



# WRABA

Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association



Photo: George Houk

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### March 10

Hammer-In at Bob Park's  
135 North Broadway Street  
Sugar Creek, Ohio 44681

### April 7

Work day at Burton Century Village

### April 14

Hammer-In at Burton Century Village, Chris Burkholder (knifemaker) Demonstrating  
Hosted by WRABA board members

### May 19

Hammer-In at Brad Weber's  
88250 Mill Hill Road  
Bowerston Ohio 44695

*Grant Michener shakes hands with our "Blacksmith of the Year" Bill Fisher. Bill is always reliable and has helped the club immeasurably this year, a consummate tool maker. He was key in the planning and production of the belt grinder club project. His knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order makes the Board meetings go much smoother and quicker. Thanks, Bill, you make being part of this club a lot easier.*

### May 26

Trunk sale/ Craft Show, Burton Historical Village

### June 9,

Hammer-In at Burton Century Village, Hosted by WRABA board

### June 27-30,

ABANA Conference, Richmond VA.

### July 7

Work day at Burton Century Village

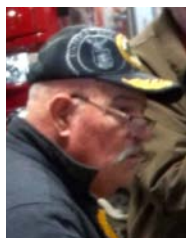
### July 14, 15,

WRABA Conference at

Burton Century Village,  
Roy Adams, Demonstrator

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**PRESIDENT**

**Ralph Neumeister**  
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440-552-9560  
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**VICE-PRESIDENT**

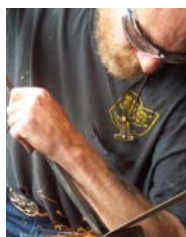
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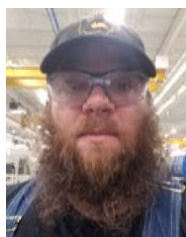
**We need a new one!**

**TREASURER**

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Board meetings are held quarterly or as need requires.

**WWW.WRABA.COM**

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The Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association (WRABA) is a non-profit, educational organization, an affiliate of the Artist Blacksmith Association Of North America (ABANA).

We are dedicated to preserving and promoting the art and craft of hand forging iron. WRABA, our group of blacksmiths meet monthly to share information and techniques at the smithy of one of its' members or at Century Village in Burton, Ohio.

**FROM THE EDITOR:**

This is now a bimonthly publication, so expect issues Jan., March, May, July, Sept., and Nov. for the year 2018

Newsletter deadline for the next issue will be April 20. Send me articles, drawings, ideas. If you drew it—I can make it pretty. If I can't use it this issue, it will go in a future issue.



# WRABA Events

## March 10

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135 North Broadway Street  
Sugar Creek, Ohio 44681

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Work day at Burton Century Village

## July 14, 15,

WRABA Conference at  
Burton Century Village,  
Roy Adams, Demonstrator

## July 19-20

WRABA teaching demonstration  
at ASM (volunteers needed, contact  
John Klingler)

## July 27-29

Antique Power Exhibition, Burton Historical Village

## August 1-31 WRABA Show

August 17 Opening

August 18, Picnic

Ashtabula Arts Center Gallery  
2928 West 13th Street  
Ashtabula OH 44004

## August 18

Racoon County Music Festival, Burton Historical Village

## September 21-23

SOFA Quad State Roundup,  
Troy Ohio

## October 6

Hammer-In at Don Pfaff's,  
East Rochester Oh.

## October 13-14

Annual Apple Butter Festival, Burton Historical Village

## October 20

WRABA workday at Burton Century Village (button up forge buildings)

## November 10.

Hammer-In at Mike Barton,  
Ravenna Oh.

## December 8

WRABA Christmas Party at Burton Century Village

## OPEN FORGE

### WINTER SCHEDULE

These are informal forge sessions intended to introduce people to blacksmithing, give new members a regular place and time to spend at the anvil, and to socialize. You don't have to be a member to attend an open forge but you may want to join soon after! We recommend you wear all cotton clothing and leather shoes. Synthetics tend to melt if something hot hits it, which in turn sticks to skin. Bring safety glasses if you have them. A leather glove for your non-dominant hand would be good also. You want to be able to remove it quickly and easily if need be. (We do ask you to join after three visits, for insurance purposes—thank you.)

### Monday Open Forge

Jason Nass hosting.  
4103 Brooklyn Ave.,  
Cleveland, OH 44109.  
Go to the garage in back.  
Contact Jason at 216-609-9250 for more information.

### Tuesday Open Forge

At Maple Leaf Forge,  
Ralph Neumeister hosting.  
17231 Messenger Road,  
Burton, OH 44021.  
Contact Ralph at 440-552-9560 for more information.

