

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Blacksmithing Workshops and Classes:

Peters Valley Craft Education Center
19 Kuhn Rd., Layton, NJ 07851 (973)948-5200
pv@warwick.net www.pvcrafts.org

**Academy of Traditional Arts
Carrol County Farm Museum**
500 South Center St. Westminster, MD 21157
(410)848-7775 (410)876-2667

Touchstone Center for Crafts
R.D.#1, Box 60, Farmington, PA 15437
(724)329-1370 Fax: (724)329-1371

John C Campbell Folk School
One Folk School Rd.
Brasstown, NC 28902
1-800-365-5724 www.folkschool.com

Brookfield Craft Center
286 Whisconier Road
P. O. Box 122
Brookfield, CT 06804-0122
203.775.4526

Open Forges

We are looking for members who are interested in opening their forges up to members as an open forge. This does not have to be a weekly forge as is Marshall's the others can meet once or twice a month. Please contact, Larry Brown, Editor.

We want to encourage all to join us at:

Monday Night Open Forge in N.J.

Marshall Bienstock is hosting an open forge in his shop at 7 pm almost every Monday night (Please call ahead on holidays to make sure , (732)780-0871)

Open Forge in Long Island

Sunday from 10:00 am to 6pm.
Starting the 1st Sunday in November until the end of April. Please call ahead to confirm and get directions. Ron Grabowski, 110 Burlington Blvd. Smithtown, NY (631) 265-1564
Ronsforge@aol.com

If any members have a forge at home and work in the evenings or weekends and want to open it up to help a few local guys, let me know, Larry Brown, editor, as we get requests from members who have a hard time traveling to some of the open forge locations.

Business Members

We would like to thank those who joined with our new Business Membership category .
Business dues are \$40
Please show them our support

John Chobrda, Dragon Run Forge
P.O. Box 315 Delaware City, DE, 19706
302-838-1960 jchob@verizon.net

Grant Clark, GWC Forge
PO Box 158 Perrineville NJ 08535
732 446-2638, 732 446-2638

Eric Cuper Artist Blacksmith
109 Lehman Lane, Neshanic Station, NJ 08853
908 642-6420 ericuper@msn.com

Bruce Hay, Jr.
50 Pine St., Lincroft, NJ 07738

Jayesh Shah, Architectural Iron Design
950 S. 2nd St., Plainfield, NJ 07063
jay@archirondesign.com

Louise Pezzi, Blacksmith
1241 Carpenter St
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215 336 6023 pezziandjr@gmail.com

Mark Balzarette, Blue Sun Customs LLC
124 Greenwood Ave. STE.C Suite C
Midland Park, NJ 07432

BLACKSMITH TOOLS FOR SALE!

John Chobrda

Has a large selection of tools for sale.
Anvils – Forges - Leg Vices—Blowers
Tongs – Hammers
and/or resurfaced Anvils

Call John for prices and availability
(302) 838-1960 cell (609) 610-3501

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Tools and Their Usage

Sent in by Nate Pettingill

DRILL PRESS: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted part which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

WIRE WHEEL: Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, "What the...?!!!"

ELECTRIC HAND DRILL: Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age.

BELT SANDER : An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

HACKSAW : One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

PLIERS: Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

WISE-GRIPS: Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

WELDING GLOVES: Heavy duty leather gloves used to prolong the conduction of intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

OXYACETYLENE TORCH: Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub you want the bearing race out of.

TABLE SAW: A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles with the speed of a ballistic missile for testing wall integrity.

HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK: Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

EIGHT-FOOT LONG YELLOW PINE 2 X 4: Used for levering an automobile upward off a trapped hydraulic jack handle.

E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD EXTRACTOR: A tool ten times harder than any known drill bit that snaps neatly off in bolt holes thereby ending any possible future use.

BAND SAW: A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good aluminum sheet into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash can after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST: A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

AVIATION METAL SNIPS: See hacksaw.

PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER: Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids and for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER: A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws.

PRY BAR: A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

CRAFTSMAN 1/2 x 24-INCH SCREWDRIVER : A very large pry bar that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end opposite the handle.

HOSE CUTTER: A tool used to make hoses too short.

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent to the object we are trying to hit.

MECHANIC'S KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while wearing them.

SKILL SAW: A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

DAMMIT TOOL: Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling "DAMMIT" at the top of your lungs. It is also, most often, the next tool that you will need.

