

"Tales of the Western Reserve"



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- OCTOBER 8-9 APPLE BUTTER FESTIVAL
- OCTOBER 15 HAMMER-IN
- NOVEMBER 12 HAMMER-IN
- DECEMBER 10 WRABA HOLIDAY PARTY
- JANUARY 14 HAMMER-IN

WRABA

Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association



At the August family picnic Ralph and Roy presented Bruce Woodward with a staff as an WRABA Appreciation Award.

The horse head on the staff was made by Brian Brazeal during the conference demo then Bob Temple and Roy Troutman finished it into a staff.

We are desperately in need of locations for Hammer-Ins. Anyone interested in hosting a hammer-in or anyone with suggestions please let Roy Troutman or Ralph Neumeister know as soon as possible. We only have hammer-ins scheduled through January. If you would like to volunteer your shop, but do not wish to demonstrate, a demonstrator can be provided.

We had a hammer-in on July to make hinges for the Burton blacksmith shop doors. We still have blanks cutout and are in need of people/groups that would be willing to take them and make them for us. The hinge part is done, but need the decorative part.

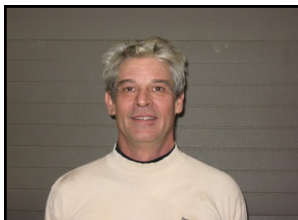
We still have polished granite table tops available if anyone wants to get a group together to work on making one for a raffle item. We would like to have a table to raffle to raise money to support the Bill Hahn Memorial Scholarship Fund.

President

**Ralph Neumeister**

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Mlforge@cebridge.net
 440-552-9560

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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

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: Dec. 15th, (these dates are in the month prior to the issue coming out on the 1st)

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Special Events

Bob Temple
 Roy Troutman

Hammer-Ins

Roy Troutman

Tips & Tricks Editor

Ralph Neumeister

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 Bruce Woodward
 Gary Kruse
 Frank Strock

Scholarship:

Bruce Woodward
 Bob Temple
 Roy Troutman
 Lou Molvin

Workshops:

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 Roy Troutman
 Rocky Whitfield
 Bob Temple
 Marty Reisig
 Bob Brown
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Sunshine:

Art Wolfe

Library:

Bob Brown

Stores:

Mark Millhoff

President's Letter October 2011

Ralph Neumeister

Fall is finally here, so maybe some time for working at the forge. Still trying to clean the bench, it seems like it will never happen. We have several things in the works. First is a program that been several years in the works.

It's called "Nature of Metal" and is co-sponsored by WRABA and the Geauga park system. It was originally envisioned to show the general public that we do something besides s-hooks and Sheppard's hooks. It will start in late August of 2012 and run through late October. It will be held at Westwood's Nature Center on route 87 in Russell. Entries must be at least 50% ferrous or non ferrous metal in a nature or organic inspired artwork. You will have the opportunity to price your work or exhibit it as "Not for Sale." If items are sold you must supply your social security number and a check will be issued by the county auditor less 20% commission. We have an extremely large room to fill along with the entry area. It's open to any artist using metal. There will be an opening reception open to artists and the general public. It's a great way to showcase your work, and show the talent that many of our members have. We will need some help with setup and receiving entries, so let us know if you're available.

The second thing available is "Art Takes a Bough" it involves making holiday ornaments, so bring your entries to me and I will see they get turned in. The reception is on December the 8th from 6 to 9 P.M. at the Meyer Center in Chardon. It's a great program; the artist gets 50% of the auction price and the remaining supports the Geauga County Arts and Culture organization. The featured demonstrator will be Bill Hickson who has decorated the white house tree for over 29 years. He is an excellent and entertaining person. He makes decorations from almost nothing and is defiantly worth the trip.

Quad State was as usual a great event, 926 in attendance and still the largest blacksmithing event in the country. Our next event will be at Bill Rickard's shop which I hear is something to be seen. November will be at Century Village as a cleanup and demonstration day. Jason Nass has been conducting an informal hammer in on Tuesday nights with anywhere from 4 to 9 people in attendance, we are getting new members from this and everyone is having a good time hammering. November is also election time and we are looking for some new blood as some of us old-timers are getting old and running out of ideas. Why not help out with a turn as a board member or officer. Hope to see everyone's face at Bill's later this month.

