

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

**September 2005 Edition*

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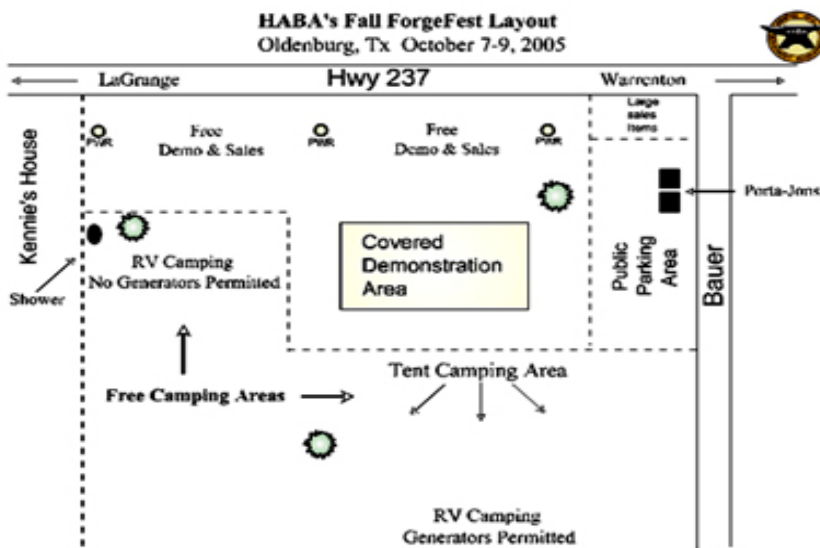
OCTOBER 8, 2005 HABA MEETING Fall ForgeFest Update October 8, 2005 Weekend

This is a reminder/update about HABA's Fall ForgeFest the weekend of October 8. HABA Fall ForgeFest is the new name for this October Oldenburg event. After much brainstorming and many false

building will make a huge difference to both the site and the event. We will have a place to get out of the sun and rain. The building will also be a 'people magnet' to stop buyers and sightseers

driving to and from Warrenton and Round Top.

With the new building we can certainly expect to see many more people stop to shop. Now we just need to make sure we have the inventory to sell to them.



starts HABA Fall ForgeFest seemed to be the best description of what Oldenburg is all about.

Les Cook and Tee Hines made a trip to Oldenburg earlier in the month to sketch the new site layout.

NEW BUILDING AT OLDENBURG

The new name will fit right in with the new 40' x 60' building Kennie Hall is raising for HABA's use. The new

Please note that the last weekend for the Round Top Antique Festival and the HABA Fall ForgeFest is October 7-9, 2005. Friday the 7th and Sunday the 9th have historically been setup and teardown days. However, the new building may change this by attracting many more people to stop and shop.

SELL EARLY

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If you have a truckload of inventory you want to sell and want to show up early, call Kennie Hall at 281-682-1425 to confirm arrival and departure times.

DEMONSTRATORS

The advertised list of demonstrators has changed. HABA lost its North Texas demonstrator before hurricane Rita and now it seems hurricane Rita will force the cancellation of the LAMA and ETBA demonstrators. Our hearts go out to the demonstrators, their families and everyone else caught in the recent disasters.

At the time of this writing, the confirmed demonstrators are:

- Gary Evensen - HABA (& Balcones)
- Dan Smith - Balcones

HABA will have other demonstrators. We just do not know who.

DUAL AUCTIONS

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

The completed demonstration tools from Brent Bailey's demonstration earlier in the year will be featured auction items.

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

August HABA Meeting Summary

The joint LAMA and HABA and East Texas Blacksmith Alliance meeting on August 20, 2005 was really, really hot and very successful. Jerry Baker and Rob Kirby's idea of having a joint meeting between Houston, TX and Lafayette, LA all came together at Extreme Metal Works in Beaumont, TX. Our hosts for the meeting were Alfonso and Pam Albecete. They made us feel right at home. (FYI Pam and Alfonso's home and shop sustained damage by Rita.)

The Tree Project

The purpose of the meeting, in addition to just getting to know each other, was to make something no larger than the size of your hand.....leaves, bugs, birds, knot hole, twig and anything else you can imagine ending up in/on a tree. Whatever was 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.

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Alfonso and his helper, Juan Jose Plaza, made a fantastic branch. As it turned out the twenty one pieces produced for the branch fit perfectly. Here are the people who contributed a piece for the branch:

The branch: Alfonso Albecete and Juan Jose Plaza.

Leaves: Brian Bateman, Richard Boswell, Jeff Lee, John Soares, Allen Lee, Juan Jose Plaza, and Vicki Kirby.

Humming Bird: Tee Hines.