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

PHILIP SIMMONS **Master Blacksmith**

(1912 - 2009) (Charleston , SC June 22, 2009)

It is with deep sorrow that we announce that Philip Simmons, America's premier blacksmith, died on June 22, 2009, at Bishop Gadsden Retirement Community.

Philip moved to Bishop Gadsden in the spring of 2008 and lived comfortably surrounded by a caring nursing staff and many friends and family.

Philip died peacefully. He was 97.

Born on June 9, 1912, on Daniel Island, South Carolina, Philip was reared by his grandparents. At age 8 he was sent to Charleston via ferry to live with his mother on Vernon Street . He was enrolled in the first class at Buist Elementary School (now Buist Academy).

While walking to and from school, young Philip noticed the ironwork and became intrigued with it. The neighborhood was a Mecca for craftsmen who serviced the waterfront businesses. He began visiting the blacksmith shops, pipe fitters, shipwrights, coopers, and other craftsmen in the area. However, the sounds of the blacksmith shops interested him the most. Philip Simmons apprenticed under the blacksmith Peter Simmons (no relation), who ran a busy shop at the foot of Calhoun Street . Here, Philip acquired the values and refined the talents that would sustain him throughout his long metal-working career.

Moving into the specialized field of ornamental iron beginning in 1938, Simmons fashioned more than five hundred decorative pieces of ornamental wrought iron: gates, fences, balconies, and window grills. The City of Charleston , from one end to the other, is truly decorated by his hand. In 1982, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded him its National Heritage Fellowship, the highest honor that the United States can bestow on a traditional artist. This recognition was followed by a similar award from the South Carolina State Legislature. Simmons was inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame in Myrtle Beach , SC , on January 31, 1994. The Order of the Palmetto , the highest award given in the state, was presented to him by Governor David Beasley in 1998. In May of 2001, Philip Simmons received the Elizabeth O'Neill

Verner Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts.

Pieces of his work have been acquired by the National Museum of American History as well as the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Smithsonian Institution, the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe , NM , and the South Carolina State Museum , Columbia , SC. In 1989, the vestry and congregation of his church (St. John's Reformed Episcopal Church, 91 Anson Street in downtown Charleston) dedicated the grounds of the church to develop a commemorative landscaped garden as a tribute to his exceptional mastery of wrought iron and in recognition of his inspirational character and self-assurance. Philip is survived by Lillian Gilliam, daughter; Philip Simmons, Jr., son; Rebecca Comings, sister; 16 grandchildren; 17 great and 23 great, great grandchildren, plus many nieces and nephews

American College of the Building Arts

darwin@buildingartscollege.us
843-577-5245

Passing the Hammer

ACBA Says Goodbye to a Friend, Mentor and Inspiration

Charleston, South Carolina – America was faced with a pressing need for the systematic training of artisans through educational programs emphasizing craftsmanship. The country was losing master craftsmen and women who are skilled with their hands, creative and innovative with their minds, and passionate about quality workmanship in their hearts. The solution to the crisis was the American College of the Building Arts (ACBA); a college inspired by Master Blacksmith Philip Simmons.

Philip Simmons was more than just another outstanding American craftsman; he remains the inspirational founder of an entire American movement to ensure that art goes back into building. Just as Philip Simmons understood the critical need for master artisans in America, a small group of individuals in Charleston saw the shortage of professional building artisans across the United States

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

and in 1997 the group joined forces with Simmons to try and preserve the lost arts and give a national crisis hope.

The project goal was to make a universal change to what was and still is one of the largest critical needs in the American Workforce; a Master Building Artisan trained through educational programs. After years of work, this group of pioneers founded the American College of the Building Arts, which is now our nation's first and only college to offer a Bachelor's degree in the Building Arts in six different majors/trades (Architectural Metal, Architectural Stone, Carpentry, Masonry, Plaster Working, and Timber Framing).

Simmons was a critical inspiration during the entire ACBA project and devoted his last years watching the College grow. On May 2, 2009 Simmons made his last public appearance at the graduation of the American College of the Building Arts inaugural class in Washington Park, Charleston, SC.

"ACBA is very sad to have lost their friend and mentor on June 22, 2009. We like to believe Philip Simmons has now passed the hammer to the college" says Huguley, "his legacy will forge on through our teachings, and he will always be remembered by our students, faculty and founders."

