

# RAM

July/August 2025



July/August 2025  
Volume 42 No 4

# Blacksmith Association of Missouri

Table of Contents	2
BAM/ABANA Application	3
Presidential Address	5
Meeting Minutes	6
Iron in the Hat	7
August Meeting Demonstrations	8
Trade Items	12
Ladies in a class of their own	14
Missouri Folk Arts	15
Old Retired Guys Hammer-In	16
Missouri State Fair	19
Bill George NC Class article	20
Missouri Blacksmithing Schools	23
Other Events of Great Interest	23
Upcoming Events	24
Coal Map	25
Tailgate	26
Other Events of Great Interest	27
Backpage	28



## A note to the BAM membership

First I want to thank Mike Gentzsch and wife for the beautiful plaque presented to me at the conference this year. Total surprise, it brought tears. Also to Chris Owen for the flywheel casting using brass from a used Little Giant pitman, it gives special meaning. It will be displayed proudly.

Next, I want to thank the general membership for their support over the last 30 some years. Many may not even realize the help given by your organization. One of the first and most important was Tom Clark inviting me to a rebuild seminar in Potosi in 1991 or '92, I'm not sure of the date. This hooked me up with Fred Caylor of Zionsville, In. Fred was conducting the seminar. He was a wealth on information on making these old machines work properly. This was a long lasting relationship which led to the conducting of more seminars that we continued after Fred's death. One of the last seminars Fred and I did together was on Francis Whitakers hammer in Carbondale Co.. Many of your members attended these seminars here in Nebraska City. The seminars are still being offered by the current owners of Little Giant.

There are many other examples of support from you group, too may to list for fear if forgetting someone.

Having had the opportunity to attend other conferences, I have witnessed that BAM is one of the best. Keep up the support, attend and volunteer when you can. You have a good group, don't let it get away.

H. "Sid" Suedmeier [former Little Giant owner]



## Editor

Mike McLaughlin

## Contributing Writers

Paul Talaski  
Willy Bagley  
Bob Stormer  
Bill George  
Santo Giuffrida

## Contributing Photos

Bruce Herzog  
Mike McLaughlin  
Bob Stormer  
John Sherwood  
Santo Giuffrida

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Blacksmiths Association of Missouri  
is published six times a year and is  
mailed to members of BAM. Editori-  
al inquiries should be addressed to:  
Mike McLaughlin, 122 Milwaukee  
Ave., Lawson, Mo. 64062  
816-769-5788  
bameditor2015@gmail.com

BAM membership inquiries should  
be addressed to:  
Jeremie Howell  
11 West 10th Street  
Carrollton, Mo. 64633  
660-542-4193  
Membership.bam@gmail.com

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## Membership Application

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City: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ ABANA member

Dues are \$30 per year.

Are you interested in taking a class? ☐

How did you learn about BAM?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are for one year from receipt of dues. Dues are \$30, which in-  
cludes a subscription to the bimonthly BAM newsletter. Please make checks  
payable to Blacksmith Association of Missouri. Or scan the QR code below to  
renew or join online.

## ABANA Membership Application

Primary ABANA Charter Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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Membership includes FREE placement in a searchable 'Find a Blacksmith' database to  
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*Send this form in an envelope with your payment to:*

BAM  
C/O Jeremie Howell  
11 West 10th. Street  
Carrollton, Mo. 64633

I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby apply for membership in the  
Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America and enclose  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check/Money Order ☐

Credit Card ☐

Card Number

[illegible]

Exp Date:  
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Checks must be in US currency.  
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Johnstown, PA 15907-4817**

814-254-4817  
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Willy Bagley

## 1st Vice President

Charlie Carpenter

## 2nd Vice President

Hollis Harbit

## Secretary

Paul Talaski

## Treasurer

Ashley Hart

bamtreas@gmail.com

660-542-4181

## Membership

Jeremie Howell

membership.bam@gmail.com

## Web site

www.bamsite.org

## Web Master

Jeff Collins

bam@jeffcollinsonline.com

## Mobile Training Station

Don Anders

Librarian

Karen Bouckaert

## Conference Chair

Ashley Farnsworth

## Coal Captain

Mike Lanham

The Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri is an affiliate of the Artist Blacksmiths' Association of North America, and is devoted to the preservation and advancement of blacksmithing and to communication among blacksmiths in Missouri and surrounding areas. The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths' Association of Missouri's goal is to support these aims. Letters to the editor, tech tips, tools for sale or anything else which furthers these ends will be considered for publication.

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## Presidents Letter

August Bam Meeting 2025

Hello everyone. First of all, I would like to thank everyone who attended our meeting at our home. We hope everyone had a great time and learned some good information. Thank you , Bill George and Ethan Benedict, for a great demonstration on the Tomahawk, and Bills level one experience. We had some great trade items. We couldn't have asked for better weather. I also enjoyed doing a little demonstration.

Thank you, Bernie and Patti Tappel, for a great July Hammer Inn. Its always good to see how much talent we have in our group.

Thank you also to all who helped demonstrate at the State Fair. It was a Hot one!!! I feel a good time was had by all. Thank you to Hollis for all your hard work getting it all arranged.

Our next meeting Oct 11th is in Augusta Mo. Hosted by Aaron Gross. Trade item is a camp knife.  
November 28, Ken Jansen Hammer -In, Moscow Mills  
December 6th, Mueller Industries, St louis, lunch not provided, bring a chair.

Hope to see y'all at Augusta. Keep your Anvil warm

Willy Bagley



Don Davies passed away on July 22nd, 2025 He was 83. Don held a meeting in 2016 at his shop. Bob Stormer noted that he had the biggest pile of scrap steel of anyone he knew. Don always brought a pile of stuff for Iron in the Hat to every meeting he attended.  
Rest in Peace

Blacksmiths Association of Missouri  
August 23, 2025 BAM Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1:25 pm by BAM President Willy Bagley at Chillicothe.

Willy began the meeting by thanking his daughter Shelby for the meal preparation.

Jeremie Howell gave the membership report. Our membership dropped to 514 but is now at 520. Five new members were added during the State Fair, and one added at this meeting.

Ashley Hart's financial report covered June and July credits and disbursements. The budget is in good condition. It was noted that a significant expense was the coal purchase and that the conference had a good surplus. Ashley reported that changes have been and are being made for state and federal documents to reflect the change of BAM's president and his address.

