



# N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 11, Issue 1 05/01/06

## Editors Soapbox

We have a demonstration item workshop this month at Marshalls, come and learn how to make demo items or teach others what you know and a make your own damascus billet workshop in early June, so come out and make something!

## Upcoming events for 2006

Get your calendars out and mark these events down. Please bookmark our web site and check for meet information. Remember most of our meets have an "Iron in the Hat" drawing, so be sure to bring something.

### May 20— 9am,

Demonstration item workshop at Marshall Bienstocks shop. Details this page.

### June 4th and 5th—

Damascus billet workshop at Kerry Rhoades in Delaware. Details on page 3

### July 22—23rd—

Cold Spring Village. Details on page 3.

### July 26-30-

Monmouth County Fair. Details on page 3.

### August 20th?

Possible meet/ picnic at the Red Mill more information in next newsletter in August

### September 15—17

Old Time Engine show at Washington Crossing, Information in next newsletter.

**October 7th** Pig Roast at Peters Valley. Information in next newsletter.

### October 14th

Demonstration by Johnathan Nedbor at Marshall Bienstock's Shop. Information in next newsletter.

### December 3rd

Holiday Party at Marshalls home in Howell. Information in next newsletter.

## Demonstration Item Workshop at Marshall Bienstocks Shop

Saturday, 20 May 2006 9:00 AM,

Marshall Bienstock's shop, Howell, NJ.

The point of this free, hands-on, workshop is to increase number of NJBA members trained in forging simple items in demonstrations for the public. Several experienced smiths will be on hand to provide instruction in the forging of simple pieces such as leaves, strikers, nails, etc.

If you would like to pick up a few demo item ideas, or if you have a favorite demonstration item you'd like to share, please join us. This will be an informal meet, with plenty of time to instruct or to receive instruction. If you wish to instruct others in forging an item of your choosing, please observe the following guidelines:

1) The emphasis should be on forging - changing the shape of the steel - as this is the unique work of the blacksmith.

2) The item, when mastered, should take no more than 15 minutes to forge. The limitation here is the attention span of the audience.

3) The work should not include welding. This is mainly because demonstrations are done outside and the sunlight makes judging welding heat very difficult. (It's embarrassing to flub a weld in front of an audience!)

4) The item should not require unusual or unavailable tools or starting materials. KISS principle should be applied.

5) Ideally, the item should use a single piece of steel. Multiple pieces are likely to make the item take too long. However, joinery, such as collaring or riveting, may be demonstrated if the individual pieces made (such as scrolls) are themselves interesting demonstrations.

6) If possible, please write down the steps of your project. If you're ambitious, you might illustrate it as well - or bring illustrated instructions from

Continued on page 3.

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## The NJBA Web Site!

The NJBA Web Site is up and running at:  
<http://njba.abana-chapter.com/>

The Newsletter is at:

<http://members.bellatlantic.net/~vze25jcc/index.htm>

or the site may be linked to from the NJBA web site.

## Official NJBA Address

**NJBA**  
**P.O. Box 761**  
**Mt. Laurel NJ 08054**

**Rather than use room in the newsletter,  
All correspondence between  
ABANA and NJBA is now being posted  
on the NJBA web site.  
If you cannot access it there, contact me  
and I will send you copies**

## NJBA Board of Directors

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663 Casino Dr., Howell, NJ 07731  
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**Bruce Ringier**, June, 2007  
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**Tim Suter**, June, 2006  
1112 Ladner Ave., Gibbstown, NJ 08027  
856-423-4417

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newsletters or other sources. We can try to add some pictures taken during the workshop. This would be a great benefit to other smiths trying to replicate the project.

6) Please be prepared to demonstrate the project as you would to the public, and then to repeat the demonstration at least one more time at a slower pace so the rest of us can catch on to the process.

Bring money for lunch. We will either break for lunch at a diner or sub shop, or send out for pizza or sandwiches, depending upon consensus.

Remember to bring a contribution to the IITH, and there is an invitation to all interested to tailgate.

## Directions;

Marshall's farm is at 663 Casino Drive, Howell (Monmouth Co.). NJ. which is about 1/4 mile east of Route 9. Casino Dr. is a few miles north of 1-195. and a few miles south of Rte. 33. Either of these routes can be easily reached from the major north-south highways. including the Garden State Parkway. the NJ Turnpike. 1-195. Rt. 18 or Rt. 34. Marshall can be reached at his shop at (732) 780-0871.

