

# "Tales of the Western Reserve"



## WRABA

Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association

### 2012, A New Year and a new President:

As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, I'm no longer your president. The reins have been passed to Ken Tucker. Ken is no stranger to our group and has many new and exciting ideas for our group. We constantly need member feedback and new ideas. I wish Ken all the luck in the world and he has my support in all he does. Bring someone new to a Hammer-in, we have been getting a lot of new members lately, lets keep up the trend.

Happy Hammering, Ralph

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#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- JANUARY 14 HAMMER-IN
- FEBRUARY 12 HAMMER-IN
- MARCH 10 HAMMER-IN
- APRIL 14 HAMMER-IN
- MAY 19 HAMMER-IN
- JUNE 23-24 WRABA CONFERENCE
- JULY 14 HAMMER-IN
- JULY 18-21 ABANA CONFERENCE
- AUGUST 4-5 WESTWOOD
- AUGUST 9-10 NATURE OF METAL ENTRIES

#### WRABA 2012 Conference—June 23 & 24

Burton Century Village

Featured Demonstrator: Bob Patrick—known for forge welding

June 23rd: Demonstrations 9AM-5PM, Bonfire

June 24th: Hands-on workshop 9AM-5PM

#### Advanced Registration:

Demonstrations (Saturday) \$25

Hands-on workshop (Sunday) \$25

#### Contact:

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President

Picture to Follow

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**Roy Troutman**

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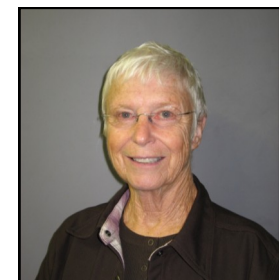
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The Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association (WRABA) is a non-profit, educational organization, an affiliate of the Artist Blacksmith Association Of North America (ABANA).

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.

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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)

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**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

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**Sunshine:**

Art Wolfe

**Library:**

Bob Brown

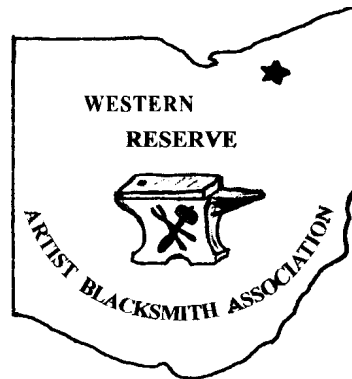
**Stores:**

Mark Millhoff

## Note from the Editor

We would like to have more original content in our newsletter. Please consider submitting articles. They may be handwritten or typed by post or email to the Editor. You may also send pictures of your work to be put on a gallery page or submit items to the classifieds page.

Remember that we have scholarship money available to attend conferences and workshops. In return, the material learned must be given to the group by demo or an article in the newsletter. Contact a member of the scholarship committee for more information.



**May 5-6** (Saturday and Sunday)

**Touchstone** celebrates its **Fourth Annual Jim Campbell Hammer-In**. This yearly celebration of all things blacksmithing honors the enduring legacy of longtime volunteer and friend to Touchstone, Jim Campbell. Join us in the Hart Moore Blacksmith Studio for demonstrations in the art and craft of working hot steel. To add a bit of excitement to this year's event, Touchstone's Blacksmith Studio Manager Richard Sheppard is donating one of his handcrafted treadle hammers to be raffled off Sunday afternoon as the festivities wind down.

For 2012 Touchstone has invited experienced ferriers and blacksmiths, Richard Becker and Bob Parks to demonstrate. Both represent over 65 years of experience at the forge, and are highly accomplished in the field. Programming for the weekend will also include artist lectures, music, food, tool vendors and good old blacksmithing camaraderie. Please visit [www.touchstonecrafts.org](http://www.touchstonecrafts.org) to register for the event. Register before March 15 for a 20% discount on registrations. Just enter JimCampbell as the online registration code when registering at [www.touchstonecrafts.org](http://www.touchstonecrafts.org). Registration at the door is \$45. Room and board can be purchased separately during the online registration process

Bob Parks is a member of WRABA

## January Hammer-In

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AMIron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

The demo is hammer making.

Ike Tripp  
ETNA Products, Inc.  
16824 Park Circle Drive  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023  
Ike's Cell: 440-263-4857  
Email: iketripp@etna.com

From the East on Route 422, take the exit for Route 306 and proceed North to East Washington Street. Turn left (west) on East Washington Street and drive about one-half mile to Park Circle Drive on left just past the Fifth Third Bank. Turn left into Knowles Industrial Park and look for ETNA Products.

Everyone must check in at the office in front of the plant. Food goes in the lunch room. The Demo will be held in the maintenance shop. Bring safety glasses and hearing protection. The plant is heated. There is No Smoking facility. *Smoking is permitted only in your cars or truck. No one will be permitted to enter the plant itself.*

## February Hammer-In

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AMIron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

Roger Howards  
12283 King Church  
Uniontown, Ohio 44685

Roy Troutman will demo an Early American style hinge.

