

HABA
HABA

THE HABA LETTER

The Newsletter of the Houston Area Blacksmith's Association Inc.

To Preserve and Promote the Art and Craft of Blacksmithing
Through Education.

HABA Web Site: www.habairon.org

September - November 2002 Edition

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BOY SCOUTS DEC. 7 – TUDOR FORGE

**ANNUAL HABA KNIFE MAKING
WORKSHOP AND AUCTION**

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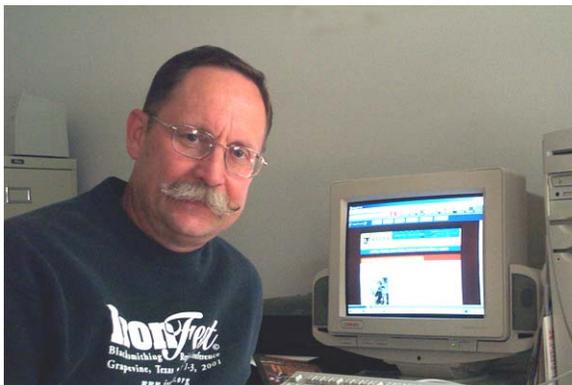
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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dave Koenig

The times, they are a changing!

Most of you know that I accepted an appointment to the ABANA Board of Directors in May of this year. The responsibilities of this position are taking a lot of time. They are one of the reasons for this late newsletter. Helping to organize the September, October and November meetings is another reason.



Dave Koenig

Last week ABANA held a Board Meeting in Richmond, KY. At that meeting I was asked by the board to accept the position of Conference Chairman for the 2004 ABANA Conference. This is a job that will last for the next year and a half.

After returning from the board meeting, I talked with the HABA

Board Members and a few other HABA members. In order for me to accept the Conference Chairman position, I would need to significantly restrict my present involvement in the day to day running of HABA. Before I said yes to ABANA I wanted to receive some assurance that my work with HABA would be picked up and be carried forward. To the person, the response was positive.

I informed the ABANA board that I would accept the job of Conference Chairman for 2004.

As a result of this decision, I will not run again for a position on the HABA Executive Committee. In short I will not be your president or any other officer of HABA. I would like to remain on the board and continue to edit "The HABA Letter". I will remain the HABA President until the board elects a new Executive Committee.

There is no doubt in my mind that HABA will operate differently. There is also no doubt in my mind that HABA will continue to grow in membership and continue its mission to preserve and promote the art and craft of blacksmithing through education.

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If any of you have questions about this change, please give me a call at 281-855-2869.

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DECEMBER HABA MEETING – DECEMBER 7 2002

A group of 7 or 8 Boy Scouts will arrive at Tudor Forge on December 7 to learn more about the art and craft of blacksmithing. It would be good to have at least one HABA member work with one scout. Since HABA now owns two anvils, I think HABA should be able to do provide each scout with his own anvil.

Since HABA had such good results working with high school juniors and seniors at “Construction Career Days” in Humble last month, I would like to see the scouts focus on basic forging processes like drawing, upsetting and spreading to make several different kinds of functional hooks.

Things will get underway about 9:00 and go until about 3:00.

For those of you who would like to become a mentor for a scout interested in getting a Blacksmithing Merit Badge, this will be the time to get more information about the program. Buddy Sullivan will have some particulars about a mentor training program the scouts will put on in February.

What To Bring:

Safety Glasses with side shields are required.

A forge and related tools if you have them.

Gloves, apron and hearing protection are suggested.

A sack lunch unless you will go into town for lunch.

HABA will provide the stock.

Directions to Tudor Forge

Take 249 NW from Houston. Travel through the towns of Tomball, Decker Prairie and Pinehurst. At Pinehurst 249 changes to 1774. Stay on 1774. About three miles ahead on 1774 look for a Texaco station on the west side of the road. One half mile past the Texaco station, turn left or west on Tudor Way. There is a small white realtor office on the corner. You will find the forge about a mile down the road.

From the intersection of 1488 and 1774 in Magnolia, go south on 1774 about 4 miles. Look for Tudor Way just after the Country Jamboree building. If you see the Texaco station you went too far.

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JANUARY HABA MEETING KNIFE MAKING WORKSHOP AND AUCTION JANUARY 18 LA PORTE, TX

DAMASCUS STOCK AVAILABLE!

Lee Oates graciously accepted HABA's fourth invitation to conduct another one day knife making workshop. This year the workshop will take place at Lee's new shop in La Porte, TX. Directions to his shop are below.

