



# N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 14, Issue 2 7/31/09  
<http://njba.abana-chapter.com>

## Editors Soapbox

Hi, We still have some great events for this year and we are working on next year. As editor I would appreciate some help in writing up events for the newsletter. You don't have to be a gifted writer just send me something about the event as I can't make all of them or remember everything.

## We need some more activity from our members!

Recent events in the lives of some of our directors have made it hard for NJBA to be all it can be. We need more people to help out other than the same few doing everything. Please talk to one of the directors to find out what you can do to help! Larry Brown, Editor

## Upcoming events for 2008

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.

**August 2, 8—9** Middlesex County Fair More information on this page .

**September 11 - 13** Days of the Past Engine Show Washington Crossing Park, NJ, More info on page 3 .

**September 27th** Red Mill in Clinton NJ, elections meeting. More information on pages 3 & 5.

**October 4th** Walnford Day Information on page 4.

**October 10th** Peters Valley Pig Roast Information on page 4.

**October 24th—25th** Knife making workshop with Mark Morrow. More information on page 4.

**December Holiday Party**—Information next newsletter

## Middlesex County Fair

August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10th 2008, East Brunswick NJ

NJBA will be providing public demonstrations during the Middlesex County Fair. Several smiths provided demonstrations the last few years to test the waters and judged the fair to be a great event.

We will be setting up on August 1st - meeting at Marshall's farm at 1PM to bring the equipment up. NJBA will provide demonstrations on Monday August 2nd 5PM - 10PM, Saturday August 8th 5PM - 10PM and Sunday August 9th. 11AM - 5PM

Please contact David Macauley if you are interested in demonstrating. Tear down will be Sunday August 9th starting around 5PM. David will also investigate using the equipment at the fair on off hours - when we have not scheduled demos. This is a great fund raiser for the organization since the fair pays us for demonstrations. Here is the URL for the Fair: <http://middlesexcountyfair.org/>

We will have at least two forging stations set up.

### Directions:

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.

For more information please contact:  
David Macauley, 732-2-6-1568,  
[drmacauley@att.net](mailto:drmacauley@att.net)

**NJBA Renewal Notice and Form are the last page of this newsletter. Please fill in and send back in the enclosed envelope to continue enjoying being a member!**

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

## **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 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 is now being posted  
on the NJBA web site.  
If you cannot access it there, contact me  
and I will send you copies.  
ABANA is communicating again so  
check it out**

**NJBA Board of Directors**

**Editors not available on line**

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

## Old Time Engine Show September 11th, 12th, 13th

NJBA will again be at the Delaware Valley Old Time Power and Equipment Association's "Days of the Past" Engine Show at Washington Crossing State Park, in Titusville, New Jersey. Come on out and bring the family, there are hay rides for the kids, a metal heads flea market, and a lot to see. We will have a couple of forges going so bring a hammer, also if you have some items for sale we will have a table out. Come on out and join the fun. For more information check out their web site <http://daysofthepast.com>

### Directions:

The Engine Show is located in Washington Crossing State Park off of Rt. 29 (River Rd.) South of Lambertville and North of Trenton signs are posted to show the way.

### From their web site:

## 32nd. Annual Antique Power and Equipment Show

presented by the

### Delaware Valley Old Time Power and Equipment Association

Sept. 12, 13, 2009

Washington Crossing State Park  
Titusville, New Jersey

Featuring: John Deere tractors and Associated Gas Engines All exhibitors welcome! ~ No Fee ~ Set up day Sept 11, 2008

Antique Farm Tractors, Engines, Cars and Trucks Flea Market and Crafts ~ Parades ~ Pedal Tractor Pulls ~ Wood Working Displays ~ Limited Camping w/Engines Working Farm and Construction Equipment ~ Hay Rides ACMOC,chapter 8 digging show ~ Blacksmith Demonstration ~ Primitive Camping on grounds, Food and Beverages on site ~ Breakfast served Sat. & Sun. Alcoholic drinks are not permitted in the park

Show grounds are located off Church Road in Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville, NJ. Church Rd. runs between Rte. 29 and Rte. 579 only 4 miles north of I-95 along the Delaware River. Trucks use exit 3B off I-95 and follow signs to the park.

For more info:

[www.DAYSOFTHEPAST.com](http://www.DAYSOFTHEPAST.com)

908 813 9904 ~ Days of show call: (609) 737-1925 Gates open at 8:00am all days Donation: Saturday or Sunday \$5 per person Kids under 12 free!

