

# “Tales of the Western Reserve”



## WRABA

Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- AUGUST 2-3 WEST WOODS NATURE ARTS FESTIVAL
- AUGUST 13-16 ABANA CONFERENCE
- AUGUST 23 WRABA FAMILY PICNIC
- SEPTEMBER 26-28 SOFA QUAD-STATE
- OCTOBER 11-12 APPLE BUTTER FESTIVAL
- OCTOBER 19 HAMMER-IN

The two-day conference was filled with great demonstrations by Bob Rupert. The weather held up well this year with only brief rain. Blue Moon Press was also there selling books on metalworking with display books to look through. Blue Moon Press also donated items for our auction—and won some too.

The family of the late Bill Hahn has requested a blacksmithed marker be made incorporating a cross. If you would like to contribute in some way, please contact Ky Green—440-935-5107.



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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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Ralph Neumeister

**Fundraising**

Bob Temple

Art Wolfe

**Special Events**

Bob Temple

Roy Troutman

**Hammer-Ins**

Don Pfaff

**Tips & Tricks Editor**

Ralph Neumeister

## **President's Letter July 2014**

**from**

**Gary Barnhart**

We had a very good conference on June 28th and 29th. Our thanks to Bob Rupert for some fantastic tips and reminding us that simple can be the better way to do things. A great turn out for the conference setup on Friday helped to make things go smoothly. A special thanks to Roy Troutman for cooking (pork doesn't pull itself!), also to Art Wolfe for the food donation. We also like to thank Judy of Blue Moon Press for bringing her massive collection of metal arts books.

A reminder that we need items for sale, the dues you pay would not run this club very long. Our open forge night which is doing quite well, is powered by coal, coal we buy. We generate most of our funds through sales and auction of items you donate, that item does not have to be grand, nails, "s" hooks, leaf key fobs, all do well at the table Bob Temple mans. So please find some small amount of time to hammer out something.

Some things that are coming up in the near future, Century village has approved our expansion of the new forge. We will be adding 8' to the right side of the building, adding 2 new forges and 4 new work stations. If you think this is unnecessary, then come to an open forge night when 10+ people are trying to hammer! We are also kicking the tires on the idea of replacing the chimney in the new forge with a brick unit with two fire pots, one in front, one in back. So any masons (or friend of a mason) in the club?

WRABA picnic August 23 noonish, DRINKS AND MEAT PROVIDED, bring a side dish or dessert to share. This is a social time for us to get to know each other. Of course the forge is available, but let's hammer out some deeper friendships.

Finally we are seeing new people weekly at the open forge nights, if you can come to one and share your knowledge, that is what the Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association is all about.

May your clinkers be few and your handles tight!  
Gary



# WRABA Events

## Open Forge

Tuesdays 5:00—9:00 PM

### Tuesdays:

Burton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021

### Thursdays:

SteelTree Workshop  
Gary Barnhart  
1961 State Rt. 534  
Southington, Ohio 44470

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 is at Burton on Tuesdays and Gary’s shop on Thursdays.

## West-Woods Nature Arts Festival

August 2<sup>nd</sup>—3<sup>rd</sup> 10:00 AM—5:00 PM

9465 Kinsman Rd. (Rt. 87)  
Russel & Newbury Twps.  
(Russell, Ohio 44072)

[See the Geauga Parks website for more details.](#)

## Raccoon County Music Festival

August 16th

Burton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021

Let Bob Temple know if you are available to demonstrate.

## Family Picnic

August 23rd 12:00 PM

Pot-luck lunch

Burton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021

It starts around noon, 11 AM if you want to help setup, cook, etc. Drinks & meat provided, side dishes & desserts needed. Bring lawn chairs. Tailgate sales if you want.

## SOFA Quad-State Roundup

September 26<sup>th</sup>—28<sup>th</sup>

Miami County Fairgrounds  
Troy, Ohio

Apple Butter Festival  
October 11<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM—5:00 PM

Burton Century Village  
14653 East Park Street  
Burton, Ohio 44021

Let Bob Temple know if you are available to demonstrate.

October Hammer-In  
October 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat  
Pot-luck lunch

Don Pfaff's  
28151 Mountz Rd.  
East Rochester, Ohio 44625

PAABA—Jeff Farmer demonstrating  
August 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM

John Steel  
Steel Welding  
2063 Lovi Rd  
Freedom Rd, Pennsylvania 15042

\$15—includes picnic lunch, all day demo, auction, and short PAABA meeting.

