



N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 6, Issue 1

Spring is here!

If you're a hot weather person who hid all winter, it's time to dust off the tools and get to work! Come out to an open forge or take a course, even just come to a meet or two. I hope the beginners and others too are following the Foundations Series I'm reprinting, it's an excellent how-to! Get activated! Soon it may be too hot!

Upcoming events for 2001

Remember most of our meets have a "Iron in the Hat" drawing, be sure to bring something.

May 19th: Membership meeting and Hammer-in at Longstreet Farm in Holmdel, NJ.

Details this page.

June 16; Meet at Cold Spring Village in Cape May, NJ. Details on page 2.

July 27th; Monmouth County Fair. Details on page 2.

August; Joint meet with NJBA/ PABA. Details to be announced. Also we possibly will be involved with the NJ State Fair (Sussex County Fair)

October 13; Tentative meet at Mike Walker's in Elton, Md

November; Tentative meet at Peters Valley

May Meeting:

Hammer-in and Elections

The May meeting will be on Saturday May 19th. 10 AM at Longstreet Farm. Holmdel Park, Holmdel (Monmouth Co.), NJ.

This meeting will be a general hammer-in. Our goal is to have several smiths demonstrate blacksmithing to our members and the public. The setting will be the blacksmith shop and surrounding area. We have use of the blacksmith shop at

Longstreet which has one forge. We encourage you to bring portable forging equipment so if permitted we can have more forging stations, we may be able to set up other forge stations around the area of the shop. NJBA will supply the coal and some stock for the demonstrations. If you have any specific stock requirements please bring your own stock. Some suggestions for demonstrations include: Tong making, hot cuts, hardy tools. barn hardware including strap hinges, hasps and latches. Lunch will be provided. There will be a brief business meeting over lunch to elect directors and discuss upcoming events. There will be an Iron in the Hat so please bring your donations. There will be no tailgate sales.

Directions to Longstreet Farm:

From the North: Take Garden State Parkway to exit 114. After paying toll make a right onto Red Hill Road at the 1st light. At the 2nd light make another right onto Crawfords Corner Rd. Pass the very large Lucent facility and make a left onto Roberts Rd. Take Roberts Rd. for about 1 mile. Make a right onto Longstreet Rd. The park entrance is about 100 ft. on your left. Longstreet Farm is adjacent to the main parking lot on the left as you enter the park. The blacksmith shop is the 1st building on the left of the main farm house.

From the South: Take Garden State Parkway to exit 114. Proceed up the exit ramp to the light, make a left onto Red Hill Road and follow the +instructions above.

The NJBA Web Site!

The NJBA Web Site is up and running at:

<http://njba.abana-chapter.com/>

June Meet in Cold Spring Village

In Cape May

The New Jersey Blacksmith Association will hold a general meeting and demonstration at Historic Cold Spring Village in Cape May New Jersey. The meeting will take place on Saturday June 16th. There will be demonstrations on both Saturday the 16th and Sunday the 17th so if you can't make Saturday come out Sunday. The meeting will coincide with HCSV's Farmfest event. HCSV is a 19th century village so period costumes are encouraged. NJBA members not wearing costumes are encouraged to wear NJBA t-shirts. Demonstrators should be in costume or be wearing a NJBA T-shirt. All members in costume will receive free admission and may bring one guest. Lunch on both days will be provided to NJBA members in costume.

We need members to bring portable forges and anvils for the demonstrations. Members bringing forges and other equipment should be there an hour earlier at 9 am. If you are interested in being a period demonstrator or have any other questions contact Steve Rhoades at (856) 697-4144 or dwarrows@att.net

Directions: Take exit 4A south from the Garden State Parkway and follow the signs to Historic Cold Spring Village 720 Rt. 9 Cape May NJ 08204 (609) 898-2300.

