



# N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 20, Issue 1 02/02/16  
<http://www.njblacksmiths.org>

## Editors Soapbox

News letter is late, so I apologize. We have a new web address do to problems the old server was having,

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

**NJBA is twenty years old this year!**

We have some 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 know of a demonstrator you would like to see or recommend contact a board member.** We need to boost the activity of our members! If more members do a little we will have a stronger organization. **If you are interested in helping please contact one of the board members listed on page 2.**

Larry Brown, Editor

## Upcoming events for 2016

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

At the moment there are no confirmed meets Keep an eye on the web site

**Middlesex County Fair**—We are looking for members to commit to helping cover our time there. You do not have to be an experienced smith to help man or woman this event!

Contact Bruce Freeman if you want to help, please read the info on page about the fair.



## THE BARNES FOUNDATION STRENGTH AND SPLENDOR:

About mid December I went to see the Barnes Foundation museum and the exhibit Strength and Splendor. I have had the book on the works in the museum Musée Le Secq des Tournelles in Rouen, France for at least 25 years and have sat and looked at the pictures and tried to see how the items were made too many time to count. Although this only had a small amount compared to the museums holdings there were still many items that could be viewed at a very close distance and many from more than one side.

Some pieces were much smaller than I imagined making the detail that much more interesting and many of the locks and keys were masterpieces from locksmiths long ago when the guild system was in place in France.

I admit I wanted to pick up and handle some of the more exposed pieces, but under the watchful eye of security I refrained, not wanting to be escorted out.

**If you have not renewed, this is probably your last newsletter!**

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## **The New NJBA Web Site!**

The NJBA Web Site is:

<http://www.njblacksmiths.org>

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**

## **NJBA Board of Directors**

Directors are only available with hard copy

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I was amazed to see the amount of riveting and notching used in the pieces where I had previously assumed forge welds and couldn't tell from the pictures. The museum had published a book on the exhibit which I felt was a good buy to help remember all I had seen.

The rest of the museum is a fantastic collection of art works specializing in work by Renoir and other painters. Mixed in in various themed assemblages were sculptures, furniture, household items from the past and quite a bit of mostly American ironwork. They sell a book on the artwork in the museum, which I also bought to get a better look at some of the ironwork displayed in the museum.

Although the Strength and Splendor exhibit has closed there is still a large amount of iron work to be viewed in the museum and I would recommend stopping there if you are going near Philadelphia.



## Middlesex County Fair, 2015 by Bruce Freeman

On Monday, Aug. 3, after applying some finishing touches to the lightweight forge equipment, I loaded it all up -- including three forges, firepots, hoods, flues, blowers and stands, anvils and anvil stands; one vise and stand; two 10-gallon slack tubs; two canopies; plus coal, kindling and hand-tools -- into my little Nissan pickup truck to take to the Middlesex County Fair.

At about 3:30 PM, Larry Brown, Tom Majewski, and I met at the fairgrounds to set up. In about 45 minutes, we'd unloaded my truck, set up two canopies, three lightweight forges, complete with hoods, flues, and blowers, three 55-lb anvils and stands, and one leg vise. Aside from the anvils, no single item to be moved weighs more than 40 lb, so the work was light. By the time NJBA members Damian and Heather Toryak (and kids) arrived at about 4:30 PM, there was nothing left to do but to fire up the forges, which we proceeded to do.

I began to re-forge the stanchions we use around the perimeter of our site to support a rope to exclude the public, a job I didn't finish till Tuesday. (The pigtail coils on top of some of these were too tight to permit larger ropes to be strung without considerable finagling, and someone, sometime, had bent up the step flange which was intended to be used to sink the stanchions into the ground -- resulting in stanchions difficult to set up by foot or hammer.) Tom made a handle for another tin can, giving us a second water dipper. Larry made us several stakes from 3/8" rebar, which will fit inside the 1/2" holes on the legs or bases of some of the equipment.

I wasn't keeping tabs on what Damian made on Monday, but across the three days he was there he made two musical triangles. I also worked on a ladle made from a 4" square

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piece of 1/8" steel, but I haven't finished the handle for it yet. Wednesday evening I did a quick demo of a penny-end, mainly for Damian's benefit.