Don Anders said there is nothing on the MTS program's schedule for the rest of the year. The next anticipated program is being planned at Ray Scott's in the spring. Don announced there will be an NC class the two days before the 2026 Conference at State Fair. They expect 15-20 openings. The cost is expected to be \$40 per day. Students must be in BAM to participate. Students do not have to be ABANA members but would receive an ABANA certificate if they complete the requirements. It was asked if ABANA would recognize BAM members who successfully completed the requirements but were not ABANA members. Don will check on this.

Hollis Harbit reported that the State Fair was successful. Twenty-four blacksmiths participated. Normally, he must ask for volunteers but this year they were calling him. Items donated by BAM members to raise money netted \$195 at the donations table.

There was a discussion about the repair of one of our trailer anvils and the trailers needing cleaning. Hollis will be looking into the repair. It was noted that one of the blowers was loud at the conference and State Fair. Willy noted the trailer tires were dated 6/18 and are good. He emphasized the importance of keeping the trailers and equipment in good working order and organized.

Willie reported that our coal order increased \$200. As we 'round up' our expenses for the 900 fifty-pound bags, we will not need to increase what we charge. The cost will remain the same, \$20 per bag for BAM members and \$25 for non-members.

Karen Bouckaert reported we have the demonstrators for the 2026 conference. Two vendors, maybe a third, said they would include a conference postcard with their orders if we provided the card. The tee shirt design is being developed. The theme is "Forging the American Frontier". She also reminded us that it is time to think about a submission to the conference gallery.

As for the library trailer, Karen noted it has new tires and rims and minor repairs. The roof has work done to it and is good. She encourages everyone to visit the library trailer and check out some books.

Willy reviewed the list of upcoming meetings and events. See the Upcoming Events page of the newsletter. Willy noted he is trying to get a meeting in Appleton with Chris Green to have another meeting on the west side of the state.

Meeting adjourned.

---

Donated By	Won By	Item
Willy Bagley	Dan Wedemeyer	Grease Gun
Willy Bagley	Mark Sampsel	Lawn mower blades, Hammerhead, Metal
Bill George	Santo Giuffrida	Bees Wax and 2025 Honey
Numerous Smiths	David Rosemann	State Fair Nail
Willy Bagley	Dan Wedemeyer	BB Spinner Target
Willy Bagley	David Rosemann	Punches and Dies
Leland Hawk	Paul Talaski	Rivets, Wedges, Wire Brass Brush
Karen Bouckaert	John Coats	J C Campbell Cookbook
Greg Humphrey	Mark Sampsel	Springs, Spike and Misc
David Rosemann	Ken Jansen	Brush and Box
John Huff	Ken Jansen	Horseshoes
Karen Bouckaert	Aden Davis	Hand-carved Horse
Karen Bouckaert	Dan Files	Antique Bottles, Charles Chip Tin
Karen Bouckaert	Don Anders	Blacksmith Shop Pictures by Lisa Olsen
Dennis 'Jake' Jacobs	Kathy Crawford	Rasps
BAM	Mark Sampsel	Shirt, Hat, BAM Sticker
Karen Bouckaert	Willy Bagley	Hand Saws
Corey Walker	David Rosemann	Jackhammer Bit
Paige Thomas	Don Anders	Girl Scout Cookies
Karen Bouckaert	Steve Allen	Misc Tools
Hollis Harbit	Steve Allen	Rods
Shawn Walker	Dan Wedemeyer	Breaker Bit
BAM	Leland Hawk	Shirt, Hat, BAM Sticker
Karen Bouckaert	Ken Jansen	2 Gallon Sprayer
Dan Files	Steve McCarthy	Stub Axles
Dan Wedemeyer	Leland Hawk	ERA Bucket, Misc Steel
Karen Bouckaert	Steve McCarthy	Antique Wash Tub

### Editor Notes.

This is another full one. I'll have gallery photos in the next one.

If any one out there would like to write meeting articles or anything else that might fit in the newsletter. Please let me know.

I really don't want to be the editor forever if anyone else would like to jump in and give it a shot. I'll be happy to help.

I'm not going anywhere, but I would like to be able to give it up one of these days. I think it is one of those things that has to have new blood put in it once in a while to keep it fresh.

Get out there and make something..

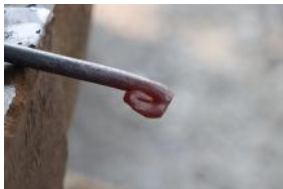


## Meeting Demonstrations August 23rd, 2026 Bill George , Ethan Benedict, and Willy Bagley

Written by Mike M. Photos Mike M. John Sherwood

Bill started out by speaking about the National Curriculum. His focus was on Level 1. See page 20.

Bill is doing a nip-tuck weld. This is used on the end of the latch hook. The material is 3/8" round. It is designed to give more material for the forge weld on the end of the latch hook. This method will help fill in the weld on the sides. The end of this wants to be solid. Draw out a short rectangular taper. Using about a 3/8" bar, fuller, or edge of the anvil and drive a groove into the taper. Make a cut at the end of the taper and fold it back on itself. At the far edge of the anvil make another cut on the side opposite your first fold right at the end of the taper. Fold this over on itself with the taper trapped inside. Forge weld the bundle together. Start at the back side and work your way to the front. Use the peen of your hammer to weld the tapered portion. Repeat until you have the shape desired. Bills welded up real nice. No seams were visible, and it was the right size.



He then showed how tapering, chiseling, and folding over the end can give you more material for a spoon. He folded it over and worked it from the middle with a ball peen.



**Ethan** made a folded and forge welded bearded style axe. The body material is 3" x 1/4" mild steel. The bit is made from leaf spring. About 3.5" long. It is tapered on the edge that will be welded to the body. This helps to prevent an air pocket or an area that won't weld when placed in the body of the axe.

He drew a pattern and traced it on the steel. He uses a cold chisel to chase the lines. It is easier to see it when it is hot. He uses a smaller curved chisel to hot cut it. It makes it easier to follow the curves of the pattern and allows you to walk it in the groove. He likes to hot cut it because it leaves a nice bevel on the edges.





Bill struck for him when cutting the pattern out. Ethan pointed out that there is a left side and a right side when laid on the anvil for cutting. When cutting on the left side he held the chisel in his left hand and then his right hand on the right side. This allows him to see the cut better and not have to cross his hands. After cutting it out taper (scarf) the edges that will be welded to the bit. This helps the weld stick and helps with blending it in.