July Meet at Monmouth County Fair

East Freehold Park NJ

General Meeting Friday 7 PM July 28th

NJBA members will be providing a blacksmithing demonstration in conjunction with the Longstreet Farm Exhibit during the County Fair running

NJBA Board of Directors

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Tim Suter, June, 2002

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Greg Phillips, June 2002

(845) 457-5671, Acorn Forge, 937 Route 17k,
Montgomery, NY 12549 suresign@frontiernet.net

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July 25th – 29th. The general meeting will be held Friday Night starting 7 PM at the NJBA demonstration booth. Look for the Longstreet Farm Exhibit. Blacksmiths are encouraged to submit some of their work for a display at this venue on Friday night. All work will be displayed at the exhibit. This is a great opportunity for us to advertise NJBA and individual members. We can distribute business cards, brochures and talk to the public regarding our work. A forge, several anvils, some tools, stock and coal will be kept at the fair site for demonstrators.

Directions to East Freehold Park ,NJ

- ◆ From Garden State Parkway:
Garden State Parkway to Exit 100, Hwy. 33 west. Follow Hwy. 33 to Kozloski Rd., turn right. Follow signs to Park.
- ◆ • State Hwy. 9 to Hwy. 33 east, south of Freehold. Follow Hwy. 33 to Halls Mill Rd. North exit. Follow Halls Mill Rd. north to intersection. Road name will change to Kozloski Rd. Follow Kozloski Rd. to Park on left.
- ◆ From Rt. 18
Rt. 18 to Exit 22, Rt. 537 west. Take Rt. 537 west to Kozloski Rd., turn left. Follow to Park on right
- ◆ It has also been recommended that to avoid traffic approach from Rt. 537

For more information contact David Macauley 732-206-1568 or drmacauley@att.com.

Free passes will be available for demonstrators, but we need to know who wishes to demonstrate by June 30th, 2000. For general information on the fair call: (732) 842-4000.

PABA R & T Meet

Blacksmith Day at Rough and Tumble in Kinzers, Lancaster County (Pa.) Hosted by PABA

On Saturday, June 9, 2001, the Pennsylvania Artist Blacksmiths' Association (PABA) and Rough and Tumble (Engineers Historical Assoc.) will host Blacksmith Day. Many activities are planned for this day, and all are invited to come and participate. The main demonstration area will be at the Titus Brubaker building from 10 am to 4 pm. Feature demonstrations are:

- Bill Purcel of Harrisburg, PA - sand-casting of a small anvil;
- Win Harrison of Intercourse, PA - tinsmithing;
- Gary Reichard of Lancaster, PA - basic farrier techniques

A forge area will be manned by PABA members, who will demonstrate a variety of projects. There will also be an area set up for tailgate sales, which is an ongoing function of most PABA meetings. All are welcome to bring items to sell at the tailgate area.

PABA will conduct an Iron-in-the-Hat raffle of donated items, both handmade and mass-produced work. Proceeds will be used to help PABA defray its operating expenses.

Items made for trade between members will be on display. Other displays of interest include a portion of James C. Sorber's colonial wrought iron collection (as featured in the recent book: Colonial Wrought Iron), Bucks and Lancaster counties historical blacksmithing information, and a small collection of blacksmithing prints.

Admission is free to all, so bring your family, friends, and neighbors. Food will be available from R&T Food Services.

For information contact Louie Frantz, 717-755-4797



February meet at Marshalls Farm

On February 18th we held a meet at Marshall's farm in Howell, NJ. Marshall treated us to a demo based on the classes he took at Cambell Folk School in N.C. this January. Marshall took one course with Tom Latane on re-creating a small bench vise and a course with Bill Fiorini on forging damascus steel knives. Marshall's first demo piece was forging a sample of the "Table" holding piece of the vise with its 3 sided tenon and punching a hole through a piece of 1" stock to show the technique for joining the piece

