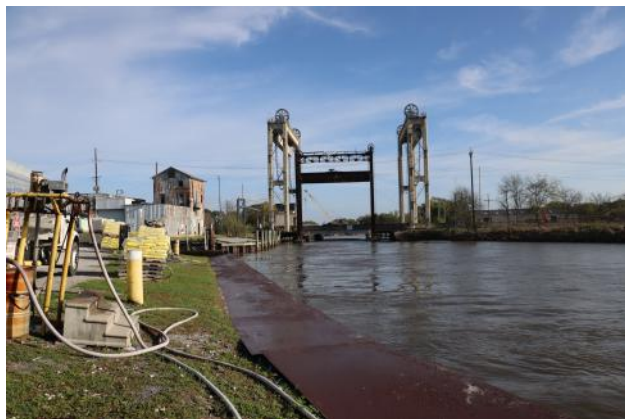


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March/April 2026



March/April 2026
Volume 43 No 2

Blacksmith Association of Missouri

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Editor

Mike McLaughlin

Contributing Writers

Paul Talaski
Willy Bagley
Eileen Sherwood

Contributing Photos

Mike McLaughlin
Bob Stormer
John Sherwood

The Newsletter of the Blacksmiths Association of Missouri is published six times a year and is mailed to members of BAM. Editorial 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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New QR code



Scanning QR code will link you to the BAM online dues payment page.

Membership Application

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: () _____
Email: _____

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 includes 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: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Phone: () _____ Zip: _____
E-Mail: _____

New Member Renewing Member

Includes a Subscriptions to the Anvil's Ring and The Hammers' Blow magazines.

	1-Year	2-Year	3-Year
USA Print Membership	\$85	\$170	\$235
Digital Membership	\$75	\$150	\$205
Youth Digital Membership 25 & under	\$35	\$70	\$85
Canada/Mexico Print	\$100	\$200	\$280
International Print	\$110	\$220	\$310

Membership includes FREE placement in a searchable 'Find a Blacksmith' database to connect to opportunities. Check here to be included in the database

Presidents Letter

March 28/2026
Bam Meeting

We had a small turnout but a great meeting at Doniphan. How neat to be in a vintage location. Thank you to Chris and Becky Miller for hosting. Can't thank you enough, and the VFW for helping with the meal. It was delicious.

We had 4 demonstrators. Chris Miller with the trammel hook. John Kirby with the squirrel cooker. And David Roseman and Don Anders with the fire poker. We had some really trammel hooks for trade items. Lots of talent in our group.

The weather was great this year. It's always a good time when Bam gathers together. Hope to see everyone at conference in The end of April looks like some great Demonstrators that are going to be there.

Keep your anvil warm
Willy Bagley
President



Newsletter Announcement

Anvil Repair Demonstration – June 6, 9:30 am, John Murray's, 2018 Oberhelman Rd, Forrestell, MO.

John Murraray will demonstrate how he repairs an anvil. He will discuss the materials and steps to weld, shape and grind the edges of a worn anvil. This will be a demonstration on one anvil and is free to BAM members. Any participant with adequate eye and hand protection may perform some of the repair steps. Participants with a welding helmet may observe the welding. **Any participant performing the repair step(s) must be a BAM member and at least 14 years old.**

Bring safety glasses, gloves, welding helmet, chair and water or something to drink. The demonstration should last about 2 ½ hours. You are welcome to stay longer. No lunch provided.

For questions, contact Paul Talaski, (314) 605-8583, ptalaski@stlcc.edu.

March 28, 2026 BAM Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:50 pm by BAM President Willy Bagley at the Tom Kennon Blacksmith Shop, Doniphan, MO. He thanked Chris and Becky Miller for hosting the meeting. He also thanked Chris, John Kirby, David Rosemann and Don Anders for the demonstrations in the morning.

Membership – Jeremie Howell could not attend the meeting, so Willy gave the membership report. As of February 1, we had 524 BAM members. Since then, we added 11 new members and removed from the roster 13 members which left us with 522 members as of March 1. We are seeing an increase in online membership. Email membership reminders are being sent out to those we have emails for, along with postcards being mailed.

Financial - Santo Giuffrida gave the treasurer's report in Ashley Hart's absence. We had \$11,352.75 in deposits and \$6,520.34 in expenses for the month of February. We deposited \$4,8832.23 more than we spent in the month of February. Money for the conference is coming in steadily , and we are on track for the year. Our total available cash is \$76,981.68.