Use a mandrel or bending jig to fold the axe body. His was 1-1/4". Bending it around a mandrel eliminates the need for a drift if you don't distort it too much. Wire brush and clean the inside before you fold it. Fold it on itself. Heat it and clamp it in a vise. Use a chisel to open it a bit. Add some flux and insert the bit. He uses Iron Mountain Flux. Hammer or clamp it together. If you are satisfied with the placement forge weld it. If you have a welder, it helps to tack it to hold it in place.



Heat to a forge welding heat. He used the peen of the hammer to set the weld. Start at the thin part (the tapered part of the body) and work your way back to the thicker part. Flux, heat, and repeat until it is completely welded. Weld all the way back to the eye. He cut off the extra bit material sticking out the top, then hot rasped it. You need to get rid of any edges that may have not welded before you try to forge the shape. You don't want to push them back in.

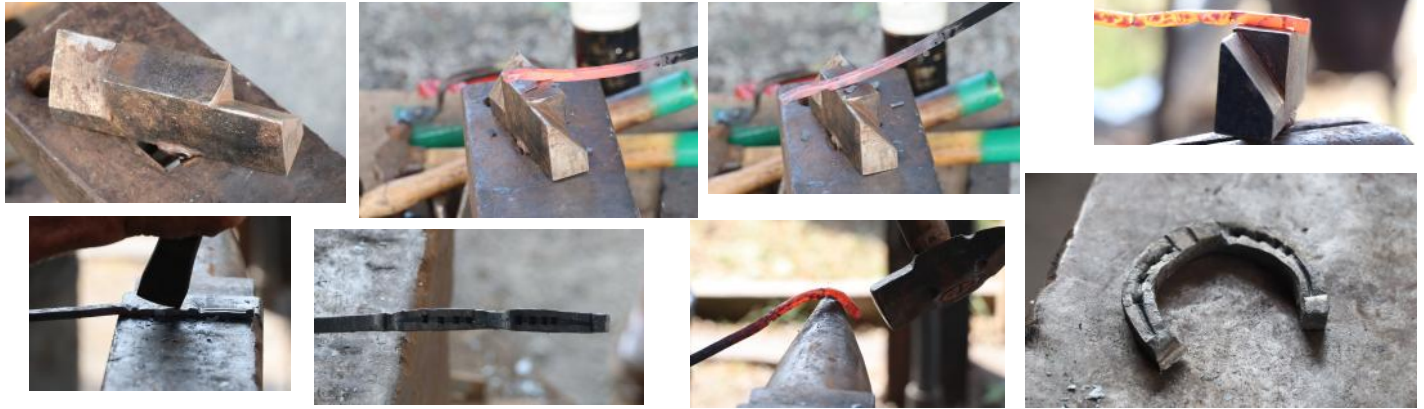


Draw out the bit to the shape you want and forge in the bevel. Keep it at close to a forge welding heat. Check and straighten the eye if needed. Grind and heat treat to finish.



### Willy Bagley

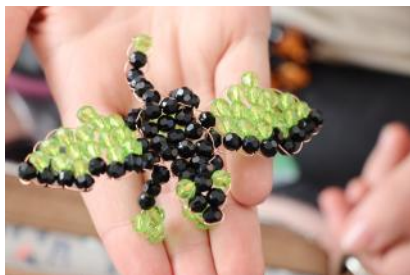
Good Luck Horseshoe. Material  $\frac{1}{4}$ " square bar. He leaves it long to have a handle. Willy has a tool that fits in the hardy hole of an anvil. It is about 1" wide and about 4" long. It is flat in the middle with cut offs on both sides in opposite directions. Lay about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " material off the far side of the tool. Hit on the far side and set it down then rock to the back side and set it down. Flatten the middle out. Move back another  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and repeat. Chisel down the center. He made a small square punch to put in nail holes. Bend it around the horn or a jig then cut it off. File off the rag on the end.



Next was a trial to make a dragonfly. It was  $\frac{5}{8}$ " piece of square bar. It was cut on the end about 1" in. Open it up and split one part for the wings. He then split that part for the wings and started working on the wings. This didn't work well. We believe it would be better to get the body and head mostly done then work on the wings. It was a good trial though. It is similar to a humming bird, but the proportions are a little different. I have seen a video or instructions on this somewhere, but I don't remember where.



### Random Meeting Photos









Trade Items August 23rd. 2025  
Tomahawk



Don Anders to Steven Allen



Ethan Benedict to Santo Giuffrida



Ken Jansen to Jeremie Howell



Dan Files to Willy Bagley



Bill Crawford to Dan Wedemeyer



Santo Giuffrida to John Sherwood





Dan Wedemeyer to Leland Hawk



Willy Bagley to Ethan Benedict



Leland Hawk to Dan Files



Steven Allen to Ken Jansen



Jeremie Howell to Bill Crawford



John Sherwood to Don Anders

## Ladies in a Class of Their Own

BAM was invited by the WildHERness organization to put on a class at the annual GO WYLD event at Knob Noster Missouri State Park on June 21. WildHERness is a non-profit organization with mission to foster connection with the outdoors for women of all demographics. We were told they had over 100 attendees with 37 different classes offered over the weekend. Everything from how to drive a stick shift vehicle, use of fire-arms, to foraging for mushrooms.

We accepted and gathered up five BAM members for the day. Kim Stahl led the morning class and Shaina Smith led the afternoon class. Don Anders, David Roseman and Santo Giuffrida assisted with the classes, setup and teardown. The students made a S-hook in the morning and a steak turner in the afternoon.

Initially we were concerned about the high humidity and temperatures, but were able to use a location that had plenty of shade and breeze. The students stayed positive and successfully completed their tasks. As with our normal MTS classes, the students are now members and we hope to see them at future BAM meetings and events.

Special Thanks to Don Anders who hauls the Trailer to the MTS events as well as maintain it. He changed the brakes and grease fittings himself before towing it to the state park and back. BAM volunteers make all the difference in having successful events and operations.

Santo Giuffrida



Shaina Smith, Kim Stahl





## Missouri Folk Arts Program July 5th, 2025

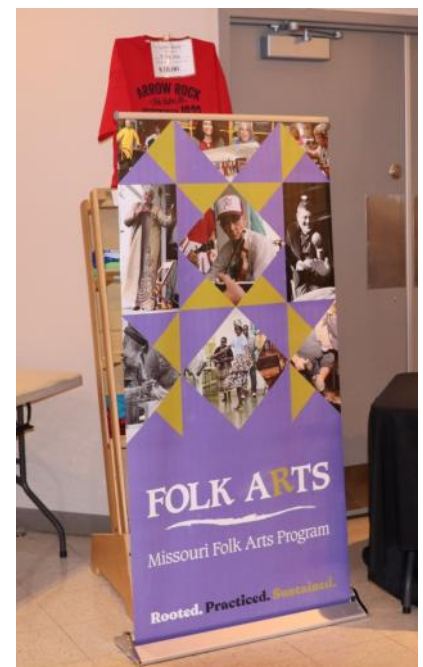
Written by Mike M. Some information copied from the mofolkarts website. Photos Mike M.

