

# “Tales of the Western Reserve”



## WRABA

Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- FEBRUARY 8 HAMMER-IN
- MARCH 8 HAMMER-IN
- APRIL 12 HAMMER-IN
- MAY 10 HAMMER-IN
- JUNE 28-29 WRABA CONFERENCE
- JULY 12 HAMMER-IN/PICNIC
- JULY 25-27 ANTIQUE POWER AND STEAM SHOW
- AUGUST 13-16 ABANA CONFERENCE

This year's ABANA Conference will have several international demonstrators and many from across the US to show a wide variety of techniques. As the "Come Make Connections" in the above poster suggests, most of the demonstrations will be focused on joinery. This will include creative variations on the more familiar types of joinery, as well as completely different sorts of joinery. The Patient Order of Meticulous Metalsmiths—just one of the demonstrating groups—will be working on an ornate coffee mill. Tony Swatton who has become very popular over the last year showing blacksmithing to a younger non-blacksmithing generation via his [Man at Arms](#) YouTube series will also be demonstrating. The Teaching Station will include Mark Aspery, Darryl Nelson, Gerald Boggs, and John McLellan instructing the National Curriculum and other projects. Check the ABANA website for a complete list of demonstrators and full details about the conference.



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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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## President's Letter January 2014

from

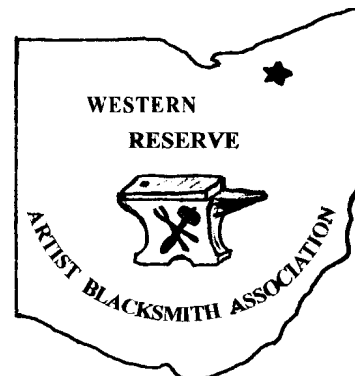
**Gary Barnhart**

Well, my first year is out of the way and it was a good year and you're stuck with me for another. Don Pfaff is your new Vice-President, Dave Aubuchon is the new Treasurer, and Roberta Barnhart your new Secretary. I would like to thank those who served last year, with a special thanks to the Woodwards. The open forges are bringing a steady stream of new people, now that we have 2 locations (Ralph's and mine.) I'm curious as to the turnover of people, is the craft harder than they expected, or are we missing something. I feel a more structured program for new people may help. That will be one focus for this year, also stop in to an open forge and pass on that vast wealth of experience. We had a good Christmas party considering the weather, seems only Snow Belt people showed up! The VIP raffle went well, lots of good stuff with the big prize, an auto darkening weld helmet (\$200) going to Ralph, thanks Buckeye Welding of Newton Falls! We have received the schedule for Burton village and you should find it somewhere in this newsletter. Coal (\$15/#50), we have coal available for members at Burton by arrangement, we will try to have a bag or two at the open forges but a phone call ahead of time would be smart. When the open forges move back to Burton (end of April) coal will be available any Tuesday night. The web site continues to grow and someone actually sent Roberta a classified ad! If you have a working shop, get your info into Roberta for the web site, we get requests for "local smiths" regularly so you're missing out on a good resource. Also we have shirts etc. available online at [Zazzle](#) (link on webpage). Sign up for email from them, they send out discounts all the time, so you could save some cash. A busy year is ahead of us, so try to make some events as they say "many hands make short work" .

Strike true,

Gary

Hint for computers: you can also *left mouse click* the above underlined word if you are viewing the newsletter on a computer, or tap it if on a smartphone or tablet, this will also work with other blue underlined words throughout the newsletter. These are hyperlinks that will take you directly to their websites. If you are reading this in print, the newsletter is available electronically on the WRABA website.



## WRABA Events

### February Hammer-In

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

Ken Roby  
11193 Taylor May Rd  
Aburn Twp, OH 44023  
440-543-4977

### March Hammer-In

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

Bob Parks  
101 N. Broadway  
Sugarcreek, Ohio 44681

### April Hammer-In

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck-lunch

The location of this Hammer-In will be posted on the website when it is confirmed.

### May Hammer-In

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

Brad Weber  
88250 Mill Hill Rd.  
Bowerstown, Ohio 44695

### WRABA Conference

June 28<sup>th</sup>—29<sup>th</sup>

Burton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021

### July Joint Hammer-In and Picnic with NOB

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

Ky Green  
5115 State Rt 60  
Wakeman, Ohio 44889

## Antique Power and Steam Show July 25<sup>th</sup>—27<sup>th</sup>

Burton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021

Let Bob Temple know if you can demonstrate.

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### Open Forge

Tuesdays 5:00—9:00 PM

#### Tuesdays:

Maple Leaf Forge  
Ralph Neumeister  
17231 Messenger Rd.

