

“Tales of the Western Reserve”



WRABA

Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association

Newest 2013 Conference Details Page 5 & 6

WHAT YOU CAN FIND INSIDE:

President's Letter	3
Future Hammer-Ins	4
Conference Details	5-6
From the January & February Hammer-Ins	7
From the March Hammer-In	8-9
ABANA President's Message Winter 2013	10
Classifieds	11
WRABA Membership Renewal	12

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- APRIL 13 HAMMER-IN
- MAY 19 HAMMER-IN
- MAY 24-25 BURTON WWII ENCAMPMENT
- JUNE 29-30 WRABA CONFERENCE
- JULY 13 JOINT HAMMER-IN WITH NOB

From the Websmith:

The launch of the new WRABA website was completed in January. New information and pages are being added as information and requests are received. If you have a Facebook account, be sure to click the icon at the bottom of any page on the site. That way any updates or breaking news will show up in your News Feed.

Classifieds are now available for members. The ads will run for one month, however they may be renewed as long as you need. This will hopefully, eliminate obsolete ads.

Shop ads. If you would like to advertise your shop, send the information to info@wraba.com. During events at Burton last year, many people wanted to know if there was a blacksmith in their area where they could make use of their services.

Photos. If anyone has photos of their work they would be willing to have posted, please send those as well. It is great to be able to direct someone to the website when they ask, "So just what does an artist-blacksmith make?"

Roberta Barnhart,
Websmith



President



Gary Barnhart
 Southington, Ohio
 330-549-3055
 gbarnhart2@neo.rr.com

Vice-President



Roy Troutman
 Streetsboro, Ohio
 330-678-2013

Secretary



Bruce Woodward
 Madison, Ohio
 440-428-0822
 Woodwardiron1@roadrunner.com

Treasurer



Linda Woodward
 Madison, Ohio
 440-428-0822
 Woodwardla@hiram.edu

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

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. WRABA, its officers, demonstrators, writers, editor and members specifically disclaim any responsibility or liability for any damages or injuries as a result of the use of information published in the WRABA News or demonstrated at conferences or at meetings. Every effort is made to insure the accuracy and safety of all the information provided, but the use of any information published herein is solely at the user's own risk.

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

Editor

Jeffrey Nau
 4922 Treeline Dr.
 Brunswick Hills, Ohio 44212
 jeffrey@naufamily.net
 216-409-6291

