



*Southern Ohio Forge and Anvil (SOFA), an affiliate of ABANA, is a nonprofit organization that was formed in 1977. Its founders, Emmert Studebaker, Larry Wood, and Bob Zeller, were inspired by ABANA and former Ohio Artists Blacksmith Association to create an organization to preserve and promote the art of blacksmithing.*



## **OFFICERS**

### **PRESIDENT**

Gary Ward  
(937) 676-2082

### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Eric Brunner  
[ericbrunner@sofablacksmiths.org](mailto:ericbrunner@sofablacksmiths.org)

### **SECRETARY/TREASURER/ LIBRARIAN/AV**

Mike Evanoo  
(937) 572-8029

### **EDITOR**

Roy Adams  
(937) 397-7392

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mike Brennan  
(740) 490-7311

Bob Cruikshank  
(937) 323-1300

Daryle Painter  
(937) 570-0092

Mike Roberts  
(614) 804-2705

Steve Roth  
(937) 681-3053

Brian Thompson  
(937) 878-9023

Joel Worley  
(937) 638-9518

Director Emeritus  
Larry Wood  
(757) 442-2660

Director Emeritus  
Frank Woolley  
(937) 214-2512

## Upcoming Events

**Apr. 11-15 (Mon.-Fri.)**

*Workshop: American Bladesmith Society (ABS) - Handles and Guards (must pre-register)*

**Apr. 13, Wednesday 6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. Open Forging**

**Apr. 20, Wednesday 6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. Open Forging**

**Apr. 27, Wednesday 6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. Open Forging**

### Table of contents

1. Front Cover
2. About SOFA
3. Upcoming Events
4. President's Corner/  
Editor's Letter
- 5-9. Articles by Raymond  
Devine
10. Friday night opening  
ceremonies anvil pour
11. Saturday night forging  
competition
- 12-13. This year's  
demonstrators
14. Article by Jessica Adams
- 15-18. Gallery
19. Classifieds
20. Back cover

### Contact Information

**SHOP LOCATION:**  
Miami County Fairgrounds  
650 N County Road 25A  
Troy, OH 45373-1397, USA

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
Southern Ohio Forge and Anvil  
P.O. Box 727  
Troy, Ohio 45373

**HOURS:**  
**10am-3pm** 1st Saturday of each  
month unless it falls on a holiday,  
then it is rescheduled the following  
Saturday.  
**6pm - 10pm** every Wednesday  
(except holidays) from October  
through May



### President's Corner

The SOFA board is focused on three major priorities — First and foremost, "Safety", second is "Creative and Friendly", third "Education". Priorities 2 & 3 are always in a close race with each other; but our number 1 priority, "Safety", is ALWAYS number one.

Anyone knows coming into a blacksmith shop, there are inherent dangers. Even though everyone always takes reasonable precautions at all times, you can still get burned or scratched; it comes with the territory. If you think nothing can happen to you, then you probably should take up quilting. Just be careful of the occasional needle prick; or, you could just stay home and vegetate.

Recently, we had an issue where we were asked by an insurance company to cover a burn someone obtained at the shop. We forwarded our liability release document; and it looks like they now understand who we are, what we do, and that we are a group of volunteers who like to have fun in our blacksmith facilities.

So just a word of caution to those folks who allow others to come into your shop — you should consider a release of liability form as well as a few signs posted in your shop in reasonable locations so that it's clear that they are there at their own risk. Don't assume all is well; your friend is not the problem, but the hospital and the insurance company could become a problem to you. Always practice safety; always intervene if you see something unsafe; be Creative and Friendly, and Educate.

Lastly, don't forget our annual Quadstate event this September 23-25, 2016. It is an international event, the biggest and best yet! We are working on a couple of additional international demonstrators and as of now, we do have confirmed, Heather and Kevin Harvey, both Master Bladesmiths, as two of our demonstrators. It is going to be a very exciting, eventful weekend and may be the only time for in your life to see multiple international demonstrators at one gathering.

Please note...The same weekend as our Quadstate, there is a Presidential debate in Dayton and also the Tipp City Mum Festival, so hotel rooms are already hard to come by. I recommend you get your reservations booked as soon as you read this.

Gary Ward, *President*

### A Moment with Roy the Editor

It's that time of year again after Quadstate, where pocketbooks are empty and anticipation for the tools that were bought are held high. Hope all that attended had a great time, and all you slackers who couldn't make it — better luck next year.

Last year was a good year for me, and I trust it was for all of you out there as well. In November, I had the opportunity to attend a Traditional Joinery class taught by Clay Spencer at John C. Campbell Folk School; what a blast! That was my last class of the season. In all, I was able to take a total of five classes. As time permits, I hope to take a lot more this upcoming year.