Happy Hammering,

Ralph

October Apple Butter Festival

8th—9th 10:00 AM—5:00 PM

Burton Century Village
14653 East Park Street
Burton, Ohio 44021

October Hammer-In

Saturday 15th 9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat
Pot-luck lunch

Bill Rickard's shop
1037 Riverside Rd.
Painesville, Ohio 44077
440-477-4490

November Hammer-In

Saturday 12th 9:00 AM

Iron-in-the-hat
Pot-luck lunch

Burton Century Village
14653 East Park Street
Burton, Ohio 44021

Hammer-In and winter clean-up

December Holiday Party

Saturday 10th 1:00—5:00 PM

Pot-luck lunch
Gift to Exchange

Burton Century Village
14653 East Park Street
Burton, Ohio 44021

Bring a dish to pass, a gift for each person participating in the gift exchange. Try to keep all gifts to a homemade (yourself or family member) and a dish to pass. Volunteers needed to help set up call Ralph at 440-552-9560 if you can assist.

January Hammer-In

Saturday 14th 9:00 AM

Iron-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.*

"Art Takes a Bough"

December 8th 2011 6:00-9:00 PM

See President's Letter for details

Meyer Center
Chardon

Late August to late October 2012
Nature of Metal community art exhibition
See page 8 for details

The West Woods Nature Center
9465 Kinsman Road (Route 87)
Russell & Newbury Twps.
(Russell, OH 44072)

PAABA

THURSDAY NIGHTS - FORT ALLEN - Open Forge Call Dick Fisher for details! 724-836-3625
See the new addition and take part in the friendly atmosphere. \$5 Donation appreciated for fuel.

November 5 - Hoffmanfest II – Join PAABA members at Jymm Hoffman's for a day of blacksmithing. Jymm will be focused on stag horn hinges, pintels and of course some extra projects and techniques! This is a FREE event, you do not need to bring anything for an auction, just bring a favorite dish to pass for lunch. Last year it was quite a feast! Come as a turkey and gobble up some projects this year!

NOB/SNOB

The 3rd Saturday of the odd months are the NOB meetings
9:00AM to 11:00AM is the Social and Forging Time.
11:00AM to 12:00PM is the Meeting Time.
After the Meeting we have a Potluck Lunch.
Meetings are open to visitors, guests and members who are interested in the Art of Blacksmithing.

There is always an Iron-In-The-Hat Raffle at the bimonthly meeting, so don't forget your contribution as the money raised from this Raffle helps defray the cost of the Newsletter.

This is election of officers meeting. IRON-IN-THE-HAT Christmas decoration

Saturday, November 19
Roger King
8840 Hill Ave.
Holland, OH 43528
419-866-5703

NOBnewsletter@gmail.com

Open Forge:

The 1st Saturday of the even months is the Open Forge. Fires lit at 9:00AM for a day of forging which will include a hands-on-demo or a special project.

Bring your sack lunch.

A collection is taken to help defray the cost to the host/demonstrator.