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to the vise and the table piece. He then discussed how each part of the vise was forged and the jaws welded on. Jeff Morelli also brought an antique table vise he had bought that looked like Tom Lafane had used it as a model for his plans. (Tom has given permission for the plans to be reprinted in this newsletter starting on page)

We then broke for lunch and a very good "Iron in the Hat" (Good because I actually won some of the stuff I wanted, Remember everyone bring something and buy tickets). After lunch Marshall demonstrated punching a hammer head handle hole using methods he had learned from Bill Fiorini. One of the interesting things about Bill's method is that he forges the hammer head then punches the hole. Marshall also discussed the techniques used to forge the Damascus blanks he made in the class. Many thanks to Marshall for sharing his shop and experiences with us.



Report on the Furnace Town Joint Meeting and Workshop, March 24-25, 2001. by Bruce Freeman

Five NJBA members (at least) attended. On Saturday Lou Mueller presented information on the construction and use of punching and shearing dies and bending jigs, mostly as described in (the late) Donald Streeter's book, "Professional Blacksmithing" (now available in paperback). Among the dies he showed were two used for cutting a fleur-de-lis in the top of a Suffolk latch plate, a punch for cutting the cheater plates (more or less half-round with a tab on one side), an H-shaped punch for the thumb latch and cheater plates of this latch, and round and square shearing dies used for general purposes. He also showed some bending jigs including one used for H and butterfly hinges, as well as tooling for a simple

eye. Lou was having a little trouble because he was attempting to demonstrate the use of these tools on 16-gauge steel, when 18-gauge would have been more appropriate. He mentioned that for demos (and presumably for practice) it is useful to use aluminum instead of steel.

Tim Suter and Hector Giumetti ("Armstrong Forge"), between them, filled about three picnic tables with their contributions to the IITH. The rest of the NJ contingent made more modest contributions, but bought enough IITH tickets that we went away heavily loaded with our booty. Marshall bought two items at the auction, including a miniature tongs made by Anton from cut nails.

On Sunday, Marshall Bienstock, Anton Holstrom and I attended the workshop. This was an incredibly ambitious project, consisting of the construction of three bending jigs for each of twenty-two members. The tools were a hinge-eye roller, a candle-stand leg-bender (which produces a double bend), and a general purpose miniature bender. We arrived a few minutes late and may have missed some announcements. About half the folks were hard at work, and we looked around for things to do. Marshall soon got into the drilling operation. I mostly just helped here and there. Anton did a little grinding, but mostly spent the day taking pictures. Eventually I started helping out a welder, but with only one jig to work with, there was little I could actually do for him.

The down side was that we didn't finish the construction of all these jigs, though I believe that all the drilling and most of the critical welding was completed. Some of the attendees made a push to complete their three jigs. Anton and I will be getting together with Marshall some Monday evening to finish our tools.

Lou noted that this was the first he'd run such a workshop and that he'd learned a lot from it. He noted that in the future he'd have more jigs, more instructions as to what work could be done when, etc. All of this pointed up just how WELL Marshall has always prepared for the workshops we've sponsored, such as the Smithing Magician, the Forge Hood and the Gas Forge Workshops. However, Lou and the

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Furnace Town Blacksmith Guild are to be complemented on this ambitious effort. FTBG managed to keep the materials fee to a mere \$15, which was very impressive.

Campbell Foundry Tour

On Tuesday, March 27th at 1 pm, 7 members of NJBA met outside the Campbell Foundry in Harrison, NJ. Campbell Foundry has been making mainly manhole and drain gratings and covers since the company opened in 1921. The tour started outside the main office with the distribution of safety gear, hard hats glasses and ear plugs and with a short talk by John R. Campbell III, The Operations Manager. He

is now the third family member to run the business since it's start in 1921. He said they produce 35 - 50 tons of finished castings a day. Most of what is poured is also finished that same day.

