

# "Tales of the Western Reserve"



## WRABA

Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association

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Roy Troutman (right) was awarded Blacksmith of the Year at the March Hammer-In

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- APRIL 10 **WRABA** HAMMER-IN
- APRIL 16 PAABA
- APRIL 30 PAABA
- MAY 14 **WRABA** HANDS-ON
- MAY 21 **WRABA** HAMMER-IN
- MAY 28-29 BURTON CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT
- JUNE 24, 25, 26 **WRABA** CONFERENCE
- JULY 29-31 BURTON ANTIQUE POWER AND STEAM SHOW

Remember to renew your membership, it was due in March. Contact someone on the Membership Committee if you need financial assistance. There are various ways that you can pay your dues.

Remember we have the WRABA Scholarship Program. It is for members who need help attending a blacksmithing class and can bring what they learned back to the organization. If you are interested in chairing the Scholarship Committee, let Ralph Neumeister know.



President

**Ralph Neumeister**

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*Mlforge@cebridge.net*  
 440-552-9560

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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.

**A Membership application is on the back cover of this newsletter.**

**[www.wraba.com](http://www.wraba.com)**

Get information on our organization. Find out what is going on and take a look at some great pictures of what we've been doing.

The WRABA Newsletter is composed and written by the editor except as indicated. Material may be reprinted except as noted, with proper credit given.

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Deadline for articles to be put in the newsletter: June 15th, Sept. 15th, Dec. 15th, (these dates are in the month prior to the issue coming out on the 1st)

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**Fundraising**

Bob Temple  
 Art Wolfe

**Special Events**

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 Roy Troutman

**Hammer-Ins**

Roy Troutman

**Tips & Tricks Editor**

Ralph Neumeister

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 Gary Kruse  
 Frank Strock

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 Bob Temple  
 Roy Troutman  
 Lou Molvin

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Art Wolfe

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Bob Brown

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Mark Millhoff

## Presidents Letter March 2011:

Well on a happy note it looks like spring is just around the corner. We have had several great Hammer-Ins so far this year, but many faces were missing. Come on out and join the fun.

Roy Troutman was awarded 2010's Blacksmith of the year award. This is called the Tom Summer's award in honor of one of the founding members. Roy is very deserving of this award, he spends countless hours volunteering, and many of the things you enjoy are due to Roy. We have many members who deserve this award, so it's hard to pick just one. Your votes are what pick the recipient, so make sure you vote.

Our organization is run by volunteers, so I took a letter from another newsletter that I thought was very fitting. It's from 2001 but still applies today and for many organizations. See below, note: WRABA has been substituted for their organization.

*Letter to the editor* from: Anonymous

*WRABA is a PARTICIPATORY organization run by **Volunteers**. We have no paid staff - no paid members. If you don't volunteer to help out - **it don't happen!***

*So before you raise hell about something not happening or about something you didn't get, take this little test in order to see just how much hell raising right you have. The left column is the number of hours = have volunteered and the right column is your graduated "RIGHTS."*

### *Hours volunteered*

<i>10 hours or less. ....</i>	<i>Keep your mouth shut tight</i>
<i>20hours .....</i>	<i>Just keep your mouth shut</i>
<i>30 hours. ....</i>	<i>Audible Grunt</i>
<i>40 hours. ....</i>	<i>Count your blessings to yourself</i>
<i>50 hours.....</i>	<i>Count your blessings and tell everybody</i>
<i>60hours .....</i>	<i>Write your congressman (Ha Ha)</i>
<i>70 hours. ....</i>	<i>Swear you'll never volunteer again</i>
<i>80 hours. ....</i>	<i>Stomp floor and hurl epithets</i>
<i>90 hours.....</i>	<i>Write letters to Newsletter Editor</i>
<i>100 hours. Or more .....</i>	<i>Raise all the hell you want!</i>

I'm sure Roy was in the Raise all the hell you want class, why not help us out. If you see or even think of someway you can make this organization better. Ideas are always welcome and help is always appreciated ! We will be starting hands on demonstration in May at Century village , second Saturday 9am. First one is chisels and punches. This runs through August. We are looking for ideas of what you want and demonstrators. April hammer-in is the 10<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) for those working Saturdays and Don Pfaff will demonstrate a camp knife, candle holder combination tool. Somewhere new so spend the day, checking out his shop.