### Also there;

8th Annual Antique Truck Show At "DAYS OF THE PAST" in cooperation with the Delaware Valley Old Time Power and Equipment Association presented by the Central Jersey Chapter Antique Truck Club of America Sept. 12, 13, 2009 Washington Crossing State Park Titusville, New Jersey

All Trucks 25 years and older welcome No registration fee, Working Antique Trucks with construction equipment. For more info call: (609) 499-3840 evenings or day of show call: (609) 737-1925

## BLACKSMITH HAMMER-IN & TOOL SWAP

### At the Red Mill

### Museum Village

**Sunday, September 27th**

**10:00am - 4:00pm**

Details are on page 5, come out and have some fun! This will also be an election meeting, if you want to join the NJBA board let us know!

### Notice!

We could use some help running this event as Eric is going to be unavailable and he usually coordinates it. Please contact Larry Brown if you can help!

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

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## October 4th Meet at Walnford Park

We will be demonstrating and holding a membership meeting at Walnford Park on October 4th. Walnford is also known as Crosswicks Creek Park and is in Upper Freehold, N.J. Set-up starts 10:00, the event is :00 - 5:00.

Come out and do some forging or socializing in a beautiful setting of a nice park that is not well known.

### Directions

· NJ Turnpike to Exit 7A, (I-195 east). Follow I-195 to Exit 8 (Allentown, Rt. 524/539). Turn South onto Rt. 539 through Allentown (Rt. 539 requires a left turn where it splits from Rt. 524). Follow Rt. 539 to Holmes Mill Rd. Turn right. Follow to Walnford Rd. Turn right and follow 1 mile to Park.

· Rt. 9 to Freehold (West Main Street/Rt. 537 east exit). Northbound, turn left at exit; southbound, turn right at exit. Follow Rt. 537 west to Rt. 539. Turn right onto Rt. 539 west. Follow Rt. 539 west to Burlington Path. Turn left; follow to Holmes Mill Rd. Turn right; follow to Walnford Rd. Turn left and follow 1 mile to park.

## Peters Valley Pig Roast Saturday, October 10 2009

Annual Iron Fest and Pig Roast scheduled for Saturday, October 10 2009 at the Blacksmith Studio at Peters Valley Craft Center

The annual Iron Fest and Pig Roast features nationally recognized blacksmiths giving varied demonstrations throughout the day in the teaching studio, a tailgate tool sale, live music, a live auction and of course a pig roast which also includes an array of other food, (hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, soda - BYOB). This is a family friendly event. The Iron Fest begins at 11am and generally begins to wind down with the live auction in the late after-

noon, but demonstrations continue till about 6pm. The charge for the event includes the pig roast and is \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, and children under 12 years of age are free. For more information about becoming an exhibitor, or about attending the craft fair, call the Peters Valley office at 973-948-5200 or visit the website, [www.petersvalley.org](http://www.petersvalley.org)

### Directions to Peters Valley;

#### Peters Valley Craft Education Center

is located at;  
19 Kuhn Road. in Layton (Sussex Co.). NJ 07851.  
(Phone: 201-948-5200).

#### From Interstate Route 80 West:

Take Exit 34B to NJ Route 15 North. to US Route 206 North. Left onto NJ Route 560 West. Go through the blinking light in the center of Layton. onto NJ Route 640: go about 2 miles and turn right onto NJ Route 615. Go approximately one mile.

**From US Route 209** (on the west bank of the Delaware River in Pennsylvania): Take PA Route 739 South across the Dingmans Ferry Bridge. Take the first right at sign to Peters Valley. Go two miles.

## Knife Making Workshop October 24th and 25th

Mark Morrow, Swordsmith will lead a Knife making workshop to make a small forged camp knife. The cost will be \$50 per person for the workshop which will be held at Marshall Bienstock's farm in Howell, NJ. The sign up will be handled by Mark Morrow, [swordsmith2001@verizon.net](mailto:swordsmith2001@verizon.net), (732) 458 5823  
[www.swordsmith.net](http://www.swordsmith.net)

Register soon, at this price the workshop should fill up quickly!

Mark also has some items for sale a Jet bench mill and a Grizzly break roll shear, 12 inch model, so contact him if interested.