Flower: Les Cook and Richard Boswell.

Butterfly: Clint Jones and Jerry Baker.

Dragonfly: John Regone.

Bird Nest: Carol Reed and Dave

Swelling.

Tomahawk: Mike Guidry.

Acorn: Thomas Schwab.

Worm: Rob Kirby.

Sculptural Forms: *Cow Leaf* by Richard Boswell and *Warped Sense of Humor* by Bill Jones.

A very special thanks need to go to Pam and Alfonso for hosting this special and productive meeting.

A special thanks to the presidents, Jerry Baker - LAMA, Richard Boswell - HABA and John Soares, ETBA, for getting everyone together.

And, of course a special thanks to everyone who worked so hard to contribute to the branch.

September HABA Meeting Summary

The September HABA meeting took place at Tudor Forge. The weather was very hot and the turnout was only about 20 people. Richard Boswell called the meeting to order a little after 9:00 AM. He reviewed all the things HABA has going on in the next few months: the Fall ForgeFest, The Gathering of the Guilds at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, The Work Weekend at Barrington Farm and the November meeting at a new location, Lake Houston Outboard Marine. The featured demonstrator will be A. J. Garrett.

The focus of the September meeting was a series of four basic forging processes as described in the Controlled Hand

Forging articles in past issues of ABANA's publication, *Hammer's Blow*. Dave Koenig demonstrated a square taper, a round taper in mild steel and drawing down a half inch square piece of aluminum to one quarter by five eighths and spread a one quarter by seven eighths inch piece of aluminum to one sixteenth of an inch by three inches.

Les Cook, Richard Boswell, Tee Hines and Fred Titera each setup a forge for the meeting. They also coached people at their forges, in particular Nathan Pitts, and Skeeter and Scooter Redus the sons of Daniel Pitts and Mickey Redus.

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HABA would also like to welcome a new member, Phil Scott from Magnolia, TX. Phil had a good time and we will be seeing more of Phil in the future.

The Show-N-Tell table was filled with all kinds of things. David Bailey brought an anvil collection to show everyone. The anvil which caught everyone's eye was an old colonial style anvil of about 150 pounds.

Richard Boswell showed Brent Bailey's polished HABA demo pieces from the

June meeting. Brent took most of his demo pieces back home and polished them in time for HABA's Fall ForgeFest at Oldenburg, TX. All of Brent's demo pieces will be for sale at auction in Oldenburg.

All of the trucks were loaded up and the doors were ready to be closed about 3 PM. Les, Tee, Richard and Dave did manage to spend the next 45 minutes or so discussing the nuts and bolts of the coming events. Tudor Forge was locked about 4 PM.

November HABA Meeting

The September HABA meeting location will be a new one for HABA!

HABA's host for the November HABA Meeting will be Bill Stone. Bill's shop is Lake Houston Outdoor Marine, 8635 East Mount Houston, Rd, Houston, TX, 77050. Should you need to get in touch with Bill, his number is 281-458-1796.

A. J. Garrett will be the featured demonstrator. If you have been a HABA member for any amount of time, you will know that A. J. is one of HABA's most creative members. He has the uncanny ability to look at what most of us would see as a 'pile of junk' and turn it into many different types of salable metal sculpture.

The hope of this meeting is to have members bring odds and ends from their shops to the meeting and have A. J. lead us through the creative processes he uses to build something new.

What to Bring

Bring a pair of safety glasses with side shields. If you have a welding hood you might bring that too. If you plan to help weld bring all the personal protective equipment you will need for that job.

Plan to bring a lunch or eat at a local restaurant.

Start Time

The plan right now is to begin at 9:00 and the doors will open at 8:00 to get things setup. These times may change.

