

# “Tales of the Western Reserve”



## WRABA

Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association

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Bill Robertson at the  
2013 WRABA Conference

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- JULY 26-28 BURTON ANTIQUE POWER AND STEAM SHOW
- AUGUST 3-4 WEST WOODS NATURE ARTS FESTIVAL
- AUGUST 10 FAMILY PICNIC
- AUGUST 17 BURTON RACCOON COUNTY MUSIC FESTIVAL
- SEPTEMBER 27-29 SOFA QUADSTATE CONFERENCE
- OCTOBER 12-13 BURTON APPLE BUTTER FESTIVAL
- OCTOBER 19 HAMMER-IN
- NOVEMBER 9 HAMMER-IN

The demonstrator at our conference make a single piece look like multiple pieces. This year was Bill Robertson. The conference took place over two days. On Saturday, we were giving a demo of chasing including the many tools Bill Robertson has for it—including flatters, fullers, ball punches, pushing and engraving chisels, and stamping punches. He also demoed with butcher chisels to get most of the shapes. Various demos showed how chasing can

tion on Saturday. Following the day's demos, there was a camp fire and cookout. On Sunday, there was a demo of a wine bottle holder. Bill Robertson demonstrated various leaves, vine texturing, and gas welding. More inside.



**President**

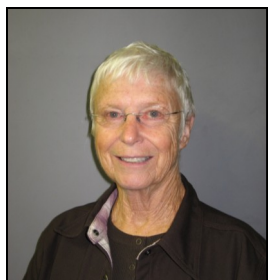
**Gary Barnhart**  
 Southington, Ohio  
 330-898-8171  
 gbarnhart2@neo.rr.com

**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.

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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)

**Editor**

Jeffrey Nau  
 4922 Treeline Dr.  
 Brunswick Hills, Ohio 44212  
 jeffrey@naufamily.net  
 330-741-1829 (new number)

**Board Members****Art Wolfe**

Chesterland, Ohio  
 440-729-0777

[artjudywolfe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:artjudywolfe@sbcglobal.net)

**Bob Temple**

**2013**

Bristolville, Ohio  
 330-889-3952

[Drbobcatt@netscape.net](mailto:Drbobcatt@netscape.net)

**Marc Yanko**

**2014**

Chardon, Ohio  
 440-286-6059

[mwyanko@hotmail.com](mailto:mwyanko@hotmail.com)

**Rocky Whitfield**

**2014**

North Lima, Ohio  
 330-549-3055

**Ralph Neumeister**

**2013**

Auburn, Ohio  
 440-552-9560

[mlforge@cebridge.net](mailto:mlforge@cebridge.net)

**Don Pfaff**

**2013**

East Rochester, Ohio  
 330-525-7836

**Burton**

Bob Temple  
 Ralph Neumeister

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Bob Temple  
 Art Wolfe

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**Hammer-Ins**

Roy Troutman

**Tips & Tricks Editor**

Ralph Neumeister

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 Lou Molvin

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 Bob Temple

**Website:**

Roberta Barnhart  
[rsb4@neo.rr.com](mailto:rsb4@neo.rr.com)

**Sunshine:**

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## President's Letter July 2013

from

**Gary Barnhart**

What a year so far, we just finished the 2013 conference with Bill Robertson and it was a good one. Bill has raised the bar with the level of his work, showing us methods of chasing to give depth to your work. One work tip Bill impressed on a lot of people was the use of a rosebud torch on a propane/oxy setup and a gas economizer valve. The use of a "straight" cutoff torch allows a smaller footprint but a standard 90 degree head torch can be used. The key to the set-up is making a foot controlled lever that opens and closes the economizer valve. When you need heat, step on the pedal and the game is on hands free. Now this set-up has its limits so a hammer-head may be rough but for most work it's a good alternative to a gas or coal forge. Bill also has an extensive chisel collection, so if chasing is for you, start making them now and in a year or two you'll have a quarter of Bill's set. So our thanks to Bill for a great job giving us many tips and methods to spice up our work, taking it to the next level. Also a big thanks to all those who helped to make this year's conference a success! We also received a compliment on putting on a very good demo; we were praised for the closeness to the demonstrator and the organization of the event.

WRABA is moving forward to make your experience easier, by making available payments for the conference by debit/credit card with approximately half doing so. We will also have the ability to take credit cards at our support events with Century Village. Our website has become a dynamic tool and like any tool the more you use it, the more productive you become. One way our website can work for you is by submitting your classified ads, ads for your shop, and any events/shows you may be participating in. Please submit your info to [websmith@wraba.com](mailto:websmith@wraba.com). The online store is now open for you to get WRABA theme apparel and items. A link on the website will take you to [www.zazzle.com](http://www.zazzle.com) a company that supplies all kind of products for organizations. At this time the list of items is small, but it will grow weekly with over 500 items available to add to our store. So if you want a pink lady's t-shirt for someone special now is your chance.