Pat McCarty was the featured speaker at Arrow Rock State Park visitors center. This was part of a speaker series, titled "Forty Years of Missouri's Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program - history, context, and impact." This was in collaboration with the Friends of Arrow Rock's First Saturday Lecture Series. "The Missouri Folk Arts Program is a program of the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, and the Museum of Art and Archaeology at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Established in 1984, MFAP builds understanding by documenting, sustaining, and sharing our state's living folk arts and folklife in collaboration with Missouri's citizens." This includes many different folk and traditional arts, music, dance, crafts, foodways, dress/adornment, occupation, ceremony and oral expression. Deb Bailey and Lisa Higgins, along with some student workers and interns keep this program going. They have done a lot for BAM. Along with the TAAP they have hosted many events around the state that include BAM members. Pat McCarty and Bernie Tappel have pieces on display at the State Capital thanks to them. You can get more information at [mofolkarts.missouri.edu](http://mofolkarts.missouri.edu) and also follow them on facebook.

Pat was his usual charming self and made a copper leaf at this event. It was actually very interesting to hear him speak in front of a crowd that wasn't all BAM members. There was few of us there Dan Files, Doug and Nancy Clemons, Jeremie Howell, and me. He had the whole crowd on the edge of their seats.



Deb Bailey and Lisa Higgins at the Old Retired Guys Hammer-in



## Bernie's Old Retired Guys and Anyone Who Wants to Take a Vacation Day Hammer-in for 2025

By Bob Stormer & Some Photos by Mike M.

Hephaestus, the god of blacksmiths, must have been controlling the weather on Thursday July 31<sup>st</sup>, making this hammer-in one of the most comfortable for forging we've had at Bernie's shop. Although Bernie had lots of electric fans as usual, I don't think any of them were needed. Terry Smith lit the first forge traditionally using the flint and steel method. Bernie was having trouble with his right shoulder, so he could not demonstrate his method for making tomahawks he had planned.

Within a few minutes, all five outdoor forges were heating steel. Pat McCarty started on the main (indoor) forge by making a leaf like he does every morning to start forging. This time he started with 1/4" round stock, normally using 3/8" round stock. He said he had used stock as small as 3/16" round. Pat also put the Bradley to use to forge a skull. Following Pat on the inside forge, Ethan Benedict forged a knife from some 5/8" round spring stock without using a hand hammer. He used the Bradley and the little giant. To get the edge down to a useable thickness, he did some hand filing. The blade finishing was to be done at his home forge.



Ken Jansen demonstrated hand stitching a leather sheath for a beautiful knife he had made. Tooling on the sheath was done ahead of his demo. Mike McLaughlin made a nice gardening tool as well as taking a lot of really nice photos.



While the above forging was going on, Mike Gentsch was cooking beans using a dutch oven and he was surrounded by a circle of blacksmithing/knife making talent. All the creative juices were not limited to the blacksmith shop. Pattie had arranged for a friend to conduct a glass fusing class that the ladies could work on. I counted

eight of ladies making some very creative fused glass pieces. Somehow, with all that going on, the ladies were able to put together another wonderful lunch. Pattie announced lunch was ready, and nobody skips lunch.





Bob Stormer and Bernie gave a short lecture on different types of tomahawks and various forging options that could be used for making the trade item for Willie Badgley's BAM meeting Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bernie also talked about how to make a couple alternative drifts for shaping the eye.



During lunch, Bernie drew the names for attendance prize winners. The prizes included a pair of Bernie's tongs, Pat McCarty's skull, Mike McLaughlin's garden tool, and a tool rack provided by Robert Miller of Iron Dungeon Forge.



Paul Talaski made some cool bells. That would make a good meeting demo sometime.

There seemed to be a lot more forging activity following lunch than prior years. The perfect weather might explain that. And Bernie added the fifth forge outside after gaining some space when he transferred proprietorship of Vern to Steve McCarthy.



For a better understanding of what went on Bernie's hammer-in you need to look at the photos on the BAM Gallery Facebook page.



Ethan Benedict and Bernie





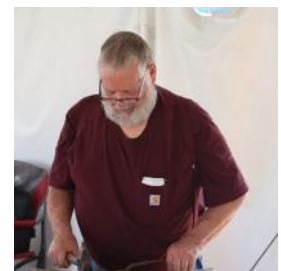
ORG Hammer-In  
Random Photos





## BAM at the Missouri State Fair

It was another hot one at the State Fair. Thanks to everyone that participated.



“The Accidental Instructor”

August 2025

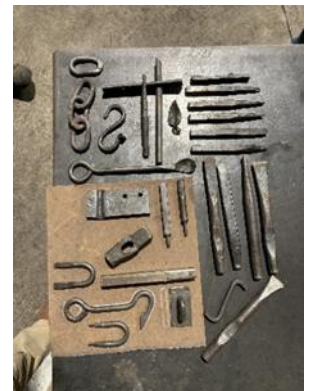
Hello all:

I’m writing to tell the short version of the story of my accidental discovery of the ABANA (Artist-Blacksmith’s Association of North America) National Curriculum, Level 1. I will add my experience of attending a blacksmith class at Touchstone Center for Crafts at Farmington Pennsylvania.

This year, I was able to attend the BAM Annual Ozark Conference. At the conference, I ran into a Blacksmithing buddy, Rusty Osborne. We were classmates at John C. Campbell for Clay Spencer’s table class in March 2024. We also ran into each other at the Conference in Murfreesboro in May of 2024. He is currently the ABANA Secretary and he was representing ABANA at our conference. His display was centered around the National Curriculum, Level 1 through 3. We discussed the curriculum, but I didn’t have a real inclination to participate. I didn’t understand the utility of doing all the projects to acquire skills I was already using, all be it, not as well as I could be.