The first shop we visited was the floor where they were doing the pouring. We watched as they finished setting up the forms for pouring the base rings (the part you can't see in the street) for manhole covers and then watched as they poured two of them. From there we went to the section where they have patterns stored for most of the items they have made over the years. Mr. Campbell said this enables them to do small production runs of items for former customers and to adapt existing patterns to save costs for new customers.

The next section we went to was the steel and iron piles where they feed the hopper bucket for the cupola with an electromagnetic crane. They use a mixture of scrap cast iron, steel, added alloys, coke and limestone. These are added to the hopper by weight and then fed into the cupola. The cupola is fired up at about 5 in the morning and emptied about 3:30 in the afternoon. Repair maintenance is then done at night to prepare for the next days firing. Twice a year the plant shuts the cupola down for rebuilding. Mr. Campbell also pointed out the afterburner, where the fumes from the cupola are processed. The furnace produced no signs of smoke

The next section was where they were using machines to ram up the copes and drags for the patterns. From there the frames are moved away on rollers and brought to the pouring floor by gantry crane. After cooling (the length of cooling time is based on the size of the casting) the pieces are sent to a shaker to remove the parts from the sand. After further cooling the parts are hung on frames and blasted (bead or sand?) to remove excess sand from the castings. In this area, a lot of fine sand material is kicked up, but an exhaust system, supplemented by respirators the workers wear, keeps the hazard down. The exhaust system collects the fines, which are disposed of as waste.

The next section is the finishing room where the parts are scraped, ground and/or machined depending on the finish needed. the last section is where the parts are sent out for delivery or to their storage yard.

Mr. Campbell said they are always trying to update the operation to make it more efficient and described some of the shop re organizing that was planned for the future. This ended our tour and then Josh followed Mr. Campbell inside to discuss pouring anvils. Many thanks to John Chobrdra for taking the time to set up this tour and Many thanks to Mr. Campbell for taking the time out from his schedule to give us the tour.

LB

Peters Valley Scholarships

Peters Valley Craft Center has offered NJBA two half scholarships for its members. If more than two people apply, the decision will be made by drawing out of a hat. An article describing the class and maybe a demo on what was learned would be a nice return for this.

Contact either Bruce Freeman or Larry Brown. The course schedule can be viewed on line or ordered over the phone or by mail. This is a splendid opportunity to expand your skills and knowledge.

Peters Valley Craft Education Center

19 Kuhn Rd., Layton, NJ 07851 (973)948-5200

pv@warwick.net www.pvcrafts.org

Peters Valley is looking for donations to help them through a tough financial time, letter on next page.

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Dear Friend of Peters Valley:

While our Annual Appeal is always one of the most important fundraisers that Peters Valley has during the year, this year's fundraising drive -- to support general operating expenses and reduce our deficit -- is especially important.

- ✓ We must raise more than ever before in order to keep offering the innovative educational programming that is the hallmark of Peters Valley. We cannot move forward without your help.
- ✓ A supporter of Peters Valley has committed to match every dollar raised in this Appeal up to \$20,000. So for every dollar you donate, Peters Valley receives two! An incredible chance for your donation to matter even more to the Valley.

Workshop fees cover just a small portion of the operating costs of a nonprofit educational facility such as Peters Valley. Our programming cannot happen without the costs of staff, phones, electricity, boiler repairs, printing services, studio and office supplies, and the repair of winter damage to the roads and buildings. Weather-related expenses have been greater than anticipated this year.

As a friend of the Valley, you know about the quality workshops and educational outreach we have offered for the past 30 years and about our dedication to the mission of preserving and contributing to the evolving tradition of fine American crafts. You know, too, about the honors we have received, including a Citation of Excellence by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. You know we are recognized as a valuable regional cultural resource, and among the leading craft centers in the country, attracting highly skilled craftspeople as resident and visiting artists.

As in years past, this year's catalog (available on our webpage, www.pvcrafts.org) outlines an exciting lineup of programs, including new collaborations with other organizations, and innovative opportunities for artists, aspiring artists and the general public to experience the value and pleasure of the process of creating.

