

Lyle Wynn

Born: March 22nd 1962

From Jackson MS

Started blacksmithing in 1998 because his uncle gave him all the essential tools that originally belonged to Lyles grandfather. Having the tools but not the knowledge a never ending journey began. Lyle joined the MS Forge Council in 1999 and began attending the monthly meetings. As we all know if you want to learn a craft watching someone once a month for a couple hours is not a very good way to learn. Therefore he started venturing to other states to attend other meetings and conferences, and attend as many different classes as could be achieved. In September of 2009 he started working with Brian Brazeal and began demonstrating and teaching the "tools to make tools" curriculum. They traveled all across the US and into Canada for several years. In 2011 Lyle got laid off from a company that made gas and electric lanterns from copper after being there for 12 years. He then started blacksmithing full time. Through demonstrating, teaching, and attending festivals what used to be a hobby had turned into a full time endeavor. Lyle started working with Stan Bryant in 2012 and was impressed with his determination. They combined efforts in 2016 and are now teaching and demonstrating together. They have a blacksmith shop in Mendenhall MS called Walnut Cut Forge and are hosting classes and traveling to do demonstrations as they present themselves. There are lots of photos on Lyles and Stans facebook pages. A website is under construction, and Lyle also has a youtube channel.

The following is just some info that might be of interest.

Forging is an exact science. The top die, (your hammer) and the bottom die (your anvil) are precise, The metal will do the same thing every time you use dies to shape it. The top die can be of many different forms, (round face, cross peen, flat face, straight peen, and any of these in multiple sizes) the bottom die can be many different surfaces as well. The near side of the anvil, whether it is a round or square edge, the far side of the anvil. The flat surface on top, the horn, large round surface and small round surface.

Forging Elements: Forging is defined as, "the shaping of metal using localized compressive forces" This can be achieved easily or it could involve lots of work to shape metal to the desired dimensions. Efficient forging is what we should all be wanting to achieve. This is done simply from, "a heat, a hold, and a hit". The heat, a proper heat will allow you to move metal easily and

be able to forge it longer. The hold, a proper pair of tongs is required for holding the metal and allowing you to have the dexterity to manipulate it fluidly. The hit, represents the top and bottom dies being used together to generate the required force. The least efficiency way to move metal is to use a flat die on top and a flat die on bottom, this also causes you to lose more heat. By reducing the surface area contact of the top and bottom die it increases the energy that you are able to transfer into the hit, in addition it also reduces the area that lays on the anvil to maintain heat.

There are very effective elements of forging for drawing tapers, reverse tapers, and creating bars. All these elements of forging are to be done in such a way that you can maintain a structure to create bars, and tapers in such a way that you will learn what true efficiency in forging means. Whether you are new to blacksmithing or have been at it for years, if you don't understand how easy a one heat taper can be achieved, or if you cannot explain why you do the things you do seeing Lyle and Stan demo will definitely help you to further your knowledge in forging. Everything done to a piece of metal is done for a reason.