### Thursday Open Forge

At Steel Tree Workshop,  
Gary Barnhart hosting.  
1961 State Route 534,  
Southington, OH 44470.  
Contact Gary at 330-898-8171 for more information.

## Meetings

*The Open Forge* is a great place to gather, make friends and learn the craft. It is also for those who do not always have access to such facilities. So when you do show up, please chip in to the donations bucket. If everyone put in, say \$3 or \$5, it would go a long way to help cover the cost of coal or propane, grinding belts and maintenance. Also, please put back any tools you got out. If it's close to closing time, lend a hand with clean-up.

For our *Hammer-Ins*, remember to bring a pot luck dish, Drinks or snacks to share at lunchtime. Dinnerware and napkins are needed as well. Also bring something for Iron-in-the-hat. This can be something you made, tools, supplies or other desirable the membership would like to bid on or buy tickets for. The money raised helps keep the club running.

## On Safety

Blacksmithing can be an inherently dangerous exercise. There is no substitute for personal responsibility and common sense. No list of safety rules can adequately cover every situation. Every person who attends a meeting, demonstration or event sponsored by WRABA or its members does so at their own risk and assumes all responsibility for their own safety. The WRABA organization, its officers, members, demonstrators, volunteers and guests disclaim any responsibility for any damages, injuries, or destruction of property resulting from the use of any information or methods published or distributed by WRABA or demonstrated at workshops, meetings, conferences or other events thereof. WRABA recommends proper attire and safety gear and the employment of standard shop safety procedures for any event where blacksmithing and other related methods are involved. Safety attire includes, but is not limited to, appropriate clothing (no synthetic fabrics), eyewear, hearing protection, gloves and face shields, perhaps leather steel-toed shoes. It is every person's responsibility to provide for their own safety, determine what and when safety gear is needed for each situation and to provide, maintain and use that gear.

## Etiquette at Our

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Well we finally finished the belt grinder build with 14 units. It was a lot of work!

Thanks to all who contributed to getting it done and I hope all who built a grinder learned something and are enjoying their unit. Let the board know of any other projects you would like to see happen, and with your help it might happen.

Well warmer weather is just around the corner and flowers will be blooming. Remember Chris Burkholder's demo in April and Bob Parks in Sugarcreek in early March. Both are great events. Also support the Geauga County Historical Society at the Pancake breakfasts during the month of March and the Sunday after Easter. Great pancakes from 9 until 2 pm.

The ABANA conference is in Virginia this year so it might be the closest, it will get, and you might want to attend. See ABANA.org for details, if you're not a member you should be! Our conference demonstrator is Roy Adams from the Dayton, Ohio area. Many have watched his many YouTube videos. We all can learn from these demonstration's, even the old timers will pick up something, plus it's always a great time with our fellow smiths.

Remember to start working on an art project for the Art Show in August, we need a variety of items for display or an item you might want to sell (remember they take 30%) so price accordingly.

Well lots of things are happening, try to attend as many as you can, and get out do a little forging and keep safe.

Happy Hammering,  
Ralph



# WRABA BOARD NOTES

First and foremost we need a new Secretary. This person needs to be willing, able and capable of attending board meetings, taking notes, and all that other secretary stuff.

- We will be setting up a scholarship committee. This provides funds to help members take a class in the metal and related arts. If you wish to take part in a class or seminar related to the craft, contact Ralph N. for details.
- The by-laws are in process of being updated. A formal disciplinary clause will be finalized for the betterment of the club as well.
- We will be working towards better coordination of media: Facebook, website, newsletter and so on.
- We will also be working on a new membership packet, which will include much of the above.

# WRABA GALLERY SHOW

*by Ralph Bacon*

WRABA will be showing in the gallery space this coming August at the Ashtabula Arts Center. The gallery floor is about 25 by 40 feet or so, with a total of 100 lineal feet of wall space. The walls have canvas bound panels into which can be nailed or screwed almost anything. They also have sixteen pedestals for smaller pieces. This means we can install gates, fences and hanging pieces as well as tools, knives and axes. We will need to consider extra security measures for the sharp pointy stuff (there are a few

Plexiglas tops for the pedestals).

We may consider having a demonstration there for the “art opening” night. We should bring some spare membership applications and newsletters as well. There is a display panel across from the front desk we can place a short history and photos of the club.

The opening is Friday night August 17, followed by our annual picnic on the grounds of the Arts Center the next day August 18). There are plenty of campgrounds in the area and plenty of space at my house six miles away. The summer stage production will be “Forever Plaid”, so that may be an option for some.