Pattern Welded Twist Pattern Stock Available

There is something special this year. You will be able to forge your own pattern welded blade. Lee found a supplier of a twist pattern stock 1/8" x 1 1/8" X 3". Three inches will be required for a blade. The cost per three inch section of stock is \$10. Lee will weld on a carbon steel tang.

There is a catch! You will have to place an order for the damascus with Lee before December 15. Lee can be contacted at 281-471-6060 or bearoates@aol.com.

Lee will also provide a guard for \$5 if you want one and is looking for deer leg bones to use as handles. If you just happen to have any old deer leg bones or antler out in the garage, please bring them along. A piece

about 4" long makes a good handle. For those of you who do not want to work with pattern welded steel, Lee will have carbon steel available. Please confirm the price with Lee.

In short if you want to forge a knife and do not have the materials, Lee will provide what you need at a nominal cost. If you have your own knife supplies, please bring them along to the workshop.

The knife Lee has in mind for this workshop is a skinner. If there is another style you would like to make, I am sure Lee will be happy to give you pointers.

The Auction

This meeting is also HABA's annual fund raising auction. This year there will be some pretty nice pieces on the auction block. One is a 'cablemascus' knife and sheath that Lee made. We have John Crouchet's beautiful two piece riveted light switch cover demo piece from the September flypress demonstration. There are three pickets from Terry Clark's demonstration and a beautiful finial from Rob Lyon's demonstration.

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Please take a look around and see what you can donate to this auction.

This event is also a great opportunity to do some tailgating. Rumor has it there are a couple of anvil's that may be coming up for sale. If you have an anvil or vise, or anything you no longer need, throw it in the truck and put a price tag on it. This event draws a lot of buyers.

HABA will have some commercial forge coke for sale too.

Directions to Lee's Shop

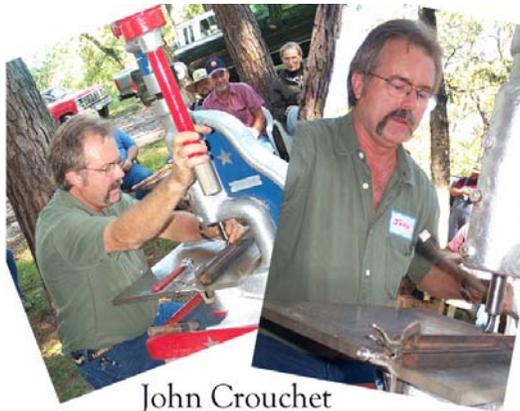
From the East 610 loop travel east on Hwy 225 until you get to Hwy 146. Turn south on 146 and go to Spencer Hwy/Main St. Exit in La Porte. Turn left on Main Street. and go east on Main passing the downtown area, (several traffic lights). About two blocks past the downtown area, there is a large old antique shop on the left (...used to be an old feed store). The next street is UTAH. Turn left and go to the barricades. HABA signs will be up at the turn on Utah Street. Just follow the signs to the shop.

SEPTEMBER HABA MEETING SUMMARY

John Crouchet was the featured demonstrator at the September HABA meeting. He put on a most informative flypress demonstration. John brought his press from Marble Falls and put it through its paces from about 9:00 to 3:00.

John is a great demonstrator and teacher. There was never a dull moment. He had everyone focused all day. It was so good six HABA members are/will be the proud owners of this versatile tool. Robert Killbuck put together an order for four presses which should be delivered this month. The new owners will be Tim

Bailey, Clint Jones, Steve Green and Robert. Les Cook and Bryan Bateman each purchased a press at Gold Machine.



John Crouchet

John told us about the tool's history and all the uses it had over the years. John is a jeweler turned blacksmith. As a jeweler he spent many hours stamping out pieces. Now as a blacksmith he is discovering more and more ways to

save time and produce good results in the blacksmith shop.

A theme that ran through his demonstration is that tooling for the

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press can be made quickly. John added a large flat table to his press to which he clamps fences and jigs that are easy to setup and change.

Three pieces I can remember John making are: a twist, a ring and a beautiful two piece light switch cover. The twist demonstrated how well parallel lines can be made with the press. The sides of the 5/8" stock were punched with a straight chisel and the corners were punched with small round fuller. All of this was done cold. Then the bar was heated and twisted.

The ring was made so fast I did not even see him do it. I saw John marking off one inch sections on a half inch square bar. The next thing I know he had a ring!

To set up for the ring, John set the depth of the press. The marked bar was set between two blocks and the press struck each one inch mark on the bar, bending it the same amount. In no time the straight bar had a ring in it.

The last demo piece was the two piece light switch cover. John had two blanks of 1/8" plate. He stamped the edges of each piece, cut out the corners of the bottom plate, textured the surface in the forge and riveted the two pieces together with copper rivets. If you were not convinced about the value of the flypress before the light cover demonstration, you were hooked now.

