FIRE & IRON

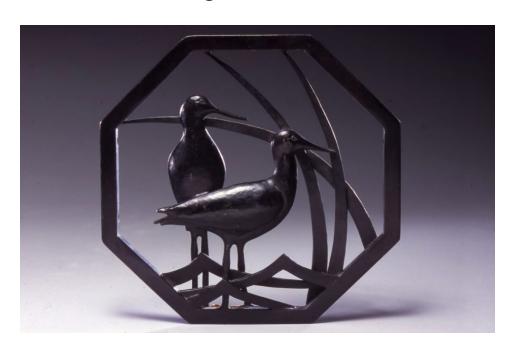
Northeast Blacksmiths Association

Fall 2019

Next Ashokan Hammer-In September 20, 21, 22

Demonstrator:

Douglas E. Wilson



Fall Forging Contest

The project for the Fall is a forged "Hearth Cooking Implement"

We have transitioned to a digital newsletter. See page 11 for more information.

You MUST Register Online

If you pay at the door it saves us the PayPal Fee www.northeastblacksmiths.org

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Editor

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President's Message

It's been hot this summer and I am looking forward to the cooler fall temps and our Fall Hammer-In. Thinking of how fast time goes by, it's not too early to firm up your ABANA 2020 conference plans now: register for the conference, reserve a room and make your travel plans. Rooms are getting scarcer as the weeks go by. This will be an exciting event: great demonstrators, lectures, large gallery show, trade show and tool sales. We are extremely lucky that this time the ABANA conference is in our area, near Saratoga, NY. Just a short drive for all our members!

We will have our own Northeast Blacksmiths Assoc. table with NBA T-shirts, mugs and DVDs for sale. We will need a few people to work shifts at the table. Please sign up at the Hammer-In.

Also, since we are one of the closest ABANA Affiliates to the conference, it would be great to see many of our members volunteer for a couple of hours during the conference. We all need to pitch in to make the conference a success. Expertise is not needed in most areas since you will be working with others.

The volunteer coordinator is Dana Flanders. Email or call to request a volunteer assignment dfflanders@gmail.com

Continued...

Fire & Iron is the official newsletter of the Northeast Blacksmiths Association. The projects and processes described in the newsletter are potentially dangerous. The Northeast Blacksmiths and its members do not manufacture, distribute, sell, test, warrant, guarantee, or endorse any of the tools, materials, instructions or products contained in articles in the Newsletter Fire & Iron. The Newsletter Editors, Officers and Members of the Northeast Blacksmiths Association disclaims any responsibility or liability for damages or injuries as a result of any construction, design, use, manufacture or other activity undertaken as a result of the use or application of information contained in any articles or features in the newsletter Fire and Iron. The Newsletter of the Northeast Blacksmiths Association assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, fitness, proper design, safety or safe use of any information contained in the Newsletter Fire & Iron.

713-569-8422.

ABANA Conference volunteers are needed in the following are areas:

- 1- Registration: stuffing conference swag bags, register arrivals, distribute conference T-shirts and other items.
- 2- Visitors' Entrance: greeting visitors, providing conference info.
- 3- Gallery Setup: work on exhibition set-up and the auction.
- 4- First Aid booth: first aid and general assistance.
- 5- Tech & AV: demo & presentation sites A/V equipment, set up & break down.
- 6- Parking: directing and managing parking.
- 7- Transportation: airport pick up & drop off, quick trips into town
- 8- Golf Cart Crew: ferrying people and equipment around conf. site.
- 9- Demo Tents: assisting at demonstration sites.
- 10- Pub & morning coffee/donuts: sales, set-up, clean-up.
- 11- Set-up & take down of chairs, tables etc. when needed.
- 12- ABANA Trailers: organize & inventory trailer contents.
- 13- Iron in the Hat raffles: ticket sales and managing raffle items.

That's it for now, see you all at the Hammer-In.