Happy Hammering,      Ralph

**April Hammer-In**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AMIron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunchDon Pfaff  
28151 Mountz Rd.  
East Rochester, Ohio 44625  
330-525-7836

Demonstrating camp knife, candle holder combination tool

**May Hands-On**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AMIron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunchBurton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021

Hands-on demonstration of chisels and punches. There is a nominal fee for materials.

**May Hammer-In**Saturday 21<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AMIron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunchBrad Weber  
88250 Mill Hill Rd.  
Bowerstown, Ohio 44695

Directions: From the North: Take I-77 South. Slight right at S-250(signs for US-250/New Philadelphia/OH-39/Uhrichsville)

Merge onto OH-800 S/US-250 E/US-36 E via the ramp to Cadiz-Dennison. Continue to follow OH-800S/US-250 E. Turn left at OH-800/State Route 250(signs for Cadiz). Continue to follow US-250. Turn left at Mill Hill Rd. Turn right to stay on Mill Hill Rd.

**May Civil War Reenactment**28<sup>th</sup>—29<sup>th</sup> 10:00am—5:00pmBurton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021

Contact Bob Temple or Ralph Neumeister if available to volunteer.

**June WRABA Conference**24<sup>th</sup>—26<sup>th</sup> 9:00—5:00Auction on Saturday  
Pot-luck lunch on Saturday only  
Bring your work to display in the galleryBurton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021June 24<sup>th</sup> hands-on demo and hands on will run 9am til 5June 25<sup>th</sup> DemoJune 26<sup>th</sup> hands-on

Cost of demo \$40, hands on classes are \$60 per day please specify day.

Combo of hands on and demo \$80, hands on limited to 10 people each day so register early.

Send to Bruce Woodward  
6374 Lake Rd. West  
Madison, oh 44057  
440-428-0822

Brian Brazeal started forging about 30 years ago as a Ferrier and attended his first blacksmithing conference in California in 1998 and has been teaching and sharing ever since.

After completing a 3 month teaching road tour from California across the south to Maryland in December 2009, Brian and his wife Karen now live in Brandon, Mississippi where he offers private classes in his shop, as well as continuing to travel for demos and workshops.

Brian will be sharing the elements of forging in the workshops and demo. Whether forging a delicate calla lily or a tool, he will demonstrate exact techniques, explaining the steps in the forging and the tools he uses. He will forge a horse head from 2 inch square, a horse head bottle opener, leaf, any many other interesting items as time permits

[www.myspace.com/brazealbrothers](http://www.myspace.com/brazealbrothers)

You can also see him work on DVD RD 158 in the WRABA library.

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## PAABA Events

THURSDAY NIGHTS - FORT ALLEN - Open Forge Call Dick Fisher for details! 724-836-3625  
See the new addition and take part in the friendly atmosphere. \$5 Donation appreciated for fuel.

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April 16 - Rices Landing – Big day at the W.A. Young and Sons Foundry and Machine Shop. This year we will celebrate the beginning of work to preserve this historic site by “raising the roof”! Politicians will be on hand for the photo op ceremony!

Rivers of Steel Heritage is working hard to promote the day, and is inviting the public to visit the foundry. Please bring an Auction Item to show your support - the Auction is very important this year as the public is invited and will be taking part in the Auction. Get your name out! Lunch will be available and gallery area will be available for you to show your recent work. Please bring your latest project and show it to new visitors so they can understand just what we do!

Great line up of demonstrators: Wayne Kelley, Ed Appleby, Boyd Holtan, Eugene Ratliff, and Joey Browning! A GREAT day for the Foundry and for YOU!

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April 30 - May 1 - Fort Allen Date Change – Demos, open forge, auction and more!

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April 30 - May 1 - ABA Conference – Cedar Lakes, WV Eric Morris of Beckley, WV will demonstrate pattern welded knives (Damascus). Eric has been making knives for 20 years.

