



WRABA

Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 19

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

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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Above: Jesse Hemphill shows us how he glues up a knife. Left: Chris Burkholder cleans up the weld on his tomahawk demo.

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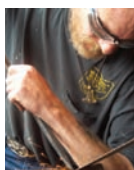
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Board meetings are held quarterly or as need requires.

Board Requests

- WRABA now has a trailer which is in need of a U-Haul style ramp. If anyone has a spare and can donate it, please do!

- ASM would like some people from WRABA to do a demo tong forging on Sunday May 20. This is the day after Brad Webber's hammer-in. If you can't make it to Brad's, maybe you can help at ASM

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 June 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.

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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

Raccoon 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

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Regular sessions at Burton return!

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

No back at Burton Century Village
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.

Etiquette at Our 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.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Well a quarter of this year has already passed; I hope you have attended some of our events. We spend a lot of time scheduling events, getting demonstrators, and the other things needed. It is very discouraging when attendance is light. If we are not scheduling what you want, let it be known, but please try and attend. If for no reason other than the great people you will meet there.

Our knife making event with Tim Troyer and Jesse Hemphill in Sugarcreek was great; we have this scheduled again for next year. We also scheduled an event for next year at Winesburg, at a historical society who has a bicycle museum collection. We do try and find new venues, and demonstrations.

Chris Burkholder demonstrated a tomahawk at the April meeting, and the May meeting will be our usual joint meeting with PAABA at Brad Webber's on May 19th.

Don't forget to get your reservations in for the WRABA Conference July 14-15th, featuring Roy Adams at Burton Century Village. This promises to be a great event.

We need volunteers to help with ASM conference on July 19th and 20th, a Thursday and Friday. This is always a hard one to fill. Most members are working, so if you're off or can take a sick day to help we would be very appreciative.

Our Picnic will be at the Ashtabula Art Show, on August 18th. Please try and get an item or so to showcase some of the talent that our members have, and to show what blacksmiths can really do.

WE are also in need of a secretary for our group if you would be willing we can sure use the help, not hard just take a few notes at meeting. We will help you. We just need someone to step up.

Happy Hammering, Ralph



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).

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. D-Day Ohio reenactment is also that weekend over in Conneaut, 15 miles away.

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. 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

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

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

WRABA has had a long standing relationship with ASM International, and Melyssa Jackson, who works the Chapters Department, recently contacted our own John Klingler. It seems they are having a "Dinner Under The Dome" at their headquarters for a Leadership Conference. Chapter leaders from all over the world and across the United States will be in attendance. The date is Friday, July 27th, from 6 to 9pm. They are looking for Additional entertainment in the form of a "Live Forge". They hope

that some of our membership would be able to volunteer. THIS is a chance to show of a little bit, meet some folks from afar and, who knows, maybe get a new client! Contact John Klingler for details or if you might be interested.

John can be reached by cell at 440-453-2933, at home 330-952-0344 or by email at jklingler1306@gmail.com.

2018 WRABA Blacksmith's Quilt

by Mike Barton

As a club we will display a Blacksmith's Quilt at our art show in August. A Blacksmith's Quilt is simply artistic squares of iron/metal work, attached to other artistic metal work squares. This quilt will be comprised of member submitted squares and an Executive Board made decorative header.

Many of you have seen the previous quilt built by WRABA members of the past and have probably wanted to do something similar, well here is your chance. All Entries are welcome and will be displayed now and in the future at the Burton Forge. A Vote will be held at July Conference and the top squares (exact number TBD) will be displayed at the art show in August.

Rules:

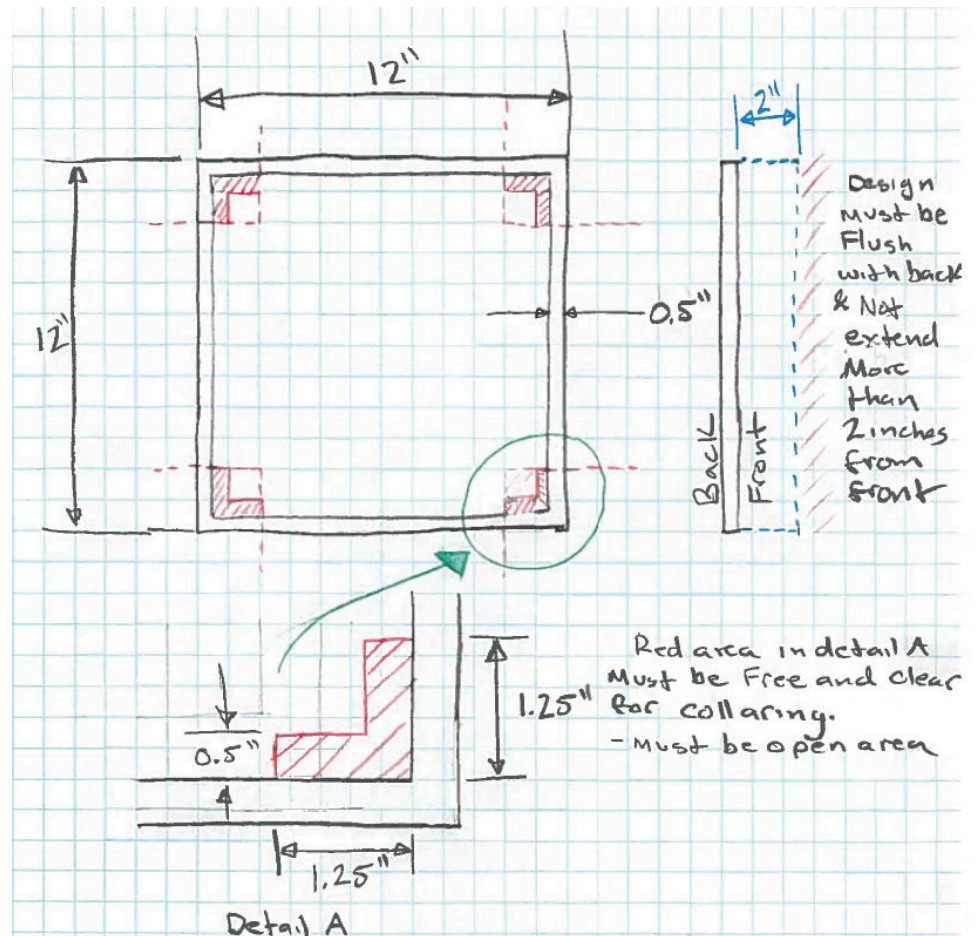
1. Squares are to be 12in x 12in outside dimensions
2. Frame Material should be 1/2in thickness
3. Collaring "L Zones" must be free and clear (See drawing for L Zones, Detail A)
4. Your work must not extend past the frame in the backward direction, and must not protrude more than 2in past frame in the forward direction.
5. No Specific rules for type of metal work, but the following guidelines apply
 - a. Any welds should be neat and of good appearance
 - b. Please keep the work, metal related or metal adjacent
 - c. Keep in mind that this will be a judged event and work accordingly
6. Subject matter should be family friendly, no nudity, no obscenities, please use your brain.
7. If you have a touch mark, display it proudly. As stories of your skills will be told for decades.

All squares due Sunday 7/15/18 at 9am.



Photo: George Houk

Above: Mike Barton holds the "blacksmith quilt" that WRABA made a couple years ago. (Looks like he got caught trying to steal it to me—the editor). Below: Mike's drawing for the quilt square specifications.



NOTE: If anyone gets a quilt square done soon enough, I can include its photo in the next newsletter—the July issue. So get to work now! Then

you will have time to redo it and make a perfect square.
—the editor

MARCH HAMMER-IN

Article & Photos by Ralph Bacon unless otherwise noted



Photo: Landon Troyer

The March 10 hammer-in was held at Bob Parks' former shop in Sugar Creek Ohio. Bob has moved south to be near his daughter, but the shop is still there



and rented out to knife makers Tim Troyer and Jessie Hemphill. Great guys both! Tim started the meeting with a group shout-out to Bob Parks via cellphone video, in which we all droned, "Hi-i-i Bob!"

Tim went on to say he first started making folding knives (folders) before learning how to forge. He was too inexperienced to know it was the hard thing to do! After the introductions, he turned over the demonstration to Jesse Hemphill.

They had a blade ready for the demo, damascus made from a billet forged down to 1/4-inch thick and cut length-



wise into 1/4" square stock. Each piece was brought to heat and twisted: half clockwise and the remainder counterclockwise. Then all were stacked alternately and reformed into blank about 3/16" thick. Then it was worked into the finished blade.

The intended handle was a chunk of maple burl, stained red and stabilized (the process by which dry wood is coated with resin, placed in a chamber and the pressure lowered; thus forcing the resin into and in between the very wood fibers). He also clamped everything down to drill through wood and knife tang at once. Jesse showed us how he drills and cuts into the wood for the short tang. He made a special tool for clearing out the hole for the tang: a pair of saw blades together hafted into a deer antler handle. This is for a single-piece knife handle. Any shaping of the



The tool used to ream out the drilled out wood blank for the tang. Easy to use, handy to find.



Jesse cuts a more precise profile of the handle on the band saw.

handle can be roughed out on a band saw. This cuts down on the amount of shaping on a belt grinder—no need to make more dust than necessary.

The bolster was a 1/4-inch piece of yellow brass, drilled through and filed to a perfect fit of the tang and blade.

Once the handle is ready, Jesse mixes up a batch of 5-minute epoxy, loads it into the handle, and inserts the tang. He then clamps it end-to-end and places it blade up for 5 minutes or so.

Now for the brass rivet. Jesse tapped it through the hole and peens the ends to flare them out, thus securing the handle to the knife blade.



Here is the finished product. It is a damascus drop-point blade with a partial tang, hence the single brass rivet ground and polished flush to the surface. Note the rivet popped out a bit of the wood. It is possible to epoxy it back in place, if you don't lose it! The blade also betrays what some might consider a flaw, while others would call it character—the process of making the blade left the void on one side near the tang. Still a great example of knife making!