Jonathan Nedbor

For more information on the ABANA conference visit

https://abana.org/2020-greenwich-ny/



ABANA 2020 June 3-6 Saratoga, New York

The 2020 ABANA Conference to be held at the Washington County Fairgrounds near Saratoga Springs, NY, June 3-6. The conference committee consists of Bob Menard, Rand Condell, Bob Valentine, Mark Aspery, Dana Flanders, Dick Sargent, Matt Parkinson, and Leigh Morrell.

The fairgrounds has nearly 200 RV sites and many tent sites. There is also a very rustic bunkhouse on site. There are lots of buildings and demos will be held in these buildings. Vendors and tail gators will also be in covered buildings.

2019 Fall Hammer In





Our demonstrator for the weekend is **Douglas E. Wilson** from Deer Isle in Maine. His work displays a quiet elegance of form and thoughtful approach to design. About his work Doug says: "The character of my forged ironwork is the result of careful clean forging and self-imposed restraint. I call it 'distilling chaos'. (Don't put everything you know how to do in every piece of work you make...)"

Doug uses drawing as a tool in his design process. His work also integrates natural materials found in his environment and he is well known for his wrapped beach stones.

The title for Douglas' weekend demo is:

Contemporary Design Rooted in Traditional Forging Processes

The demo will include a segment on forge-welding which he calls: <u>'No Myth, No Mystery'</u>: <u>Presenting a variety of forge-welding setups & scarfing for a variety of welds.</u>

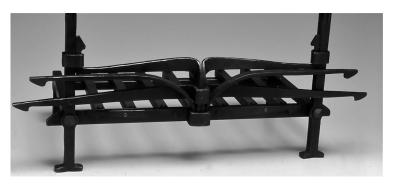
Doug's demo: "We will explore design concepts which utilize traditional forging and joinery processes in contemporary ways via drawing. I will forge simple straightforward elements from flat, round, and square bar stock. These elements will then be joined together using traditional processes: rivets, tenons, forge welding, and collaring.

Douglas was our demonstrator many years ago. It was an interesting and memorable demo. Don't miss this chance to be inspired by Doug's thoughtful and intuitive approach to forged ironwork. For more on Douglas and his work: www.wilsonforge.com

More work by Douglas E. Wilson











A thought Douglas would like to share:

"Quality is never an accident. It is the result of Intelligent Effort'. John Ruskin (1819-1900), English art critic, social critic and advocate for craftsmanship.

Spring Hammer-In: 2019

Our Fall demonstrator was Peter Braspenninx



Peter made an ornamental piece (shown above) for the main demonstration. The piece was made out of 1/2 inch square mild steel. In Peter's words, "Time at the anvil has been the greatest teacher" and it was apparent to all who attended the demonstration that he has spent a lot of time at the anvil! During the demo he showed us how he would slit and drift holes, isolate the material and forge weld. Watching him work through the process was amazing and all the while entertaining. Peter has an ability to explain his process in simple terms and walk you through each step of the process. For more of Peter's work and additional information,

visit www.phyreforge.com







Another full house for the demonstration!

Our learning program had all six anvils ringing!





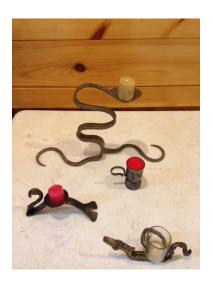
Beautiful day for tailgating as well.

Members Work









Forging contest participants.



Congratulations Scott Cameron for winning the contest!