After the financial report, there were several related topics discussed. One was an issue with Square charging sales tax for membership, which appears to be resolved. One member asked about our coal inventory. We have a good supply for now. The hydraulic press we purchased is now at Steve McCarthy's. He has the space to store it and ability to move it around. We are checking about getting it to the conference for members to get a close-up look. A suggestion was made to put a photograph of it in the newsletter, which we can do. Karen Bouckaert suggested we form a committee to talk to the Fairground people for a small piece of land to store some of our stuff (i.e. trailers, power hammer, etc.) used at the conference and State Fair demonstrations. Ashley Farnsworth is our conference chair and may know who to contact.

MTS – Don Anders reported everything is set for the Ray Scott classes and the conference. There has been no contact from the Boy Scout groups.

Upcoming Events – Willy mentioned the MTS classes at Ray Scott's are April 11 and 18 and the Anvil Repair Demonstration at John Murray's is June 6. See Newsletter for details and more events.

Conference – The conference is April 30 – May 3. The Gallery will have a tribute for Don Nichols. Members can bring any Don Nichols items or items inspired by him for the display. Members are also encouraged to make and bring an item to display in the Art Gallery.

Karen Bouckaert said there was still room in some of the classes. Ashley Farnsworth is about two-thirds done with next year's arrangements. Bad Dog will not be returning. The leather vendor also may not be there, but Karen is working on another source. Blue Moon Press is in question currently due to the vendor's health.

New Business

1. Hydraulic Press – As stated earlier, the press has been received and is housed at Steve McCarthy's. It gives us the ability to do more demonstrations and other work. It has been named Preston and keeps our power hammer Vern company.
2. Conference – Ashley Farnsworth was recognized for the fine job he has done organizing the conference. He was given a round of applause.

-
3. Officers Positions – Willy announced that anyone interested in an officer’s position should notify him. The elections for officers are held at the conference. Also, the newsletter editor and MTS coordinator are looking for replacements.
 4. Blacksmith Starter Kit – Last conference Rusty Osborne, ABANA, won the starter kit in the raffle. He donated it back to BAM to find a promising young blacksmith worthy of it. Notify Willy or Ashley Farnsworth if you have a candidate to consider.
 5. Table Rock Meeting (June 27) – Pat McCarty will demonstrate and the trade item will be a heart-shaped object.
 6. Around The Anvil Request – Robin Whitener is looking for a blacksmith, preferably female, for a girls out camp event in Labadie. Kim Stahl was checking her schedule.
 7. Chillicothe Meeting (August 29) – The trade item will be a hardie tool. It was recommended it fit a 1” hardie hole as it was most common and could be adapted from there.

Adjournment – Karen Bouckaert moved to adjourn. It was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Talaski, Secretary

Editor Notes.

By the time you get this we will either be at the conference or it will be real close. The next newsletter won’t be until the first of July. It is just the way the meetings fell.

The trip to Louisiana with Ken Jansen, Steve and Lori McCarthy was another great adventure. The weather was very nice. We also came up with a new unit of measurement. We were eating at Duffy’s Diner and I bit into a really nice piece of fried catfish. It was temperature hot, more than I could take. I had to pull it back out. After it cooled it was really good fish. Steve then coined the phrase “Catfish Hot”. So add this to your vocabulary.

I was watching David Roseman pull the spur out on his fire poker through my camera lens and I noticed that he stopped and pulled it out of his fixture and straightened at the anvil while it still had a lot of heat. He did this with every heat.

I asked him to explain it for everybody. He said he was taking a class with Don Nichols years ago and the one thing Don said a hundred times was “Keep your house in order”.

If your are not having fun, you are doing it wrong.

Mike M.



Chris Miller Demonstration

Written by Mike M. Photos: Bob Stormer, John Sherwood, Mike M.

Trammel Hook. He used 3/16" x 1" flat bar and 3/8" round. Length would be up to you depending on how long you would like it to be.

He had predrilled the 4 holes for adjustment first and the one at the bottom that will be bent out.

He laid about 1" on the near side of the anvil and used half faced blows to start the hook end. He drew it out to a square taper. Make a curly "Q" on the end. Then use the horn of the anvil to shape the hook.

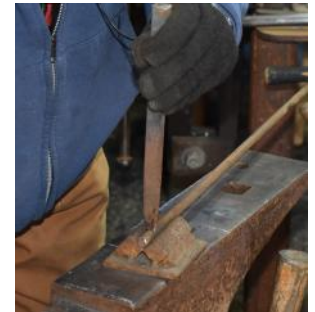


Heat up the other end. He put it in the vise making sure the hole was in the jaws to keep from distorting it. Bend it 90 degrees.