The fair itself was the same as always, with wrestlers on one side of us and musicians on the other, crafts demonstrators (leather, weaving, rug-making, etc.) opposite us, a barn full of old farm and machine tools behind them, Boy Scouts and an arena with acrobats to the north. There were also lots of food vendors, commercial and community-interest booths, rides, games, 4-H animal displays, etc. We've been lucky with the nearby musicians -- these two fellows sing old country songs and do a good job of it, albeit they do some songs a couple times across an evening.

Damian, Heather and I started to strike the site on Wednesday, and the two of them did as much as possible, including putting up both canopies, before leaving in time to get some sleep before their respective workdays on the morrow. They offered to stay later, but I knew I couldn't bring my truck back onto the fairgrounds till after the 11 PM closing (and indeed it was closer to 11:30 that I was able to drive in), and I knew I could load all the equipment by myself -- which would have been an unutterably impossible task with the old equipment. (Nonetheless, I don't plan to repeat this experience, mainly because the weight is a bit too much for my old pickup truck, which I discovered needs new rear shocks!)

The Fair complicated matters a bit by turning off the overhead string of lights before I finished; but, fortunately, the main lights proved adequate.

Last year, by contrast, we transported our (heavy) equipment in the old NJBA trailer -- which weighed in, loaded, at 3500 lbs and required at least a heavy pickup truck with a break actuator to haul -- and it took four of us at least an hour to set up. Some of that work

was heavy -- like moving the (125-lb +) anvils and the heavy oak stumps they sat on, and setting up the heavyweight blowers and vises. Exhausting work! The following Friday, seven people broke down the site and stowed the equipment in the trailer, though with that many working none of us was exhausted. This level of effort has been inhibiting our demonstrating! That heavy equipment LOOKED fine, but was entirely disproportionate to the light forgings we do at demonstrations.

Obviously, a lot has happened, vis-a-vis our equipment, since last August. We've held two successful workshops to fabricate anvil stands, firepots and folding forge tables.

We've had some additional Monday evening sessions at Marshall's forge, finishing up some of those things, and in addition I have taken home a lot of it to work on myself. In particular, fabrication of the legs for the folding forge tables did not go as smoothly as I'd expected, and we had to make some modifications, after which I still had to take them home to fit the things up in a multi-step process that has resulted in three working forges so far.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Middlesex County Fair 2016

It was only two years ago that NJBA was able to set up at the Middlesex County Fair on the Sunday before the fair opened, then demonstrate from Monday through the final Sunday, before loading the trailer and hauling it out that evening. This was great for NJBA, as our demonstrations attracted a lot of interest from the crowd; however, it took manpower, which we got it from participation from the membership.

Then two things happened: (1) David Macauley died, depriving us of the person who had championed this event. (I had always tried to support the event, but it was David who worked alot it.) And (2) the fair changed its Sunday closing time to 10 PM, making it im-

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possible for us to bring the trailer in for loading till after that time, which, in turn, lost us the entire weekend, due to the need to get a truck there to tow the trailer. (We were able to get that help on the Friday evening.)

Well, the lightweight equipment has changed that, but this year I found I could not generate many commitments to attend. I rather suspect that if NJBA committed to being there all week, we'd get a lot more participation from members and generate a lot more interest from the crowd, but there's a limit to human endurance. Since I am just not up to running this event for five evenings plus the full weekend, I went with the commitments I got -- for Monday through Wednesday, our requisite three days. (We're paid for three days.)

**Contact Bruce Freeman to commit to next years fair!** A lot of people are not needed to accomplish keeping this event going. You can be a beginner and get forging experience while helping with this event. Larry Brown

## Forge Hoods for the Lightweight Forges

by Bruce Freeman

Back in August, I prototyped a forge hood from stainless steel for use with the new lightweight forge tables we're making. The job went pretty well and we used that hood at the Middlesex Co. Fair, along with the two I'd made from galvanized steel many years ago. Rather than schedule a workshop for the forge hoods, I solicited assistance at the 8/24/15 and 8/31/15 Monday Night Open Forge meets at Marshall's shop. Damian Toryak joined me both days, and Tom Majewski on the second day. Despite some problems with the HF metal shear, we succeeded in cutting out the remaining hood blanks. On two of these, we

then folded up the tabs and made the two creases to square off the base, then rounded the top, ready for riveting and for receiving the collar piece. One more we did some work, but not so much, and the other two

Since then I finished the rough forges -- tabs, creases, and rounding the tops. I also made five more collars to receive the flue pipes. All these pieces I took home to my shop to work on, but autumn painting chores and winter weather delayed me till recently. So far I've welded up the collars, but I still need to assemble the hoods with rivets -- the work of a day or two more.