**The American College of the Building Arts educates and trains artisans in the traditional building arts to foster exceptional craftsmanship and encourage the preservation, enrichment, and understanding of the worlds' architectural heritage through a liberal arts education.

www.buildingartscollege.us

Creative Puns for Educated Minds

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.

5. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.

6. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

7. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

8. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

9. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

11. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.

12. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

13. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, 'You stay here, I'll go on a head.'

14.. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then, it hit me.

15. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said, 'Keep off the Grass.'

16. A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.'

17. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

18. It's not that the man did not know how to juggle, he just didn't have the balls to do it.

19. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

20. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

21. A backward poet writes inverse.

22.. In democracy, it's your vote that counts. In feudalism, it's your count that votes.

23. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

24. Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects!

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Renewal Page

Please return this page with a check for the indicated amount, payable to NJBA to;

NJBA, P.O. Box 224, Farmingdale, NJ, 07727-9998.

Individual - \$20.00

Businesses - \$40.00

If you join NJBA as a **business member**,* you will be listed in the newsletter with your contact information.

NJBA does not pro-rate dues on a month-to-month basis since we do an annual membership drive once a year in June. However, if you joined within the past nine months, you may renew at a discount applies (please check appropriate box):

- I joined in August, September or October, 2008, so I qualify to my membership through June 2009 for \$15.
- I joined in November, December, 2008, or January, 2009, so I qualify to my membership through June 2009 for \$12.
- I joined in February, March or April, 2009, so I qualify to my membership through June 2009 for \$7.

Only name and address are required. Our mailing list is not sold or distributed, but information may be made available to other NJBA members upon request. Please list your **e-mail address**, which we will use to share late breaking news and announcements.

Name: _____ **Home phone:** _____

***Business name:** _____

Address: _____ **Day phone:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____ **Skill level:** _____

Programs I'd like to see: _____

I'd like to volunteer to: _____

Comments: _____

New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

Tear This Page Off!!!

**Then send it back with your renewal
on the back of this page**

NJBA, P.O. Box 224, Farmingdale, NJ, 07727-9998

June 8, 2009

Dear NJBA Member,

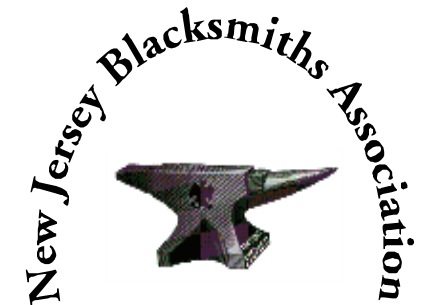
We're running a little late with the renewal letter, this year, because we decided to save postage by combining it with the newsletter mailing. Dues are still \$20, for which you get four newsletters and about 90 events each year. Yes, I do mean 90 events, because in addition to membership meetings approximately monthly, we have two (count 'em, two!) open forge meetings going on a weekly basis. (See the newsletters for details. <http://njba.abana-chapter.com>)

As for monthly meetings, we have a master blacksmiths demonstrate to our group at least once per year. We have some fun events each year, like Delaware City Day (hosted by Kerry Rhoades) and the Holiday Party (hosted by Marshall). Each September we hold a tool swap (tailgate sale) at the Red Mill in Clinton. We also try to have at least one workshop each year. Last year's sword-making workshop had to be cancelled due to lack of interest, unfortunately. We are constantly being called upon to give public demonstrations, such as the ones at Speedwell, Middlesex Co. Fair, Historic Cold Springs Village, and Walnford, and could be at many more of these if we had members willing to staff them.

And that brings us to the core of my message: NJBA is a volunteer organization. The most active volunteers we usually get to serve on the board, but there is no requirement to be on the board to be active. A few of the current directors (i.e., board members) have been decreasing their activity levels due to work, family, health, or other personal reasons. Currently, only two directors have vehicles that can tow the NJBA tool trailer. Larry Brown, our editor, ends up writing up most of the event reports for the newsletter, with a little help from yours truly. Although we get decent turn-out at the public demonstrations, we'd love to do better.

NJBA can do better if more members will help out. Please consider helping out in some way that you will enjoy. Can you haul the trailer from Marshall's farm to a meeting? Can you help out to prepare for a workshop? Would you like to man a public demonstration in your area? Let us know. Drop an email or phone up one or more of the directors to let us know of your interest.

Finally, I must repeat another very important request: We would really like to have email addresses for all members who use email. Often we have important information too late in hand to get it into the newsletter, and we just don't have the manpower for a telephone tree.



Sincerely,
Bruce Freeman