Sliding part of the trammel. 3/8" round

He started with the end that will go into the adjustment holes. He marked it about 1" from the end. He then used a chisel to mark it cold. Heat and make the mark deeper with a chisel. Heat it and put the mark just into the vise then bend it 90 degrees. Not shown. Make a hook on the other end.



John Kirby Demonstration

Squirrel Cooker

He used 3/8" square bar. He cut them at 20" long. Your length will vary depending on the type and size of your fire.

The Stand. Draw a short taper on one end. This is the end that will go in the ground. He then heated the other end to make an eye on it. The eye diameter was about 1". He started with a jig that he modified for this. He trued up the hole at the anvil and lined up the eye. He then used the vise to bend it about 45 degrees.



The Fork and Pot Holder.

He precut the fork end on a bandsaw. Heat the tines and open them up. Draw it out to a taper. He makes a line across the anvil for the center of the fork. Then after he draws out the first one he makes another line for the length of the first tine. He can then fine tune the second one.

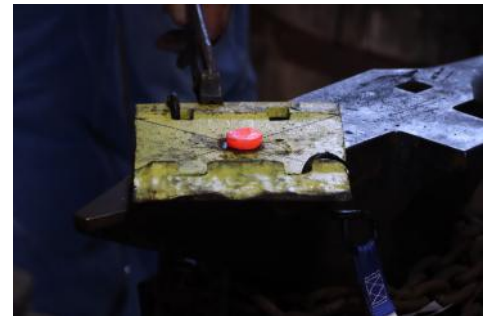


He uses the horn to bend the tines. He marks the center of the top of the anvil with a line. It helps to line the tines up in the center. Bend the tines around the horn.



Blacksmiths Association of Missouri

Heat the other end and taper it. Give the end a curly "Q" and bend it to hold a pot. He then put a twist in it. This is another one of those projects that you can give it your own personality. Use different size material, different lengths, different twists.



After lunch was some large nail making. With Don Anders, David Roseman, Clayton Martin, John Sherwood and Paul Talaski



Santo was the official Blower Cranker and Fire Maintainer.



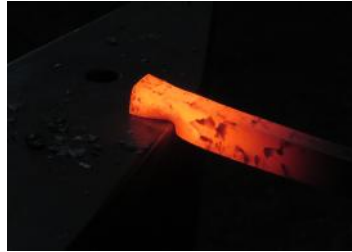
I once caught a fish.....

David Roseman Demo.

This is another way to make a turkey foot fire poker. This setup is used in the NC class to make a different tool. He is using 1" x 1/2" flat bar. He also used a 1/2" wrench to check his dimensions.



Lay about an inch on the anvil. Use half faced blows make an offset. Make it 1/2" square. Check with your wrench. This will be the point a little later.



to

Heat and lay 1" of the bar on the far side of the anvil. This will isolate the spur of the poker.

Forge it down to about 1/2" square. Once you get it close cut it off about 4 - 5" long. This is the side that will be forge welded to the handle.



Using a fixture that clamps into the vise he used the peen of his hammer to start pulling out the spur of the poker. Forge it a little bit then straighten it. Then forge some more until it is the length you want.



Round up the point and spur. He scarfed the end that will be welded before bending the final shape.

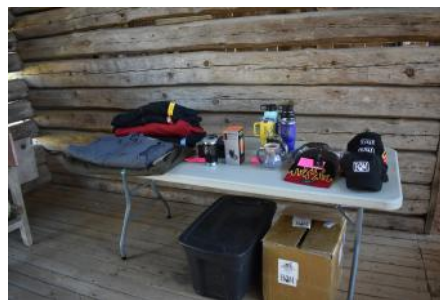


Blacksmiths Association of Missouri

Shape the point and spur. Then forge weld it to the handle material. The forge welding didn't go as planned. Don Anders stepped up and finally got it to weld. It was going to have a basket twist handle but we ran out of time. I think this was the first meeting that David has demoed at and he did a great job.



Trade Item Participants



Trade Items

Camp Trammel Hook

Photos: Mike M.