If you would like to host an open forge, contact

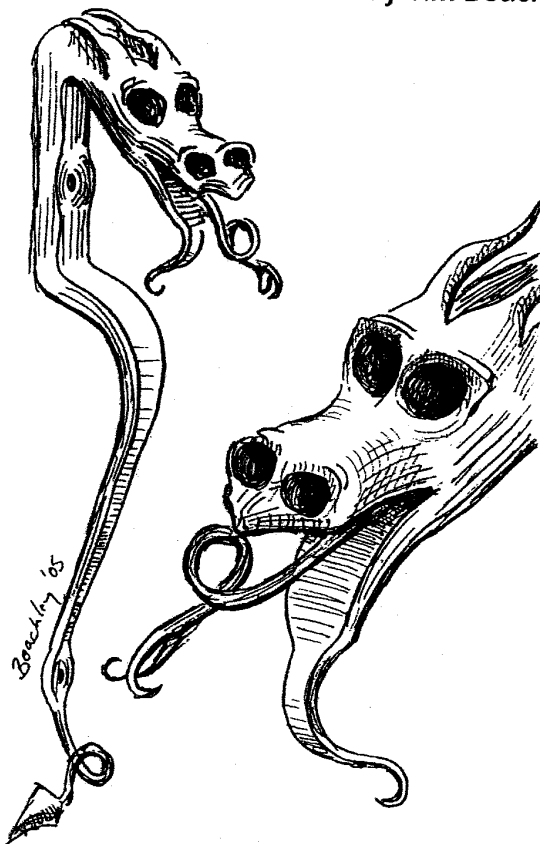
Joseph Maschari at 419-621-9593

Saturday, December 03
Mel Hoch
26193 Bowman Rd.
Defiance, OH 43512
419-395-1314

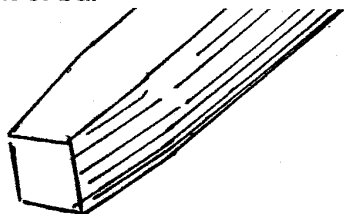
hochphyllis@gmail.com

Dragon Head Door Handle

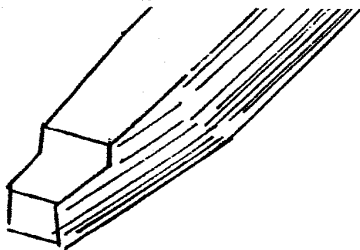
By Tim Beachley



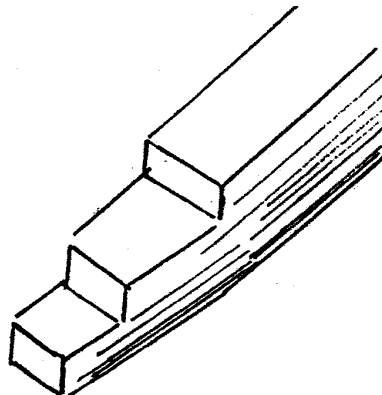
Start with 1" Square bar approximately 24 inches long. (long enough to work without tongs) Forge a slight taper – reducing width, not height of bar



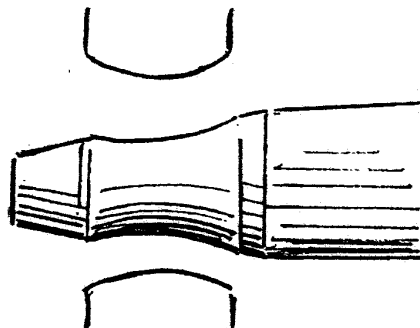
Using half face blows, forge step approx. 1/2" back, down to about 3/8" thick. You will end up with approx 1" of length ahead of the step.



Forge 2nd step 1-1/4 to 1-1/2" back from the 1st step – maintain side taper while forging steps.

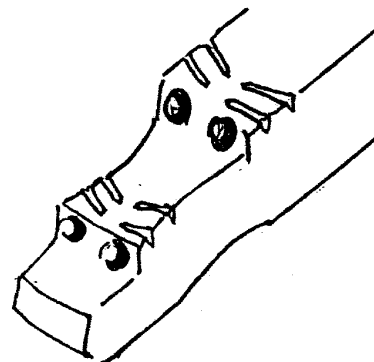


Rotate 90 deg and forge concave radius between steps. Use radius dies on power hammer or anvil and hammer.



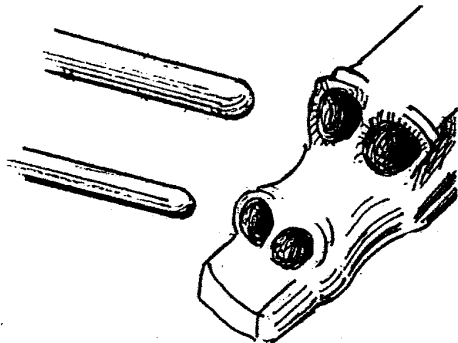
Slightly round over all sharp edges

Use a center punch or small bull nose punch to start nostrils and eyes.



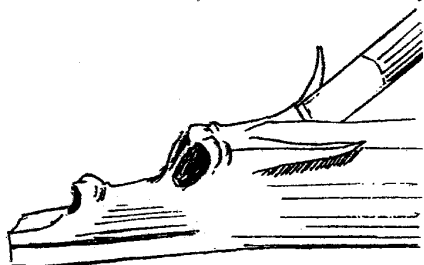
With a sharp chisel, incise a couple of grooves behind each eye and nostril. These marks will become the wrinkles behind the eyes and nose.

