



# N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 18, Issue 3 05/29/14  
<http://njba.abana-chapter.com>

## Editors Soapbox

News letter is late, so I apologize , I need to get myself back on the old schedule. But its still only by a few weeks this time.

We would like to welcome Billy Barrett to the NJBA Board, and would like to see other new faces. We look forward to working with Billy in NJBA.

David Macauley our Chairman, treasurer and events coordinator passed away from a heart attack on January 1st. David took on a lot of responsibility's in NJBA and we have some large shoes to fill.

We have covered some of what David did but we can still use help. David used to run events at Cold Spring Village and we could use help setting these up again from someone in Southern NJ.

We need to repaint the trailer, probably in April. We may do it on a Monday night or weekend, If you want to help call a board member, in particular, Bruce Hay

We are working on setting up meets with opportunities to learn, forge or teach others what you know. Come out and chat or get your hands dirty! Let's boost the attendance at the upcoming meets. If you are interested in helping please contact one of the board members listed on page 2.

Larry Brown, Editor

## Upcoming events for 2014

Get you calendars out and mark these events down. Please bookmark our web site and check for updated meet information. Re-

member most of our meets have an "Iron in the Hat" drawing, so be sure to bring something. Meet information starts on this page and continues on page 3.

**June 7th** Eric Cuper Studios in Easton, PA more info below and on page 3.

**June 21st** Blade forging demonstration by Mark Morrow at Marshalls

**August 4-10** Middlesex County Fair

**September 14th** Red Mill in Clinton NJ

**December 7th**—Annual Holiday Party, Marshall and Jan's house.

Please check the web site for updates and changes.

## Blacksmithing Demonstration Jason Roberts, Daniel O'Sullivan and Eric Cuper at Cuper Studios Saturday, June 7, starting at 9am.

Jason Roberts and Cuper Studios are teaming up to demonstrate some fine metal-working techniques for PABA, NJBA, and NOMMA members. All are welcome! As always, there will be an Iron In The Hat (please bring items to donate to help raise money for meetings), tailgating is welcome (try to leave parking spaces in front of the garage doors for tailgater and feel free to bring stuff to sell). Coffee and donuts and lunch will be provided. Please bring a chair if so desired but we will also have bleachers.

### The Demonstrators

**Jason Roberts** is a Philadelphia based metalsmith. He is a native Pennsylvanian who received his BFA from Kutztown University. After college he traveled throughout the US to work for an assortment of craft schools and artist blacksmith shops before

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## The NJBA Web Site!

The NJBA Web Site is:

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

The Newsletter is at:

<http://www.lightningforge.com/njba/index.htm>

or use the link on the NJBA web site  
for the newsletter.

## Official NJBA Address

**NJBA**

**P.O. Box 224**

**Farmingdale, NJ**

**07727-9998**

Rather than use room in the newsletter,  
All correspondence between  
ABANA and NJBA can be found on the  
ABANA web site.  
If you cannot access it there, contact me  
and I will send you copies.

## NJBA Board of Directors

### **Billy Barrett**

7 Brookwood Rd  
Stanhope, NJ 07874 3226  
973-234-8701 anvilman67@yahoo.com

### **Marshall Bienstock,**

663 Casino Dr., Howell, NJ 07731  
Cell 732-221-3015  
jlfmib@optonline.net

### **Larry Brown, Editor**

90 William Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308  
718-967-4776  
lp.brown@verizon.net,  
brownln@hotmail.com

### **Eric Cuper,**

2436 Birch Street  
Easton, PA 18042 908-642-6420  
ericuper@hotmail.com

### **David Ennis**

46 Airport Rd., Pittstown, NJ 08867  
908-713-1679 davidennis@att.net

### **Bruce Freeman,**

Membership, Interim treasurer  
222 Laurel Place, Neptune, NJ 07753  
732-677-8301  
freemab222@gmail.com

### **Bruce Hay, Jr,**

50 Pine St., Lincroft N.J. 7738  
732-747-4758

### **Thomas Majewski,**

165 Robertsville Rd., Freehold NJ 07728  
732 462-2453 v2e4mab9@verizon.net

### **Mark Morrow**

53 Beverly Beach Rd  
Brick, NJ 08724  
arblademaker@swordsmith.net

### **Daniel O'Sullivan,**

110 Midland Ave., Glen Ridge NJ 07028  
973- 259-9873 danandbeckyos@netzero.net

### **Bruce Ringier,**

346 Rt.565 Wantage, NJ 07641  
973-702-8475 yllwbrnfrm@aol.com

### **Eric Von Arx**

43 Center St  
Rumson NJ 07760 732-842-9355 evo-  
narx@hotmail.com

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returning to start his own business. In 2008 he founded J. Roberts Metalworks; a company specializing in art and high end architectural.  
[www.jrmworks.com](http://www.jrmworks.com)

**Daniel O'Sullivan** received a BFA from Parsons School of Design, completed a traditional Ornamental Ironworker Apprenticeship followed by Stage Forge at the International School of French Wrought Ironwork in Muizon, France. He taught blacksmithing in County Mayo, Ireland, and worked for an exclusive European metalworking company. Daniel is now proud to be a Local 483 Union Ironworker and is on the Board of the NJBA.