Chris Miller to
Charley Williams



Bill George to
Chris Miller



Santo Giuffrida to
Clayton Martin



Travis Dailey to
Don Anders



Bob Stormer to
Mike Morton



Don Anders to
Randy Carrier



Charley Williams to
Travis Dailey



Clayton Martin to
John Sherwood



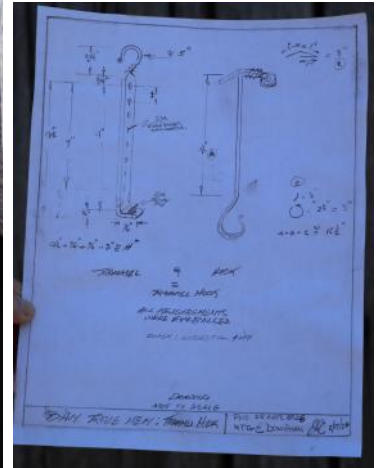
Mike Morton to
Bob Stormer



John Sherwood to
Bill George



Willy Bagley to
Santo Giuffrida

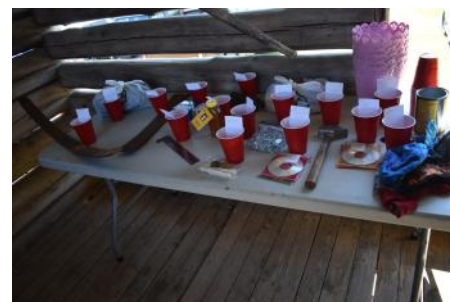


Randy Carrier to
Willy Bagley

Blacksmiths Association of Missouri

March 28, 2026 BAM Meeting Iron-In-The-Hat

Donated By	Won By	Item
Karen Bouckaert	Jeff Collins	BAM Doo Rags
Karen Bouckaert	David Rosemann	Easter Flower Pots
Karen Bouckaert	Don Anders	Blacksmith DVD's (2)
(Unknown)	Jeff Collins	3 Mystery Blacksmith T-shirts
Karen Bouckaert	Chris Miller	Blacksmith DVD's (2)
Mike McLaughlin	Bob Stormer	Plain Old Hammer
Mike McLaughlin	Paul Talaski	Tag Rings
(Unknown)	Bob Stormer	Soapstones
Mike Morton	Jeff Collins	Hook Rule
Mike Morton	Rick Camp	Railroad Spikes
Bill George	Rick Camp	Honey
John Sherwood	Santo Giuffrida	Horse Nails
Bill George	David Rosemann	Spring Steel
Travis Dailey	Mike Morton	Spring Steel (long)
(Unknown)	Jeff Collins	3 Mystery Blacksmith T-shirts
Chris Miller	Santo Giuffrida	Dogwood
BAM	Willy Bagley	Sm. T-shirt, BAM Hat
John Sherwood	Paul Talaski	Wheels
Ray Scott	Chris Miller	Blacksmith Journals
Karen Bouckaert	Willy Bagley	50 State Quarters & Frame
Ray Scott	Bill George	"Shop Drawings" Book
Willy Bagley	Jeff Collins	Misc. Metal Treasures
Ray Scott	Chris Miller	Blacksmith Magazines/Newsletters
Karen Bouckaert	John Sherwood	Blacksmith Stickers
Ray Scott	Mike Morton	Metal Files



Myron Hanson doing Myron things.



Valerie Mullane from ABANA



Lama Conference.

Had another fun time going to Louisiana. The people and food there are the best. The demonstrator was Jaime Escobedo from Arizona. He is the current president of the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association. He showed how he creates layers in his pieces. He demoed some of his techniques to create these. I actually learned a lot. Thanks to Blake, Terry, Ada, Mike and many more for hosting this event. I'll be back next year.



Blake Mullens Pres.



Jaime and Bertha Escobedo



Robert striking like a power hammer



Marcus Melancon calling the auction.



2026 BAM Conference Demonstrators

Tyler Sydebotham

Tyler will be forging black powder gun barrels

Simeon England and Broadus Thompson

Simeon and Broadus will be forging together making period tomahawks and knives

Joshua Rachita

Joshua will be forging household items.

Thursday evening demonstration ASL Pewter <https://www.aslpewter.com> We've been working with pewter for over 25 years now. It's our passion, our creative outlet, our homage to our history.

Family Classes Friday and Saturday Copper Chased leaf with Jeff Mueller **Basket Classes** with Cathryn Sylvester **Stained Glass** with Tami Bagley **Mini Classes** with Rhonda Schrum and Nancy Jackson **Mirror Etching** with Rhonda **Floral Watercolor** with Nancy **Paper Collage 2.0** with Nancy **Quilling** with Rhonda

2026 BAM Conference Gallery Submissions

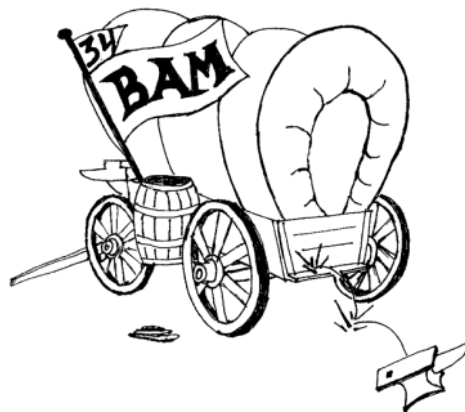
Just a quick reminder that the BAM Conference will be here before you know it and that we look forward to your creations for the Gallery. It is never too early to start your submission. If you have any questions or special display needs, email me at jbsems@sbcglobal.net.