In the month of December, I started a YouTube channel, Christ Centered Ironworks, geared towards the absolute beginner. I will be teaching introductory forging practice and principles plus simple tooling. If you get a chance, go check it out here: [tinyurl.com/christcenteredironworks](http://tinyurl.com/christcenteredironworks)

I hope and pray that all of you have a great new year filled with lots of fire, smoke, and sweat! Keep those forge fires going!

Roy Adams, *Editor in Chief*

I welcome input from members. Feel free to write an article and email it to me at [christcenteredforge@yahoo.com](mailto:christcenteredforge@yahoo.com). Also, you can let me know if you find any other interesting tidbits related to blacksmithing, or if you have something for sale to put in the classifieds.



## *Quadstate through the eyes of Raymond Devine*

It was a sunny autumn morning in late September at the Miami County Fairgrounds. Quad State, the largest annual US blacksmith conference, sponsored by Southern Ohio Forge and Anvil, had begun rolling. The fairground was already filling with enthusiastic blacksmiths and metal artists, eager to shop, and learn.



I was headed for the Administration building to register but stopped to chat with vendors whenever I saw an interesting display or an interesting face. Todd Andrews, hailing from 84, Pennsylvania and offering a selection of hammers and tongs told me Quad State "is simply a great show". He loves coming to Troy, Ohio for this gathering because of the variety of friendly metal workers he meets.



Ed Anderson recently relocated from Arizona to settle in Lucasville, Ohio. Ed's a blacksmith and was selling, among other things, an impressive trip hammer complete with twelve sets of dies. And perched high on his trailer of offerings was a replica of an old-time horse-drawn wagon that he built while in Arizona. It sported crisp oak woodwork and beautifully fashioned ironwork. The sides of the wagon proudly declared "Anderson Blacksmith".

Bob Armstrong, from Bethel, Ohio told me that he has been a tool collector for years and years and found Quad State to be an ideal place to sell tools and to discover specialized, unique tools. His centerpiece this year was a huge battered hunk of iron. A thick top supported by heavy slab sides, maybe a foot or fourteen inches high. Looked heavy. "It's an oilfield anvil from Oklahoma", Bob said. "They didn't treat them very well out there". Truly a collector's piece.

I ran into Steve Roth, a director of SOFA. Steve is heavily involved (read year round) in putting this blacksmith conference together. You could say that Steve is a combination of General Manager and the concierge of a luxury hotel. He fixes problems so the three day show stays on schedule at the same time striving mightily to guarantee the guest is going to have a memorable visit. But, asking him a question during the beginning of Quad State means you have to match his quick step as he marches toward a problem, at the same time choosing a simple topic, because you're head-on competing with questions on the fly from other club members crossing paths and hastening on the way to manage their own areas of the conference.



Steve told me this year marked a new record for attendance, one thousand one hundred ninety-three! Even the number of vendors spiked this year at over 150. If you were a blacksmith, metal artist or knife maker and needed a tool or had a question about smithing, shaping metal, or finishing metal, this charming county fairground in Troy, Ohio was the place to find the tool or to find the answer. This gathering is focused on education stemming from the early efforts of Emmert Studebaker. On his own farm not far from Troy, Emmert sought to reignite interest in this ancient skill 44 years ago. Emmert established the first conference, calling it Quad State

because he hoped attendees would come from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky.

As we parted, Steve added that someone had made a casual tally of license plates the evening before and found 26 states were represented! Plus there were over two dozen vehicles from Canada. Impressive numbers all around. Emmert and Bob Zeller and Larry Wood did impressive missionary work forty plus years ago.

I detoured through the Gallery, and it was a feast for the eyes. So many men and women, blacksmiths, artists, masters of copper work, had put their most interesting work on Kloss, a SOFA organized it so that turned your head something fresh and The Gallery grows in and without doubt sidered a show all of King, a member from busy setting up U set aside with a stations, equipped



display. Kristi member, carefully each time you there was interesting to see. size each year, can be con- its own. John Columbus, was Forge, an area number of work with forges, anvils

and tools, to learn on and to try new things. John will guide you, whether you are a newbie to forging, or someone looking to try a new technique. In the same manner that Emmert wished to teach new things, the format of the show took a new direction this year. The Board of Directors invited schools of blacksmithing from all over to send presenters who would display their style of teaching, their specialty in metal work in a three hour period. Sort of like a risk free trial run for the attendees. It worked out that in any period of the weekend there were three to five different presenters available, talking, explaining, and showing how they did things. The combination of offerings resulted in a rich buffet of skills and topics of metalwork to learn.