## Princeton Open Forge Meet, Oct. 10, 2015

by Bruce Freeman

[http://www.princeton.edu/prism/blacksmith\\_2015/photos/index.xml](http://www.princeton.edu/prism/blacksmith_2015/photos/index.xml)

Only three blacksmiths turned out for this event this year, but the turn-out among Princeton students was excellent. Billy Barrett arrived early with his forge and anvil, as well as a display table showing his work. Matt Vallon (NJBA member and grad student at Princeton U.) arrived with a gas forge and anvil about the same time that I showed up with three light-



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weight coal forges, one leg vise, four anvils, coal, slack tubs, and tools. I also brought three collapsible canopies, but it was a bright sunny day, so we only erected two of them, to provide some relief from the sunshine.



Princeton U. provided the steel stock, but Billy and I had to cut it down from 5' lengths, for which purpose we each had brought angle grinders with cut-off wheels. Don Schoorman (the Senior Technical Support Staff member who runs the metallurgy lab), Mike Wang (president of the PUMRS) and Sandra Lam (Academic Program & Communications Coordinator) were present to provide assistance and/or to take photographs.

Princeton professor Craig Arnold gave a talk to the metallurgy club (the Princeton U. chapter of the Materials Research Society)



while we fired up the forges. Then Billy gave a basic blacksmithing demonstration to the crowd of students. Matthew tended to a small group, who seemed to be trying to make swords out of the mild steel stock provided by Princeton. I ran around keeping the other three fires burning while introducing individual students to forging. With only three experienced hands tending the students at the forges, things got a bit hectic.



Having been at it since early in the day, I took a break around 1 pm to enjoy the lunch Princeton U. provided -- cheeseburgers, hotdogs, chicken, various salads, drinks, Italian ices, cookies and brownies. Then I got back to work, and started cleaning forges of clinker, while rebuilding the fires that were

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consistently neglected by these novice blacksmiths. Despite the crowds (sometimes four per forge!) and hubbub, the students seemed quite taken with blacksmithing. Several tried twisting square stock. One made a hook and punched it. Billy coached others in more complete projects, like wall hooks. I kept telling new groups of students to feed coal into the fires from the perimeter, but kept encountering hollow fires throughout the day. Eventually, I demonstrated the "Hockenbury Heart" (see separate article) to a few of the students.

We started shutting down around 4 PM, but had hangers-on working nearly 1/2 hour longer. Eventually, we prevailed upon them to shut things down, and we started breaking down. All in all, it was a very successful open forge meet.

## The Hockenbury Heart

by Bruce Freeman

Many years ago Luke Gasoir showed me a clever way to make a heart of round bar stock. In Luke's technique, you fold the rod sharply back on itself and weld the tip where it touches the rod, giving you something resembling the eye in an enormous needle.

Next you expand the middle of this over



Figure 1

the horn till it's quite wide and rounded. Finally you flip the tip over, and, voila', you have a heart. I've done this a few times, but always had trouble getting the heart to come out symmetrical.

Recently, it occurred to me that when kids make Valentine's Day hearts in school, they fold red paper in half, cut the outline of one side, then unfold -- automatic symmetry. It occurred to me to try this in iron by bending into a hook the doubled rod from Luke's method and then unfolding the hook to reveal a heart. I had planned to try this, but before I could, I attended the Lord Stirling 1770s Festival (held at the park of that name) which featured a variety of craftsmen.