This year we will be featuring a Tribute to Don Nichols to display some of the many items forged by Don. If anyone has a piece forged by him that can be added to his tribute, it would be welcomed. Thinking about Don, I'm sure there are lots of "Don Stories" that are memorable. Write your favorite down and bring it along. (Hand written or typed) or if you are unable to attend email it so we can add to the display.

As usual we will be looking for volunteers for setup Thursday morning, and Friday or Saturday volunteering for a four-hour shift attending to the Gallery during conference hours. This really helps out.

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

April 30th, - May 3rd, 2026 34th Annual Ozark Conference. "Forging the American Frontier" Thursday - Setup - Potluck Dinner - Opening Ceremonies



ABANA CONFERENCE

Nov. 11-14, 2026 • Bentonville, Arkansas

- Blacksmithing & Bladesmithing Demos
- Beginner's Area
- National Curriculum Demos & Evaluations
- Fun Competitions
- Vendors & Suppliers
- Knife Makers
- Auction & Iron-in-the-Hat
- Gallery of Ironwork
- Craft Classes

Site Amenities:

- Tons of space for tailgating.
- Over 8 acres of dedicated event parking on site.
- 21,000 sq. ft. building for vendor & gallery space.
- Dedicated vendor parking lot.
- Fully fenced, dedicated space for tent camping.
- 35 RV sites with water and electric hookups.
- 3,500 sq. ft. outdoor picnic pavilion surrounded by food trucks.



ABANA CONFERENCE

November 11-14, 2026
Benton County Fairgrounds • Bentonville, Arkansas

 Zeevik Gottlieb Large-scale Sculpture	 Lin Rhea Bladesmithing	 Matt Jenkins Traditional Smithing	 Darryl Reeves & Karina Roca Restoration Ironwork
 Celeste Flores Forging Bronze	 John McLellan Education: Railings	 Sergey Denisiuk Decorative Elements	 Future of Blacksmithing: Emerging Artists
 Becky Schimpff Education Area	 Mark Sperry Education Area	 Jake Trogdon Education Area	 Victoria Ritter Education Area

Blacksmithing & Bladesmithing Demos • Beginner's Area • Kid's Area
National Curriculum Demos & Evaluations • Fun Competitions
Tailgating • Vendors & Suppliers • Lectures • Gallery of Ironwork
Craft Classes • Iron-in-the-Hat • Auction • and more!

News from ABANA

Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America

FORGING IN THE OZARKS
NOVEMBER 11-14, 2026
PRESENTED BY ABANA

Early Registration Ends July 31, 2026

Join us in Bentonville, Arkansas for the 2026 ABANA Conference. Forging, fun, food, and more!

APPLY FOR AN ABANA GRANT
Next Application Cycle: June 2026

- \$250 Grant to attend a Blacksmithing Event
- \$500 Grant to attend a Blacksmithing Class or Degree Program

Favorites of 2025
Online Exhibition

With These Hands by Casey Hebel

On view through July 1, 2026, at abana.org

Follow ABANA here:



The Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, promoting, and sharing technical skills and design excellence in the blacksmith community. We offer educational workshops, technical and art publications, grants, awards, conferences, and exhibitions honoring the metal and forging arts.

2026 ABANA CONFERENCE

ABANA PRESENTS

FORGING in the OZARKS
NOVEMBER 11-14, 2026

Bentonville

ABANA.ORG

Tickets on sale now!

2 Articles from a 1985 newsletter we believe were written by Bob Patrick he was the editor at the time. Rewritten by Eileen Sherwood. The original was mimeographed and hard to read.

Beginning to Forge Lesson 1 / Bob Patrick

Probably the hardest thing about learning to forge is to do the simple tasks involved all at one time. Build a normal fire heat a bar of metal perhaps 3/8" square. First heat it to a dull red. Then continue heating it, removing it periodically and looking at the color. You should use a bar of mild steel for this experiment. If your forge is portable, it is not a bad idea to try this in the shade and in the sunlight. You will notice that the metal will go from black to red to orange to yellow, and then will sparkle and melt. It is likely that the metal will never look a brilliant white to you. It is also probable that in the sunlight it will never reach a yellow color. The lesson to learn is that the color is relative. I suspect that the colors are a little different for each person. At the sparkling temperature it is likely that the metal will be damaged. The only time it is desirable to reach this temperature normally is for forge welding, but it is a condition that you will become familiar with, for a forge fire is capricious. It will heat more quickly one time than another. Only a lot of heating will give you experience in this. Your forge should either have a good hand blower or bellows, or an electric blower you can control. Too many shops have an electric blower that either is not powerful enough or cannot be shut down enough. The control can be a butterfly valve or a rheostat if you have a blower than can be so controlled. If you have a powerful enough blower that will not slow down enough with a rheostat or with a speed control, Francis Whitaker suggests wiring a light bulb in series with the rheostat circuit, or a resistor. If you know another blacksmith with some experience, get him or her to help you, or you can buy a commercial blower.