Jay Hayes of Weston, WV will demonstrate building a gas forge. Jay has considerable experience building gas forges through his electrical lighting business. He has done Christmas light displays and commercial light displays in all 50 states. You won't have to reinvent the wheel if you see Jay's work.

Two great demos for the bargain price of \$15 (or donate a hand-forged item to the auction).



## Our Past Events

January Hammer-In hosted by Ike Tripp at ETNA.



February Hammer-In at Ken Roby's

Ken Roby showed us various kinds of vices and clamps. He certainly had many in his well organized collection. Here are some of them



Caulking Vice: One jaw swivels for different sized stock, no throat below the jaws



Ken Roby holding an Antique anvil vice

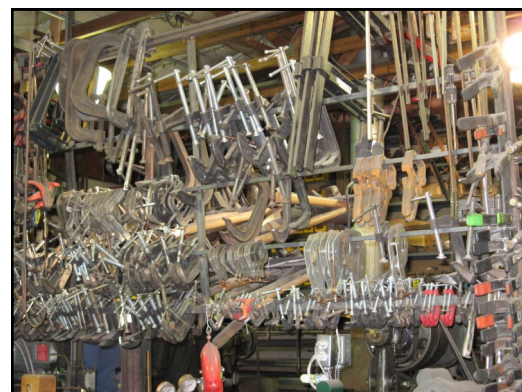




Lathe Vice: adapted to fit into drill press arm



Woodworkers Clamp: good for painted work, odd shapes, and filing in a vice



Enough clamps?

Cleco Clamp: spring articulated for smaller items, another variation can fit into holes like temporary rivets

### March Hammer-In at Bob Parks'





## Eye Punch Hammer from the March Hammer-In with Bob Parks



It should be at least twice the length of the width at the taper. Water temper it



The hammer is made from a truck axel (1050, 1060 steel). Square one end of it



Drift an eye about 1 1/4" from the end. Mark edge of eye on edge of anvil to punch from opposite side after 2/3 way through



Flatten bulge a little to stretch eye



Use a hardie spring fuller to indent the corners. This separates the parts of the hammer. Do only the corners since the punch will be at a 45° angle. To make a round head, it would be fullered all the way around. Taper the end some for the striking side. Cut off the square part of axel that will be the hammer. Until this point, the same process can be used for other hammers





Now draw out at 45°



After drawing out, round out the edges and smooth it out keeping it rectangular



Almost done now. This is the general form

File the hammer to a nice smooth finish.



Finalize the size of the eye, then burn the end of the handle to fit. Heat until it is non-magnetic when tempering.



This is the final product. It is angled this way so that it is easier to see the work

# Classifieds

Anyone with a blacksmith related item to sell please send info, picture to [jeffrey@naufamily.net](mailto:jeffrey@naufamily.net) and we would be happy to include it in the next newsletter.

Ceramic board 8 inch x 24 inches ---\$8--2 for \$15

Gas forge burners ---\$50

Kevlar gloves 800 degree \$14 each or 2 for \$25

anvil peter wright 158# \$320

blacksmith vise 4 to 6 inch various prices

can help with items for building a gas forge

25# Little Giant power hammer  
new style, has been rebuilt, 2 sets of dies (round and flat)built 1949, \$2500 firm

Early american wrought iron by Soon, no dust jacket  
1989 edition \$75

**Ralph Neumeister 440-552-9560**



## 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.

Blacksmith helper 3/4 by 2 inch dies Member \$80 non member \$100

various die heat treated 4140 to rc50 \$55 member --\$65 non member

monkey tool set 4149 heat treated set of 5 --3/16-1/4--5/16--3/8--1/2 \$60 member \$75 non member

blacksmiths ruler \$20 member --\$25 non member

e-z weld 1# can \$14 member ---\$16 non member

**Ken Tucker 330-792-9722**

"Pitch It To You" Chasing & Repousse Pitch  
(A Division of A Copper Rose Metal Art)