In memory of Greg Phillips

Long-time member of the Northeast Blacksmiths Association

Taken off of the NBA Facebook page—Posted by Kelly Scott Anson (July 28th)

We had a great turn out yesterday at the Greg Phillips Hammer-in Fundraiser. Well over 100 people attended. I would like to thank everyone who pitched in. Especially Fletcher Coddington, Debra F Coddington, Greg Cimms, Bruce Ringier, Jim Wyckoff, Tom McDonald, Jason from Tom's shop, Trister Keane, Douglas Delurey and his wife Marlene, Dominic from Fletcher's shop, Robert Wayman (who braved the heat to donate his services as a professional auctioneer), all those who very generously donated to the auction, donated services, or simply donated cash. Friend and family of Greg's and Nancy's showed up in force and got to work without anyone asking and some stayed to the very end making the knock down and clean up go quickly. Some of their friend and family came from as far as Virginia, Washington DC, and New Hampshire to be there. It is a fitting testimonial to the man we came together to honor. I know he would have been there with a smile on his face watching the demos, asking questions, and pitch-

ing in as well.



Greg Phillips at work in his shop.

What's new with our e-mail service?

As many of you are aware, we have been having trouble with our e-mail address list. Ever since we started sending electronic invitations for our semi-annual Hammer-Ins, we have had the privilege of using the Ashokan Center's Constant Contact account. This was good, in that it did not cost us anything to create and send e-mails and we could use the same service for event registration. But it had the disadvantage of everyone receiving all the other "non-blacksmithing" emails that the Ashokan Center sent. In 2017, Ashokan was required to send an email to everyone on all their lists that required a reply to stay active on the list. Like so many other people, I did not even open that message, so was put into a suspended "awaiting conformation" category. I had to reach out directly to Constant Contact to get back on the very list that I manage! We lost over a 100 contacts in that incident, about a third of our mailing list, which we are now trying to recover.

The Ashokan Center suffered a similar loss to their mailing list, and thus have changed to a different e-mail and event registration service provider. Our organization no longer has access to use Ashokan's new account, so we will have our own account, shared with the New England Bladesmith Guild. I have looked into a few different service providers, and chose to stay with Constant Contact, that seems to provide the best service for the lowest cost. The additional cost of having our own account has added slightly to the overall registration cost, but that will be offset by a significant savings as we transition to an all electronic version of the Fire and Iron newsletter.

It is important that you get on our electronic mailing list, if you aren't already. You can easily do that by visiting our group website at northeastblacksmiths.org, and clicking on any of the links that say "Join our list". You will then be receiving announcements and invitations to the Hammer-Ins directly from our group. Since your contact information was already in Ashokan's system, you may continue to receive e-mails from the Ashokan Center or Jay and Molly, but you can choose to "unsubscribe" from that list without fear of missing news about upcoming blacksmithing events.

Thanks for your patience and cooperation as we go through yet another organizational transition, and get swept along into the 21st century!

Tim Neu "The Registration Guy"

IMPORTANT!

Notice to ALL members of the Northeast Blacksmiths Assoc.: you must provide us with your current email address to receive future NBA announcements. If you don't use email and need a paper copy of the newsletter mailed to you, please send your info to:

Lucas Patsch 83 Jenkinstown Rd. New Paltz, NY 12561

or

Email your info to Lucas: lucas.patsch@gmail.com

Northeast Blacksmiths Assoc. Member Profile

Interview with Bob Cerney



Editor: How long have you been blacksmithing and what brought you to it?

Bob: Since the early 1970's. I was interested in flintlock black powder rifles, lock-smithing and farm hardware. I remember finding an old English lock on the family farm. I took it apart and decided to make an exact replica, fully functional.

E: Who and what influenced you over the years?

Bob: Paul Spalding, who was a Master smith for over 30 years at the Cooperstown farmers museum. I took courses with him for several years, then had the opportunity to work directly with him.

E: What did you do for a career?

Bob: Well, I went to school at R.I.T and worked in the radiation labs. That led me to a job working at the University of Rochester as an electrical engineer. During the Korean war, I was put on scientific and professional status and was recruited to upgrade the Army electronics school. I also taught aircraft electronics during the war and they put me in charge of re-writing the curriculum. After the war, I worked in the aviation industry as an electrical engineer, working on aircraft, the turbo train, and Abrams Tanks.