Now we need to have more flypress demonstrations by HABA members.

OCTOBER HABA MEETING SUMMARY.



Hammerfest at Oldenburg had a face lift this October. The result was that we drew in more people. Pat Ahuero, who is in the business of organizing things to sell, suggested to us that we reorganize the Oldenburg site to make it more inviting to women. There is one main reason to make the site more inviting to women. Most buyers at the Round Top Antique Show are women.

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In August Pat and Tony Ahuero put on a little seminar about selling. It was great. We put several of Pat's recommendations to the test in October and they worked. (We did miss A. J.'s colorful yard art. It is an attention getter...maybe in April...)

Tom Lundquist, Frank Walters, Les Cook, Dave Koenig, Pat and Tony Ahuero, Arlie and Nancy Beckendorf, Larry and Cindy Hoff, James, Cathy and Richard Porter, Jim Wheeler and Anita Messer were set up to sell and demonstrate. Frank Walters brought his flypress and let people work with it. Frank made some tools for his flypress and stamped a beautiful pine bough in a piece of plate.

Several smiths stopped by to see what was going on and got caught up on HABA and what is going on in the smithing community.

Many people contributed to this event. Kennie and Susan Hall made us all feel right at home. Kennie's brother Eugene made three large round bails of hay available for display and to add some 'curb appeal' to the site. We were all invited to a BBQ dinner Saturday night. Larry and Cindy got the fire started while the Halls made their

way back from the big A&M game. Nelson Randermann provided us with cases of Oak Farm chocolate milk. That milk is good! Nelson also distributed flyers along his milk route again too. Notices were up from Victoria to Brenham. Kennie's aunt Violet Mischer also made sure we got a few extra calories after dinner with another delicious cobbler.



Frank Walter's Pine Bough

Steve Blankinship painted about 15 new signs that were placed along the road in the form of Burma Shave signs and new signs on the site. Pat Ahuero helped set up a central selling area.

Arlie, Les, Dave and Pat all shared the space. Les Cook made some 'arches' that displayed some of Steve's new signs and again added more 'curb appeal'.

By the time the weekend was over many of us were ready to head home. The event is a lot of fun and a lot of work. This year the cedar seemed to be in bloom and there were also some pretty stuffy heads due to the pollen

A big thanks to everyone who helped make Hammerfest a success...including the customers and visitors!

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NOVEMBER HABA MEETING SUMMARY ROB LYON DEMONSTRATION

Rob and Ruth Lyon came to Houston November 15 - 17 for two lectures and two days of demonstration. Rob's first lecture was to the Bayou



Rob Lyon With Trivet

photo by Guido Mattei

Bend Docents Friday morning.

Friday evening his lecture was for the smiths and public at the Tomball Museum. Saturday and Sunday Rob demonstrated how to make a number of early American items found at Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts.

The lectures and demonstrations were very well received. Rob added a whole new dimension to HABA's exposure to the craft this year. By way of contrast Terry Clark demonstrated with large power hammers and 80 pound flat bars. Rob's idea of large stock was 3/8" x 1/2" stock and bigger. The result of each demonstrator's effort was beautiful ironwork.

Two articles about Rob's work in Houston are in the mill. Keep an eye out for the articles in future editions of *The HABA Letter*.

CONSTRUCTION CAREER DAYS

October 29 - 31 HABA took part in an event that was probably the best use of its time and effort to date.

Ed Malmgren is on the board of the American Welding Society. AWS was approached by the organizers of the Greater Houston Construction Career Days to setup a welding area for the event. Since Ed is a HABA member he asked the organizers if they would be interested in having a

blacksmithing group take part. The answer was yes and HABA's answer to the invitation was yes.

Les Cook, Arlie Beckendorf, Dave DeMeris, Larry Hoff, Charles Heathcock, Neal Goza, Dave Koenig, Ed Malmgren, John Forsman, Lee Oates, Jim Wheeler and Robert Killbuck took turns talking with students and administrators and helping people forge a square taper

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on a 3/8" round rod.

The event was really organized.

Everything worked as smoothly as a Swiss watch!



HABA set up five anvils and two forges. One coal forge for one anvil and Frank

Walter's gas forge served four anvils. It was one-on-one non-

Kenny Franks with Students

Four thousand eight hundred students, about 1,600 showed up each morning at the Humble Civic Center. Eight hundred went outside to operate heavy construction equipment and 800 came inside to get their hands dirty forging iron, busting concrete, hanging sheet rock, driving nails and to experience about 20 other construction crafts.