Back to forging. From a dull red to a yellow the metal basically gets softer. But this is not a steady progression, for reasons metallurgists understand best. For most purposes a temperature just under sparkling is best for heavy forging, and a dull orange is the heat to stop forging at. If the metal is not too large you may notice that your hammer blows keep the metal hot. First, flatten the metal out with hammer blows on the anvil. Try and make it spread out evenly with no deep dents. If you turn the metal 90 degrees and flatten it again, it will get longer. This is called drawing the metal out. If you flatten the metal out too much it will be difficult to forge at the 90 degrees, and it will tend to buckle and bend. For most purposes this is not desirable. If you do not turn the metal exactly 90 degrees, or if your hammer blows are not placed properly the metal will not maintain a rectangular cross section, and this is the basic difficulty beginners have. This is not a problem unless the work is nearly forged to dimension. Simply hammer the acute corners and the work will become 6 sided. If the work twists, take it to the vise and straighten it. Don't chase it around the anvil with a hammer.

Once you have straightened the piece, if it needs it, hammer the piece square again. To make a piece round, draw the work out to the right size, and this should always be done square, for the structural health of the metal, hammer it so that it has 8 sides, then 16, and then rotate the work on the anvil while lightly hammering it, and with practice it will be quite round. To taper a piece, simply angle the hammer to the same angle between the anvil and hammer, draw the work out square, and then round it if that is desired. To hammer work so that it has a number of sides, say 5 or 7, is very difficult on the anvil, and is usually done in a swage. There is usually no reason to do this. It is good for a beginning smith to learn to hammer work uniformly square, change it to round and then back to square. Problems arise simply because the smith is not skilled in hammering and manipulating the metal. To forge metal for the first time it is desirable to select a long piece, say 20 inches or so, so that tongs will not be needed to hold the metal, and the smith can give full concentration to the metal. While a swage can be used to round metal, it is important for a person who is starting to learn blacksmithing to learn to shape the metal as much as possible with just the anvil and hammer, using the forge for heat, as this is the basis of all blacksmithing.

Learning to Forge Weld #1 / Bob Patrick

This is intended for someone who is able to do at least decent forging, as it is important to be able to control the hammer. Several things are necessary for a smith to learn to weld: Good coal, a proper forge fire, good mild steel (or wrought iron, which will not be covered here) a good flux, and good hammering. A welding fire should be deep enough for a proper welding fire, and there should be no direct blast of air on the metal in any forge fire, but this is crucial to forge welding. Clean the fire of clinker, and make sure that the fire is deep and that all of the fresh coal has turned to coke. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, GET A SMITH WHO CAN WELD WITH YOUR FORGE AND COAL TO SHOW YOU HOW TO BUILD A PROPER FIRE. If you can't do that, it will be much more difficult. For your first weld, take a piece of, say, $\frac{1}{4}$ X $\frac{3}{4}$ " mild steel and fold an inch or so back on itself at a red heat. Take a good flux, such as EZ Weld or Crescent welding compound and, prying the fold slightly apart, apply some of the flux with a small spoon with a long handle made for the purpose. Tap the fold together, making sure that the compound does not spill out. Place the piece back in the forge, making sure that the fire is well coked, and that there is at least two packed inches of coke between the air inlet and the metal. Next comes the hard part. Cover the metal with coke, and heat it with the air blast strong enough to be sure the metal gets hot, but so there is not too much air coming in. The really hard part is that the metal should be covered so that it is hard to see, and it should not be brought out of the fire constantly. Clear a very small hole to the metal with a poker and when it seems that the metal is bright orange, take your long handled spoon and add some flux to the sides of the metal. Then heat the metal until the flux all melts and it has a glistening appearance, there should be some very fine sparks appearing in the clear forge fire. Have your anvil clear with your hammer ready to grab. Grab the hammer, swing the metal on to the anvil, and with moderate fast blows hammer it together. You should have safety glasses, and may want gloves if burns bother you. An apron will protect your clothes. Hammer the whole surface of the metal, having the folded side up, starting at the fold and working towards yourself. After you are done hammering the piece should look like one piece of metal. This is the simplest faggot weld, and until it can be done well, there is no point in trying any other welds. The piece should be worked at a welding heat until you are sure it is welded. Usually, even bad coal will work for this weld. If the weld is properly done you should be able to draw it out square, and then round it without it splitting. If it does split it is likely the weld was poorly done, and or that the coal is bad. I recommend for your peace of mind and self-respect that you get good coal before trying this, as the frustration can be intense and sour you on learning to weld. Take it from all the centuries of blacksmiths: good coal makes good welds, and a beginner can learn to weld with good coal as a learnable skill. With coal that is somewhat acceptable, but less than good, a skilled smith can learn to weld with it, and get fairly strong welds, but they will tend to split out, while a beginning smith will end up having a difficult time doing even the simplest welds, which will almost always break under use. With really poor coal, the best of smiths will have a rough time getting any welds, and they will not be dependable. Sometimes after trying to weld with bad coal the metal will become brittle, even though it had not been heated to a point where the steel would have been damaged in a good fire with good coal. Once you get this first weld, try doubling a bar, say $\frac{3}{8}$ " square, then rounding it. When you can do this you will be ready to learn the next step in welding. After welding a piece it should always be forged in the area that has been heated to a welding heat, forged to size, then cooled slowly. To be improved in appearance, it should be wire brushed at a high heat after welding.

