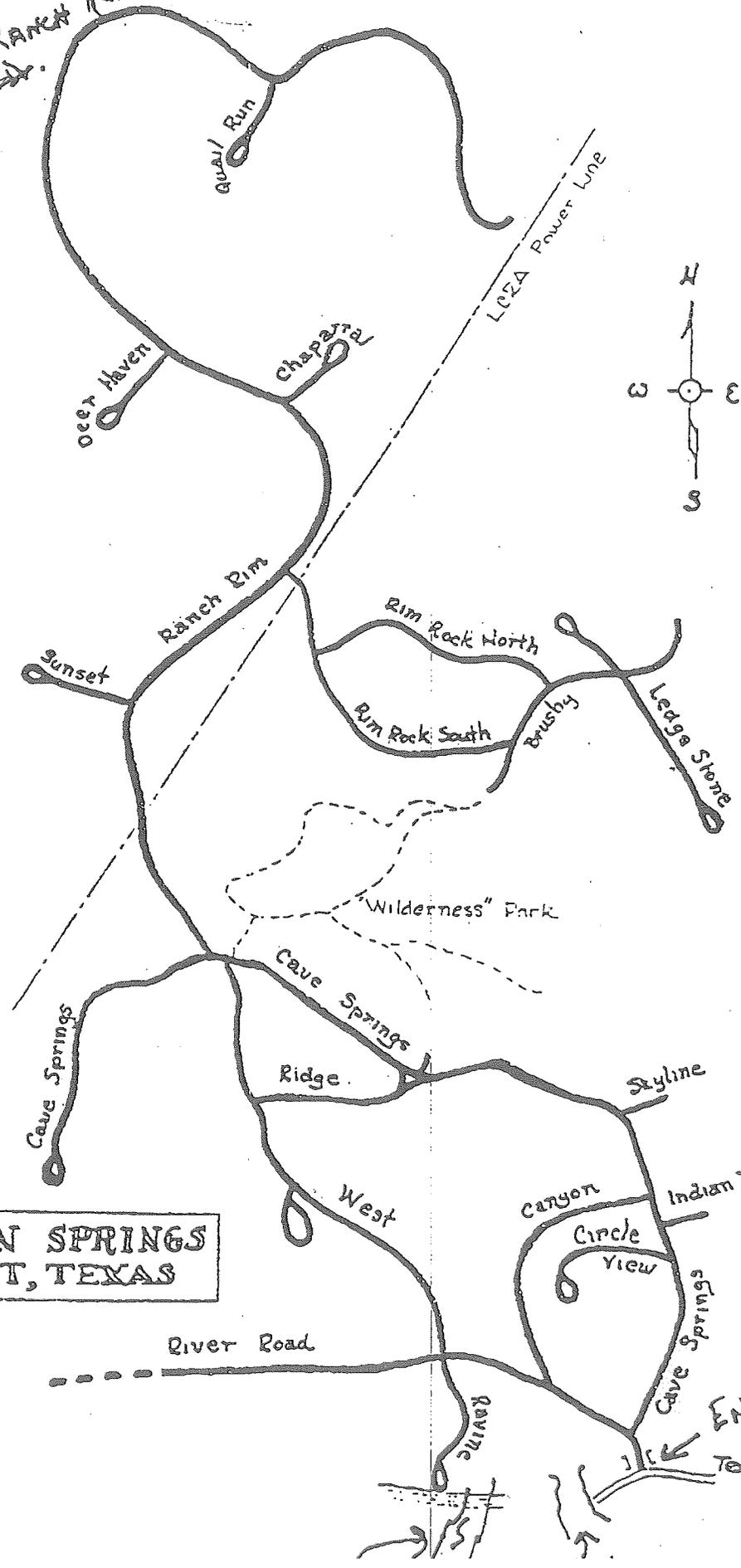


Well made tools last a long time.