**Eric Cuper**, an NJBA Board member, began blacksmithing at Peters Valley Craft Center in 1996 (which is where he first heard of NJBA). From there he attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale to receive his BFA and MFA degrees specializing in blacksmithing. While at SIUC, Eric's forged sculptures were shown nationally and won several prestigious awards. His work can also be found in several books on forge work. Since 2004, Eric has been operating Cuper Studios LLC in Easton, PA. Cuper Studios is an architectural metalsmithing company.

To help facilitate lunch, it would be great to have a general head count. Please give me a ring or an e-mail to let me know if you will be coming. I look forward to seeing you here.

Thank you,  
Eric Cuper  
908-642-6420  
[ericuper@hotmail.com](mailto:ericuper@hotmail.com)

## Knife Making Demo with Mark Morrow June 21st at Marshalls Farm

Knife blade forging, how to forge the blades  
Covering hunting knives  
fighting knives , bowies and larger blades  
Forging Damascus  
After the billet is done  
Welding on tangs , hidden tangs and full tangs , Grinding and filing blades , and heat treating blades in the forge and oven

So if you have interest in making your own blades this will give you a lot of information on the how to and the not to do of making knife blades ,

I will be forging several different styles and sizes of blades, normalizing and heat treating the blades, covering final grinding and polishing with a 2 X 72 belt grinder and also sanding block .

Also covering fittings and mounting handles

**Demo to start at 9 am and go most of the day**

## Middlesex County Fair August 4 –10

4H grounds East Brunswick

Description: Public paid demo – good money maker for NJBA we provide 3 paid demos and then have the facility open for blacksmiths while the fair runs.

Wonderful family activity.

The fair hours are 5 -11 PM Monday through Friday, 11 AM - 11PM on Saturday and 11AM - 7PM on Sunday.

We will have the NJBA trailer at the site for the entire time and we will probably have addi-

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tional forging stations. We will be under a tent with other crafters. The site has easy access to water and power and we will have tables to display our forged items.

All smiths are encouraged to attend. This is a wonderful fair to attend and is great opportunity for the entire family.

## **Driving instructions:**

The Middlesex County Fair is located on Cranbury Rd. where it intersects Fern Roads in East Brunswick. Take Route 18 into East Brunswick, follow the directions for Cranbury onto Cranbury Road (Rt. 535 South), pass East Brunswick High School on the left, keep left at the fork, and continue on Cranbury Road for about three miles to the fair. 655 Cranbury Road.

FROM OLD BRIDGE-Take Route 18 north toward New Brunswick, pass the Colonial Diner and head toward Cranbury over the Route 18 overpass and proceed past the high school and bear left at the fork, as above. Route from north county (this is the least congested route), take Exit 8A on the New Jersey Turnpike. Turn right on Route 535 North directly to fairgrounds (5 miles ). For information please contact Marshall Bienstock, Cell 732-221-3015 [jlfmib@optonline.net](mailto:jlfmib@optonline.net)

## **Canal Day Wharton NJ**

**August 23st**

Billy Barrett will be doing a demo at Canal Day in Wharton NJ 10Am - 5PM. Here is the URL: <http://www.canalday.org>. All NJBA smiths are welcomed. This was a great festival in in the past. Some good bands, food and vendors. Great family event. Contact Billy Barrett, 973-234-8701 [anvilman67@yahoo.com](mailto:anvilman67@yahoo.com)

## **Hammer In**

### **Red Mill Museum Village**

**Sunday, September 14th from 10am-4pm**

Red Mill Museum Village 56 Main Street,  
Clinton, New Jersey 08809

[www.theredmill.org](http://www.theredmill.org)

The Red Mill Museum Village will host the annual Hammer-In on Sunday, September 15th from 10am-4pm.

The Red Mill Museum Village resident blacksmiths Robert Bozzay and Dave Ennis will host the event.