Board Members

Art Wolfe
 Chesterland, Ohio
 440-729-0777

artjudywolfe@sbcglobal.net

Bob Temple
2013

Bristolville, Ohio
 330-889-3952
 Drbobcatt@netscape.net

Marc Yanko
2014

Chardon, Ohio
 440-286-6059
 mwyanko@hotmail.com

Rocky Whitfield
2014

North Lima, Ohio
 330-549-3055

Ralph Neumeister
2013

Auburn, Ohio
 440-552-9560
 mlforge@cebridge.net

Don Pfaff
2013

East Rochester, Ohio
 330-525-7836

Burton

Bob Temple
 Ralph Neumeister

Fundraising

Bob Temple
 Art Wolfe

Special Events

Bob Temple
 Roy Troutman

Hammer-Ins

Roy Troutman

Tips & Tricks Editor

Ralph Neumeister

Committees

Membership:
 Ralph Neumeister
 Bruce Woodward
 Frank Strock

Scholarship:
 Bob Temple
 Roy Troutman
 Lou Molvin

Workshops:
 Ken Tucker
 Roy Troutman
 Rocky Whitfield
 Bob Temple

Website:
 Roberta Barnhart
 rsb4@neo.rr.com

Sunshine:
 Art Wolfe

Library:
 Bob Brown

Stores:
 Mark Millhoff

President's Letter April 2013

from

Gary Barnhart

Well, just over three months into the new year and we have had three hammer-ins already. I'd like to thank Mike Martin, Ken Roby and Bob Parks for opening their shops to us. Mike demo'd how to make bamboo out of tubing and how to punch & drift round bar for multiple holes, think old iron bars for jails. Mike also has one of the most ideal locations to work in, that being the Fieldcrest Estate which was the Hoover estate in North Canton. If you are in the area it would be worth it to stop and pay Mike a visit. Ken did a fine job of showing how to make an "urn" which looks like the Greek letter Omega "Ω". Starting with an 8" long piece of ½" x 1" bar then forging stub scroll on both ends, then bent to a "u" shape, lots of work for such a small part. Ken has to be the winner of the most stuff award with Ralph coming in a close second. Although Ken has a wall of clamps, he most likely has used most of them on some project. A big thanks to Bob who demo'd a pair of tongs with an animal face on it. Things were a little cuckoo around Bob's place, well, next to it. The city of Sugarcreek cut off a few feet of Bob's shop and installed a large cuckoo clock, very picturesque place. Bob also managed to get the group a visit to a local train collection, truly a once in a life time opportunity! Again thanks to all of you!

It may seem like a long way off, but our 2013 conference is just over three months away. Keep June 28th, 29th and 30th open; we will need lots of help to make this successful. (June 28th will be a set up day.)

We are in need of a coordinator for Westwood this year, Marc Yanko will not be able to attend that day, but can do the planning etc. up to that event. Let me know if you can step up on this situation.

We are introducing a new program called "Volunteer Incentive Program" or **V.I.P.** In the past when you worked an event or donated, your name went into a raffle for prizes at the Christmas party. VIP builds on this by giving you points for working events, donating items, hosting a hammer-in, etc. The points will then be usable by you to redeem certain items. For example: your membership, a bag of coal, or raffle tickets for the Christmas party. A committee will need to be formed, with Bob Temple as the head, to set values for earning and redeeming points. If you think this is off the wall, I would have to ask how many "perk" cards you have? The idea is to give you additional value for the time and effort you put into the group, period. So far Buckeye Welding of Newton Falls, Ohio has stepped up to the plate and are providing a nice package of welding accessories. So get some VIP's!

Keep your fingers out of the way!

Gary

WRABA Events

April Hammer-In

Saturday 13th 9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat
Pot-luck lunch

Bill Rickard
1037 Rt 84 (Ridge Rd)
Painesville, OH
440-477-4490

May Hammer-In With PAABA

Saturday 18th 9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat
Pot-luck lunch

Brad Weber
88250 Mill Hill Rd
Bowerston, OH 44695

Burton WWII Encampment

May Friday 24th—Saturday 25th

Burton Century Village
14653 East Park Street
Burton, Ohio 44021

Remembrance for WWII Veterans. Exhibition of WWII armament, equipment and other memorabilia on Saturday. Volunteers needed—contact Bob Temple.

June Conference

29th—30th 9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat
Pot-luck lunch

Burton Century Village
14653 East Park Street
Burton, Ohio 44021

Bill Robertson will be demonstrating chasing, animal heads, and many other different aspects of metal-work

Open Forge

Tuesdays 5:00—9:00 PM

Maple Leaf Forge
(Ralph Neumeister)
17231 Messenger Rd.
Burton, Ohio 44021

Burton Century Village
14653 East Park Street
Burton, Ohio 44021

If you need a forge to use, help with a project, or just to learn something — come to one of the open forges.

Open Forge will be at **Maple Leaf Forge** until the weather begins to warm up again.

**WESTERN
RESERVE
ARTIST
BLACKSMITH
ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS**



BILL ROBERTSON

**June 29th and 30th at
Century Village in Burton, Ohio**

- ◆ Cold and Hot Forging
- ◆ Tool and Tool Making
- ◆ Chasing and Decorative Work
- ◆ Gas and Forge Welding



**Cost: \$25/day
or \$40 for both days**

Where: 14653 East Park Street, Burton OH 44021

Time: 9am - 4pm

Lunch will be provided. Evening campfire on Saturday evening.