We need to install the show by the first couple days of August, and it will be up for the entire month. All entries need to have arrived so it can be properly labeled and arranged within the space. The Arts Center gets a 30% commission, so price your work accordingly if you wish to sell it. If you have business cards, bring a stack.

So fire up your forges, ladies and gentleman, and make something really cool, super precise, and show off your creativity. This is a chance to show off and promote yourself!

Contact information:

Linda Merchant, Visual Arts Coordinator (she schedules and installs the gallery shows).

Email: [detailpainter@gmail.com](mailto:detailpainter@gmail.com)

Ashtabula Arts Center  
West 13th Street  
Ashtabula Ohio 44004  
440-964-3396



*I hope this piece by Chuck Hughes will be at the WRABA Show this August.*

# MARCH HAMMER-IN LOOKS PROMISING



Photos from each respective website



by Bill Fisher

The March 10 hammer in will be held at Bob Park's former shop: 135 North Broadway Street, Sugar Creek Ohio 44681. Bob has moved south to be near his daughter, but the shop is still there and rented out. Our hosts are knife makers Tim Troyer and Jessie Hemphill. In the morning at 9:30am, Jessie Hemphill will demonstrate various tips and tricks in planning, preparing, fabricating and installing knife guards. After lunch and after the Iron in the Hat drawing, Tim Troyer will demonstrate making a “friction folder” for a folding knife. They are looking forward to a great event and they very much welcome your questions.

Please bring a dish to share and remember those valuable items for the Iron in the Hat drawings. The food will be set up and lunch served at Tim Troyer's building, 205 West Main Street, Sugar Creek Ohio 44681. This building is less than a 1 minute walk from the forge building and has

a kitchen, plenty of space, electrical outlets for crock pots and very nice tables and chairs for your comfort. Tim's building also has plenty off street parking around back. So, the demos are at Bob Park's and the food will be around the corner. Great shopping and site seeing is also available in historic Sugar Creek, Ohio

*I am really excited to meet and see Tim Troyer. I have followed him on YouTube for several years and he always has something interesting. He has been a mainstay on YouTube for several years. He has done and recorded videos of his “Build Along” series of knife making, and how to do it with limited hand tools. We are very lucky to have a knife maker of his stature as a speaker, he is known around the world as a knife maker and humanitarian.*

Joe Moravec



# KEN ROBY HAMMER-IN

story and photos by Ralph Bacon unless otherwise noted

On February 10 a bunch of the membership met at Ken Roby's *The Village Blacksmith* shop. The weather was curiously behaved, except for glaze ice that melted by mid-morning. We had over three dozen show up for the festivities. Demonstrators were Mike Barton and Grant Michener, who got to use Ken's new 50-ton press. They squished a whole bunch of stuff, with various results (see photos and captions for details).

We had two competitions: the first being the "Make a Hook" challenge, proposed at the prior hammer-in and for which were many entries. The second was a "Guess the Price" challenge offered by Ken.

We had 11 entries for the hooks, solutions as varied as can be. Ken's was notable as it could probably hold an elephant (he used his new press as a power vise to apply the twist). Don Pfaff was awarded first prize—a bag of coal. So bring your gas masks this fall when he hosts his hammer-in, as we may force him to use the coal rather than his preferred propane!

For the price challenge, Ken stipulated we guess the entire cost of the item as presented: a 2x2 foot square of silicon bronze approx. 3/8" thick,

cost of the circle cut out via CnC plasma, plus all shipping. There were nearly two dozen entries, and yours truly came the closest with a \$788 estimate, actual cost was something like \$840! So I won the twenty bucks (don't tell the Feds). Ken went on to say that the client's specs had changed, so a larger piece of bronze was on order. Nice to have clients with a pliable budget!

The iron-in-the-hat was plentiful. I put most of my tickets in for the welding mask and put one-ofs in a couple other items. The demo pieces were added to the pot as well. I only won a cool hand grinder (one ticket), while a few won more than once. At least I won the price guessing thing.

*Clockwise from upper right: Ken Roby, The Village Blacksmith; Rob Volanski uses a handled punch in the press as Grant Michener looks on; Grant at the controls of the press; a 2x2 square hot off the press, next to a pair of cooling gear cogs; examples of the 2x2 billets cut through three of four corners. Once heated, the piece can be twisted to make the slabs step up as shown. Then they would be brought up to heat again and subjected to the coercion of the press with different results each time. Some pieces were cut through completely to make single slabs (bottom left).*



Photo: Ralph Bacon



Photo: George Houk

Photo: George Houk





Photo: George Houk

Lunch was a great feast with plenty to eat for all. Thanks guys, it makes a big difference at events like these.