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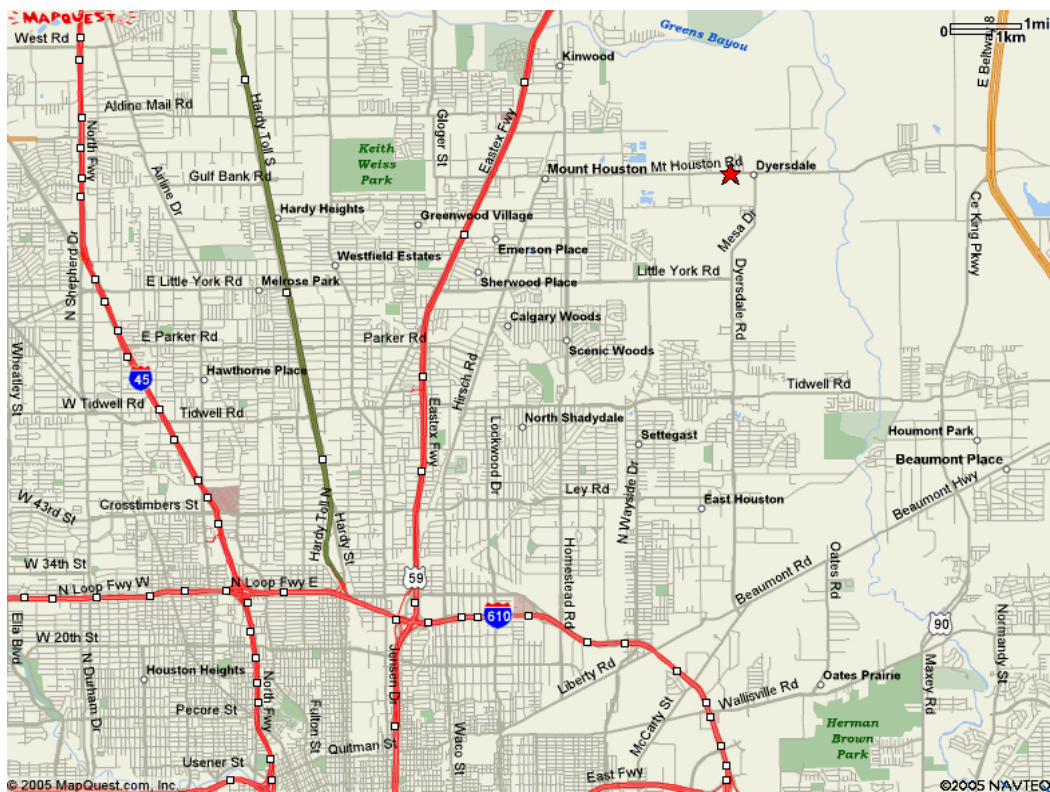
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Directions

Loop go north on Hwy 59. Exit at Mount Houston Road and go east to 8635 and Houston Outdoor Marine.

Houston Outdoor Marine is located east of Hwy 59 North. From I 610 North

HABA Meeting Location - September 2005



The Gathering of the Guilds October 15, 2005

The Houston Center for Contemporary Craft is gathering the craft guilds of Houston at the Craft Center on October 15, 2005 from 10 AM to 3 PM. This is the third gathering and HABA will again represent the craft of blacksmithing. This

event allows people to explore the ins and outs of many crafts in one place.

This year as last year “The Gathering of the Guilds” will be held in conjunction with the Houston Museum District Free

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Family Day. The sixteen museums, including the Craft Center, will be opening its doors to the public. If you have not been to one of Houston's museums in a while, this opportunity is hard to beat.

If you would like to demonstrate at the Craft Center, please contact Dave Koenig

at 281-855-2869 or e-mail him at: tudorforge@sbcglobal.net.

Here is the Houston Museum District's web page:
http://www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org/html/free_day.htm.

HABA Work Day at Barrington Living History Farm October 29 and 30, 2005

HABA is committed to working one weekend per year at the Barrington Living History Farm, a part of Washington on the Brazos State Park. HABA's weekend is the last weekend of October.

The park is located in Washington, TX between Brenham and Navasota. HABA's association with Barrington Farm began before the farm opened about five years ago. HABA gathered smiths from the region and built all the hardware on all of the outbuildings and fence around the Anson Jones' original home at the farm. Barrington was the name of the home of the last President of the Republic of Texas.

This year the farm would like HABA to consider building a steel harrow for the team of oxen, a singletree, an "evener" for the plow and rings for a harness. In the past, several HABA members showed up to make or repair what was needed. It is always an enjoyable weekend for the members and the public who stop by to see what is being built.

For more information about helping out at Barrington, call Dave Koenig at 281-855-2869 or e-mail him at: tudorforge@sbcglobal.net. Here is Barrington Farm web site: Barrington.Farm@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Early ABANA Conference Registration

Early registration for the 2006 ABANA Conference in Seattle, WA is now available online at: <https://www.abana.org/registration/conference/register.php>. For more information about the 2006 Conference, visit: <http://www.abanaseattle2006.com/>.

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A WAY TO HELP SMITHS IN NEED

ABANA established a disaster relief fund for blacksmiths impacted by hurricane Katrina. ABANA members, ABANA Affiliates and members of the public may contribute to this fund.

Donations should be by check, US Postal Money Order made out to "ABANA Relief Fund". Please address your

donation to: **ABANA Relief Fund, P O Box 816, Farmington, GA 30638**

Distribution will begin no later than October 14, 2005 and the last distribution will be made no later than March 15, 2006. Please take a moment and contribute what you can and never underestimate the power of human kindness.

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