Some items that we have tackled at Burton this year are: the forge hood has been lowered and reduced in diameter and 4' of pipe added to the top, it seems to be drafting better and no one has hit their head lately! The Milk house has had a major electrical overhaul with a new sub-panel with 4 independent circuits replacing the single circuit that was trying to handle coffee pots, crock pots, along with the band saw & grinder. We now have 2 small refrigerators in the milk house, one thanks to Art Wolfe the other I believe was Bill Fisher. The working forge has been organized with storage and racks so a place for everything and everything in its place. I want let you know the old forge bellow repaired last year is a pleasure to work with. I spent a day during the WWII event allowing guest to see how the old timers did it. We added a counter weight to the coal bin cover so it takes very little effort to raise it now. One item that is going to take some real work is the power-hammer needs rebuilt, the head guides are not parallel and it is not up to par. We need to decide a plan of action so any input is welcome.

I like to end this with a request, I would like you to remember what it was like when you first started in blacksmithing and those who help you learn the skills you now have. Will you be remembered for the time you spent passing on what you know?

Gary,

always hold the cool end!

## WRABA Events

### Antique Power and Steam Show

July 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM—5:00 PM

Burton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021

If available to demonstrate to the public, please let Bob Temple know.

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### West Woods Nature Arts Festival

August 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM

The West Woods Nature Center  
9465 Kinsman Rd (Route 87)  
Russell & Newbury Twps.

WRABA will have a demonstration booth and a sale booth. Items must be nature themed. There is an art competition you may enter.

The Nature Arts Festival includes nature themed art from multiple mediums.

See <http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org/special-events.shtml#naf> for more information on the West Woods Nature Center and directions.

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### August Family Picnic

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

Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

Chan Bleil's  
9451 Jackson St.  
Mentor, Ohio 44060

For those who have not been to Chan's, he has a large collection of large, old machinery. He also has an extensive track system for miniature riding trains, and detailed train models. Open to the family.

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### Raccoon County Music Festival

August 17<sup>th</sup> Noon—8:00 PM

Burton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021

If available to demonstrate to the public, please let Bob Temple know.




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## Apple Butter Festival

October 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM—5:00 PM

Burton Century Village

14653 East Park Street

Burton, Ohio 44021

If available to demonstrate to the public, please let Bob Temple know.

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## October Hammer-In

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat

Pot-luck lunch

Don Pfaff's

28151 Mountz Rd.

East Rochester, Ohio 44625

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## November Hammer-In

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat

Pot-luck lunch

Bruce Hale's

617 Bobwhite Trail

Akron, Ohio 44319

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## Open Forge

Tuesdays

5:00—9:00 PM

Burton Century Village

14653 East Park Street

Burton, Ohio 44021

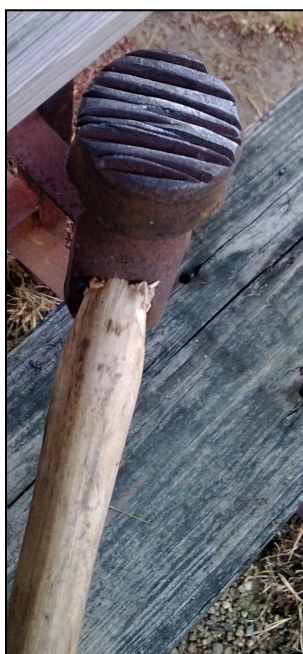
If you need a forge to use, help with a project, or just to learn something — come to one of the open forges.

One of Bill Robertson's tool chests full of various kinds of chasing tools:

Butcher chisels

Flatters

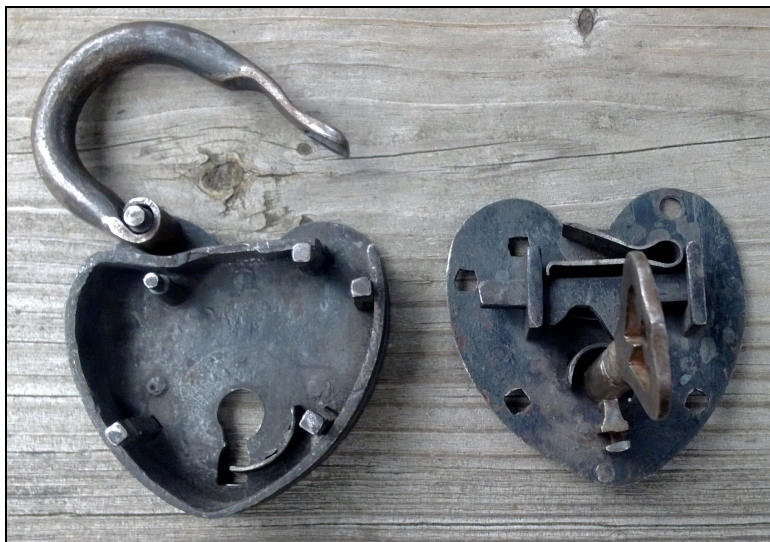
Curved chisel



Bill Robertson's texturing hammer (left). He also used a texturing block to texture the vines of the wine bottle holder he made