Jesse grinding the handle to its final shape. Readers should be aware that the clouds of dust thus produced can be harmful, so have a respirator handy. Some wood types (spalted maple, black walnut) are more unhealthy than others. Plus, the polymers used in stabilized wood are not completely innocent, either.

Jesse ground down the handle on the belt grinder, starting with 60 grit, then 120 and 220. At 320, work out scratches by constantly rotating the stock to maintain symmetry. This created great clouds of dust, so if you do this often, you should wear some

sort of respirator. Polishing with 1200 grit micron will reveal scratches that need to be worked out. One of the final steps is to buff out with 600 Satin glow on a loose wheel. This puts the polish on the handle, bringing out the true luster of the wood and thus the perfect compliment to the blade.

The final product turned out very nicely. Tim observed that if they were to make the blade again the same way, they would start with a thicker billet, so as to make sure no voids appear. As is, it would be a fine addition to anyone's collection.

Come time for lunch, we all walked up the hill for half a block to Tim's headquarters. There were perhaps three dozen in attendance, and a great spread of hot food to chase off the late winter chill. Iron in the hat went well with plenty of items offered.

Turns out there is a meadery (a maker of fermented honey wine) nearby, and Tim has plans for an Viking themed event in which two saxes will be made, goat lamb will be roasted, meade quaffed, and the saxes auctioned off. Sign me up!

Thank you Tim Troyer and Jesse Hemphill for a great day!



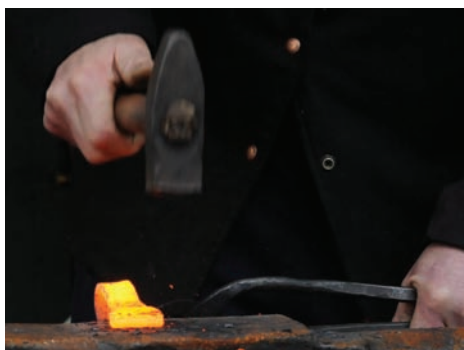
Bamba Forge

One of Tim's passions is fulfilling his mission to Uganda to teach the locals the skills of knife making. The country has a 60% unemployment rate, so being able to pass on this knowledge is a wonderful opportunity for all. His students are able to acquire a way to make a living and contribute their families' climb out of poverty's grip. For more information go to www.bambaforge.com. Donations are always accepted (WRABA donated \$100).



APRIL HAMMER-IN

story by Ralph Bacon/ and photos by George Houk



Chris Burkholder came to Burton Ohio on April 14 and showed us how to make a tomahawk. He started with a nine inch length of mild steel, drawing out and flattening the ends. (The photos tell the story.) Next he wrapped it around his drift, taking care that the ends matched. Chris had the high carbon bit ready (a 1044 insert), got it to heat and fluxed it up. He spent some time refining the shape, truing it up and maintaining its symetry, making good use of the horn. A final touch was to weld the top and bottom with an acetylene torch, ensuring its durability. He used an angle grinder to clean up the edges and welds. He tempered it to a yellow straw at the edge. Chris made it look easy. Well done, Mr. Burkholder!

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 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Cell (____) ____-____ Home (____) ____-____

Email _____

Preferred Contact: ☐ Phone ☐ Email ☐ US Mail

Comments _____



Family Membership Information

Spouse Name: _____

Spouse Occupation: _____

Spouse Phone: _____

(____) ____-____

Additional Family Members: _____

Blacksmith Experience:

☐ Beginner ☐ Hobbyist ☐ Advanced ☐ Professional

Club Preferences

Would you like your contact information

included in the Club Directory? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Newsletter Preference: ☐ Email ☐ US Mail

	SINGLE	FAMILY
<input type="checkbox"/> Yearly Dues (due 2nd Saturday of February)	\$25.00	\$30.00

Pro-Rated Dues for New Members

<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

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 _____

TIPS N TRICKS CLASSIFIEDS & SPONSORS

Here are some tips and tricks from Tim Troyer and Jesse Hemphill. These mostly refer to making friction folder knives, but are applicable across the board:

- Design the blade first, then the handle around it
- Start with manilla paper, draw it and cut it out to see how it looks
- Use an actual pivot (from a knife making supplier)
- Use 1095 for the blade (regular flat milled/rolled steel)
- Use micarta for the sides (Tim has a supplier for it. Micarta is a substrate made of layers of cloth and resin)
- Drill holes first with a 1/16" bit
- Drill bits don't make round holes, but rather "roundish". Use a reamer to finish out the hole.
- Always drill exactly 90° and flat.
- Super glue the spacer in place.
- Use 1/8" holes, and a 1/8" chain saw file to clean it up or slightly enlarge it
- Make the spacer just a bit thicker than the blade

Find the YouTube video to see how it's done. The plans are on the last page of this issue.



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



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.
 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.



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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

SUGAR CREEK FOLDER

Ralph Bacon,
art by Tim Troyer

Tim Troyer was kind enough to send WRABA the plan drawings shown here. They are obvious for the most part: the blade, the handle, and the little triangle piece is the spacer, which needs to be slightly thicker than the blade. They are shown life size, and I believe you can see Tim's video on Youtube on making this. Enjoy!