Enlarge eyes using a 3/8" bull nose punch and nostrils with a 1/4" bull nose punch.



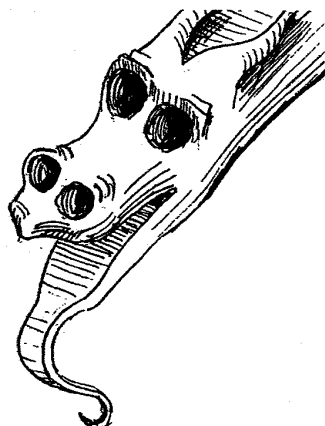
Hint: when the opening is as deep as it is wide, begin varying the direction of the punch. This will make the openings larger than the punches and you can achieve more interesting shapes.

Using a chisel, cut horns from the upper corners behind the head. Bend horns out and draw out. Hammer back down and shape.



Let cool and cut mouth with bandsaw or hacksaw.

Heat and open mouth. Trim and shape upper lip.



Trim bottom and (optional) draw out to form beard.

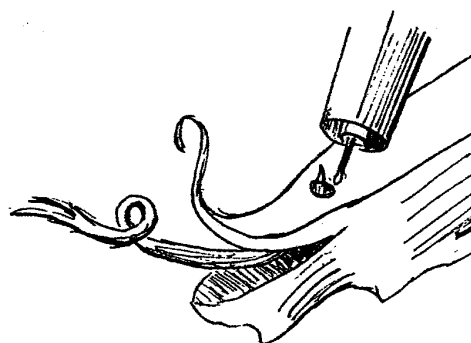
Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland

Forge tongue using 1/4" x 1/8" stock

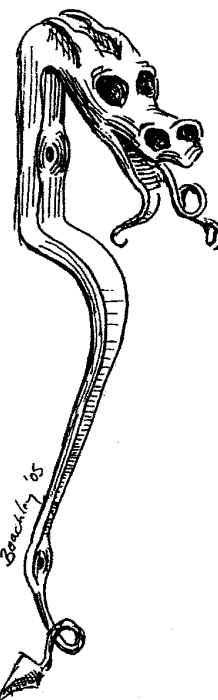
Drill hole through jaw approx. 3/32" round.



Draw out back end of tongue and insert into mouth and thru hole.



Use plug weld to secure tongue.



Draw out remaining stock (all but about 8") to form handle.

If you don't have a power hammer or a striker, the handle can be forged from smaller stock and the head welded on.



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



In partnership with
WRABA
Western Reserve Artist
Blacksmith Association

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 9th from 10-5 and August and 10th from 12-7 to help check in the items as they are dropped off.

On August 21st to the 24th 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 25th, 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.

Classifieds

ABANA has just 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 hammer-ins until next May.

Ceramic board 8 inch x 24 inches ---\$8--2 for \$15

Gas forge burners ---\$50

Kevlar gloves 800 degree \$14 each or 2 for \$25

anvil peter wright 158# \$320

blacksmith vise 4 to 6 inch various prices

can help with items for building a gas forge

25# Little Giant power hammer
new style, has been rebuilt, 2 sets of dies (round and flat)built 1949, \$2500 firm

Early american wrought iron by Soon, no dust
jacket 1989 edition \$75

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.

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

"Pitch It To You" Chasing & Repousse Pitch
(A Division of A Copper Rose Metal Art)

Debra Montgomery

website: <http://www.chasers-pitch.com>

email: info@chasers-pitch.com

phone: 559-338-0748

This is a good all around medium grade/hardness chasing and repousse pitch. Good adhesion, soft enough for repousse, firm enough for chasing work. It is pine rosin based with no petroleum or animal products used in the making. Quantity and WRABA membership discounts offered as well as shipping discount. Use the code WRABA30 to receive \$0.30 per pound discount in addition to quantity discounts already in place. Sold in 1 pound increments, minimum 2 pound order. Base price is \$9.00/lb plus shipping (California State Tax applies to Cali. residents)

ABANA President's Message:

Why Rapid City, South Dakota?

