

# HABA HABA HABA 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](http://www.habairon.org)

*August 2005 Edition*

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*AUGUST 20, 2005  
HABA MEETING*

## **The Blacksmith Legacy Tree Project And Tour of Eastham Forge**

NEW MEETING LOCATION-  
Beaumont, TX

The August 20, 2005, HABA Meeting will be a Hammer-In and tour of Eastham forge at Beaumont, TX.

The theme of this meeting is to build something to put in/on a tree. Whatever is made needs to be no larger than the size of your

### The Tree Project

For several years HABA and LAMA talked about having a joint meeting in the Beaumont area which is about half the distance between the two groups. Jerry Baker identified a



meeting location at the shop of Alfonso and Pam Albacete, Extreme Metal Works. Their shop is located in an old feed store and has plenty of space for parking and setting up forges.

hand.....leaves, bugs, birds, knot hole, twig and anything else you can imagine ending up in/on a tree. A proposed name for this event is: **The Blacksmith Legacy Tree Project.**

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Whatever is made would be mounted on a branch made by Alfonso and the



branch would eventually become part of a tree. Each piece would include the makers touch mark or initials. Each branch would also be marked by year.

The work on each branch would become a repository of smiths' work and a record of smiths' touch marks. The iron record could be backed up with a picture of each smith, his work and touch mark and mailing address.

Please make plans to spend a day, Saturday, August 20, 2005 in Beaumont, at Extreme Metal Works, 840 Franklin, Beaumont, TX 77701. Bring or send something for the first branch of the tree or make something there.

## Eastham Forge Tour

Clint Jones organized a tour of Eastham Forge which is right behind Extreme Metal Works. As a tour member you will

have an opportunity to see a 10,000 steam hammer...yes, steam operated.

Odds are good that the hammer with dies of about 2.5 feet by 5 feet will be in operation. In addition you will have an opportunity to see a huge press...150,000 tons???? Take the tour to get the actual statistics.

Each tour will have 5 to 10 people and last about an hour.

## VERY IMPORTANT

In order to take the tour, you personally will be required to provide the following:

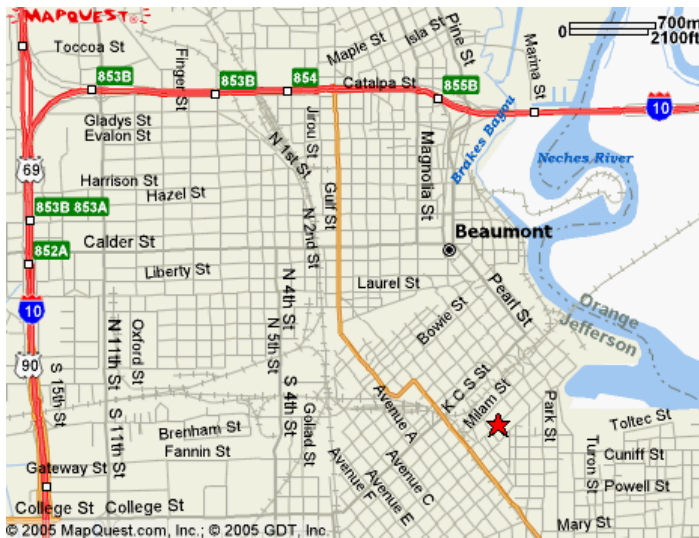
1. Safety glasses with side shields.
2. Leather enclosed work boots/shoes (Steel toed work boots are not required but they are desired.)
3. Hearing protection.
4. A hard hat.

Each person will also need to sign in and out of the plant.

This will be quite an opportunity for the blacksmithing community to see some very large forging equipment. See [www.easthamforge.com](http://www.easthamforge.com) for more information about what the company makes.

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Directions to Extreme Metal Works.

## From Houston

Exit I 10 at the Hwy 90/College Street  
Exit.

Go South to South MLK Jr.  
Parkway.

Turn right on MLK Jr.  
Parkway

Turn left on Franklin Street.  
Follow the signs.