## March Hammer-In

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AMIron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

Bob Parks  
101 N. Broadway  
Sugarcreek, Ohio 44681  
330-852-1014

We will be making a Brian Brezeal style rounding hammer.

## April Hammer-In

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AMIron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

Ken Roby  
11193 Taylor May Rd.  
Auburn, Ohio 44255  
440-543-4977

## May Hammer-In

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AMIron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

Brad Weber  
88250 Mill Hill Rd.  
Bowerstown, Ohio 44695

## July Joint Hammer-In and Picnic with NOB

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AMIron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

Ky Green  
5115 State Rt 60  
Wakeman, Ohio 44889

## Open Forge

Tuesdays 5:00—9:00 PM

At Maple Leaf Forge for the winter

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

Burton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021





## October Hammer-In at Bill Rickard's

Ken Roby demonstrating  
(see pictures on next page)



Ralph Neumeister demonstrating gas  
forge burners



First forge into  
a tight scroll  
with a point in  
the middle



This point will be what  
pulled to create the basket







Notice the tapered end and radiused edge

## November Hammer-In with Jason Nass Demonstrating a Brian Brazeal style hardie



The hardie is fullered into shape



Others making a fullering hardie



## Ginkgo Style Leaves

By ODBSA VP of Education  
Master Blacksmith Dale Morse

Leaves are a very common form in modern blacksmithing, especially in this country. Most, as in nature, are pointed on the end. A few are not. One of my favorite non-pointy leaves to reproduce in steel is a ginkgo style leaf. There are a couple of ways to approach this form and the one I use the most is illustrated here. Feel free, if you try this form, to experiment and see if you can manipulate and improve the shape.

**Step one:** Choose a material. Here I have used 3/8" round bar. Give it a slight flat taper about an inch long on the end.

**Step two:** Lock it vertically in a vise and using a chisel, notch the taper slightly on the end. See the first photograph.



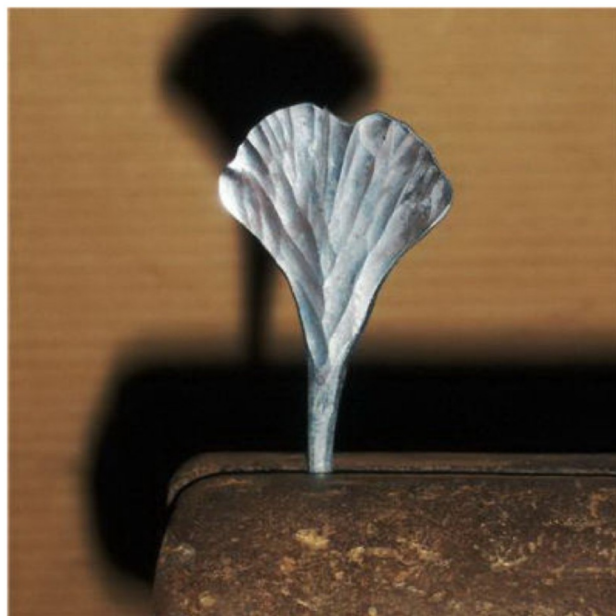
**Step three:** Draw down your stem. Try to draw it down a good ways to a narrow cross section. The more you do this, the larger the contrast between the size of the leaf and the size of the stem, and hence, the more dramatic the effect. Taper the base of the leaf down to the cross section of the stem. See the second photograph.



**Step four:** Using a blunt peen on a cross peen hammer, start thinning out the leaf. Always move the material under the hammer, not moving the hammer around, to affect the shape. Try to get the peen to radius the spread from the stem out in a fan like form. The amount of spread is quite surprising. See the third photograph were half the leaf is drawn part way down.



**Step five:** Continue to spread the leaf and manipulate the shape to the way you like it. On subsequent heats, be very careful not to scorch the thin edges of the leaf. This leaf is easily celery welded in series to create branches. One leaf usually takes under five minutes once you get the hang of it. Note the texture in the last photograph, which enhances the form. Good luck and have fun!





# Classifieds

ABANA has sent us 200 iron in the hat tickets for the 2012 conference. The items are:  
 Tire hammer by Mark & Mindy Gardner  
 BAM box with signature tools  
 NIMBA titan 120 lbs anvil  
 Tickets are \$1 each and will be available at all



## 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.

Kiln board \$10

Gas forge parts and information

Electric Blower for Forge \$55

Early American Wrought Iron \$90

Backyard Blacksmith \$12

**Ralph Neumeister 440-552-9560**

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**

## Francis Whitaker Blacksmithing Scholarship

at John C. Campbell Folk School

Two \$600 scholarships will be awarded for the Traditional Joinery Projects Class taught by Clay Spencer, April 11-16, 2012.

Check class description at [https://www.folkschool.org/index.php?section=dates&date\\_id=474](https://www.folkschool.org/index.php?section=dates&date_id=474)

Students must be intermediate to advanced skill level and will be responsible for any expenses not covered by the scholarship such as meals, lodging/camping, materials and fuel fee.