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

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## *Red Mill Museum Village*

56 Main Street, Clinton, NJ 08809



### **PRESS RELEASE**

For Information contact:  
Elizabeth Cole, Curator of Education  
908-735-4101 ext.102

### **RED MILL MUSEUM TO HOST ANNUAL HAMMER IN AND TOOL SWAP**

CLINTON, NJ—The Red Mill Museum Village is pleased to announce its annual Hammer In and Tool Swap on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 10-4pm. This event is hosted by the NJ Blacksmith's Association, under the direction of association trustee, Eric Cuper, and our own resident blacksmith Robert Bozzay. The day's activities will center at the Museum's Blacksmith Shop where local blacksmiths and the New Jersey Blacksmith's Association, a non-profit organization 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. We are currently registering blacksmiths and tool collectors. Among the items to be found will be anvils, blowers, forges, vises, hammers, and tongs. Should anyone have a "what is it" cluttering up the garage, bring it along and we will be glad to identify it for you.

Admission for the day's activities is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, 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. The Red Mill Museum Village is located at 56 Main Street in Clinton, NJ. For more information, or to register call the Museum at (908) 735-4101.

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

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## Report on Speedwell Meet

By David Macauley

I was able to attend the demo at Speedwell Village. For NJBA we had 2 smiths turn up - Jose Torres a relatively new member and Kevin Perry who introduced us to Speedwell Village. From the village there was 1 employee Joshua Kandebo is a Morris County Parks employee who is collecting blacksmithing gear for the site and two volunteers who were blacksmithing, Vanessa Chiaramonte and Rick Eckert. The village has started to acquire their own equipment so the size of the demo expands every year. I think the Lord did not want me to blacksmith yesterday. I brought two forges - 1 gas and 1 coal. The propane for the gas forge only lasted 2 hours because my wife keeps putting fresh tanks on the grill with using up the old tanks. I also forgot to bring the blower for the coal forge.

Oh well.

The weather was overcast and cool - perfect in my opinion. We had about 8- visitors to the park. Almost all appeared to be very interested in the demo. Kevin and I talked while the other smiths worked. That seemed to work out well.

## The Tuckerton Meet Was canceled due to rain

### Events outside NJBA

#### 39th Annual

#### Peters Valley Craft Fair

to be held September 26 & 27 2009

With 180+ juried craft exhibitors, and over 10,000 visitors, the Peters Valley Craft Fair is a "don't miss" event. Now in its 39th year, the craft fair is held at the Sussex County Fairgrounds in Augusta, NJ. The fair features craft demonstrations throughout the weekend, kids hands-on art activities, live music, great food, and a wonderful and diversified choice of hand

crafted art and craft for purchase.

Exhibitors included will be showing and selling functional and decorative items, and several will be demonstrating their techniques. The selection includes fine jewelry, fashion and textiles, woodworking and wood turning, furniture utensils, sculptural items, glass, photography, painting, ceramics, metalworking, and more. Join Peter Valley Craft Center in one of its largest fund raising events of the year. The fair will be open from 10am - 6pm, Saturday, and 10am - 5pm of Sunday.

Admission is \$7 per person (a discount coupon is available at the website) and children under 12 years of age are free. The event is held rain or shine as all exhibits are in covered buildings. This is a family-friendly event, but please... no pets. For more information about becoming an exhibitor, or about attending the craft fair, call the Peters Valley office at 973-948-5200 or visit the website, [www.petersvalley.org](http://www.petersvalley.org)

## Canal Day at Wharton Canal

David Macauley will be demonstrating on Canal Day, August 22.

Check out their web site;

<http://www.canalday.org/canalday.html>

David is featured on the site!

Hugh Force Canal Park, West Central Avenue  
10:00 - 7:00 PM

Directions: East bound Route 80 to Exit 34 Wharton. Make a left turn onto North Main Street. Continue through the light at West Dewey Ave. and North Main Street, go around the pond and make a right onto West Central Avenue and continue to the park.

West bound Route 80 to Exit 34 A, Wharton to Route 15 South. Right on East Dewey Avenue. Make a left onto North Main Street at the traffic light, continue around the pond and make a right turn at West Central and continue to the Park.



# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

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## Demonstration Opportunities and outside NJBA meets

### New England Blacksmith's Fall Meet: Huntington River Smithy

The NEB Fall meet for 2009 will be held at Jim Fecteau's "Huntington River Smithy" in beautiful Huntington, Vermont on the 11th, 12th, & 13th of September, 2009

Featured demonstrator- Steve Parker. Steve is an industrial smith that has 15 years of experience in making all the tongs and handling equipment for the Clifford Jacobs Forge House. Steve has worked with and stays in close contact with his friend and mentor Clifton Ralph who has shared his many years of experience with power hammer forging. Clifton worked all his life as a maintenance blacksmith for a steel mill in Gary Indiana.