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT WWW.WRABA.COM

LINDA OR BRUCE WOODWARD, 440.428.0822



Bill Robertson

You can see some of his art in the newly published Schiffer book, “Ironwork Today 2”, as



well as the blacksmith shop he built and worked out of in Florida that is featured in the book’s introduction.

Bill creates unique iron art with a focus on lighting. An early introduction to George Dixon and Samuel Yellin’s style of iron carving led him to seek out blacksmiths around at that time that were knowledgeable in chasing techniques like Tom Latane, George Dixon (who had worked in Yellin’s shop), Elmer Roush and Kirsten Skiles to name a few. In return, he now teaches his own class “Chasing, Tools and Techniques” at the John C. Campbell Folk School in NC.

Born in Pittsburgh and raised in Rome, Italy, Bill received a BS Degree in Psychology at FSU which took him from PA down to FL. A few years out of college working as a mental health counselor Bill, (much to his parents surprise) opened up a taxidermy studio which he then ran for the next twenty years in Tallahassee.

Bill was introduced to blacksmithing in 1989 (as unexpectedly as taxidermy) by a chance visit to a pioneer settlement. He became an active member of the

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association serving many positions on the FABAA board including Newsletter Editor, Vice President and two terms as President. He recently moved back to Pittsburgh from Florida and has just finished setting up his new shop, “Gotland Forge”, in an old Victorian house in Bridgeville. A house he is also slowly turning into a museum.



Shortly after his introduction to the blacksmith world, blacksmith tools themselves started to become a love and a passion. Added to his life long interest in antiques, it led to an ever-growing treasure hunt to unearth the next older and more rare blacksmith

tools still out there to discover. So far the four floors of his house are holding up to the weight of the several hundred anvils he has collected and has started to put on display. The



last five years has taken his quest overseas into Europe and Africa. The oldest anvil currently in his collection dates back to the 12th century.

Bill opens up his house every year in December to PAABA for a social meeting and the opportunity for other blacksmiths to come see and enjoy the collection.



Bill Robertson

533 Gregg Avenue, Bridgeville, PA 15017
gotlandforge@verizon.net
412.221.2402

January Hammer-In at Mike Martin’s

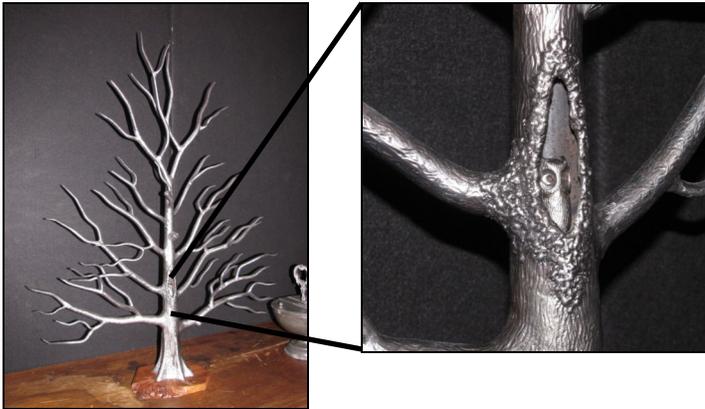


Table-top tree with owl made by Mike Martin
 Photos by Roberta Barnhart

Mike Martin demonstrating bamboo pipes

He heated up a localized area and put in a soft notch, so that when struck against a metal plate on the ground, the distinctive bamboo knot would form



March Hammer-In at Ken Roby’s

Photos by Roberta Barnhart

Ken Roby demonstrating



March Hammer-In at Bob Parks'

Article by our new member Bob Rupert

Arriving in Sugar Creek around 9: AM, Don Pfaff, my tour guide, pointed to the huge clock next to Bob's Studio. I guess there is no excuse for not knowing the time with a clock the size of a building out front.

We wasted no time getting across the street to the entrance of Bob's Studio thru the door with the huge handle of a horse on it. Once inside there was a lot to see. The traditional coffee and donuts, of course, but a shop with lots of hidden treasures.