With your support, we will be able to continue offering meaningful and diverse learning experiences. Please contribute to the Valley's future by sending your tax-deductible gift today. We thank you in advance for your time, consideration and support.

Sincerely,
Peters Valley

2001 Annual Appeal Donation

Enclosed is my donation of

() \$20 () \$30 () \$50 () \$75 () \$100 () \$250 () \$500 () \$1000 Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Paying by () Check (*Please make checks payable to Peters Valley Craftsmen, Inc.*)

() Visa Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

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Thank you for your financial support and continued generosity

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ABANA Correspondence

President's Letter to the Chapters

April 2001.

Dear Chapter Officers and Members,

ABANA correspondence comes out monthly. I will print the most recent and post the others on the web site L.B.
<http://njba.abana-chapter.com/>

One recurring theme I have heard since becoming an ABANA member is references to factions of ABANA based on geographical location, traditional versus artists-smiths, etc. This theme is usually based on past history and events, rooted in the personalities of the persons involved with ABANA during some time period in ABANA's history. Some of these incidents were based on substantive issues of policy and direction. Other incidents were rooted in personal conflicts or reasons lost in the fog of history, but have grown to mythic proportion and now have taken on a life of their own. I ran for the Board in part to make this an organization that embraces all legitimate aspects of blacksmithing and uses those aspects as a source of strength to move ABANA and blacksmithing into the future. I intend to continue that effort, but to do so we must remove the obsession with these ghosts of the past from our organization. This Board cannot undo any of the real or imagined past slights or omissions, mistakes or miscommunication between the Board, ABANA members or ABANA chapters, in all directions, since its inception. But if this obsession is not removed, ABANA will continue to meet unnecessary resistance from within in its efforts to move blacksmithing into the 21st century stronger than ever before. These instances are in the past; this Board is working in the present for the future of blacksmithing and ABANA. This does not mean that past issues are to be dismissed out of hand, but rather put in the proper perspective as we move into the future. And we must move into the future.

This Board under my leadership is an activist board, engaged in moving ABANA forward in part by upholding the existing policies and procedures of ABANA. This has caused concerns and resistance from some chapters and individuals. But as I have said in past messages, the Board has a legal obligation to uphold those policies and procedures and will do so. The other side of this relationship is our effort to improve the relationship with the membership and the chapters. Information is sent to chapter presidents and editors, posted on the ABANA website, included in both *The Anvil's Ring* and *Hammer's Blow*. We as a Board use these tools to communicate with the chapters and the membership; these are our voices to you. Some of the conversations I have had with chapter members reveal that this information is not reaching the proper audience. Why some are aware and others are not is a mystery to me. But what is disturbing to me is the lack of calls to any of the Board members for clarification on topics or responses to requests for feedback. Frankly, much incorrect information is floating around that could be clarified with a call or an e-mail to a Board member. Communication is a two-way street. We need feedback on what we are doing, but little has been offered. The request for comments on the draft *Statement of Mutual Responsibilities* has gotten three responses. This document defines the relationship between the chapters and ABANA and we need your input. Bob Fredell and his Member Services Committee have some new ideas that hopefully will be introduced by the end of the year. Again, these will need cooperation and input from the chapters. We cannot help you if you do not participate in this dialogue.

There has been discussions regarding a re-examination of the relationship between the chapters and ABANA. We cannot take this step without input from all ABANA Chapters and the understanding by all of ABANA and the chapters as to what such a change may bring to ABANA and the chapters. Any such step must be productive and a benefit for the whole organization. I feel that to do anything at this time without input from all the chapters regarding their issues with the present arrangement, a clear understanding of what all the chapters want from any different relationship, the introduction to the chapters and the membership of possible changes that the Board is working on and will be introducing over the rest of the year, and a firm agenda and a clear understanding by all involved of the ramifications of each possible new arrangement would be premature and non-productive.