550  
~~550~~ RANCH RIM DRIVE WEST  
Ranch

Direction on Rail



Gary & Sue Hilton  
 P.O. Box 728  
 550 ~~261~~ RANCH RIM DR WEST  
 HUNT, TX, 78024  
 Phone: 830-238-3406  
 or " " " 3405

ENTRANCE CANYON  
 SPRINGS RANCH  
 Subdivision  
 Texas 39 to Ingram

## **DIRECTIONS TO MEETING**

From San Antonio take I-10 to Kerrville and take Hwy 16 exit.

Turn left (south) on 16 and follow directions as below.

Take 16 from Fredericksburg to Kerrville until it crosses 27 in Kerrville.

Turn right (west) on 27 and continue on 27 until you get to Ingram, Tx ( about 7 miles).

In Ingram take Hwy 39 (left at the fork of 27 and 39) and drive to Hunt ( about 7 miles).

Just before you get to Hunt and before you cross the Guadalupe river (at Schumaker crossing) there is an entrance to Canyon Springs Ranch Subdivision on the right.

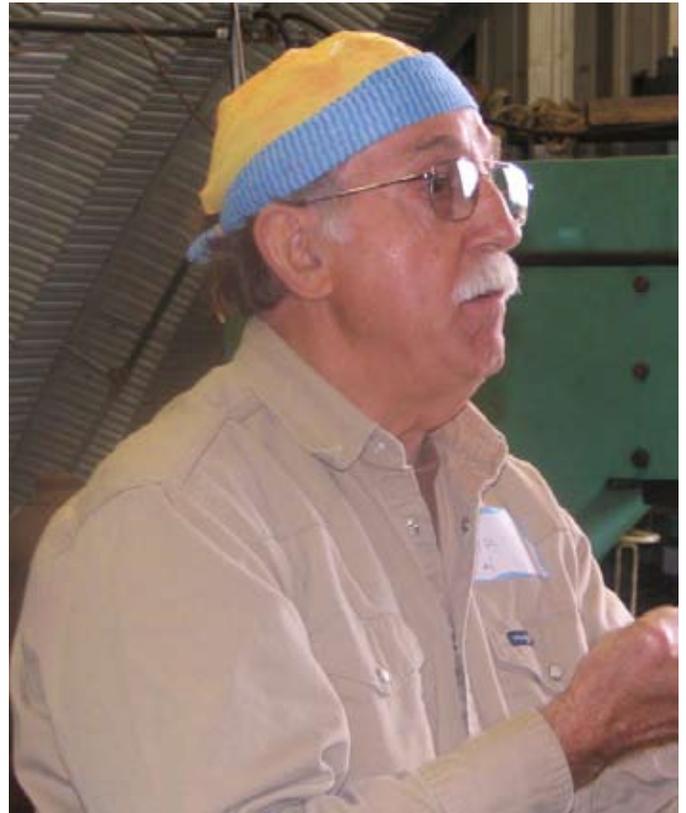
Take this entrance into the subdivision and the first Y intersection that you come to take the right fork and come up a hill.

You will come to two more Y intersections. Take the right fork each time.

The 3rd one will put you on Ranch Rim Drive West.

We live at 550 Ranch Rim Drive west and there is an anvil silhouette at the entrance to our place.

Parking is not at a premium but if folks would park in the road around the shop starting behind my pickup we could park quite a few folks but some would be locked in until we all go. If this is a problem for anyone there are some spots behind the house on the cement drive. In any event there should be plenty of parking.



## **GARY HILTON IS OUR HOST FOR THE NOVEMBER 17 MEETING OF BALCONES FORGE**



A fine Italian example of a Goffering Iron.



Nimba Titan anvil won by Rudy Billings at the 2102 ABANA conference. Rudy will be donating this anvil to the auction at the Bleubonnet Demo in the Spring of 2013. Start saving now, this will have a reserve! *photos by Vince Herod*

Return Service Requested

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