Tuition Assistance Application

Name:

Address:

Phone & Email:

What class or workshop do you wish to attend?

Where:

What is the Cost?

Tuition:

Travel:

Lodging:

Materials / supplies:

Briefly, describe how attending the particular class / workshop will advance your Blacksmithing skills and be helpful in promoting the craft of Blacksmithing. Identify the specific skills you expect to learn during this learning experience. (Additional pages if necessary).

I understand that as a requirement of receiving this assistance, I will be required to submit an article about the education experience attended with appropriate notes and diagrams of the items made or techniques learned in the class to the Tuition Assistance Committee to be reviewed and published in the BAM newsletter no later than 3 months after attending the class.

I will present a demonstration of the newly learned skills at a BAM meeting or complete a video to be placed in the BAM library within 1 year of the class.

One third of the total assistance amount will be awarded before the class, one third on submission of the article to the Tuition Assistance Committee, and one third after presenting the demonstration or video at a BAM event.

I understand that I am responsible for payment to the school or workshop.

The assistance is a reimbursement of the approved costs listed above of up to 1000 dollars.

Send tuition assistance applications to: Orry Harbit 217 Phelps Street Windsor, Mo. 65360. 660-287-5917

Signature:

Date:

Missouri Based Schools

Bladesmithing

Now training all levels. Learn Bladesmithing from start to finish or build your existing skills to bring your work to the next level of fit finish etc. Take a one on one class with Master Bladesmith Charles Carpenter. Call directly at (314)604-9910 or go to www.bigriverforge.com

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

For more information call 314-842-0796 or email; Brendan@muellerstl.com

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

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

Attention all Missouri Schools

If you would like to change your ads please let me know.

If you have something special or different coming up send me some info.

Articles about your school would be welcome and featured.

Bladesmithing

Now training all levels. Learn
Bladesmithing from start to finish or
build your existing skills to bring your
work to the next level of fit and finish
etc. Take a one on one class with Master
Bladesmith
Charles Carpenter.
Call directly at (314)604-9910 or go to
www.bigriverforge.com

Upcoming EVENTS

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

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 6th, 2026 - Anvil Repair Demonstration. John Murray 2018 Oberhelman Rd. Foristell, Mo. See page 6 for more info.

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

July 30th, 2026 Old Retired Guys Hammer-In Hosted by Bernie and Patti Tappel.

August 29th, 2026 - Meeting - Willy Bagley 9940 Rd.2302, Chillicothe, Mo.64601 Lunch available. Bring Chairs. Trade Item: Hardy tool to fit 1” hardy hole.

September 26th, 2026 - Meeting - Scott Birdno Host. Brady Steam Engine Show Grounds 24289 MO-179, Boonville, Mo. 65233 Bring chairs and Lunch. Trade Item: Cabinet Latch

November 7th, 2026 - Meeting - Greens Welding and Sales. Host Chris Green 1464 SE County Rd. 15305 Appleton City, Mo. 64724 Bring Chairs. Food truck available. Trade Item Sculpture.