This fall meet is one you should not miss if you own a power hammer or have any interest in Industrial Shaping, Tool Making, and General Forging Principals that apply to Treadle, or Power Hammer Operation and getting the results you are after in your work.

This Fall NEB event will also include:  
Two Demo Areas -- Additional Demonstrators  
-- Green Coal Teaching Tent— Iron in the Hat  
-- Auction -- On Site Camping -- Gallery --  
Chicken BBQ— Tailgating -- Coal for Sale

Local Details: Jim Fecteau's Huntington River Smithy is located in beautiful Huntington, Vermont—just 20 miles from Burlington. Lots of local B&B's and hotels near by. Onsite camping will have water and portajohns but no RV hookups. Swimming holes nearby.

Contacts: Event Coordinator -  
Jim Fecteau— fecteau@gmavt.net  
Registrations -  
Lynn Lang langfarm@together.net

## 6th Annual Forge-In Blacksmith Festival

Hi, We are searching for artistic blacksmiths to participate in the 6th Annual Forge-In Blacksmith Festival by competing or setting up shop on October 17, 2009 at Fitchburg Riverfront Park, Fitchburg, Massachusetts. We hope you might consider participating this year.

This event draws thousands of visitors each year and offers live blacksmith competitions and demonstrations for cash and prizes, children's activities, entertainment, food, and works by artists.

Information, registration forms and photos can found at  
[www.DiscoverFitchburg.com/blacksmithfestival.html](http://www.DiscoverFitchburg.com/blacksmithfestival.html).

Thank you for your time,  
Katrina Burton  
Event Coordinator

\* The Fitchburg Forge-In Blacksmith Festival committee is made up of volunteers from the community. All proceeds benefit the maintenance of Fitchburg Riverfront Park through the Fitchburg Riverfront Park Foundation, a 501c3 organization. This event is sponsored by Achla Designs ([www.achla.com](http://www.achla.com)), the City of Fitchburg, the Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority, and with a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council through the Fitchburg Cultural Council.

Katrina Burton  
Confidential Head Clerk  
Fitchburg Economic Development Division  
718 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420  
978-345-9596  
[DiscoverFitchburg.com](http://DiscoverFitchburg.com)

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

## Milford Borough Historical Society

I am the president of the newly incorporated Milford Borough Historical Society, located in Hunterdon County. We will be celebrating the borough's centennial in 2011. Historical records show that there was a blacksmith shop here in the 19th and early 20th centuries and I was wondering you could direct me to any individuals or organizations who might be interested in performing blacksmith demonstrations here. Such an event would most likely draw interest from not only Milford, but much of western Hunterdon County. I look forward to hearing from you and hope for a positive response.

Sincerely,

Andrew P. Huzar

"ANDREW P HUZAR" <aph2617@esu.edu>

President, Milford Borough Historical Society

## Selections from the Permanent Collection

June 26 - August 23, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: Carissa Hussong, 901-774-6380

Memphis, Tennessee - The Metal Museum is pleased to present /Selections from the Permanent Collection/. This show, comprised of four separate exhibitions, offers viewers an opportunity to experience rarely seen treasures from our extensive collection of historic and contemporary metalwork.

The first exhibition, titled Under Lock and Key, will showcase the Museum's extensive collection of historic and handmade locks. From the intricate to the deceptively simple, both whimsical and practical, there's a lock for every taste, and a key for every lock. In the second exhibition, the J.G. Braun Collection of decorative ironwork will be on display, along with sales catalogs and texts from our library that illuminate its historical and artistic signifi-

cance. The third exhibition, titled Domesticity, will feature handmade household items from the utilitarian to the extraordinary, each displaying an exquisite marriage of form and function. Finally, our Dorothy Sturm Memorial Gallery will host our collection of Sturm's vibrant enamels.

Founded in 1976, the National Ornamental Metal Museum is the only Museum in the Americas dedicated to the preservation and advancement of the art and craft of fine metalwork. Located at 374 Metal Museum Drive, Memphis, Tennessee the Museum is open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm and Sunday, noon - 5 pm. For more information, call 901-774-6380 or visit [www.metalmuseum.org](http://www.metalmuseum.org).