Editor: What type of work do you enjoy the most?

Bob: I enjoy making fully functional miniature engines, gunsmithing and lock-smithing.

E: Where were you born and where did you grow up?

Bob: I was born in New York City in 1929 and I grew up on a small farm in Jewett NY. I currently live in Unadilla NY and Florida in the Winter.

E: Can you tell me a little bit about your shop?

Bob: I have a full shop with lots of hand tools, machine tools and computerized controlled machines.

E: How long have you been a member of the North East Blacksmiths?

Bob: Well..I think I missed only one meeting in the last 30 years.

E: Thank you very much for your time!

Bob: Your welcome.

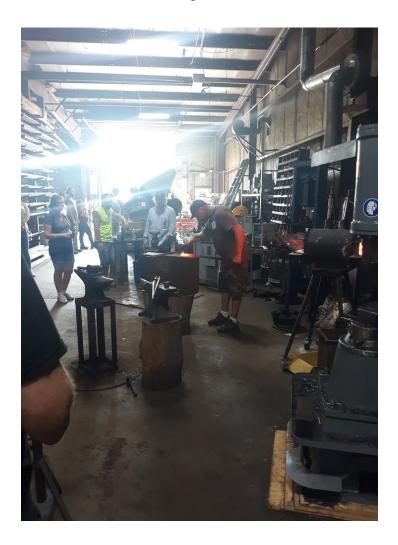


New Section:

"Show us your Shop"

Every newsletter we will be including a new section titled, "Show us Your Shop". If you are interested in sharing photos of your shop and a brief description, please email me at lucas.patsch@gmail.com

This newsletter we will look at pictures from the Greg Phillips benefit BBQ and Hammer-In at Arrowsmith Forge.





Photos by Robert Wayman; taken from the NBA facebook page.

NBA Spring 2019 Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2019 Recorded by Jordan LaMothe

Meeting was called to order at 6:42pm September minutes were read and accepted

Frank Shaw suggested a need to maintain inventory of supplies in the trailer: Safety glasses, oil, etc.

- it was agreed that requirements for supplies should be sent to Tim Neu, and Frank Shaw will pick them up

Audiovisual equipment:

Microphone — Chris Doherty made a motion to purchase a wireless headset microphone for an amount not exceeding \$200

- Motion approved

Camera — Chris is going to research options. We already have the cables and monitor.

- Frank Shaw made a motion to purchase a camera for up to \$600. The purchase would be made in cooperation with Tim Zowada of the New England Bladesmiths Guild, as the camera would be added to the equipment that is shared between the two groups
- Motion approved

Francis Whitaker tapes:

The intention is to have the tapes available for sale at the Fall Hammer-In and at the ABANA 2020 conference

The production costs according to Chris are \$22 per 17 disc set

- Chris requested reimbursement for \$89 in DVD copies and \$39.39 for software
- Request approved

Volunteer needed to move NBA equipment trailer to Greenwich, NY for ABANA conference

- needs to be there before setup for the conference
- there is a place to park our trailer onsite the ABANA trailer is already there
- Phil Clark is working on putting tie-downs in the trailer not yet finished?
- NBA trailer needs to be registered, Tim offered to take care of that
- Tim will also furnish/repair the spare tire for the trailer
- Either Frank Shaw or Dale Martin will bring it to the conference site after the 2020 spring meet

Treasurer's Report:

Tim Neu gave a synopsis of the history of the NBA/Ashokan Center relationship

- Ashokan Center dropped their Constant Contact account, NBA now has our own Constant Contact account and online newsletter
- Tim's current compensation is \$600 in administrative fees for running the event, plus \$100 to store the trailer approximately 20 hours of work
- Tim has increased time expenditures in order to run the independent newsletter
- Frank Shaw makes a motion to raise Tim Neu's compensation to \$1000 to cover the increased workload
- Motion approved
- Phil Clark and Frank Shaw agreed to repair the masonry on the Shop forge with epoxy and bricks
- Need for NBA branding Tim Neu will research options for banner over the table and decal on the trailer