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

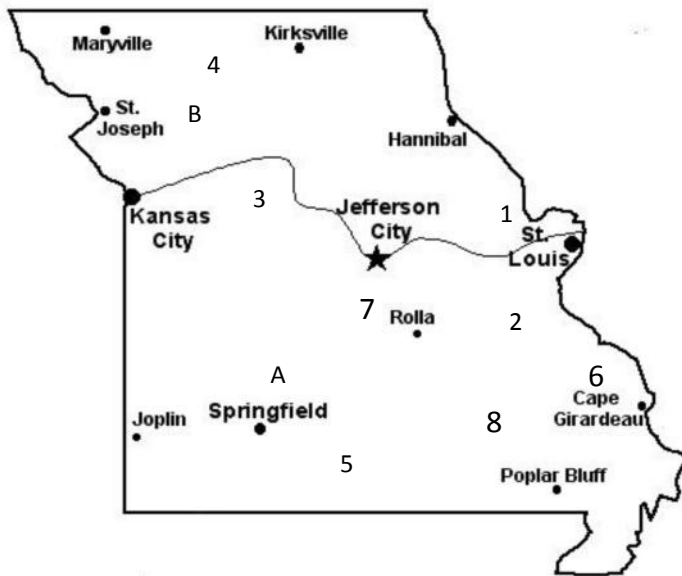
Member's pickup at Mike Lanham's \$18.00

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. Bill George (660) 247-0426
19133 LIV 355
Chillicothe, MO 64601

5. Matthias Penn, (417) 543-2148
Rt 1 Box 479, Ava, Mo. 65608
tytheblacksmith@yahoo.com

6. Travis Dailey
28933 BCR 352
Marble Hill, Mo. 63764
573-225-1614
travisgd@gmail.com

7. Troy Albrecht
2025 Hwy 52 Tuscumbia, Mo. 65082
573-480-5682 troy.dtv@gmail.com

8. Anthony Martin
9648 CR 451 Winona, Mo. 65588
gigmaker86@hotmail.com
417-247-0940

BAM Tailgate

Buy, Sell, Trade

Individual Classified ads:

Bending Jig for forging Stuart Hill's "Claydon Knot" \$50.00
Bob Woodward 618-210-7077 leave a message.

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, or call 314-708-0469.

Tire Hammer Plans by Clay Spencer
Send Paypal for \$30 to 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, 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

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.

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

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
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
Phone: 402-873-6603
Email: 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

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 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

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. 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
 Mobile: 678-360-3521
 email: lbrandforgecoke@gmail.com

Chile Forge- Next generation gas forges
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 Phone (308) 384 1088

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, or call 816-769-5788

A.A.C.B. BLACKSMITH CONFERENCE 2026
May 14th - 16th - Murfreesboro, TN
www.aacblacksmiths.org

- MAIN DEMONSTRATORS -

Ben Abbott: Knife/Blade Making
 (9x Forged in Fire Champion & Judge)

Terry Sheridan: Forged Tools

- A.A.C.B. MEMBER DEMONSTRATORS -

Alan Eldred / Chuck Henderson: Traditional Joinery

Herb Gravitt: Yellin-Style Rosette

Chuck Cook: (Forged in Fire) - Knife Processes

CLASSES: (Knife Class led by Forged in Fire Champions) **Craig Hines** (Handmade Hacksaw)
Jason Bivens / Jay Replogle



ABANA
 North America's Largest Blacksmithing Community

We're Looking for a Few Good People

Run for the ABANA Board of Directors

Nomination Forms Due April 30

Each year, ABANA has 5 open seats available on the Board of Directors.

Make this the year you take your place at the table and help shape the future of the organization!

As a Board member, you will:

- Help shape the organization's policies and procedures.
- Represent ABANA at regional and national blacksmithing events.
- Continue ABANA's strong commitment to helping educate blacksmiths via the National Curriculum and the newly expanded grant program.

If you have experience with finance, event planning, running a non-profit, or other applicable skills, reach out to learn more about running for the Board of ABANA.

[Learn More](#)

Election Timeline

- April 30, 2026: Nomination Forms Due
- June 1, 2026: Voting Begins
- June 1, 2026: Candidate Info Published in *The Anvil's Ring* and online.
- July 15, 2026: Voting Ends
- September 2026: Candidate Notification
- November 2026: Elected Board Members take their seat at the Annual Board Meeting.

ABANA



Member Discounts • Donate • 2026 Conference

BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI
1774 ROTH HILL DR.
MARYLAND HEIGHTS, MO. 63043-2940

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

Next Meeting: June 27th. 2026 Table Rock State Park
5275 Historic Hwy 165, Branson Mo. 65672. Bring Chairs and Lunch.
Trade Item: Heart or Heart shaped object.