Ken had a new product to endorse, a rust inhibitor named *Fluid Film*, apparently made with some sort of sheep extract—hence his nickname of the stuff: “Sheep Dip”. If you have items that will be exposed or in storage for some time, this keeps the metal nice and shiny.

Unlike prior years, there was no major announcement for our WRABA Conference this summer. Due to conflicting schedules, we have chosen July for our event at Burton, featuring Roy Adams as demonstrator. It is just the two-day event with no classes. Regardless, it should be a superb

event, as Roy brings top notch skills to the anvil. See you there, and see you at the next hammer-in.



*Clockwise from upper left: Grant with hot sculpture; the hooks on display; the bronze plate; Grant with Don Pfaff, who won a bag of coal he might use someday; Grant finishes the day's demos with 1hp worth of wire brushing; Ken's "Sheep Dip"—warning, it stinks!;*



Photo: George Houk



**The ABANA  
2018 Conference  
will be held in  
Richmond, Virginia  
at the  
Meadow Event Park  
Wed Jun 27 - Sat 30 Jun, 2018**

**Featured Demonstrators include:**

**Patrick J. Quinn**  
[www.patrickjquinn.com](http://www.patrickjquinn.com)

**Michael Dillon**  
[www.dillonforge.com](http://www.dillonforge.com)

**Chris Shea**  
[www.chrisshea.com](http://www.chrisshea.com)

**Andrew Kyte**  
[www.kytemetalwerks.com](http://www.kytemetalwerks.com)

**John Medwedeff**  
[www.johnmedwedeff.com](http://www.johnmedwedeff.com)

**Pavel Tasovsky**  
[www.tasovsky.com/cz/](http://www.tasovsky.com/cz/)

**Zack Noble**  
[www.zacknoble.com](http://www.zacknoble.com)

**Stuart Hill**  
[www.stuarthillstudio.com](http://www.stuarthillstudio.com)

**Susan Hutchinson**

**Teaching Tent**

**Mark Aspery, Gerald Franklin, Darryl Nelson, John McLellan and Gerald Boggs** will be leading the Teaching Tent with an expanded format that will give more attendees the opportunity to participate in this well-received program.

**ABS Demonstrators include:**

**Butch Sheely** – Grand Rapids, OH  
(basic forging and tomahawks)

**J.W. Randall** – Keithville, LA  
(basic forging and mosaic Damascus)

**Harvey Dean** – Rockdale, TX (basic forging and some Damascus)

**POMMs Demonstrators include:**

**Tom Latane'** – Pepin, WI  
**Peter Renzetti** – Clayton, DE  
**Tina Chisena** – Wheaton, MD  
**Kim Thomas** – Seville, OH  
**Kevin Clancy** – Eldersburg, MD

**Farrier Demonstrators include:**

**Jennifer Horn**  
**Royden Bloom**

Sponsored by: Farrier Product Distribution  
<http://www.farrierproducts.com/>

**Family Programs**

Broom Making for the Blacksmith with **Jeff & Brook Mohr**  
Repousse with **Kirk Sullens**  
Basket weaving with **Mary Jo McCarty**  
Leatherworking with **Brett Smith** of T Star Leather  
Lamp Working with **Gina Aiken**  
Acrylic Painting with **Carolyn Schallmo**  
Copper Work with **Paul Roche**



# WRABA

Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association



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## Announcing the 2018 WRABA Conference July 14 Saturday & 15 Sunday only at Burton Century Village, Burton, Ohio.

**Roy Adams** will be the featured demonstrator at WRABA's Conference for two days only on July 14 & 15, 2018 at Burton Century Village, Burton, Ohio. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in a broad range of work with a wonderful artistic touch with great variety. He runs Christ Centered Ironworks and has a notable YouTube presence. Don't miss out on this one!

Saturday only is \$35, Sunday only \$25, or both Conference days \$55, send checks to:

WESTERN RESERVE ARTIST  
BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION  
4103 BROOKLYN AVE.,  
CLEVELAND, OH 44109.



Roy has been forging since 2008 and he opened his company in 2012. Roy has had extensive blacksmith training. He has studied under master smiths Peter Ross, Thomas Latane, Clay Spencer and Wayne Apgar. Roy is actively involved in the blacksmithing community and frequently teaches classes on a wide array of topics from ornamental iron flowers to wrought iron hammers. Additionally he has a YouTube blacksmith channel where he teaches forging techniques.. He lives in the countryside outside Dayton, OH with his wife and three children.