A few weeks later, Rusty texted me and asked if I was a veteran? I responded yes, and he asked if I would use a scholarship for a class we had discussed, ABANA Level 1 Instructor Intensive Course with Becky Schimpff and Victoria Ritter. I looked up the class and decided it would be a week well spent, and it perfectly matched my calendar. He had a scholarship he couldn’t use because he had already paid for the class and the third-party billing wouldn’t be able to refund his tuition. He asked the school to transfer the scholarship to me. They agreed and I was suddenly enrolled in an instructor course for a curriculum I had no experience with. The instructor certification was optional. But, if I was going to spend time and money attending, I was going to participate in everything and try to obtain the offered certification.

Now what to do? I opened the ABANA website and downloaded all the Level 1 information and studied it. I was trying to lay out a plan on what materials were needed and how I was going to do all the projects before leaving for Pennsylvania on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. I didn’t want to be surprised by a project at class and look foolish fumbling through something new. I finished all the projects, probably not to my best ability, but to a check the box standard. I left the gate hook unfinished because I found out we would be completing it during class. In order to complete the projects, I leaned heavily on Willy Bagley and Ethan Benedict. Willy had previously completed Level 1 and cleared up any confusion in the printed packet. It was nice to see his completed projects while trying to make my examples. Ethan provided another shop and a lot of motivation to get my work done before the class. He was working on Level 1 projects at the same time. His were much nicer than mine! Again, adding to my personal need to improve.



My level 1 projects being evaluated. All photos by Becky Schimpff

The end of July rolls around and it’s time to head to Touchstone. The school is in the Appalachian foothills of western Pennsylvania, just north of the West Virginia and Maryland borders. The school is setup very much like a summer camp for adults. Dorm style buildings or cabins are available. The school is 50 years old this year. It is open six months each year. The studios I visited were well equipped and laid out with plenty of room to work. The blacksmith shop will accommodate 12 students and an instructor. It’s laid out in a long rectangular barn with large double doors down both sides of the building. Ventilation and cooling are well done. At least as well as it can be in late July. The shop is well equipped with everything I would expect in a blacksmith shop, to include some fabrication equipment for more specific classes like knife making, iron ore smelting, etc. The shop manager, Andrew Welton, takes very good care of the facilities and is an excellent smith. Andrew’s passion is smelting iron from ore.



The class was exceptional! Becky and Victoria are excellent smiths and instructors. Becky is the Education Committee chair for ABANA and Victoria is the Education Chair for the CBA, (California Blacksmith Association). The days were spent learning and smithing. One of them would teach a technique or project, then we would go to our forges and work on the skill. The projects were designed to emphasize a particular fundamental skill of smithing or technique. Many of the projects were Level 2 projects or elements such as finials or joints. After dinner, we would meet for classroom style lectures. When these classes were complete, we had open forge time until about 9:30 or 10:00. This was time to catch up or work, or preparing your class presentation. The evening classes were about being an instructor and what the intent of the National Curriculum is.

The adult learning model was presented and discussed. We looked at numerous slides of level 1 projects and discussed whether it passed or became a learning opportunity. I know this appears to be soft language hiding failure, but not really. We learn more from mistakes than success. Each so-called failure is a lesson. My favorite saying in blacksmithing is, "My best lessons are in the oops pile, and that pile is getting bigger." One evening, we were all discussing what the curriculum is and what it means to be a Level 1 instructor. Rusty voiced a quote that summed it all up for me, "As Level 1 instructors, we are not gate keepers, we are holding the door open to the craft." For Level 1 there isn't a grade sheet. More of a totality of the circumstances. A 13-year-old beginner probably isn't going to be graded at the exact same standard as a 45-year-old fabricator who had been smithing for 10 years. It also helps if the student is working through the curriculum with the instructor. The instructor has a much better feel for what the student is capable of and where they have room for improvement. We are not looking for perfection in Level 1, this is a program to welcome people into the craft and help them succeed. Not a participation trophy, but real skill building.



Left: Becky giving me welding advice. Right: Becky demonstrating a folded weld Spoon



Victoria teaching and the shop background

This format went on Monday through Thursday. Friday morning, everyone working on an instructor certification had a live teaching demonstration to present. The demonstrations were to show if you could teach and demonstrate smithing to a beginner. I demonstrated making the tines of a colonial two prong fork, everything between the handle to the tip. Each demonstration was to be about 15 to 20 minutes. My demonstration touched on layout, fullering, drawing out, punching, hot cutting and symmetrical work. Appearance and function were discussed while developing the fork. I guess it was good enough, the Instructor Certificate arrived while I was at the Mo State Fair. An instructor certificate is just a piece of paper. It doesn't make a blacksmith better, it just acknowledges you can generally explain to another blacksmith how to do certain fundamental smithing skills.

What I learned as a result of this "accident." I was a skeptic about my need for the National Curriculum. I saw the value in the program, but I didn't see the value in it for me. I considered myself a pure hobbyist and I was doing the smithing I felt like doing. What else did I need? I found out there is a lot more to the curriculum than just checking the box on each project. Smithing to dimension and scale is a big part. In doing the more exacting work to scale, you also look at your own work much closer. You see more details in the finished surfaces and proportions of parts to each other. When I presented my projects to be evaluated, I no-

ticed flaws in the items I finished first. I wished I had time to clean them up, but it was too late. I think in the matter of a few weeks it made me a more detail-oriented smith, not necessarily a better blacksmith. I double checked some of the curriculum details in the article with Becky before submitting it. She provided a comment she hears often. It goes something along the lines of: "I'm an experienced smith so I didn't see the value in working through Level 1, I assumed I already knew the basics. But I was wrong. The projects challenged me, and the way the curriculum builds progressively on fundamentals highlighted and allowed me to fill gaps in my own knowledge that I didn't know I was missing. I'd recommend smiths of any level give a tackle to working through the curriculum." This sentiment echoes my experience described above, but much more precisely.

The National Curriculum is described on the ABANA website as follows: "The National Curriculum offers a step-by-step progression through three levels of fundamental blacksmithing skills. Certification signifies that a smith has demonstrated mastery of a specific set of skills, increasing in complexity with each level: Level I (beginner), Level II (intermediate), Level III (advanced). Level I is the first level of the curriculum and is designed as a guide through beginning blacksmithing techniques. Starting with safety, Level I then moves into core skills and techniques, including tapering, bending, forging and heat-treating hand tools, punching and drifting, basic blacksmithing math, forging to dimension, forge-welding, and creating tenons. It culminates in a final project, the Gate Latch, designed to test the student on these skills."