It all started when our very own, Jill Turman, ventured out to Rapid City, South Dakota to do a demo for the School of Mines representing ABANA. What she came back with was excitement and a commitment from the School and Rapid City to help ABANA put on a great conference. We were also very lucky to gain a great board member and conference Co-Chair Jack Parks who is a Rapid City local! So, Thank You Jill Turman!

Rapid City holds a lot of hidden gems that will make this conference one of ABANA's best. How about we take a look at a few of them that aided in the board's selection of this site:

1. Rapid City and the School of Mines are excited to have ABANA in town and are working to make special arrangements to make the attendees feel right at home. The School of Mines has been around for over 100 years and has one of the top metallurgy departments in the country. They are opening the doors to their dorms, cafeteria, classrooms, and lecture halls for us. Creating yet another option for saving money on eats and sheets! The Rapid City Visitor's Bureau has from the beginning gone above and beyond to assist us in any way possible. I cannot give too much away yet on this but expect some really cool things to be announced soon...
2. The membership has spoken! The Memphis conference was catered to the suggestions of the membership on what you were looking for. The post conference survey gave us honest info on what worked and what still needs work. We have taken it to heart and are making improvements based on your feedback. There will still be on site camping, affordable ticket prices, better food vendors, happening later in the summer, teaching tent, more variation in demonstrations, campus involvement for eats and sheets options, and more.
3. Being in Rapid City means the whole family will get something out of the trip. Moving the conference dates into mid to late July allows for grade school and college to be out on summer break and before they start back up. This means the whole family can take a vacation to one of the most historic places in the country. Mount Rushmore is nearby along with Crazy Horse Mountain, and the experience of the Black Hills creates a pioneer spirit deep in your being that cannot be matched anywhere. Now the ABANA 2012 Conference can become one part of the memories and experiences you can have with your whole family in one of the most beautiful and meaningful places in the United States.

4. Being in the Dakotas also gets us closer to our Upper Midwest and Canadian members. The beauty and challenge in moving our conference around is to reach the multifaceted regions of our North American membership!
5. "Reunion on the Plains" is the theme. And the idea is to create a conference that brings back together all the members of our blacksmithing family. The knife makers, traditionalists, artists, hobbyists, professionals, and everything in between. This is certainly going to be a family reunion of sorts...just without that crazy uncle who always tells the awkward stories of when you were a kid (okay maybe that is just my family reunions!)

There is a lot more that can be listed out here. But, I think you get the picture! We wanted to give you a conference that has more than blacksmithing at the core. July 18-21, 2012 will bring a sense of unity to our amazing craft while inspiring a renewed sense of wonder into the possibilities within it and within your potential behind the anvil. It will also bring a perfect opportunity for your family or you alone to see some of the great wonders, both natural and man-made. It will also allow us to build life long memories with the lingering smell of coal smoke in such an inspirational place in North America. Allowing us all to forge ahead into the true potential of our craft and our own imagination, no matter the skill level or interest!

Yours in Service,

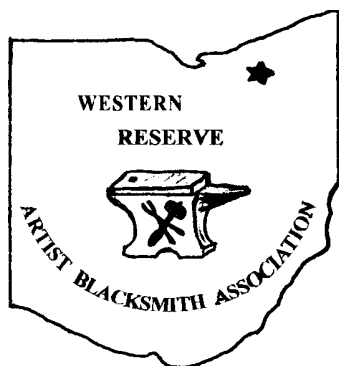
Peyton Anderson

Something to think about: The nearby town of Belle Fourche was designated in 1959 as the geographic center of the United States. So, see...Rapid City isn't that far away from you after all!!!



Western Reserve Artist Blacksmith Association

6374 Lake Rd. W.
Madison, Ohio
44057



Send To:

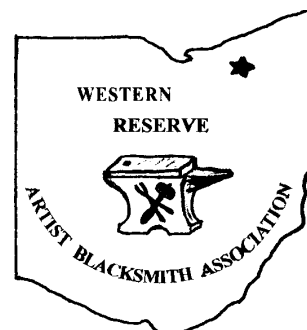
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Forwarding Address requested postage guaranteed

"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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