#### Thursdays:

SteelTree Workshop  
Gary Barnhart  
1961 State Rt. 534

If you need a forge to use, help with a project, or just to learn something — come to one of the open forges. For the winter, it will be at Ralph's shop on Tuesdays and Gary's shop on Thursdays. Watch the website for details. Open Forge will move back to Burton Century Village in the Spring as weather permits.

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## Artist Blacksmith's Association of North America 2014 Conference

August 13<sup>th</sup>—16<sup>th</sup>



ABANA members can register for \$175, and non-members for \$225. Late registration after 30 June is \$50 more. You can register online at [abana.org](http://abana.org) and for more information.



## October's Hammer-In made a lot of Cents At Don Pfaff's



These *Scented*  
Flowers, featuring  
pennies on top



Above: colonial toaster

Below: a balancing man upon a tight-  
rope. There are only grooves on the  
bottom of the feet and the balancing  
bar to keep this guy from plummeting  
on Don's head

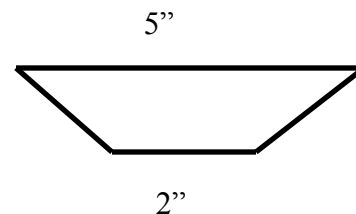
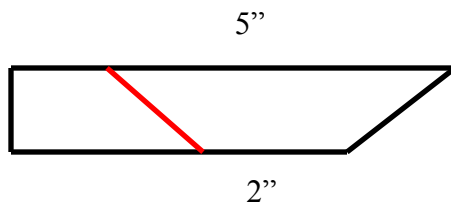


# Heaven S(c)ent—Angel wings with a Penny

As demonstrated by Don Pfaff at the October Hammer-In

The penny makes this a great gift item with the date on a penny matching a birthday

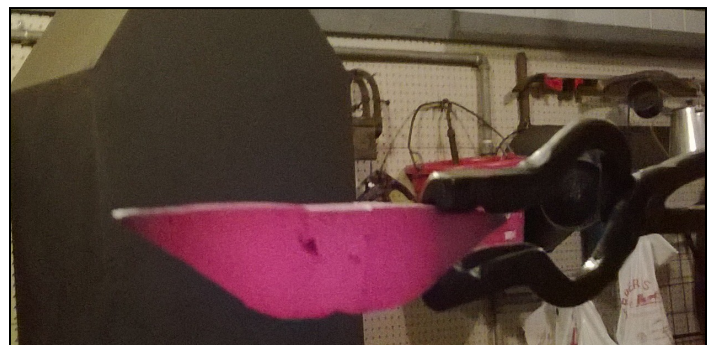
Start with a 1/4th inch by 1 inch flat stock. Taper the end even on one side and cut of the other end to make a trapezoid. The long side should be about 5 inches and short side 2 inches



Guillotine the center of the trapezoid (left) to begin defining the shape of two wings (as shown right)



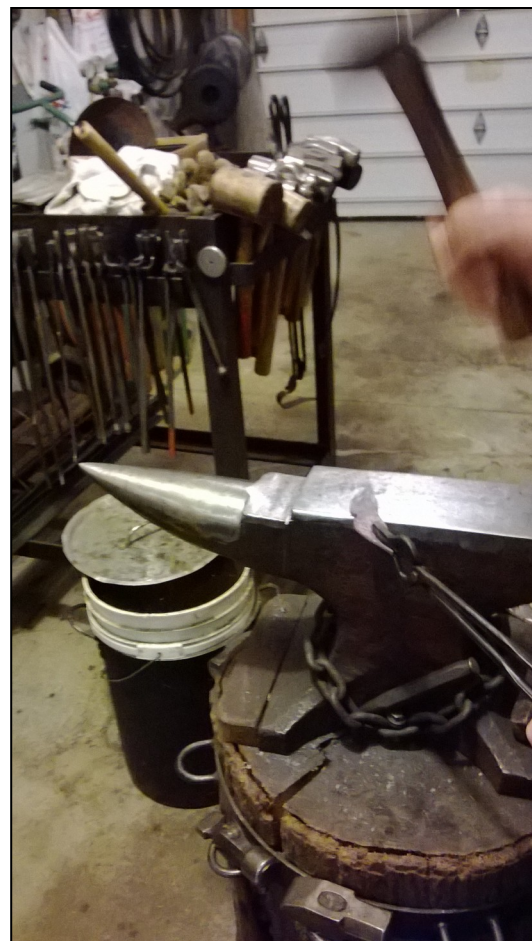
Turn it upside down, and the wings may resemble a moustache