Level I is designed to be all hand tool work. The idea is any beginner with a very limited setup can accomplish this level. Tools needed for future steps are made early in the process. Anywhere in the packet calling for 4140 tool steel can be substituted with sucker rod.  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch sucker rod is preferred because it is the right amount of steel to make the hammer eye drift and the hot work tools with little or no drawing out. If you decide to start on your own, be sure to print out all the parts of the packet; the Checklist, Tool & Cut List, Stock List, Project Requirements, Curriculum details, and the full-scale drawings of the latch and staples. There are also some handy material charts and heat-treat tables to print if you like. If this interests you, my advice is, jump in and start. You do not need ABANA membership to do the curriculum, there is no time limit to complete it once started. ABANA Membership is needed to be recognized with an official printed certificate, with an archived certificate number. It is there if you want it, no strings attached. Have fun. I'm happy to answer questions if you have any. (Okay, this wasn't as short as I intended.) Happy smithing, Bill George.



Class photo, ABANA Level 1 Intensive Instructor Course, Touchstone Center for Crafts, Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.  
Back row L to R. Sonya Sagan-Dworsly, student intern, Jennifer Cochran-Anderson, Jim Harsh, Jim Thureau, Erik Seglem and Andrew J. Welton (shop manager).  
Front row L to R. Caitlin Morris, Rusty Osborne, Victoria Ritter, Becky Schimpff and Bill George

## Missouri Based Schools

**Craft Alliance of St. Louis.** Instructor: Kim Stahl of Kim Stahl Designs

I offer two 6-week courses (one that meets on Mondays and one that meets on Wednesdays) Introduction to Blacksmithing as well as offer Tuesday night Workshop courses that alternate between the always offered and popular Making a Cheese Knife workshop and a seasonal workshop, which is currently Make a fire poker but soon will change over to Make a Garden Tool workshop. Class info and sign-up website. <https://www.craftalliance.org/blacksmithing/>

**Beginner & Intermediate classes** are being held at Mueller Industries (via Craft Central), 12951 Maurer Industrial Drive, St. Louis, MO 63127

To see class listings or to register for classes, visit our website, [craftstl.com](http://craftstl.com)

For more information call 314-842-0796 or email; [Brendan@muellerstl.com](mailto:Brendan@muellerstl.com)

**Matthias Penn** is offering introductory & beginning blacksmith classes. 417-543-2148

[Tytheblacksmith@yahoo.com](mailto:Tytheblacksmith@yahoo.com) Ava Mo.

**Tong Making Class-Weekend Course**, 4 people per class - \$125 per person. Contact: Charles Comstock, Rt.1 Box 20, Deerfield, MO. 64741 (417) 927-3499, or (417)-321-2286 cell

**Oldschoolcrafts** Blacksmith School, Joe Davis 12625 Lawrence 1175, Mt Vernon, MO 65712 phone 417-461-0387 on the web [www.oldschoolcrafts.org](http://www.oldschoolcrafts.org) E-Mail [oldschoolcrafts@hotmail.com](mailto:oldschoolcrafts@hotmail.com)

**Classes Offered, The Farrier's Wife Blacksmith Shop.** 17332 EE Hwy. Ste. Genevieve, Mo. 63670

Lisa Thompson 573-984-9013 See on Facebook.

Email: [thefarrierswifeblacksmithshop@gmail.com](mailto:thefarrierswifeblacksmithshop@gmail.com)

**Missouri School of Blacksmithing.** Class prices, descriptions, prerequisites, and skill levels are in the catalog. Give us a call for more information, or to receive a catalog.

Matthew Burnett 3100 NW Winchester Road Cameron, Mo. 64429 816-575-2798 [mo-schools.com](http://mo-schools.com)



Join Us for the Saltfork Craftsmen Annual Conference! Mark your calendars for October 18-19 at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds for a weekend of blacksmithing, craftsmanship, and community! This year's event features acclaimed demonstrators Pete Braspenninx and Ed Brazeal, showcasing their skills and sharing their expertise.

Enjoy a variety of activities including tailgate sales, vendor booths, delicious food, an auction, raffle prizes, and additional live demonstrations throughout the weekend. Whether you're a seasoned smith or just curious, there's something for everyone.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to connect, learn, and be inspired by the best in the craft. See you at the forge!

- ✂ LIVE BLACKSMITHING
- ✂ FORGING CONTEST
- ✂ VENDORS
- ✂ FOOD
- ✂ RAFFLE
- ✂ AUCTION
- ✂ TAILGATE SALES

## 2025 Conference Demonstrator



Pete Braspenninx is an artist, blacksmith and educator based in Casnovia, Michigan. His work has been published, collected and shown nationally and internationally. Using traditional hand forging skills and techniques to make modern forms.

**Conference Location:**  
**Cleveland County Fairgrounds**  
**615 East Robinson**  
**Norman, Oklahoma 73071**

Visit our Saltfork Craftsmen Website:  
[www.saltforkcraftsmen.org](http://www.saltforkcraftsmen.org)



## Upcoming EVENTS

October 11th, 2025 - Meeting - Broadview Valley 3835 Becker Joerling Rd, Augusta, Mo. 63332 Hosted by Aaron Gross. Bring Chairs. Lunch Available Trade Item : Camp Knife. There is a wooden bridge leading up to the property. Trucks and heavy vehicles need to drive through the creek.

November 28th, 2025 Ken Jansen's Black Friday Hammer-In. Bring a hammer. Ken usually has a project for you to work on. 2257 Carter Rd. Moscow Mills, Mo. 63362 Lunch available

December 6th, 2025 - Meeting - Mueller Industries 12951 Maurer Industrial Dr., St. Louis, Mo. 63127. Bring Chairs and Lunch. Fast food nearby. Trade Item: Dragonfly or object including a Dragonfly.

February 7th, 2026 - Meeting - Dale Kirby Higbee Mo. 9603 State Hwy B Higbee, Mo. 65257 Bring Chairs. Lunch Available. Trade Item: Anything with an edge.

April 29th - 30th, 2026 National Curriculum Class. Focused on Level 1 and 2. Swine Pavillion at Missouri State Fair.

April 30th, - May 3rd, 2026 34th Annual Ozark Conference. "Forging the American Frontier" Thursday - Setup - Potluck Dinner - Opening Ceremonies - ASL Pewter Demonstration. Friday - Saturday Demonstrators: Tyler Sydebotham, Simeon England, Joshua Rachita, Broadus Thompson. More info to come.