Cost breakdown for Fall 2018 hammer-in at the Ashokan Center:

Internet	\$100
Insurance	\$120
Miscellaneous (tent for Bladesmiths)	\$614
Demonstrator fee	\$800
Demonstrator travel	\$751
Room and board	\$436

Sum total for Hammer-In \$3792.83 Minimum cost per person: \$45

Bank balance after Fall Hammer-In:\$10,735

Non-budgeted debits:

Merchandise - \$1300 Toolbox purchase from Frank Shaw - \$100

Name tags - [not in my notes]

Propane -\$21

Non-budgeted credits:

Iron in the Hat, lottery\$335Auction of donated apron\$100Auction of Nick Rossi's knife\$190

Differences:

NBA spent \$700 more than was brought in \$325 was made in budgeted expenses

Ending Balance after Fall 2018 Hammer-In: \$10,406

Further thoughts on hammer In:

- Increased attendance: 20 people more at Spring 2019 Hammer-In
- Need to invest in Teaching Program equipment as it is a very popular part of the hammer-in
- Phil Clark and Frank Shaw agreed to repair the masonry on the Shop forge with epoxy and bricks

Question raised: "Is ABANA going to cost or benefit Northeast Blacksmiths financially?"

- Costs: moving trailer, inventory re-stock, potential wear/loss/breakage of tools
- Benefits: Merchandise sales, Whitaker tapes sales
- Question to what extent can we leverage the Whitaker tapes
 - They are a unique product that is unavailable elsewhere
- They are entirely un-curated lots of "dead" camera time as it is "real time" recording of demo.

- Need for NBA branding — Tim Neu will research options for banner over the table and decal on the trailer

Fall 2019 Hammer-In:

Doug Wilson is the demonstrator

Spring 2020 Hammer-In:

Proposed demonstrator: Tom Latané, if available

Alternate plan: Michael Wildenstein, and an American Farriers' Association sanctioned event.

- a "cross-over" event aimed at bridging the blacksmith and farriers' communities

Other suggested demonstrators:

- Ellen Durkan Forged, wearable art
- Mitch Frazier Gunsmith from Colonial Williamsburg

Tim suggested need for rack cards to have available for visitors to the Ashokan Center

- aimed to direct people to the website
- Tim agreed to design it

Jonathan Nedbor made a motion to budget \$300 for cards

- Motion approved

NBA Member Demonstrators

Need a list of available blacksmith demonstrators for events (with portable equipment)

- Chris Doherty suggested Brookfield Craft Center has available smiths and equipment
- Tim Neu suggested Fred Von Mechow

Phil Clark made a motion to adjourn, Mike Martin seconded

- Motion accepted

REGISTRATION Fall 2019 HAMMER-IN

On-Line Registration available at www.Northeastblacksmiths.org
If you can't register on-line fill out & mail in the form below

After Sept. 8th there will be a late registration fee

Name	Phone ()
Address	E-mail
City & State	Zip
Check Package choice below Late = postmarked	d after Commuter package = no lodging.
1) \$ 260.00 Adult weekend pkg. : 6 meals, 2 ni	ghts lodging, demo fee & dues. (Late \$280 after Sept. 8th)
 \$230.00 Student weekend pkg. Student ID residue. \$215.00 Adult weekend commuter pkg. 6 me \$180.00 Student weekend commuter pkg. Str. \$130.00 Adult Sat. pkg. 3 meals, demo fee, 	(Late \$260 after Sept. 8th) als, 2 day passes, demo fee & dues. (Late \$235 after Sept. 8th) udent ID required: 6 meals, 2 day passes, demo fee & dues. (Late \$ \$200 after Sept. 8th)
 6)\$ 100.00 Student Sat. pkg. Student ID requir 7)\$ 140.00 Adult Sat. & Sun. Lunch pkg. 2 lunch 	ed: 3 meals, demo fee, day pass & dues. (Late \$110 after Sept. 8th) nches, 2 day passes, demo fee & dues. (Late \$150 after Sept. 8)
,	(Late \$75 after Sept. 8th)
12) \$ 34.00 Student Sat. or Sun. demo fee, day p	ass & dues. (Late \$ 50 after Sept. 8th)
13) \$20.00 Dues only	
Make checks payable to: Northeast Black c/o Tim Neu 511 Beaverkill Olivebridge, N	Rd. Please check box if you would like to participate in the Hands-On Forging"
Special Dietary Needs: Vegetarian	No Red Meat