Figure 2

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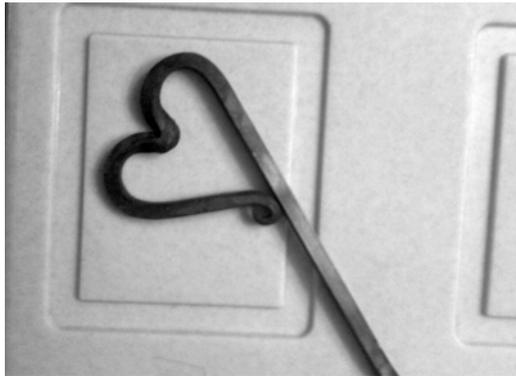
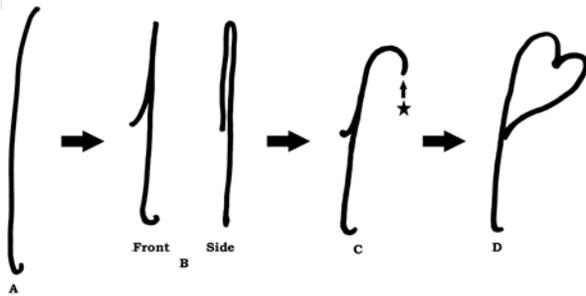


Fig 3

Amongst these was blacksmith Bruce Hockenbury, to whom I introduced myself. He proceeded to show me a trick to make a heart that was based upon the same Valentine's heart trick I had thought of. His approach was simpler, though, because it requires no welding. He gave me the heart (made as the handle-end of a back-scratcher) that he made for this demonstration. (See Fig. 1)

I've since made a couple of these hearts and they're pretty easily made. The first (Fig. 2) I made of round stock as a demo to Damian Toryak. The second (Fig. 3) I made of square stock as a demo at the Princeton U. open forge day.

The following description of how to make this heart is mine -- Bruce Hockenbury gets the credit, I take any blame. Take about 18" of 1/4" to 1/2" round or square stock, and form the ends as you prefer. (See Fig. 4A.) Bend one end as shown in Fig. 4B. Curve the middle of the bend as shown in Fig. 4C. Now heat

only the end of the curve, as indicated by the star and the small arrow in Fig. 4C, and bend open the heart as in Fig. 4D.



Trivet

## NJBA Holiday Party

NJBA closed the year on December 6th with our traditional Holiday Party.

Once again Marshall and Jan graciously hosted the party. There was a very good turn out and the food and the selection was great.

Many thanks to Marshall for opening their home to us and making this a great party!

## Northeast Blacksmiths Meet At Ashokan NY

<http://www.northeastblacksmiths.org/>  
The Spring demonstrator is Carl Close, April 22, 23, 24 For more information check the website

**Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland's 28th Annual Blacksmith Days, May 21 & 22, 2016**, at the Carroll County Farm Museum, Westminster, MD

<http://www.bgcmonline.org/index.php?bsd2016>

Featured Demonstrators:

Sheldon Browder and James Michael Walker  
2016 Forging Contests 1. Forged wrapped eye

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tomahawk – Only the tomahawk head will be judged 2. Forged candle stick or holder 3. A decorative twist sample – no longer than 6 inches \*Contest items must have been forged since BSD 2015; Forging stations available on site to complete contest items; Demonstrators will judge contests on design, technical details, and overall execution; The judges decisions are final; First, Second, and Third prizes will be awarded for each forging contest.

Flyers and registration forms can be downloaded from the website. Please share with anyone who may be interested.

This will be another outstanding event. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Ted McNett President BGCM

## **ABANA 2016 Conference Salt Lake City**

July 13-16, 2016

It only happens every two years and you won't want to miss this one!

It's time to plan to attend the 2016 biennial conference of the Artist Blacksmiths Association of North America, to be held at the Utah State Fairpark in Salt Lake City. The site boasts a large tree lined grass area for the demonstrations.

The marketplace and lectures will be inside air conditioned spaces. There is on-site space for camping and RV's. Salt Lake City offers a Trax rail system that runs from the airport to downtown, with the Fairpark as one of the stops.

There are many hotels an easy walk from any of the stops and world class restaurants downtown besides.

The theme for the conference is Education and we've designed a program to promote hands on learning. There are many classes with projects ranging from beginner to advanced. Projects such as Animal Heads, Tongs, Forge Welding, Damascus Billets, Re-

pousse', Fold Forming, and Patination will all be presented as hands on classes.