June 27th, 2026 - Meeting - Table Rock State Park 5275 Historic Hwy 165, Branson Mo. 65672. Bring Chairs and Lunch. Trade Item: TBD

**Meetings** start at about 8:30am. and go to about 2pm. Demo until noon. Lunch, then business meeting. Iron in the hat and Trade Item exchange.

**Hammer-In** events require participants to be 14 years of age and minors need to have a legal guardian present during the event.

Photos taken at the BAM events could be used in our Newsletter and/or website. Posing in a group photo will constitute as permission. If you do not wish any individual pictures of yourself to be included, please contact the Newsletter Editor and/or Webmaster.



# Coal Stations

## Coal Captain: Mike Lanham

### Price per bag:

BAM Members \$20.00

Non Members \$25.00

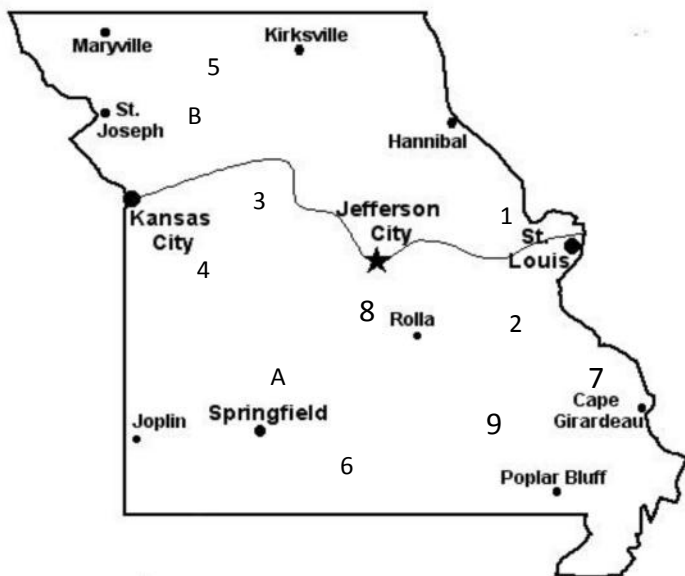
Member's pickup at Mike Lanham's \$18.00

Non-Members pickup at Mike Lanham's \$23.00

Coal keepers earn \$5.00 per bag

Bags are approximately 50lbs. each

Please call for current pricing.



A few notes on our coal:

1) Not all coal is created equal. The coal we buy is from the West Virginia to Pennsylvania vein and is a high metallurgy grade unlike coal from other areas.

2) Raw coal from the bagging company is stored outside which allows it to get rained on, (rain is water which weighs 8.4 pounds to the gallon). If the coal is bagged wet and then dries out the weight will change.

3) The coal fines which when mixed with water to form a paste burns along with the chunks of coal but during shipping and handling may sift out of the bags causing a weight loss.

So, the bottom line to all of this is we are selling coal in approximately 50 pound bags.

## Non BAM Coal

- A. Tim Johnson @ Advanced Welding, Springfield, MO. 417-886-8032 - Pocahontas Coal \$.40/lb. cash, \$.50/lb. check/debit. Bring your own containers
- B. Coal for sale \$20 per approximate 50 lb. bag. Missouri School of Blacksmithing  
Matthew Burnett 816-575-2798, 3100 NW Winchester Rd., Cameron, MO. 64649

## BAM COAL

1. Mike Lanham (636) 614-5095  
2230 St. Paul Rd.  
St. Paul MO 63366  
After 5:00 pm M-F call for week-ends and before you come. You can text also.
2. Bob Alexander (314) 708-0469  
14009 Hardin Rd.  
DeSoto, MO 63020
3. Doug Clemons (660) 631-1257  
29377 Durango Ave.  
Malta Bend, MO 65339
4. Bryan Lillibridge (816) 516-9331  
1545 NW 300  
Urich, MO 64788
5. Bill George (660) 247-0426  
19133 LIV 355  
Chillicothe, MO 64601
6. Matthias Penn, (417) 543-2148  
Rt 1 Box 479, Ava, Mo. 65608  
tytheblacksmith@yahoo.com
7. Travis Dailey  
28933 BCR 352  
Marble Hill, Mo. 63764  
573-225-1614  
travisgd@gmail.com
8. Troy Albrecht  
2025 Hwy 52 Tuscumbia, Mo. 65082  
573-480-5682 troy.dtv@gmail.com
9. Anthony Martin  
9648 CR 451 Winona, Mo. 65588  
gigmaker86@hotmail.com  
417-247-0940

# BAM Tailgate

## Buy, Sell, Trade

### Individual Classified ads:

Jeff Collins the Webmaster has removed all items from the BAM tailgate page that were over a year old. If you wish to have it put back please let him know.

### Commercial / Resource ads:

**Roller Blade Treadle Hammers** (Clay Spencer design) for Sale or Workshops led to build hammers. Bob Alexander, e-mail to [scruboak4@netzero.com](mailto:scruboak4@netzero.com), or call 314-708-0469.

**Tire Hammer Plans** by Clay Spencer  
Send Paypal for \$30 to [clay@tirehammer.com](mailto:clay@tirehammer.com) Or check/ money order to 73 Penniston Pvt. Dr. Somerville AL 35670. I can mail a copy or email PDFs.

**Beverly Shear Blades Sharpened.** Remove blades and mail to Scott Kretschmer 196 Mule Deer Drive, Loveland, CO 80537. Include check for \$50 + \$10 shipping. Deep scratches and wrong sharpening may cost extra. [scott@kretschmershops.com](mailto:scott@kretschmershops.com), 970-567-2609

### Information / Education:

**Blacksmith's Journal**, New Improved and Revised! All issues are organized by projects. Available in Digital Form or Hard Copies. Blacksmith Shop-Equipment-Tools-Techniques-Exterior Ironwork-Hand Tools-Hardware for the Fireplace-Hardware Vol. 1&2-Interior Ironwork-Lighting-Ornament-Railings  
[www.blacksmithsjournal.com](http://www.blacksmithsjournal.com)

**Classes** at Pieh Tool Company, Inc. - Camp Verde, AZ Call for more information and to enroll: (928) 554-0700 or (888) 743-4866.  
[www.piehtoolco.com](http://www.piehtoolco.com).