PREREGISTRATION IS IMPORTANT! Please fill out and return the registration form before April 8th, 2019. Registration fee will be refunded 100% if you cancel by Sept. 8th, After this date, a 50% refund is available.

When: Plan to arrive to the Ashokan by 2:30 PM. Friday Sept. 20th Seminar concludes after lunch on Sun. April 22nd Student ID required for full time student discount rates .

For first time attendee's **Discount \$10**

Meals: Served buffet style with a vegetarian alternative. Please indicate on the registration form any special needs.

Lodging Lodging is bunk house style. Blankets & pillows are provided by the Ashokan Center. Bring your own linens or sleeping bag and toiletries. A separate bunk area will be reserved for couples. For those who may need more privacy, a rustic campground is

Child Participation Scholarship

We have initiated a reduced rate for children that want to participate with their parents in the workshop. This is a limited offer and must be reserved ahead of time. Availability is on a first come first serve basis, Call ahead of time for qualifications and availability [845] 657-7553

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Fall 2019 HAMMER-IN AT ASHOKAN

Friday, Sept. 20th

2:30 PM - Arrival & shop setup

6:00 PM - Buffet Dinner & Registration

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM - Presentation by

Saturday, Sept. 21st

8:00 AM - Breakfast Douglas E. Wilson

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM - Shop: Demonstration by Douglas E. Wilson

Pavilion: Intro. to equipment, fire tending, and hands-on forging skills

12:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM to 1:30 PM - Iron-in-the-Hat drawing, Forging contest judging

1:30 PM to 5:00 PM - Shop: Demonstration by Douglas E. Wilson

Pavilion: Hands-on basic forging skills continued

5:30 PM - Dinner

7:00 PM - Chapter business meeting.

Sunday, Sept. 22nd

8:00 AM - Breakfast

9:00 AM to 11:30 PM – Final demo / wrap up with Douglas E. Wilson

11:30 AM to 12:00 PM - Shop clean up

12:00 PM - Lunch

Safety Alert

To participate in the Hands-on forging area you must

- Wear safety glasses
- Wear non flammable clothing, cotton / wool
- Wear shoes that cover your feet completely, leather.

Personal Release Form

(Please read carefully and sign)

I acknowledge that the blacksmithing activity I am about to participate in is a potentially dangerous activity. I understand that the activity has been organized and is being led by private individuals working as unpaid volunteers, and is not a program of the Ashokan Center. I take full responsibilities for my health, well-being, behavior, and experience during this activity. I agree to exercise appropriate care and awareness during the activity and accept this as my responsibility in consideration for permission to participate. I agree to wear appropriate protective clothing and footwear, and will use protective eyewear at all times while in and near the activity area. I understand and assume the risk and responsibility for any injuries or damages suffered by me arising out of my participation in this event, and any costs I may incur associated with such injuries or damages, or otherwise incurred on my behalf in the furtherance of my well-being or safety.

I release from any liability and surrender all rights to make a claim against the Ashokan Foundation, Inc., the Ashokan Center, Inc., the staff of the Ashokan Center, the members and officers of the Northeast Blacksmiths Association and the persons who are facilitating the event and other participants in the event, as a result of any injury, damage, death, or any other loss suffered by me. This includes any claims resulting from negligence (but not its willful or wanton misconduct) on the part of the property owners or staff of the Ashokan Center.