A block for patterning leaves, with demoed leaf at bottom and other leaf styles around it





A blind rivet on the side of the same lock shown left. Bill Robertson uses wire for blind rivets that can barely be seen

(below) When a normal vice may damage the chasing work with too much time put into it to risk marring—this wooden vice securely holds the piece and is itself held in the vice. The top is shaped to fit the piece, with a cut down the middle of the block. This middle cut closes to securely hold the piece while the jaws of the vice press on the cutouts seen on the side of the block



(left) The middle design is a part of the larger single piece of sheet metal, formed by chasing. Blind rivets secure the second part at the top. Mica backs this lampshade, shown in the gallery of items Bill Robertson brought

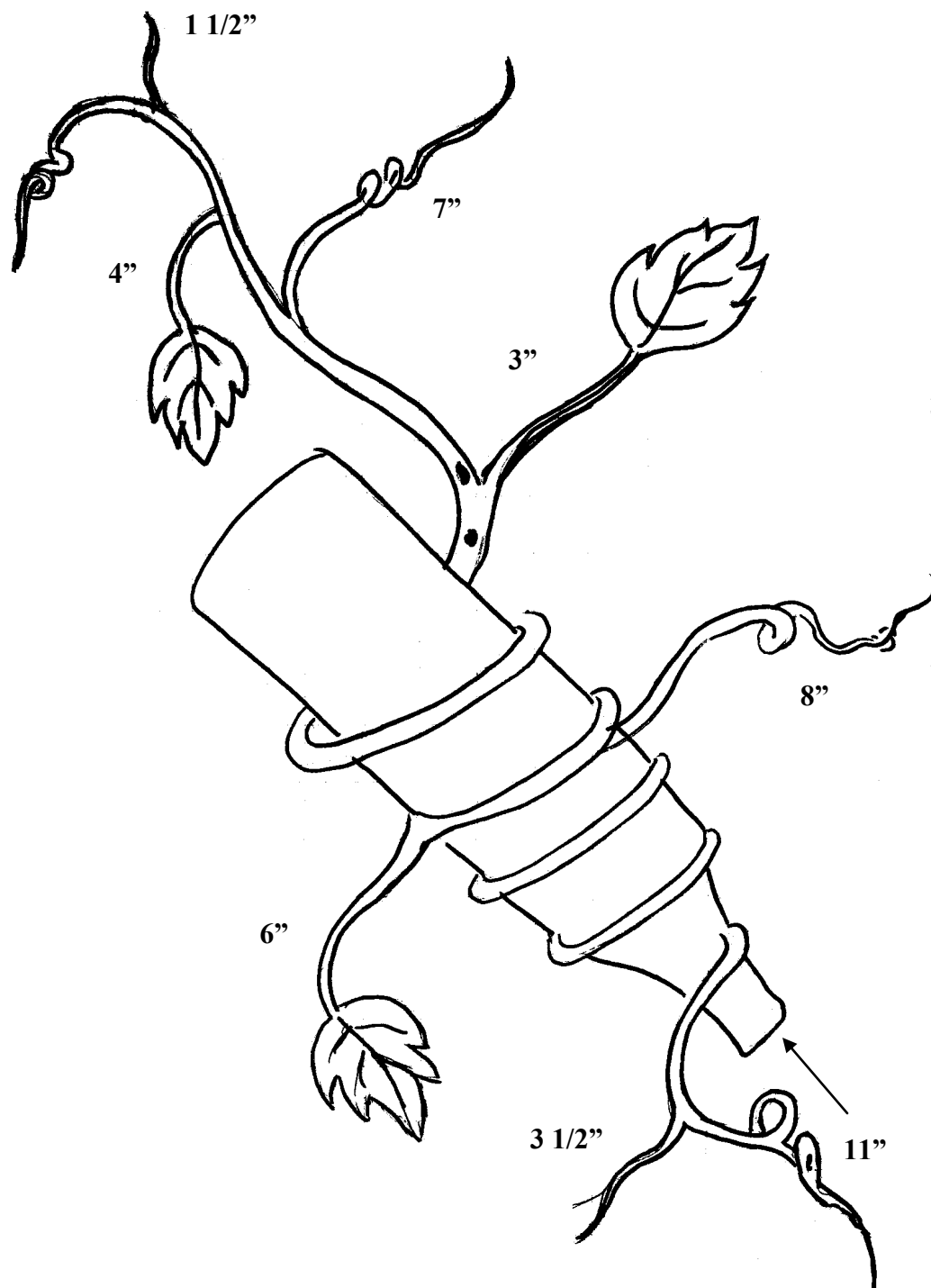


This piece (right) is one of the demonstrations of chasing Bill Robertson gave

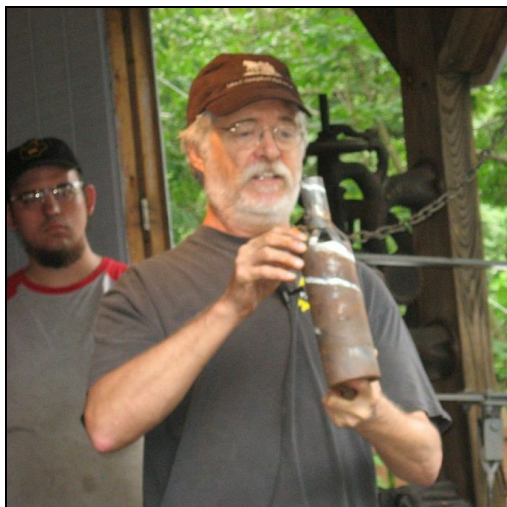


## Wine Bottle Holder

Drawn and demonstrated by Bill Robertson at the 2013 WRABA Conference



Length—47"  
5/16" round



Bill Robertson showing the form of a bottle he uses to twist the vine around to get the right fit. It is twisted to shape before welding the leaves and side strands. Bill Robertson demonstrated how to gas weld the parts together and others giving it a try



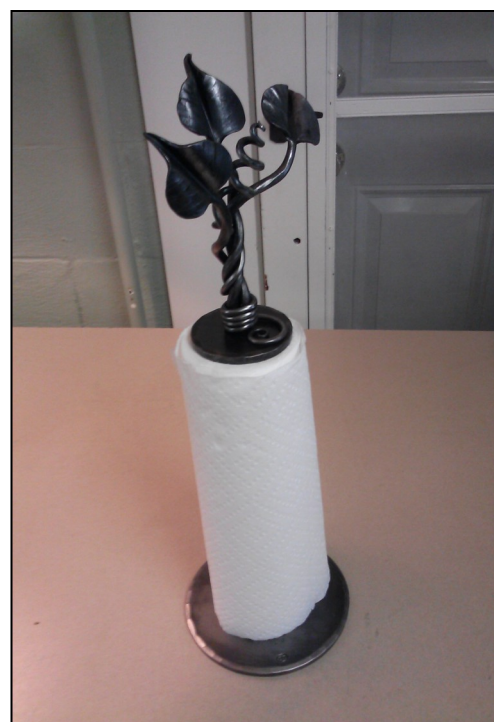
## Gallery from the Conference



Bell made and donated  