NOB—Open Forge  
August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Mark Segard  
3495 W. Fremont St.  
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452  
419-734-4395

NOB—Meeting  
September 13<sup>th</sup>

Butch Sheeley  
15784 Custar Rd.  
Grand Rapids, Ohio  
410-832-5801

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

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



# ABANA

Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America



## From the April Hammer-In With Jymm Hoffman demonstrating

Jymm Hoffman showing a blank for a colonial axe



Jymm Hoffman's reproduction colonial-style anvil



Jymm Hoffman forging a colonial axe



## From the May Hammer-In

With demonstrations by Don Pfaff  
and Charles Hughes



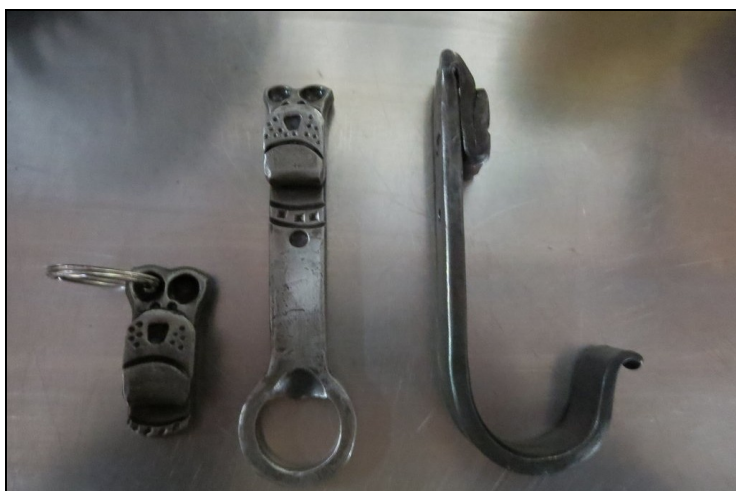
The layers to the flower demonstrated by Charles Hughes

Charles Hughes demonstrating a layered flower



Right: Dog-head bottle opener demonstrated by Don Pfaff

Below: More ways to use the dog head; note the way the head is folded in the hook





# WRABA's 2014 Conference Featuring Bob Rupert



Bob Rupert and two strikers forging the head on a giant nail



Bob Rupert was our featured demonstrator this year. The main theme was that the simple way, and the more traditional way, can be the better way



A simple way to make a nail header from a rasp. The tang of the rasp is drawn out for nail size desired. The tang end of the rasp is cut off to provide the punch for the header after the other side of the rasp has been domed

Bob Rupert also showed how to make a simple cross from pulling open chiseled cuts





One of the tips regarding hardies was to forge them specifically to the anvil. This allows them to be removed without needing to be whacked loose.

The hardie tool shown in the anvil below and full-sized right is about 3/8" thick with a slightly radiused top and lipped edge of about 1/2". Another size used was 1/8" at its lipped edge. These are meant to be remain in the hardie while working to quickly scrape off scale without taking the time away from the heat by wire brushing. They fit into a hardie hole diagonally.



This is the completed table that we are donating to ABANA for the conference.

The following people are greatly thanked for their assistance:

- Ralph Neumiester
- Bill Fisher
- Don Pfaff
- Roy Troutman
- Eric Heston
- James Hyde
- Bob Temple
- Hubert Hoffman



# Classifieds

WRABA now has an online shop at [Zazzle.com/wrabashop](http://Zazzle.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.



Was at WRABA 2014 Conference  
& donated books for our auction  
[www.bluemoonpress.org](http://www.bluemoonpress.org)



Champion 400 Blower—\$155

Canady Otto Blower—\$175

Ratchet Handle Forge—\$335

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**

**2014 WRABA Membership Application**

☐ New Membership    ☐ Renewal – Please fill in all sections so your information may be updated

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Best way to contact me**  
 Spouse/Family Names \_\_\_\_\_ (check one or two)  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Email  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Home Phone  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Mobile Phone  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Mail  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Forge Name \_\_\_\_\_ **May we list your forge**  
 Specialty \_\_\_\_\_ in a directory on the  
 Forge Address \_\_\_\_\_ **WRABA website?**  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Yes  
 Forge Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Web site \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ No

**Smithing Experience:** I wish to receive my newsletters  
 via (choose one)

- ☐ Beginner    ☐ USPS Mail  
☐ Hobbyist    ☐ E-mail (as a PDF file)  
☐ Advanced  
☐ Professional

**Comments:****Participation:**

- ☐ I am willing to hosting a Hammer-In  
☐ I am willing to demonstrate at a Hammer-In  
☐ I am willing to demonstrate at Century Village events  
☐ I am willing to host an Open Forge  
☐ I am willing to assist with the newsletter  
☐ I am willing to serve as an officer or board member

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membership year starts March 1st.  
 Dues are prorated as follows:

Join Date	Single	Family
<input type="checkbox"/> March-May	\$25.00	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> June-August	\$18.75	\$22.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. - Nov.	\$12.50	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. - Feb.	\$6.25	\$7.50

**Print form and mail or Email to:**

WRABA c/o Dave Aubuchon  
 9634 Brixton Ave NW  
 Uniontown OH 44685  
[dnl21@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dnl21@sbcglobal.net)

*Membership valid once dues are received.*

**Payment**

*I'm using the following method for payment:*

- ☐ Cash  
☐ Check  
☐ Credit card via PayPal - click here to go to online payment.  
☐ VIP points



**Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association**

4922 Treeline Dr.  
Brunswick Hills, Ohio  
44212



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**“Tales of the Western Reserve”**



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