I have read and understand and agree to the above statements. Signature:______ Date:_____ Printed Name:_____ In the event of an emergency I request and give permission to the organizers to contact the person listed below and to secure appropriate treatment at my own expense. Name (please print)______ Telephone number:______

There are other opportunities to get involved with local clubs. Check out some of these upcoming events:

New Jersey Blacksmith Association- NJBA www.njblacksmiths.org

Middlesex County Fair Mon-Fri, Aug 5-11 We will once again be demonstrating the blacksmith's craft to fairgoers between 5 and 9 PM each evening. We're seeking NJBA members to come out and help demonstrate. You needn't be expert to do so. Please contact NJBA Director Bruce Freeman for more information, specifying which days you would be available.

Red Mill Meet & Picnic Sat, Aug 24 Please plan to attend. Bring all your old stuff for the tailgate sale! Please bring a contribution to the Iron-in-the-Hat fundraiser for NJBA. Please bring money to buy IITH tickets and tailgated items. The picnic is free to NJBA members & families, but contributions to help offset expenses are much appreciated. Admission to Red Mill Museum and Grounds is free to NJBA Members, and tailgaters may park on the grounds, inside the gate. The Red Mill address is 56 Main St, Clinton, NJ 08809.

Open House Sat, Sept 14 NJBA Director Bruce Ringier will host an open house on September 14 @ 10AM. Park in driveway. Location for the event and contact for Bruce Ringier can be found in the newsletter.

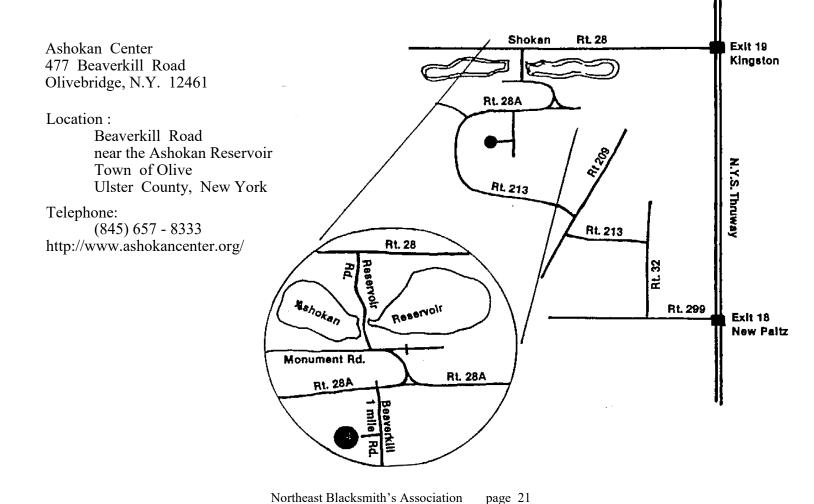
Autumn Steel Bloom Smelt TBD Although we still plan to hold a steel smelt demon-stration, difficulties obtaining supplies have put it off till autumn at the soonest. This smelt will be run by Mark Morrow.

Autumn Gas Forge Workshop TBD We still intend to hold a workshop to construct a gas forge for each participant. We are still looking into the design for this forge and will make further announcements later.

New England Bladesmiths will hosting their Fall meet at the same time as our NBA meet. For more information view www.ashokanknifeseminar.com

Artist Blacksmiths Association of North America – ABANA www.abana.org

The ABANA 2020 Conference
will be held at the
Washington County Fair Grounds
392 Old Schuylerville Road, Greenwich NY 12834
Wed, Jun 3rd – Sat, Jun 6th, 2020
Save the Date!



Editor:

Lucas Patsch 83 Jenkinstown Rd. New Paltz, N.Y. 12561