**John C. Campbell Folk School**, The Folk School offers a wide variety of weeklong and weekend classes for those looking to strengthen their skills or try their hand at something new. Some online classes available. Info at [www.folkschool.org](http://www.folkschool.org)

### Products:

#### Blacksmith Supply

Wide variety of Blacksmithing tools, equipment and supplies. Tom Tongs, Smithin Magician, Anvils, Forges, Fly Presses, Hammers, Punches, and more.  
Website: [www.blacksmithsupply.com](http://www.blacksmithsupply.com)  
Phone: 1-804-530-0290  
PO. Box3766 Chester, VA 23831

#### Little Giant

#### Genuine Little Giant parts for your Little Giant Power Hammer.

Owners: Doug Klaus And David Sloan  
Website: [littlegianthammer.com](http://littlegianthammer.com)  
Phone: 402-873-6603  
Email: [contact@littlegianthammer.com](mailto:contact@littlegianthammer.com)  
US mail: 48182 SW 32nd Rd. Odell, NE 68415

#### Iron Dungeon Forge

Knife making supplies, Abrasives, Grinders. Forges, Heat Treat Ovens, Forge supplies, Huge selection of wood handle material. [www.irondungeonforge.com](http://www.irondungeonforge.com)

#### Flat Die Power Hammer Tools Book

90 pages 300 Tools used on power hammers with flat dies by Clay Spencer.  
Order from Alabama Forge Council,  
Judd Clem, 111 Yorkshire Drive,  
Athens, AL 35613, [clem.judd@att.net](mailto:clem.judd@att.net) Master Card, Visa or check, \$30, mailed, \$40 overseas.

**Forge-Aprons** offers many different styles of leather blacksmith aprons; the Original bib, the Short bib, the Full-Cut bib which offers greater chest coverage, the Lap apron, three sizes of Kid's aprons, a Budget apron, a Women's cut, and Aussie Forge aprons.

[www.Forge-Aprons.com](http://www.Forge-Aprons.com)

**Heavy-Duty Fry Pan Blanks** 9" diameter, tapered sides 12 or 13 gauge steel (approx.2 pounds) no predrilled holes for the handle \$14.00 each..1-4, \$12.00 each.5-9, \$10.00 each...10+. Shipping: \$5.00 plus\$1.00 each frypan Bob Tuftee 563-349-3369  
21718 277th Ave LeClaire, IA 52753



**Blacksmiths Depot**, 100 Daniel Ridge Road, Candler, NC 28715. (828) 667-8868 web site: [www.blacksmithsdepot.com](http://www.blacksmithsdepot.com).  
Offering a full line of blacksmithing equipment. We ship and accept Visa and Mastercard.

**L Brand is the Official Coke of the WCB and Kentucky Horseshoe School.** Now packaged in 50lb. bags on pallets  
Website: [www.BlackSmithCoke.com](http://www.BlackSmithCoke.com)  
Mobile: 678-360-3521  
email: [lbrandforgecoke@gmail.com](mailto:lbrandforgecoke@gmail.com)

**Chile Forge**- Next generation gas forges  
[www.chileforge.com](http://www.chileforge.com) David Starr 520-312-0000

**USA Dealer** for REFFLINGHAUS ANVILS, 77 to 1250 lb. European 2 horn with or without upsetting block & side shelf. Over 100 sizes and styles available. Guaranteed face @ HRC59  
Dick Nietfeld [www.blksmith.com](http://www.blksmith.com) Phone (308) 384 1088

**Holland Anvil**  
Anvils, Swage Blocks, and more.  
[www.hollandanvil.com](http://www.hollandanvil.com)


**Atlas Knife & Tool**  
Anvils, Forges, Supplies. <http://www.atlasknife.com>

**Wanted:**  
**Blacksmith business cards.** I would like to put together a collage of Blacksmith business cards. Bring them to a meeting or mail them to me. Bruce Herzog 2212 Aileswick St. Louis, MO 63129

**Around the Anvil** BAM has its very own E-Mail news group. If you would like to participate there is a sign up link on the bamsite.org website. Click and join.

**Ad Policy:** Blacksmith related ads are free to BAM members. Personal ads will run for two issues. Resource ads are ongoing at my discretion. Send to [BAMeditor2015@gmail.com](mailto:BAMeditor2015@gmail.com), or call 816-769-5788

## Other events of great interest.



**UMRBC**  
October 3-5, 2025  
**EVENT**

• Anvil Brand •  
500 S. Spencer • Lexington, IL  
Gallery • Auction • Iron In The Hat  
Trade Item - Tuning Fork  
• Camping Available  
Tailgating & Vendors Welcome

FEATURING:  
**Jennifer Petrila**  
"I specialize in the forging of Metal"  
46 Years Metalsmith  
Over 30 Years Full time Farrier  
Specialized in Bladesmithing for 8 years  
Currently building a metal working school

Hosted By:  
ANVIL BRAND  
UMBA

Friday:  
Oct. 3rd Forge Welding Classes  
9:00 → Noon / 1:30 → 5:00  
**Pre-Registration Required**

Saturday:  
Oct. 4th Folding Axe Demo  
9:00 → Noon / 1:30 → 5:00  
1:00 ticket drawing Iron In The Hat  
5:30 Evening Meal  
6:30 Auction

Sunday:  
9:00 → 1:00  
Folded Butterfly Construction Axe  
1:00 → 3:00 Clean up

**Pre-Registration:**  
mail checks to  
Gary Riss  
1409 E. 2309 Rd.  
Streator, IL 61364

Friday Welding Class .....	\$80.00
Full Conference (Sat & Sun).....	\$55.00
Saturday Only .....	\$45.00
Saturday Eve. Meal Tickets.....	\$20.00
Sunday Only .....	\$15.00
Camping Available .....	\$20.00

Thanks to All who Helped!

## 48th Annual TGoM Fall Conference, aka "The Madness" September 19, 20, & 21, 2025

Featuring Blacksmithing Demonstrations by:  
Howard Clark of Runnells IA and Tom Latane' of Pepin WI

Including Pre-Conference class, gallery, silent & live auction, tailgating, onsite camping, great food, and events for the entire family!

Location: The Pierce County Fairgrounds  
364 N. Maple St.  
Ellsworth, WI 54011

[www.metalsmith.org](http://www.metalsmith.org) for more information  
The Guild of Metalsmiths

**BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI**  
9940 LIV. 2302  
CHILLICOTHE, MO. 64601

Please send changes to Jeremie Howell 11 West 10th. Street Carrollton, Mo. 64633

## **Next Meeting: October 11th, 2025**

Hosted by Aaron Gross.

Broadview Valley 3835 Becker Joerling Rd, Augusta, Mo. 63332 Bring Chairs. Lunch Available. Trade Item : Camp Knife. There is a wooden bridge leading up to the property. Trucks and heavy vehicles need to drive through the creek.