The day's activities will center at the Museum's Blacksmith Shop where local blacksmiths and the New Jersey Blacksmiths Association (NJBA), dedicated to the promotion of the art and craft of blacksmithing, will have members on hand to demonstrate and sell their work. Tool dealers and collectors are invited to tailgate, sell and swap their smithing tools and accessories. Among the items to be found will be anvils, blowers, forges, vises, hammers, and tongs.

Visitors who have "what is it?" objects cluttering up the garage can bring them along and members of NJBA will be glad to identify them.

Admission for the day's activities is \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors, active military and veterans, and \$5 for children (6-12). Free for children under 6, Museum members and for NJBA members. Included in the price is admission to the Museum's historic buildings and exhibits.

For more information, or to register contact, Amy Boyce, Curator of Public Programming, at (908) 735-4101 x 102 or email [programs@theredmill.org](mailto:programs@theredmill.org). NJBA contact is David Ennis, 908-713-1679 [davidennis@att.net](mailto:davidennis@att.net)

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## Report on Walnford Day, 2014

by Bruce Freeman

Sunday, 18 May, 2014 was Walnford Day, an annual event at Historic Walnford Park, in the southwest corner of Monmouth County.

NJBA has been demonstrating at Walnford Day for several years, and it's usually quite a good event. In past years, this event was in the autumn, but the Park Service moved it to spring, this year, apparently to reduce conflicts with other events. The Park goes to some trouble to get in several craftsmen and women, as well as enlist their own volunteers to demonstrate -- woodworking, spinning, quill-pen calligraphy and other things.

The big change for NJBA was the absence of both David (who died) and Marshall (who had to go out of state for a funeral). Another big change was that Marshall would, in any event, have been unable to haul the NJBA equipment trailer to the park because his smaller truck was in need of repairs. Fortunately, Tom Majewski, stepped up to haul the trailer, despite the fact that he works nights and couldn't stay for the event. Without that tow, I would have had to transfer a forging station from the trailer to my pickup truck, a considerable extra burden. (Tom is one of our more active board members. He helps a lot in many small ways, often just by helping out or taking photographs for our newsletter. This was one more example of that.)

I met Tom at Marshall's around 8:30 AM. We briefly considered pulling some unnecessary boxes of stuff out of the trailer, but decided against it due to the time it would have taken. We hitched the trailer to his truck and caravanned to the park, pulled into the place always reserved for us and started unloading, only discovering as we did so that we had only

three small buckets of coal! This was completely contrary to expectations. In years past, we had always kept at least one bag of coal on the trailer and I was not prepared for its lack.

About this time, another NJBA member, Bob Crowder, showed up and we set up the site to help. I made the "executive decision" to set up only one forge. This was partly due to insufficient coal for more than one, partly because I did not expect a lot of demonstrators, partly because of my incipient sinus headache (I really did feel up to be hammering steel!) and partly because I feared that there might not be enough folks around at the end of the day to load. (I distinctly remember the LAST Walnford Day at which three or four of us took over an hour to set up and break down the worksite. One or two of us might be able to pack up the one forging station alone, but there was no chance we could do much more without our usual crew of three to five to take the load.

As it happened, we got more help than I'd expected. Although Tom had to leave after we set up, Jay, an 18-year-old park volunteer who'd helped us last year, showed up almost the same time. Later Sue Dunsmoor, who works at the Johnson Atelier, and who demonstrated forging aluminum at our September meet at the Red Mill, showed up for a few hours, but had to leave before break-down. She showed up around noon, and with two experienced blacksmiths to hold the fort, I decided to make a run back to Marshall's Farm for more coal, leaving Bob and Sue in charge in my absence.

The trip took me about an hour. Despite the additional coal, however, the consensus was NOT to set up a second forge, since it was already about 1:30 when I got back and we had to close up around 4:30. Since Jay was a novice, Bob, Sue and I took turns giving him some

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instruction. We didn't really do a lot of forging on only one forge, but we did hit hot iron and talk to the visitors, and the Park staff seemed very satisfied by our presence.

At the end of the day, I still had two helpers, Bob and Jay, to break down the site and load the trailer, so it went fairly smoothly. The trailer came out something of a mess because David Macauley had always had us unload it completely before reloading it, but I had no intention of doing all that extra work.

As I'd previously arranged, we left the trailer at the Park overnight. One of the rangers came by with a pickup truck to haul it to a different location, out of sight from the road, and park it there. Tom picked it up then next morning and hauled it back to Marshall's Farm -- on his way home from work. (Fortunately, it actually IS on his way home, so he didn't have to drive far out his way after a long shift.)