## Kerry Rhodes Damascus Workshop

NJBA will be holding a "Damascus" knife making workshop on June 3rd and 4th at the Forge of Kerry Rhodes in Delaware City, DE. The workshop will be limited to 6 hands on participants; any one who just wants to watch and learn is encouraged to attend. During the two days each participant will forge weld their own billet, then forge and grind it to a blade. The cost for this hands on work shop will be \$65.00 to NJBA Members and \$100.00 to any non members.

The workshop will begin at 9:00 A.M. each day and end at 3:00 P.M. (or later). Even if you don't attend the hands on you can still attend (no charge) and learn by watching. The first six paid attendees will be notified and all other checks returned. Kerry's shop "Forged Creations" is located at 124 Clinton Street, Delaware City Delaware.

Checks should be made payable to NJBA, and sent to:

NJBA c/o John Chobrda P. O. Box 78 Delaware City, DE 19706

## Directions:

Take Rt. 13 So. Towards Dover from the Delaware Memorial Bridge, after Rt. 13 merges with Rt. 1, take the first exit, Delaware City. Go left at the top of the ramp; proceed thru 4 lights, past the refinery on to Rt. 9. At the first light after the refinery make a left, this is Clinton Street, proceed 5 blocks and Forged Creations will be on your left (a large two story weathered wooden building) Shop phone # 302-832-1631 John's Cell # 609-610-3501

## Cold Spring Village in Cape May

June 16th—18th David Macauley will be demonstrating in the shop at the Village and on July 22nd and 23rd we have been invited to demonstrate in conjunction with their Folklore themed weekend. We are still waiting for confirmation from HCSV for these events.

## Monmouth County Fair East Freehold Park, NJ

July 26th—30th, 2006 7PM

NJBA members will be providing a blacksmithing demonstration during the County Fair running July 26th - 30th. The fair times are Wednesday through Thursday 5 PM - 11PM, Friday through Saturday 11AM - 11PM, Sunday 11AM - 6PM. The general meeting will be held Friday Night starting 7 PM at the NJBA demonstration booth.

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.

Our trailer with forges, several anvils, some tools, stock and Coal will be kept at the fair site for demonstrators. We intend to set up our demonstration area on the Monday before. Please

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check with David Macauley (Directors Page and below) as to the times and locations to help. with the setup and teardown on Sunday. We really would appreciate any help setting up and tearing down.

## **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.

## **February Meet and Workshop With Rick Smith at Eric Cuper's Shop**

Report by Bruce Freeman

The February 4th NJBA membership meeting was held at Eric Cuper's studio in Easton, PA. This proved to be a spacious shop with forges, hammers, metalworking machines, and a high-water line seven feet up the wall from last year's floods. Eric assures us he now knows how to remove his equipment to high ground on a few hours' notice

Our demonstrator was Rick Smith of Southern Illinois University. Rick demonstrated sheet forming and repousse. Rick's method of sheet forming is the classic fine repousse. Rick moves more volume creating more abstract shapes and forms. It involves creating volume while the metal is hot then defining form and edges cold with stakes and planishing. Although his finished pieces on display were all quite angular—almost like cityscapes - he begins a piece by sinking it over a hollow. (Some members may remember John Rais forming a dish of heavy steel in a similar manner at a demo a few years ago at Peters Valley.) Only after the metal is

sufficiently stretched does he introduce the angularity.

On the following day, about nine of us attended a workshop to explore and try these techniques. Mostly we relied on Eric's equipment for this, but Marshall Bienstock and Bruce Freeman brought up a couple forges and vises, as well as some stakes of various sorts. Eric used his landlord's power shear to cut the metal into ~12" squares. We had 1/8" and 16-gauge steel available to us, but apparently most of us chose the former, which is harder to work but less likely to cut through.

As Rick had demonstrated, we first sketched our intended design with soapstone or paint pens onto both sides of the sheet of metal. Next we stretched the metal in the appropriate areas by sinking at a red heat. To define edges, we reversed the metal sheets and worked over the square, but not sharp, edge of a stake, using half-faced blows.

As we achieved defined the shapes further, we used tools Rick had brought along to better define the edges. These were typically ~1/2"-square, punch-like tools, with a slight incline at one end, and a square, but not sharp, working edge. In some cases, square edges were defined by upsetting from the two directions.

The results were quite varied. Most participants imitated the angularity of Rick's work, but few of us tried more "organic" forms. This workshop was enthusiastically received by the participants, and Rick seemed quite pleased with the progress made on projects. There was general agreement that the workshop had been very worthwhile.