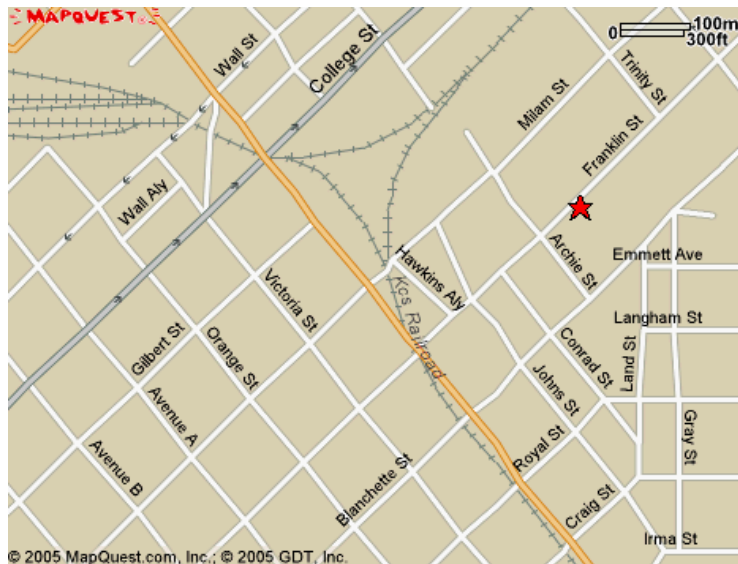
## From Louisiana or Houston

Exit I 10 at MLK Jr.  
Parkway.

Go South on MLK Jr.  
Parkway.

Cross College Street/Hwy  
90.

Turn left on Franklin Street.



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SEPTEMBER 17, 2005

HABA MEETING

## Basic Forging Process and Practice

Our September meeting location is changed to Tudor Forge near Magnolia, TX. The focus of this meeting is to demonstrate and practice basic forging techniques. Beginners can get exposed to basic forging processes and the more experienced can practice skill development and coach.

If you have a portable forge, please bring it to Tudor Forge and fire it up.

Dave Koenig will demonstrate basic forging techniques as described in the Controlled Hand Forging articles which appeared in ABANA's *Hammer's Blow* articles the last few years. Rather than focusing on making something at this meeting the goal is to practice forging process. Learning forging process and improving/identifying skill levels are the 'meat and potatoes' of the articles.

As most of you know, every 'how to' blacksmithing book teaches the basics. And, as with everything else, there is more than one way to do something. Some ways are more efficient than others...but which ones. The ABANA Educational Program Committee set-out to address that question. The committee includes the following people: Dan

Nauman, Jay Close, Bob Fredell, Peter Ross, Tom Latané and Doug Wilson. These people know how to forge! They will also be the first to tell you they learned a lot about forging process as they worked together writing the articles.

Dave plans to demonstrate how to forge square and round tapers, drawing down (Changing the cross section of a bar for example from half inch square to one quarter by five eighths inch.), and spreading.

### What You Need To Bring:

Safety glasses with side shields and other desired personal protective equipment.

A portable forge if you have one and hand forging tools.

Half inch square stock...three or four pieces twenty four inches long suggested...or whatever you have.

Something for the Show-N-Tell table. Bring something you made, purchased found, etc...

Maybe a small item you made or a piece of stock for Iron-In-The-Hat. .

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Something for lunch unless you plan to visit a local eatery.

## **What HABA Will Bring:**

Soda and water.

## **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

Shell station on the west side of the road. One half mile past the Shell station, turn left or west on Tudor Way. There is a small white realtor office on the corner and a sign for High Meadow Ranch. 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 Shell station you went too far.

## **OCTOBER 8, 2005 HABA MEETING**

### **Fall ForgeFest**

#### ***October 8, 2005 Weekend***

HABA Fall ForgeFest is the new name for this October Oldenburg event. After much brainstorming and many false starts HABA Fall ForgeFest seemed to be the best description of what Oldenburg is all about.

#### **NEW BUILDING AT OLDENBURG**

The new name will fit right in with the new 40' x 60' structure Kennie Hall is constructing for HABA's use. We will have a place to get out of the sun and rain. The building will also be a 'people

magnet' to stop people driving to and from Warrenton and Round Top. Please note the last weekend for the Round Top Antique Festival and the HABA Fall ForgeFest is October 7-9, 2005. Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> historically are setup and teardown days. With the new building this may change because many more people are likely to stop and shop.

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## SELL EARLY

If you have a truck load of inventory you would like to sell and would like to show up the weekend before or earlier in the week, that can be arranged. Just call Kennie Hall at 281-682-1425 to confirm arrival and departure times.

Mark the dates on your calendar and start setting aside what you plan to bring.

## DEMONSTRATORS

The demonstrators announced to date are:

- Gary Evensen - HABA (& Balcones)
- Dan Smith - Balcones
- David Barnard Sr. and Jr. - LAMA

- NTBA - TBA

- ETBA - TBA

## TWO AUCTIONS

This year we will be featuring a double Auction with one at High Noon and one in the mid-afternoon. Please donate items from your collection 'of stuff' or make something special for the event! The idea behind two short auctions is to get more of the public involved.

Please contact our organizer Les Cook at: [anvil@flash.net](mailto:anvil@flash.net) or 281-481-2457 for additional information about the HABA Fall ForgeFest.