## Debra Montgomery

website: <http://www.chasers-pitch.com>

email: [info@chasers-pitch.com](mailto:info@chasers-pitch.com)

phone: 559-338-0748

This is a good all around medium grade/hardness chasing and repousse pitch. Good adhesion, soft enough for repousse, firm enough for chasing work. It is pine rosin based with no petroleum or animal products used in the making. Quantity and WRABA membership discounts offered as well as shipping discount. Use the code WRABA30 to receive \$0.30 per pound discount in addition to quantity discounts already in place. Sold in 1 pound increments, minimum 2 pound order. Base price is \$9.00/lb plus shipping (California State Tax applies to Cali. residents)



## A Band Saw Built of Odds and Ends

A. N. ESTES

**A**S I have been a reader of this paper for about 17 years and have never contributed an article to it, I have read many articles from others which I have enjoyed and profited by, so here is where I reciprocate.

I have three machines that I have produced out and out, and all three of them had their starting place in the scrap heap.

I will attempt to describe them in the order that I made them and the first to be described is a wooden band saw frame, patterned after a cast iron frame that I saw in a machinery catalogue and up until that time I had never seen a band saw.

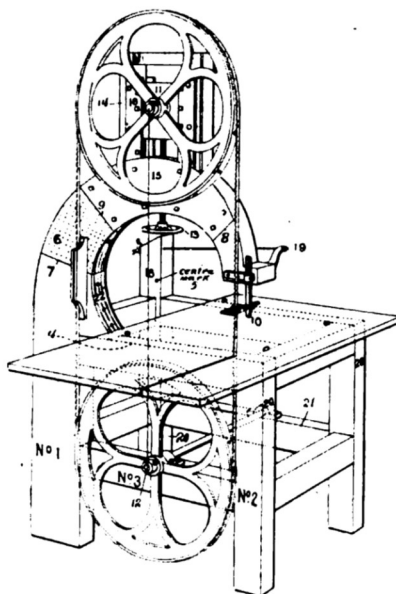
As I live in a section of Virginia where there are miles and miles of virgin forest, I have wagon timber that has been cut for 18 years and enough to last for eight or ten years.

I had a quantity of hickory lumber that I intended using for axles but owing to a slight defect in the wood it was unsuitable for axles and so I used this lumber to make the main part of my band saw frame, so it can be seen that it is stout and heavy and equal in practically every respect to an iron casting.

No. 1 is an axle 4 x 5½ inches and 5½ feet long and I laid it out in such a way as to saw it out in sections to suit a one-inch plank, or in other words, by stepping the timber.

No. 2 and No. 3 are hickory axles and No. 4 is a piece of white oak, 4 by 8 inches, all of which forms the front side of my frame. When I had the bed completed I started on the circular frame to carry the upper wheel. I got three chestnut planks, one inch thick, 12 feet long and 14 inches wide. I got out sections about 15 or 18 inches long as at Nos. 6, 8, 9 and 15 and these gradually tapered to 7 or 8 inches at the wide end. This arched work is built up of planks nailed on to the post, No. 1, a plank being nailed in to the offset on No. 1 and the next overlapping the joint of the first one and so on to completion of the circle, building in at the same time the wood work at 14 to carry my plate that bears the upper wheel, No. 11. There is an iron frame of 2 by ¾ inch tire iron on four sides and a threaded hole in the bottom to regulate the tension on the saw with the hand screw at No. 13.

After I had hung my wheels and put on the saw I discovered that the saw would not stay on the wheels and I found the trouble was that the wheels were not accurately lined up and I put in a longer post so as to regulate this as shown by Nos. 18 and 19. The guide at No. 10 has a roller bearing. I drew a center line from the top to the bottom wheel as at No. 12 and then squared my table to it. There are studs at No. 16 to permit setting the wheel forward or backward.



INGENUITY AND A JUNK PILE  
PRODUCED THIS

The cast iron plate at No. 11 was cut out of a cog wheel that came out of an old fashioned threshing machine and which had a hole already drilled in it sufficient for my purpose. The upper wheel was the traveling wheel of an old mower and I had a shaft turned to fit the hub of this wheel and the other end turned to suit the hole in the plate at 11.