## **Report on Road Trip To L&B Metals**

Report by John Chobrda

It's 5:15 A.M. and the alarm is buzzing, what the heck did I set it for? Oh yea, it's Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> and the L&B Metals road trip is today. Seriously some of us must be crazy, leaving home on a foggy Easter Saturday morning, to drive over an hour and a half, and wander around in a scrap yard. Yeah, but what a scrap yard, this place makes Fazzio's look like a part time operation. Just imagine about 20 plus acres of STUFF.

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Road trip continued.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of April four members of NJBA took a road trip to L&B Metals scrap yard just NW of Oley PA. Larry Brown, Tim Sutter, Tom Majewski, and John Chobrda spent a couple of hours wandering through this metal heads candy store. Tim and John left with close to 75 lbs. of square head bolts and square nuts, some thing I might never use but who knows, at 50 cents a pound it was too hard to pass by.

After touring the scrap yard, the four of us then went to L&B Metal's other site located in the city of Reading Pa., and spent a few more hours delving through more STUFF. L&B maintains two old three story mill buildings in Reading that are crammed full of factory clean outs. Reading is "Outlet City" so this can be a family outing, while the wife and kids are at the Vanity Fair Outlet complex, the boys can head for L&B.

L&B's two buildings are located at 213 So. 11<sup>th</sup> St. and 210 Maple St. (within a block of each other) in the city and are open 7 AM to 4 PM Friday and Saturday only, the phone numbers are 610-375-4180 and 610-376-9965. The scrap yard is located approx. ten miles north east of the city on Hartz Road, just off of Rt. 73 north west of Oley, Pa. If you go take something to tote your treasures home in, I always take a couple 5 gal. buckets.

## New NJBA T-Shirts Are Available!

New NJBA T-shirts are available after making their debut at the February meet at Eric Cuper's shop. The price is \$15.00 and helps to off set the costs of workshops, demonstrations and dues.

At this time sizes Medium to 2X are available. They are dark Blue with White lettering are are currently at Marshall's shop. Either stop by at an open forge meet or contact him about bringing them to a meet;

**Marshall Bienstock,**  
663 Casino Dr., Howell, NJ 07731  
732-938-6577 732-780-0871  
jlfmib@optonline.net

## Demonstration Opportunities!

We have received requests from the below people looking for demonstrators at their events. Those interested please contact them directly.

### Red Bank Battlefield

I am the curator at Red Bank Battlefield, in Gloucester County. We are a Revolutionary War site with a park and a historic house museum. We offer a wide range of public programs at our site, including a re-enactment of the battle each fall. As you can imagine, craftsmen who demonstrate and interpret period-appropriate trades are an excellent way to engage and educate our visitors.

I would love to bring blacksmithing to Red Bank. To that end, I have been trying to find blacksmiths who can set up on-site demonstrations.

Please Contact:

Megan Giordano

6 Blackwood-Barnsboro Road

Sewell NJ 08080

Red Bank Battlefield phone #856-853-5120

Email: mgiordano@co.gloucester.nj.us

### Ringwood Highlands Fair

My name is Joyce Egan and I am on the committee for the Ringwood Highlands Fair which will be held on September 16th at Shepherd's Lake in Ringwood State Park. I am looking for a blacksmith who would both demonstrate his craft and possibly sell things at the fair-something like is done at the country fairs held at Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ. We'd mostly be interested in getting someone from the local area in NY or NJ.

The event is the Ringwood Highlands Fair at Shepherd's Lake in Ringwood State Park in Ringwood, NJ. The date is Saturday, September 16th, 11 AM to 5 PM with a tentative rain date of Sunday, September 17th. We'd want someone who both sold their products and demonstrated. They can contact me at:

Joyce Egan

104 Upper Lakeview Avenue

Ringwood, NJ 07456

Email: joy4food@optonline.net

(973) 962-0968

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## Employment Opportunities

Phil Fraley Productions, Paterson, NJ, needs Metal Workers with proficiency in multiple areas of steel work to fabricate armatures for fossils. Desired skills include welding, cutting, smithing, bending, patination, casting and machining. Must be a team player. Interest in dinosaurs a plus. Minimum starting salary: 30K/yr. plus benefits, Pay may be higher DOE. Candidates must be able to show recent portfolio, resume, and references with phone numbers. Interested parties should contact Scott Lucas, at: (800) 914-2458.

Phil Fraley Productions is building armatures for 11 dinosaurs from the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, PA. Positions are for our studio in Paterson, NJ, just outside New York City. Positions may be available at a later date in Pittsburgh, PA.