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These changes will take time, patience and open-minded cooperation from all involved. We must work together to build this relationship. This Board will continue to communicate with you, and we welcome and need your input.

Safe and productive forging.

Doug Learn, President

Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America, Inc.

121 Pebble Woods Drive

Doylestown, PA 18901-2907

(215) 489-1742

cjfdlearn@mindspring.com

ABANA Chapter Liaison Letter

April 2001

The often asked question, "What does ABANA do for me for my 45 bucks -- or more- a year?" This letter will focus on two things that ABANA will do for you in the future.

ABANA's Member Services committee is currently working on two (actually, more than two, but for now I will talk about only two) new programs that have the potential of giving a whole lot of assistance to the chapters. Here they are.

It seems to me that it was Mark Twain who said, "The ABANA chapters will correctly do all of the things some of the time, some of the things all of the time, but not all of the things all of the time." Being inspired by the wisdom of Mr. Twain, we decided to develop a new program that will let all of the chapters know about some of the things that some of the chapters are doing right.

We have thought this program through only in general terms—no particulars yet. It would work something like this. We will identify 10, or so, crucial aspects of a chapter organization, such as the structure of the board of directors, educational program, etc. Then, seek out those chapters that are successfully administering one or more of these crucial aspects of their chapter organization. The final step would be to send this information to all of the chapters for their use. We need to share our blacksmithing skills *and our administrative skills*.

The second new program is a combination of communication between ABANA and the chapters and recruitment of ABANA members. We are just starting to think this program through, so I can give you only a thumb nail sketch.

Participating chapters appoint an ABANA-chapter representative, to be known as *The Rep*. The task of *The Rep* is to give the chapter members the latest information about ABANA and to hear the questions and comments and to relay this feedback to the Member Services Committee. The big deal about this program is that it is one more way for ABANA to communicate with the chapters. But mostly, it is an opportunity for persons to speak their piece and to be heard by ABANA. Communication is a two way street. If this is going to work, we must give *The Rep* the tools and the support to do the job—this is the part that will take some good planning on our part.

The Rep, speaking at every chapter meeting, and keeping ABANA in the awareness of persons will hopefully result in an increase in ABANA membership.

Let me know what you think about these new programs.

Bob Fredell, Chairman

Member Services Committee

3500-45 Ave. So.

Minneapolis, MN 55406-2927

(612) 721-2298

fredell@frostbit.com

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
Carroll 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

Coal

Coal is now available through Alex Parubchenko at his shop in Trenton. Please contact Alex or John Chobrda at the shop, Phone # (609) 396-9583.

Open Forges

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)

Monday Night Open Forge

In Orange County

Greg Phillips will be hosting an open forge in his shop in Orange Co. NY. For more information Contact: Greg Phillips, Acorn Forge, 937 Route 17k, Montgomery, NY 12549, (914) 457-5672, Suresign@frontiernet.net

Wanted

Old two cylinder cast iron block Onan engine needed to make repairs on welding machine, need not be running, but preferably not blown. If I can't locate an engine I will have parts to an old Lincoln engine driven welder for sale.

Larry Brown— (718)967-4776

Business Members
We would like to thank those who joined with our new Business Membership category
Please show them our support
Ginty's Welding Service, Inc
2 Lee Mack Ave., Danbury, Conn, 06810

Timothy Miller, Artist Blacksmith,
Bayport, Long Island, NY (631)419-1185

Marshall Bienstock
663 Casino Dr., Howell, NJ 07731
(732) 938- 6577, (732) 780-0871

www.artist-blacksmith.org
It may be the only address you need

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Here is another approach to mounting flower petals on a stem. Forge a semi-circular stem. To avoid the difficulty and distance of setting a large-headed decorative rivet, form, drill and chase a thread hole as shown. Setting the stem in the wall hole will be easier than heading a rivet.

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