Bob was already busy signing a pair of tongs he had just made. Gary made a few announcements, the clock was reset. Bob started to make a pair of tongs. Wasting little time, a standard pair of flat jaw tongs emerged from the fire. Then the lower jaw was set aside and he started to transform the upper jaw into a dragon. I find it amazing to watch a true professional with just a few hand made tools, and his imagination, create a functional piece of art.

Looking around his studio there were lots of examples of past contests and projects. His early years as a Blacksmith include people like Jud Nelson, Jim Poor, and events like representing the USA at the NAHT in 1990.

Thanks to WRABA board for the invite. It was a great event.

Thanks Mr. Parks for the tongs!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bob Rupert



Bob Parks demonstrating
Picture by Roberta Barnhart



Above: Finished animal head tongs by Bob Parks

Above: New cuckoo clock in the Sugarcreek town square, built in the last year next to Bob Parks’ shop

Right: Another animal head by Bob Parks.
Photo by Roberta Barnhart



Thanks to Bob Parks for arranging this once-in-a-lifetime tour of a replica steam-age roundhouse. The ironwork on the doors is made by Kim Thomas



ABANA

Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America

President's Message Winter 2013

I am honored to have been elected to serve as ABANA's President for the 2013 year. Peyton Anderson, the outgoing President, is a wonderful example of how easily words can flow from an experienced and educated orator. His messages in the Anvil's Ring have shown an aptitude for saying things well, and for leading our membership and board to new heights. I would like to extend a personal "thank you" to Peyton for his actions as president and for his encouraging words to our members. As an experienced and working farmer, however, my words are not quite as eloquent. But my passion for ABANA's mission runs deep. It is my belief that, together, we can plow, sow, nourish, and raise new opportunities for our membership to grow. Our Board of Directors will be working hard to solve issues and establish goals for ABANA during this coming year. Our board members are from 11 different states and Canada, giving ABANA a good cross section of our members. The contact info for all the board members is listed on the web site. If you have any suggestions or concerns please let us know. We know our web site needs help and we are working on improving it. ABANA is a member-run organization with elections for 5 board members each year. Consider running for the board. The details are on the web site or contact George Matthews. ABANA is almost 40 years old and I would like to thank all the founders and past board members for their leadership and service to ABANA. Next March we are celebrating the 40th anniversary where it all started at Westville, GA. Join us there and see some of your friends and make some new ones. I am looking forward to working with this board and the membership to advance ABANA's goals this year.

Sincerely,

David Hutchison

Classifieds



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.

Auction of Blacksmithing Tools:

Saturday, April 27th, 2013

A retired farrier and blacksmith from Marietta, Ohio will be selling all equipment:

Anvils, forges, post vices, tongs, shears, hammers, hardies, jigs, horseshoes, rasps and files, and much more.

Details and photos on *randyclarkauctions.com*.

<http://www.auctionzip.com/Listings/1637203.html>



This item is wanted. It is a cradle, used to cut stone blocks. Dr. Phil Wanyerka, an Archaeologist, would like to have an original sample for a current project. Contact Dr. Wanyerka at p.wanyerka@csuohio.edu or the editor at jeffrey@naufamily.net 216-409-6291

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 4140 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

12 foot gas hose 3/8 inch—\$20

Trenton 143#—\$325

Trenton 234#—\$525

Early American Wrought Iron book with dust jacket—\$100

Other assorted blacksmith items, call for availability

Ralph Neumeister 440-552-9560

Supporting the Art of Metal Work Around the World

Toll Free 866-627-6922 / Fax 814-627-6922
books@bluemoonpress.org
www.bluemoonpress.org

BLUEMOONPRESS 4988 Blue Moon Road
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Blue Moon Press sold books at our Conference and generously donated two books for our auction

Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association

4922 Treeline Dr.
Brunswick Hills, Ohio
44212



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? _____



**W
R
A
B
A**

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