For examples of the work we do, visit:  
<http://www.philfraleyproductions.com/fraley/index.htm>

## Clip From The Forge List

Sent to the Forge list by Bruce Freeman

I've been an advocate of using vinegar to pickle scale from steel. One downside to this is that vinegar is volatile, and the smell gets bad (metallic) with steel pickling inside.

So, I finally got around to trying a sodium bisulfate pickle. Sodium bisulfate is available at pool supply stores for keeping the pH of pool water neutral. It comes as fine white crystals, packed in one- or two-quart containers.

After some experimentation, I used about 1 to 2 cups per gallon of water. (I used a rectangular plastic storage box - available in NJ from Cost Cutters - as my vat.) The crystals go into solution fairly easily, producing no discernable heat on dissolving. (Strong acids produce lots of heat when mixed with water.)

Much of the scale soaked off the steel within a couple hours. Some was more persistent, but came loose with overnight soaking. The resulting steel was nearly charcoal gray in color. Where it was not under the solution, the steel acquired a lovely rust patina - probably more from the humidity than anything else - but this largely sponged off. The

scale did not completely dissolve. Much of it simply fell to the bottom of the vat. I plan to filter this off through a cloth when I transfer the acid solution to a jug for storage.

I did this on my kitchen counter. There was virtually no odor. Once or twice I splashed a little solution on my hands. I rinsed them soon after, and experienced no problems (acid burns). I DID wear glasses, however. I don't care to get this stuff in my eyes.

## Mid Atlantic Smiths Conference

The MASA Summer Conference being held on June 17, 2006 at the Sandy Spring Museum in Sandy Spring, Md. just north of Wash, D. C.. Cost is \$20.00 per person which includes morning snack, lunch, and hot or cold drinks. Tailgating is encouraged but you must be registered.

Send your:

NAME, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP, TELEPHONE, EMAIL and the names of additional people registering with payment for each. Make all checks payable to THE MID ATLANTIC SMITHS ASSOCIATION and mail it along with your application to; David Collier

16373 Oakland Rd.

Henderson, Md. 21640

If you would like to have confirmation of your registration please supply us with your email address and we will confirm via email.

Remember that safety glasses must be worn by all participants and spectators during the demonstrations. Also remember to bring something for the iron in the hat drawing and for the brag table. There will be visitors coming through the museum during the demonstrations and it would be a good time for them to see your work.

The address for the Sandy Spring Museum is:  
Sandy Spring Museum  
17901 Bently Road  
Sandy Spring, MD. 20860

If you need anything else please contact:  
Remwillow@hotmail.com,  
phone 301-253-2084.

Bob Morris

Contact Larry Brown Editor for the Registration form if needed, requires the same info as above.

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## 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

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

Dick Gambino is involved in a project forming an artisan work community in Rahway, NJ. Interested Metal workers with a juried portfolio can contact him through his web site  
<http://www.gambinometal.com>  
about this opportunity.

### BLACKSMITH TOOLS FOR SALE!

**John Chobrda**

Has a large selection of tools for sale.  
Anvils – Forges - Leg Vices—Blowers  
Tongs – Hammers  
Will also repair and/or resurface Anvils  
Call John for prices and availability  
Evening 609-610-3501

### Business Members

We would like to thank those who joined with our new Business Membership category  
Please show them our support

#### Marshall Bienstock

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

John Chobrda, Pine Barrens Forge  
231 Morrison Ave., Hightstown, NJ 08520  
609-443-3106 JChob@earthlink.net

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

## Open Forges

We are looking for members who are interested in opening their forges up to members as a 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.

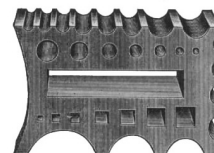
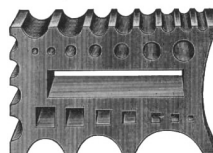
*We want to encourage all to join us at*

### 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



# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

## SHOP TIP

Have a shop tip?

Send it into the newsletter editor and help others get new ideas.

I was working on a head and foot-board, bed project as a wedding present for yet another grand-daughter. Each is made up of ten scrolls enclosed in a half ellipse and bottom rail. I wanted to pre-assemble all the parts and hold them firmly in position on the full size layout to assure the proper location and alignment of holes for rivets and tenons. I have done this before with a menagerie of "C" clamps, vise grips, dogs and wedges and whatever else to accomplish the job.

This time I decided to make clamps, similar to machinist clamps. I made six for starters. These worked so well and efficiently that I immediately made six more. Very easy to make, simplicity is the key to efficiency. To increase width capacity just use longer bolts. The sketch should be self explanatory.

Tim Suter  
1112 Ladner Ave.  
Gibbstown NJ 08027