The bottom of each half is then given their wing shape



A flat circle is lightly punched in the center of the two wings, slightly larger than a penny







A narrow cross-pein hammer can be used to make the 'feather' marks along the edges of the wings. The wings can also be given some upwards flare

Two holes are punched or drilled through the top so it can be hung from wire

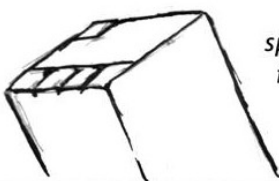
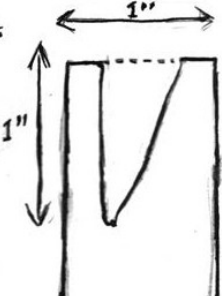
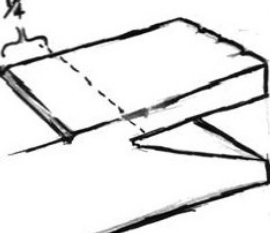

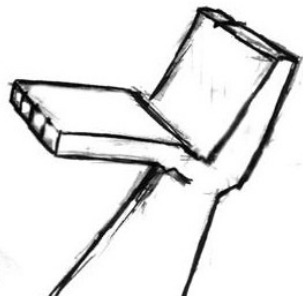



Finished wings by Don Pfaff with penny glued in the punched center displaying a birth date  
Full-sized



From the September 2012 issue of *The Anvil's Horn* from the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association:

## Peter Jonasson: Making a Hand

<p>1.</p> 	<p>1. mark the fingers on your 1" bar like so. Tip: cut three equally spaced marks for the four fingers and thumb. Like so.</p>
<p>2.</p> 	<p>1. Now, cut straight down about the thickness of the bar, in this case cut down 1" or a little more. Then from the thumbs mark, cut at a diagonal angle to the bottom of your first cut.</p>
<p>3. 1/4"</p> 	<p>1. Now shape and shorten the thumb, it should be around as long as the index finger. Shape with a grinder.</p>
<p>4.</p> 	<p>1. Mark and cut the four-fingers to proper length. Use your own hand as a reference.</p>
<p>5.</p> 	<p>1. Now taper out the wrist on the edge of the anvil. Keep going until proper proportions are met.</p>
<p>6.</p> 	<p>1. Lay down the thumb to the side.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>10. And finally round off and detail the fingers and palm, ( Use your own hand as reference as much as possible.). Add in as much detail to the hand as you want and above all else. Have fun!</p>



# Classifieds

WRABA now has an online shop at [Zaz-zle.com/wrabashop](http://Zaz-zle.com/wrabashop), also linked on the website. It currently has WRABA shirts, ball-caps, mugs, and calendars of many various styles and colors so you can get exactly what you want with the WRABA logo.



Pictured: a WRABA calendar starting at \$20.95, full-color images featuring the anvils of our members



## 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.

2 post vices—\$75

Early American Wrought Iron book by Eric Sonn—\$85

Gas forge burners—\$65 & \$100 each

Blacksmith's helper—\$100

Dies (assorted ) each hardened 4140—\$60

EZ Weld can—\$10

Monkey tools 3/16 to 1/2 inch—\$50 for set of 5 or \$12 each

Other assorted blacksmith items, call for availability

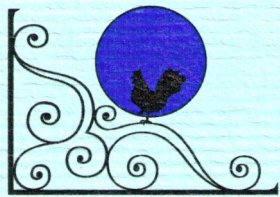
**Ralph Neumeister 440-552-9560**

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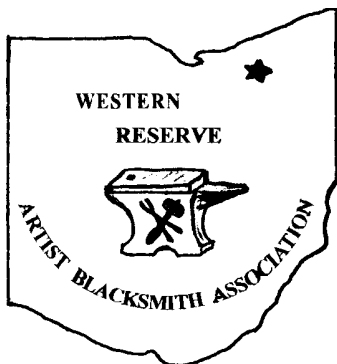
4988 Blue Moon Road  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Blue Moon Press sold books at our 2012 Conference and generously donated two books for its auction



# Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association

4922 Treeline Dr.  
Brunswick Hills, Ohio  
44212



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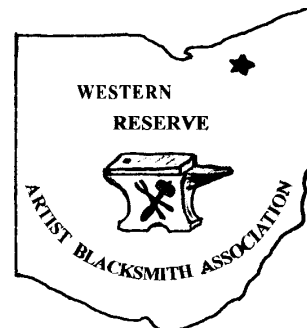
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Forwarding Address requested postage guaranteed

**"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**

**9634 Brixton Ave. NW  
Uniontown, Ohio 44685**

**W  
R  
A  
B  
A**