**NJBA Members who want to demo in outside NJBA events can contact a board member about the loan of tools and equipment.**

## Support Peters Valley!

Attend the Craft Show  
and or the Pig Roast

Take a class to improve  
your blacksmithing skills  
Make a Donation

[www.petersvalley.org](http://www.petersvalley.org)  
19 Kuhn Road  
Layton, NJ 07851  
973-948-5200  
[info@petersvalley.org](mailto:info@petersvalley.org)



# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

## Report on Delaware City Day

July 18th dawned cool and clear after a rain storm Friday night that cleared out the high humidity and set the tone for a great Delaware City Day.



*Kerry Rhoades*



*Mike Walker forging in Kerry's shop*

Photos courtesy of Anton Holstrom

For the fourth year Kerry Rhoades opened his shop in Delaware City, Delaware to all local smiths and metal heads for a forge in and picnic.

NJBA set up a forge outside and Bruce Freeman and Dave Macauley demonstrated for the public, other smiths spent time at Kerry's forge making a knife and helping some of the young town boys forge hooks and such.

At 3:00 PM there was a dedication in the town park of the wrought iron fence that a group of local smiths under Kerry's leadership fabricated for the town.

The Artists who worked on the Fence were:

### Blacksmiths

Kerry Rhoades	DE
Eli Infante	DE
Gene Riley	DE
Fred Milhorn	DE
John Chobrda	DE
Chuck Dover	DE



*David Macauley demonstrating*

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter



*Some of the crew that made the pickets for the fence at the dedication*

- Phil Fisher DE
- Larry Brown NY
- Drew Jordan PA
- John Lee DE
- Kelly Smyth PA
- Wallace Bader MD
- Bobby Hanson MD
- Randy McDaniel PA
- Winslow Morgan NM
- Bill Shuler MD
- Michael Walker MD
- Tim Suter NJ

**Brick Masons**

- Paul Steiner PA
- Primitivo Escobar DE
- Ray Morilo DE
- Cirilo Escobar DE

**Timber Framers**

- Andrew McKnight PA
- Vincent Hernandez DE



*Dedication plaque*

As before there was an abundance of food and liquid refreshments at the shop and the evening was capped off with a great fireworks display. If you were not able to attend this year you missed a great party, hopefully we will see you in Delaware City next year.

The NJBA Newsletter has been shortened this issue to allow for the renewal form and envelope. It will return to normal next issue



# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

## Blacksmithing Workshops and Classes:

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

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

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

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

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

## Open Forges

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

*We want to encourage all to join us at:*

### Monday Night Open Forge in N.J.

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

### Open Forge in Long Island

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

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

### Business Members

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### BLACKSMITH TOOLS FOR SALE!

John Chobrda

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

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

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

## Tools and Their Usage

Sent in by Nate Pettingill

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**AVIATION METAL SNIPS:** See hacksaw.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

## **PHILIP SIMMONS** **Master Blacksmith**

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

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

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

Philip died peacefully. He was 97.

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

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

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

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

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

## **American College of the Building Arts**

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### **Passing the Hammer**

ACBA Says Goodbye to a Friend, Mentor and Inspiration

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

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

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

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

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

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

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

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

[www.buildingartscollege.us](http://www.buildingartscollege.us)

## Creative Puns for Educated Minds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21. A backward poet writes inverse.

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

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

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



# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

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## Renewal Page

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

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

Individual - \$20.00

Businesses - \$40.00

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

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

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

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

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Business name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Day phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Skill level:** \_\_\_\_\_

Programs I'd like to see: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to volunteer to: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

# New Jersey Blacksmiths Newsletter

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**Tear This Page Off!!!**

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

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

June 8, 2009

Dear NJBA Member,

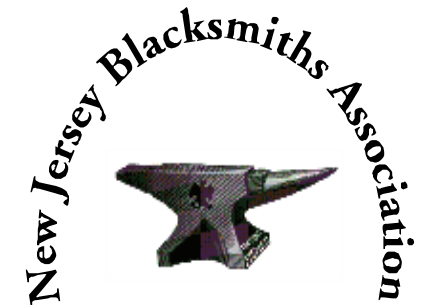
We're running a little late with the renewal letter, this year, because we decided to save postage by combining it with the newsletter mailing. Dues are still \$20, for which you get four newsletters and about 90 events each year. Yes, I do mean 90 events, because in addition to membership meetings approximately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

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

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

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

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



Sincerely,  
Bruce Freeman