## 2018-2019 WRABA Membership Application & Liability Release



Membership Status: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact: ☐ Phone ☐ Email ☐ US Mail

Blacksmith Experience \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Beginner ☐ Hobbyist

☐ Advanced ☐ Professional

Club Preferences \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like your contact information  
included in the Club Directory? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Newsletter Preference ☐ Email ☐ US Mail

	<b>SINGLE</b>	<b>FAMILY</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yearly Dues (due 2nd Saturday of February)	\$25.00	\$30.00
<b>Pro-Rated Dues for New Members</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> March to May	\$25.00	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> June-August	\$18.75	\$22.50
<input type="checkbox"/> September- November	\$12.50	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> December-February	\$6.25	\$7.50

Payment Method: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Card/Paypal

### Family Membership Information

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Additional Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Mail or Email Form to:**

Rowan Canterbury

WRABA

4103 Brooklyn

Cleveland, Ohio 44109

*mongolpagan@gmail.com*

## **WESTERN RESERVE ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION (WRABA)**

### Membership Liability Waiver

I \_\_\_\_\_, hereby state that I have read and understand the accompanying and inherent risks associated with the art of Blacksmith and Metal Working and hereby do hold the Western Reserve Blacksmith Association, (herein referred to as WRABA), harmless in association with all WRABA sanctioned functions, be they local or held on personal property, in the scope of, and including, but not limited to: (a): Any damage or physical harm of my person or body in its entirety and for all manner of injury. (b): Any damage, harm or loss of personal property of all manner, including electronics, clothing, etc. (c): Any loss, damage or theft of any product made by me either sold at, or on exhibition at a WRABA sanctioned event, and: (d): Any loss, damage or theft of any of my personal equipment or tools at, or in use at any WRABA sanctioned event.

In signing this document, I \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge that I have been made aware of all safety hazards and have been informed of available and recommended safety equipment, including, but not limited to, safety glasses, aprons, steel toed work boots, fire extinguishers, first-aid kits, hearing protection (ear plugs), and any and all other information supplied to me regarding same, by any sanctioned WRABA member. I also understand that safety glasses are REQUIRED at any WRABA event for direct or indirect participation.

I understand that should I choose to invite any individual, including but not limited to, family members, guests, friends, work associates, etc. I will be personally responsible for informing them of any safety issues and will accept the direction of any sanctioned WRABA member in the instruction of said guests safety.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## ODDS N ENDS



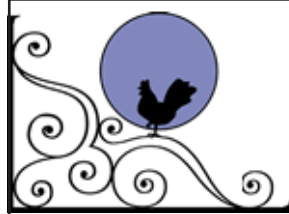
Josh James

Above is Josh James' step-by-step montage of a "rubics twist", found on Facebook. Sometimes a photo says it all. Study it and learn.

Below is a wrought iron fence that can be found in Brooklyn NY, as I was visiting last month. Urban environments give ample opportunity for a smith to make a living. There were lots of window grates I should have photographed, just didn't think of it. Sorry! -the editor



## CLASSIFIEDS & SPONSORS



### BLUE MOON PRESS

Was at WRABA 2016 Conference, donated books for our auction and had a great variety of books for sale.

[www.bluemoonpress.org](http://www.bluemoonpress.org)



### BUCKEYE WELDER SALES

721 North Canal Street  
Newton Falls, Ohio 44444

Phone: 330/872-3855

FAX: 330/872-3197

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

330/872-3855 -OR- 330/872-7212



## WRABA.store

Items can be purchased at  
[WRABA.store@aol.com](mailto:WRABA.store@aol.com).

We have T-Shirts, zippered sweatshirts, long sleeve shirts, hats, anvils and much more.

### WRABA Anvils

"WRABA" brass anvils are available.

They are 4" long and 2" tall.

Their cost is \$25.00

Get one at the next WRABA event.



### JD Abrasives

(330) 862-3809

Quality Abrasives & Supplies  
at Discount Prices

- Single Burner Gas Forges with everything except propane bottle \$200 and up

- Gas Forge Burners \$65, \$75 & \$100 each depending on type

Other assorted blacksmith items, call for availability

Ralph Neumeister  
440-552-9560

WESTERN RESERVE ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION  
4103 BROOKLYN AVE.,  
CLEVELAND, OH 44109.



Send To:

Forwarding Address requested postage guaranteed

# VOLUNTEER FOR THE CLUB!

**WE ALWAYS NEED HELP SETTING UP AND TEARING DOWN FOR HAMMER-INS, OPEN FORGE & OTHER EVENTS. WE HAVE A CORE GROUP WHO DOES THE LION'S SHARE, SO YOUR HELP WILL SURELY BE APPRECIATED!**

-the current management...