At 10:30, the 800 students outside switched places with the 800 students inside. At noon all 1,600 students and hundreds of volunteers were served lunch. Prizes, scholarships and awards were handed out at lunch in recognition for work the students brought to the event and in recognition of work done at the event. By 1:00 or so the Humble Civic Center was practically empty.

stop teaching with the students for three hours. The interest level in forging was very high. Each student got to keep the taper he or she made.

A special thanks goes to Kenny Franks of Steel Supply, Inc. Steel Supply provided HABA with a box of safety glasses and all of the 3/8" round rod used to make the tapers. Steel Supply also provided all the stock for Rob Lyons' demonstration.

On the last day of Construction Career Days we were a little short handed. Kenny who was set up right next to us came over and took over the job of punching name tags and getting the next group ready to make a taper. By the third day we must have figured out how to teach making a taper because made more tapers than either of the two

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previous days...or so it seemed!

A special thanks goes to Larry Hoff and Arlie Beckendorf for providing an anvil each.

Now that HABA has an idea of what Construction Career Days is all about, there is talk of teaming up

with the welders so that the students will have an opportunity to walk away with some kind of finished item next year.

Construction Career Days is a great way to make a big impression on a lot of people.

DAVE KOENIG LIFETIME HABA MEMBER

At the September 21, 2002 HABA meeting, the HABA Board and attending members presented Dave Koenig, with a beautiful plaque to commemorate the occasion of being made a Lifetime Member of the Houston Area Blacksmith's Association. The plaque reads:

*Lifetime Member.
Dave Koenig, with great appreciation, the Board of Directors, and Members of the Houston Area Blacksmith's Association Inc. bestows lifetime membership for untiring efforts and guidance in the preservation and promotion of the art and craft of blacksmithing.*

Houston Area Blacksmith's Association Inc.,

*September 21, 2002.
Board of Directors:
Dave Koenig, Larry Hoff, Les Cook
Frank Walters.*



Frank Walters & Dave Koenig

Dave was rendered speechless, at least a little while, before he thanked the board and membership for the surprise honor of the Lifetime Membership.

Frank Walters make the plaque. The inscription is etched on a steel plate and mounted on wood. A brass etched HABA logo is mounted on the plate. It's all held together with brass rivets.

Dave joins Bob Collier and Kennie Hall as Lifetime Members.

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LOOKING FOR OLD BOOKS

Dear Friends

I am an antiquarian who was happily put out of business because you can search for out of print or used books for a fraction of the cost. This is because web sites are available.

Here are two good web sites gleaned from 30 years of academic library work:

<http://www.bookfinder.com>

The site takes in all (Amazon.com, Alibris Books, etc.)

The second site is

<http://www.lcmarc.dra.com/lcmarc>

You can search for books in a Library of Congress driven system by a dictionary style index (author, title, subject, key word in title or book). You can select the number of hits from 10 to hundreds. This site you can bookmark, make favorite, etc. You can not link it because it is a proprietary site.

Later,
Chuck Hamsa
squeezebox1@hotmail.com

Jeffery Funk Demonstration Marble Falls - February 22 - 23, 2003

Balcones Forge plans to bring Jeffery Funk to Marble Falls for a demonstration in February 2003. The plans are not confirmed yet but here is a note from Jeffery that will give you a heads-up.

“I was born in Wilmington Delaware in 1955, and lived there until age 17, at which time I began various educational pursuits and travels, eventually ending up in Montana in 1976 to stay for good. My interest in metalwork began as a youth, and after learning to weld and studying bronze casting in college, I took to forge work. However, at that time, there were few opportunities for formal study, and I pretty much just

set up shop and read what books I could find in 1977. Simple living and a passion for learning allowed me to get by on my work as I continued to get deeper into forge work.

From the beginning, I produced both architectural and sculptural work with an emphasis on iron, but also using non-ferrous metals and stone. I earned my living since 1977 with this work, and guess I'll continue as long as my body holds up. Today my work consists of about half architectural metalwork (gates and hardware), and half public sculpture.

I think on Saturday I would like to cover the basics of forging and

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joining mixed metals. I will work with iron, bronze, and stainless steel, and discuss their similarities and differences in forging, welding, joining, and finishing.

On Sunday, I could do a variety of things..... perhaps a hammer if folks are interested. I also am making several different types of West

African bells. And it is always nice to leave things a bit open in case of a major inspiration between now and February.

Jeffrey Funk”
(*This will be a very good program. You might put this on your Calendar. I did. ed.*)

FOR SALE

Jim Wheeler has all kinds of band saw blades for sale. To find out the particulars about his inventory, call Jim at: 281-259-8193.

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