This year there is a dedicated Youth Tent, for the younger aspiring smiths to try their hand at projects. We will have a railing workshop with John Barron, of which the railing will be installed at the handicap ramp of the historic Pioneer building site at the Fairpark. The workshop will cover measuring the site, designing the railing, forging and assembling all the parts, and finally installation on Sunday morning.

Jake James, This year Farrier Products Distribution has sponsored a tent for Farrier demonstrations. Some of the biggest names in the farrier world will be showing off their skills. . and it's all forging not shoeing horses!

The Gallery reception Friday night will include hors-d'oeuvres, and a plated dinner Saturday night preceding the fine art auction. You will have a chance to bid on projects that were made during the conference along with many other items donated by talented smiths.

Also, don't forget to book your room now! Salt Lake is a popular place that time of year and rooms go fast. Even if you aren't sure, you can hold your reservation with a credit card and it won't cost anything if you cancel before the conference.

<https://www.abana.org/Conferences/2016/index.html> Central Office at (423) 913-1022

## **Demonstration Opportunities and Help Wanted**

**Waterloo Village** is looking for an additional part time Blacksmith. This person does not have to be a master smith. Basic smithing, willing to demonstrate and interpret for school children and general public. Please see below and pass on. Waterloo is located just north of I 80 exit 25 more or less central to north Jersey.  
Ron Jani

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Hello Ron,

We are looking for a second part-time Blacksmith to work and care for the blacksmith shop at Waterloo and do demonstrations. Generally the hours would be during Spring, Summer and Fall and weekend availability is a MUST.

If you know anyone who might be interested please pass this along.

Andrea L. Proctor

Resource Interpretive Specialist

Waterloo Village Historic Site

waterlooris@gmail.com

973-347-1835 Waterloo Village office

609-203-4140 Waterloo Village cell

## **Pennsville Historical Society**

My name is Don Steinhauser and I am a member of our Pennsville Historical Society located in Pennsville NJ which is across the Delaware River from New Castle, Delaware. Each , early summer on the first Saturday of June, this year June 4th , we open our Victorian era farm house and the grounds to the public to experience life in 1800's. We have various exhibits and other activities to share with the public. Blacksmithing was a key component of life in the bygone days and we are wondering if there are any blacksmiths nearby who would be interested in participating. Farm Day times are 11:00 to 3:00 on June 4th.

I'll await your reply.

Regards,

Don Steinhauser

Ph 856 217 1973

Email steinhauser80@comcast.net

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Hi all,

I live in south Jersey near Pennsville and responded to Don S above. We agreed that I would set up a simple demo there in June.

I have been looking for a decent, vintage portable forge for a while. Does anyone have one for sale or recommend a source?

Thanks in advance,

Mark Scott

609-876-9507

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*I received this email, if anyone has stuff to sell especially near him, please contact him directly, Larry Brown*

Ted McNett

<stonejugforge@embarqmail.com>

I received a call from Jay Patrick looking to buy a vise and punches for 16 ga metal, possibly other tools. He lives on Long Island so Maryland is a little bit of a hike. His number is 631-878-8572. Not sure if you have any info that could help him out.

The Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland, Inc.

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I received an odd piece of mail, recently. This fellow, G. Apgar, is apparently a historical reenactor of the Revolutionary period. He's seeking to get some ironwork made. He seems also to be interested in inducing a costumed blacksmith demonstrator to come out for this Piscataway event. If any of you are interested in either of these, or know someone who is, let me know and I'll provide more details. Bruce Freeman

----- Forwarded message ----- From: Debbie Apgar <dapgar@rulmail.rutgers.edu>

Date: Tue, Feb 9, 2016 at 2:26 PM Subject:

From George Apgar To: freema-

b222@gmail.com

Hi, This is his sister Debbie, writing a note from George Apgar

FM:1776 Village Cokesburg Blacksmith Jacob Bucket-Ebgert Colonial 18th Century NJ

Blacksmiths Wanted

1666 Happy 350th Birthday Piscataway-Newark

contact: 732 297-6686 or 732 745-3030 X308 for work-work-work