Thanks go to all who participated and especially to Tom, who facilitated immensely by towing the trailer.

## The Shop of the Late David Macauley

by Bruce Freeman

Thursday, 22 May, I spent some time on the phone dealing with the issue of the blacksmithing equipment of the late David Macauley. The owners of the property his shop is at needed the space cleaned out and the equipment stored elsewhere. Bill Ker (our main contact with the Macauley family), Marshall Bienstock and a few others had visited the shop a couple weeks ago, and assessed the situation and made a decision. However, the original intention to sort the equipment and prepare for the move at a leisurely pace over

some weeks went by the wayside when we learned that the owners of the property David's shop was located needed it cleaned out much sooner.

After some preliminary discussion, Craig Macauley, David's brother and executor of his estate, phoned me directly to work out some of the details, and I and hashed it over with Marshall. Ultimately, the decision was made to move the stuff on Saturday, 24 May, and somehow it devolved upon me to get a crew together for this task. Marshall wanted to do this in the morning, but getting volunteers out early is NOT easy, so I nominally set it for "mid-morning" -- about 10 AM. I phoned several members who were fairly local and had shown some interest in helping, then sent out a general announcement and request for help to those members in New Jersey. All in all we got eight folks to agree to come and two "maybes." A couple folks had to beg off simply because the notice was too short for them to change plans in time to come.

The crew started gathering before 10 AM at Marshall's farm, and were ready to roll by about 10:15. We caravanned to David's shop in four or five vehicles, including Marshall's large farm truck. As we loaded stuff out of the shop, Marshall stayed mostly on the truck and organized things as they were handed up. I helped direct the crew on the ground. This was a bit involved as there was a LOT of stuff to move, to box up, and even some stuff to disassemble before moving. We loaded the truck with much of the stuff that was not blacksmithing-related, while most of the blacksmithing-related tools we moved to the area nearest the truck, ready for a second load. By maybe around 1:30 PM, the truck was jammed full. Craig had ordered food for everybody, which arrived about then, so we took a lunch break.

After lunch we headed out in our several

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vehicles, back to Marshall's Farm. There we had a pleasant surprise: The trailer bed being about the same height as the truck we were filling it from, it proved quite easy to move stuff from the truck to the trailer, and unloading the truck went quite fast with so many working. Nonetheless it was about 3:30 by the time we headed back to David's shop.

Before we made the second trip, we loaded on the truck a ramp and a crane that fit on the back of the truck. When we got there, these proved to be very useful in saving backs from lifting heavy things like anvils and buckets or boxes of tools and supplies. The former we could just hook to the crane winch and haul up to the truck deck; the latter we could slide up the inclined plane of the ramp. That, and the fact that much of the blacksmithing equipment was ready to load, made the second load go much faster. One thing that took some additional work was the steel stock, of which David had had at least a half-ton, maybe more. Several of us carried many small loads of that to the truck, where one of us arranged it along the side of the truck bed. Unfortunately, we hadn't completely emptied the shop by the time the truck was loaded.

Once again, we caravanned to the farm and unloading went fairly quickly, despite the heavy weight of some of the objects to be moved from truck to trailer. Most of the equipment, like anvils and swage blocks, was quite dense and easily loaded onto a hand truck or dolly and rolled on ramps from truck to trailer. David's cast-iron forge (which had been even bigger before disassembling into table, pot, blower, hood, and flue) was one notable exception, but even that proved amenable to being rolled across on a dolly, many hands keeping it from getting away from us. The stock we were able simply to slide from truck to trailer, with minimal lifting.



It was getting late by this time, around 5 PM I believe, and it had been drizzly or rainy since about 2 PM. So we called it a day, but will have to probably go back next weekend for a last load. I only hope we can get a good-sized crew out again for this work, as it simply cannot be done by only a few.

The list of today's participants from NJBA was Matt Yucht, Eric Von Arx, David Woodward, Jose Torres, Bill Ker, Jon Herbst, Bob Crowder, Marshall Bienstock, and myself. Craig and his daughter, who came down the night before from Massachusetts, worked alongside us. (Kathy Macauley and her daughter Molly were present as well.) All these participants donated an entire day and lots of effort to this move. Several brought hand trucks. Bob brought lots of large, sturdy boxes that proved very useful in packing smaller stuff for the move. I brought plastic tarps, thus guaranteeing that the worst of the rain would only fall on an empty truck. (We never used the tarps.) And Marshall contributed the use of his large farm truck as well as the loan of an 80-ft storage trailer, without which none of this would have even been possible.