### Application Requirements

1. Describe your blacksmithing training/experience: any classes, demonstrations, jobs, commissions, craft shows, how much you work at your forge, etc.
2. Several photos of your work.
3. Drawing of the project you propose to do in class. It should be to scale showing stock size and joinery, no MIG or arc welding in project. Include list of material with sizes and lengths.
4. Goals for your blacksmithing, briefly.
5. Why you need scholarship help, briefly.

Your application will be graded against others received.

Send to Clay Spencer at email: [clay@otelco.net](mailto:clay@otelco.net), or 73 Penniston Pvt. Drive, Somerville, AL 35670, You may call 256-558-3658 or e-mail on any questions. Application must be received by March 1, 2012. Do not send before February 1.

Other scholarship for this class may be available from Francis Whitaker Blacksmith Education Foundation, in Colorado (contact me for info), from your local organization or ABANA

**Geauga Park District's**



**Nature  
OF Metal**

**COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITION**

**Coming September/October 2012  
to The West Woods Nature Center**

**featuring nature or organic inspired  
artwork made from at least 50% ferrous  
or non-ferrous metals**



Entries will be accepted in August 2012  
For information contact  
Teresa Runion, Special Events  
Coordinator at 440-279-0882  
or trunion @geaugaparkdistrict.org



## August 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Call for Nature of Metal Entries

Next year, 2012, we have been invited to set up a special metal arts exhibit in the Westwood Nature Center. Anyone from surrounding blacksmith organizations are also welcome to participate.

This is a fantastic opportunity to let the public see what an artist blacksmith does, as well as an opportunity to sell some of our pieces. The pieces will be on display in the nature center from the end of August through October. You may choose whether you wish to put a price on the piece. If you choose to sell your work the sale will be handled through the Nature center which will take a 20% commission on the piece.

The only requirements are that the piece be at least 50% metal and nature related. We would like small and large pieces. The large pieces should be no larger than 4 ft Sq unless you contact Ralph to find out if an exception can be made Small pieces will be displayed in a showcase.

Hopefully this will attract a lot of attention to this art form and to make it successful we also need volunteers at West Wood on August 9<sup>th</sup> from 10-5 and August and 10<sup>th</sup> from 12-7 to help check in the items as they are dropped off.

On August 21<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> 2012, we need volunteers to help set up the display's in the building at West Wood. (No special skills needed-just willingness to help). Please let Ralph know if this is something you are able to help with.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 2-4 there will be an artist reception. Wine and cheese will be served. This is a chance for the public to meet the artists. Everyone is invited to attend whether you are displaying pieces or not. Please bring family and friends. We would like to see a large turn-out from our organization in support of metal art.



## 2012 ABANA Conference in Rapid City, South Dakota



# July 18-21, 2012

Registration for the ABANA 2012 Conference is now open! Use this form or call 423-913-1022 to register. Full conference registration is \$225 for current ABANA members. Nonmember registration is \$275.

The ABANA 2012 Conference in South Dakota is a **"MUST-SEE"** event and will include:

Top Demonstrators	Business Card Exchange	Saturday Evening Dinner
Lectures & Workshops	Portfolio Display Area	Tailgate Sales
3-Day Iron Smelt	Iron-in-the-Hat	Blacksmith Vendors
Poster Displays	Saturday Auction	Open-to-the-Public Gallery
	Family Programs	

### Teaching Tent

The ABANA Education Tent will be staffed by Mark Aspery, Gerald Boggs, and Darryl Nelson. Some of the teaching items are: tooling, two-dimensional animal heads, wizard-headed bottle opener, and ABANA's National Curriculum. To participate, check the schedule and select the class you want, attend the demo, and place your name in the hat at the Teaching Tent if you are interested. Winners' names will be drawn immediately after the demo, before class begins.

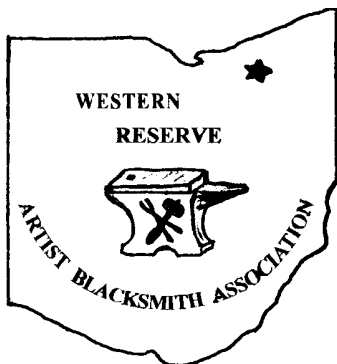
Don't forget to bring your personal safety equipment if you would like to participate!

### Bloomery Smelts

This is a MUST SEE! Wednesday will see the furnace constructed. Thursday will be the first smelt, forging a sculptural piece from part of the bloom. Friday is another smelt with demo on converting the iron to steel in a small hearth.

# Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association

6374 Lake Rd. W.  
Madison, Ohio  
44057



Send To:

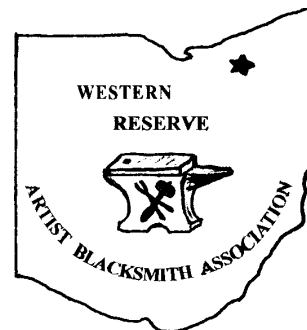
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Forwarding Address requested postage guaranteed

## "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**

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A  
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