As I was not equipped with tools for turning iron, I sawed off all the spokes close to the rim of the wheel and put on a wood rim made of plank felloes, the first round of rim with a one-inch notch in the center of the rim piece and let down on top of the ends of the spokes all around and required no other fastening. Then I put on my wheel, put on the belt and started up, put a tool rest between my belt, got a new horse rasp and made the fuzz fly and in this manner I trued up my wheel, which is 30 inches in diameter, and faced them

with an old rubber belt.

My bottom wheel was built into a cast iron wheel, hub and axle that once did duty on an old manure spreader. I used these because the necessary boxing and hubs were there to build into. There was a small wheel also on this shaft, used to unload the spreader with when thrown into gear and I built my driving pulley over this.

My saw is 18 feet long and ¾ inches wide. I have sawed all of my tire wood with it for the last ten years and can saw a 14-inch stick.

Wheel No. 13 was once upon a time the flywheel of a sewing machine.

I mend my own saws by filing the edges down to a feather edge and lap for one tooth. pour on a little muriate of zinc and slip a piece of silver solder between. Then I heat a pair of tongs to a good, red heat and clamp the saw and hold it with the tongs until cooled and the job is done, except for possibly a little finishing around the joint.

In making the circle part of the frame, plank No. 15 is left so that it can be removed. It has eight one-half inch bolts that go clear through the frame to hold the same on. The plank at No. 6 shows how the felloe-like pieces of plank were nailed on with 8 penny wire nails at intervals of two inches. The frame at No. 7 is seven inches in each way all around and this makes a frame that has proved as firm and as free from vibration as a tree.

### FACTS ABOUT EVERYDAY ALLOYS.

Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc, while bronze is made of tin and copper. The copper and zinc alloy is commonly known as yellow brass. Red brass and white brass are the same only the quantities of copper and zinc are increased respectively in red brass and white brass.

The brass used for castings is generally a composition of copper, zinc, lead and tin and is known to the trade as "steam metal."

Phosphorus added to bronze reduces the melting point of the metal and makes it flow at a comparatively low temperature.

In the final casting of manganese bronze there is practically no manganese present in the metal. The manganese is added to the mixture in order to make a small amount combine with the other materials. In the melting operation the manganese is dissipated.

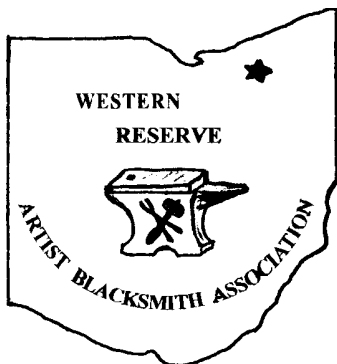
One of the most treacherous alloys is one composed of aluminum and zinc. An alloy of aluminum and zinc when first cast has high tensile strength but in the course of a short time the alloy will disintegrate and certain parts of the alloy will be reduced to a fine powder.

Lead is the best anti-friction metal but is too soft to be used in resisting heavy pressures, consequently most anti-friction metals, classed generally as Babbitt metal, are composed of copper, tin, lead and antimony.



# Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association

6374 Lake Rd. W.  
Madison, Ohio  
44057



Send To:

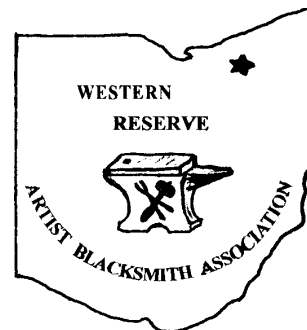
**W  
R  
A  
B  
A**

Forwarding Address requested postage guaranteed

## "Tales of the Western Reserve"

### WRABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Forge Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
What areas of metalworking are you interested in? \_\_\_\_\_



Smithing:

Professional\_\_\_ Hobbyist\_\_\_ Beginner\_\_\_ Advanced\_\_\_

**Dues are payable by MARCH 1st. \$20. yearly single \$25. yearly family**

(new members prorated quarterly: March-May, June-August, Sept.- Nov. and Dec.-Feb.)

New membership\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Send application and dues to:

**WRABA**

**6374 Lake Rd. W.  
Madison, Ohio 44057**

**W  
R  
A  
B  
A**