by Chris Holt and John  
Steel for the auction



Lamp by Don Pfaff



Paper towel holder  
by Don Pfaff



Snail made by Don Pfaff.  
Directions available on the  
website

# Classifieds

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**



### 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.



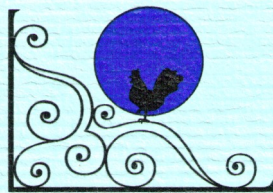
This item is wanted. It is a cradle, used to cut stone blocks. Dr. Phil Wanyerka, an Archaeologist, would like to have an original sample for a current project. Contact Dr. Wanyerka at [p.wanyerka@csuohio.edu](mailto:p.wanyerka@csuohio.edu) or the editor at [jeffrey@naufamily.net](mailto:jeffrey@naufamily.net)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

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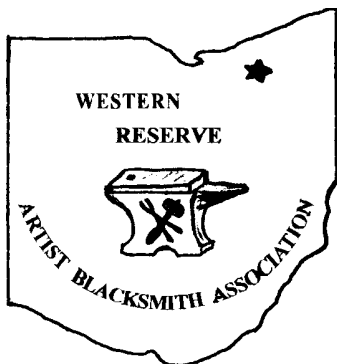


4988 Blue Moon Road  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

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

# Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association

4922 Treeline Dr.  
Brunswick Hills, Ohio  
44212



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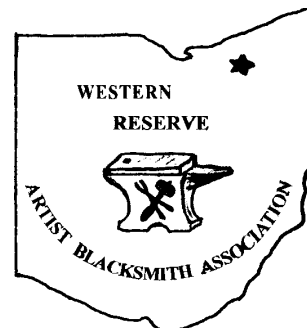
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Forwarding Address requested postage guaranteed

## "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**

**6374 Lake Rd. W.**

**Madison, Ohio 44057**

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