And, keep an eye out for more HABA Fall ForeFest developments.

## *July HABA MEETING* **Bob Collier and Vince Lusco**

The July HABA meeting was held at **Bob Collier's** shop in New Waverly, TX and over 30 members attended. Bob is a long time and lifetime HABA member well known for his tool sales. Bob recently returned from Colorado with a trailer full of smithing tools. As he says, buying and selling tools is just in his blood and the

local smithing community is fortunate to be on the receiving end of Bob's passion and generosity.



In addition to having smithing tools for sale, Bob invited his good friend and HABA member, **Vince Lusco** tell us how he built his own power hammer

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and show us how it works. Vince brought his homemade pneumatic power hammer down from his Center, TX shop. The hammer weighs about 700 pounds and has a 35 pound ram. Vince and Bob will had it hooked up and ready to work in time for the meeting.

This is a Kinyon hammer which many of you heard about through the years. We had the opportunity to see one in action, and learn many of the ins and outs of putting one together. Overall Vince says it is a very affordable and do-able project for most people.

A learning from this meeting is to hook up a pressure actuated light on the hammer to let the operator and anyone else in the area that the hammer is on and ready to work.

A Very Special HABA Thanks to Bob for hosting the July HABA meeting and another Very Special Thanks to Vince for disconnecting and hooking up his hammer and telling everyone how to build one. Vince's craftsmanship really

showed in his hammer and the oak leaf mirror frame he had on display.

Special Thanks are also in order for Cathy Collier and Kathy Lusco for preparing (with some help from Bob and Vince too) and serving a most wonderful lunch.

A Special Thanks also goes to Karl Schuler of Corpus Christi. Karl brought his laptop and a CD filled with pictures of the house smithing Rob Gunter and his two sons did for a client in Santa Fe, NM. It was a 'first' and great addition to the meeting.

And thanks to everyone who came and pitched in to make it all work smoothly.

The July meeting was hard to beat. There was a lot to see with all of the tailgate items, the Gunter pictures, a great first-hand account of how to build a hammer...and plenty of time to do it. It was the perfect meeting for a very hot day!

## ***Pocahontas Coal Available***

Several Members have said their coal bin is getting low again and Member Cowboy Szymanski brought a big shipment of Pocahontas Coal down from W.Va. If you placed an order or are interested please contact Cowboy Szymanski at his

new shop in Bellville at 713-724-6813.

This clean burning West Virginia coal is similar to what he arranged at George Ranch several years ago.



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## BOOK REVIEW

By Chuck Hamsa, Reviewers Consortium, Lafayette, LA

*Keys: Their History and Collection*

by Eric Monk.

1999. 2nd ed. Shire Publications, Ltd.,  
Cromwell House, Church Street,  
Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire,  
England HP27 9AA UK

Internet: <http://www.shirebooks.co.uk>

Paper. 72 Pp

ISBN Number 0-7478-0422-2. \$14.95

plus S&H

Monk, who was one of the founding members of the Society of Architectural Illustration, created an easily held, information loaded book on locks and keys. His initial aim was to create a work that would help in key identification. He claims that this would not be a technical

manual for locksmiths. In addition to the massive amount of keys presented, you get a treasure trove of photojournalistic information on all forms of lock systems that emerged from Egyptian times to the 19th century and beyond.

Concluding presentations cover suggestions on how much a person might pay for one key or another and a particularly well done set of drawings on comparative sizes of keys for the whole historical period. Appendices include a well done index, suggested bibliography of titles for further research and a listing of museums which have lock and key collections.

## JOHN JAY. FRENCH MUSEUM A NEW BLACKSMITHING GROUP IS FORMING

On Saturday, August 6, 2005, Jerry Alton of Beaumont got Clint and Bill Jones, John Soares, Alphonso Albacete and Dave Koenig together at the French Museum in Beaumont. The purpose of the gathering was to clean up the two blacksmiths shops on the property and to get them working again.

“The John Jay French Museum demonstrates the life of a prosperous Texas pioneer family from 1845-1865. The historic pioneer settlement, built by John Jay French, tanner and merchant, is replete with antique furnishings, clothing and pioneer household utensils. Outbuildings on the grounds include a blacksmith shop, tannery, privy and smokehouse.”

Jerry Alton and the Museum Staff are interested in bringing the crafts back to the museum starting with blacksmithing. The group will meet the first Saturday of the month. The

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next meeting will be September 3, 2005. To get more particulars about this project, call



Jerry at: 409-892-1946. Also see: [www.jjfrench.com](http://www.jjfrench.com)

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