I caught part of a session with Dan Nauman from ABANA, the Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America. Dan is a good blacksmith and obviously very comfortable in the shop talking, while hammering, or keeping an eye on the piece in the fire.



pictures that looked like those same items. Understand now, that the pieces in the books are usually held by noted museums in Europe, or perhaps contributing to the lofty grace of a cathedral in Italy, but all of them dating way back. And here they were on a Saturday morning in Troy, Ohio.

Over time I've heard a number of comments about centuries-old ironwork, phrases like "well, that kind of work is part of history." Or, "Nobody knows how to do that work anymore." "It's too time consuming." And, "It isn't done nowadays."

Ernie said that same thing about his work, "folks told me it can't be done". I guess he took it as a personal challenge. Because now Ernie Dorrill does that kind of work and does it consistently. As he spoke you grasped his sense of commitment to create the extraordinary piece. Almost offhand he mentioned the importance of the layout stage; it has to come before you ever pick up a hammer. More firmly he added this reminder "be precise, not casual". "Get the registration right", so pieces will mate up later on.

Ernie's got books full of ancient metal work, some of the same ones I have. But the margins of the pages in his books are crammed with his own handwriting. He takes the time to unravel the five hundred year old mystery of a piece, and then he writes it down. He outlines the path and necessary sequence of steps to make one of these incredible pieces.

Ernie emphasized getting it right at each step, so hours of careful work don't suddenly vanish in a small fountain of sparks. Doing it the way blacksmiths did it four or five hundred years ago.

Ernie allowed that experience is a difficult teacher because she gives the test first and the lesson after. That brought a round of knowing laughter. He went on, "you must have patience", he paused, "determination" pause, "and persistence". He smiled a little bit and added, "and then you can do almost anything."

*Raymond Devine Views of Quad State 2015*



## Opening Ceremony

The bleachers were packed on Friday evening during the opening ceremony. The featured demonstrator for the evening was Alabama Art Casting. They exemplified pouring of a cast steel anvil.





Steve Ash, New England School of Metalworking - Carpenter's Hewing Axe

Dave Collier, Broken Hammer Forge Effective Hand Forging Techniques

## Forging Competition

As always, this Quadstate featured a forging competition. Each pair of blacksmiths were allotted 20 minutes to complete a hinge.



Bob Rupert, Touchstone Center for the Crafts - Power Hammer Techniques

Rob 'Thak' Martin, Thak Ironworks Articulated Gauntlet



Ric Furrer, Door County Forgeworks Forge Welding and Blade Development

Dick Sargent, Adirondack Folk School Traditional Hinges



Dan Nauman  
ABANA Forging Fundamentals



Darrel Markewitz, Wareham Forge  
Aristotle Re-Melting Furnace



Mathew Parkinson, Gillford Arts Center  
Forging and Finishing a Kitchen Knife



Paul Garrett, JC Campbell Folk School  
Tool Making



Christopher Daniel, Blue Hell Studio  
Beginner Projects



Butch Sheely, American Bladesmith  
Society - Forging Tomahawk

## Articulated Gauntlet

by Jessica Adams



Rob Martin of Thak Ironworks presented "Articulated Gauntlet" on Saturday morning. He demonstrated the many pieces that go into a gauntlet with the help of two assistants. Normally this project is taught over a two day, 16 hour class. Rob was really moving to accomplish his goal within his 3 hour period.

Through his demonstration, Rob shared many interesting tidbits as well as the specifics for building your own gauntlet. For example, he pointed out that a whole suit of armor weighs about 60 lbs and it was built to fit a specific person. A gauntlet cannot bind up at all; otherwise it would render holding a sword useless. He said, "The secret is a thousand hammer blows... you know what you need to do to make the shape".

All of the pieces of the Gauntlet were worked cold. Twenty gauge sheet metal was used in most places; and 14 gauge sheet metal was used on the knuckles because it has to be ground down. He used a Whitney punch to make the holes on the sides of the wrist pieces. Another tool he highly recommends for anyone looking to get into this type of work is the Beverly Shear. At his home shop he uses an arbor press for making the slots where the pieces overlap. When he checked the movement, he temporarily installed bolts. He used poster board on his arm for his blank to fit the pieces to.



Rob pointed out that sheet metal moves around a lot, so you must move it back and forth in ever tightening circles until it ends up where you want it. He used a tool to emboss veining in the knuckle grinder. He mentioned that it fed through like a sewing machine. The fluting was used to add rigidity to the metal.

He worked the piece for the cuff on a stake tool. He said that there is a learning curve using a stake, that you have to feel out where you are hitting since you can't see it.

Piece by piece, he explained the formation and the assembly of the gauntlet. With the two assistants ready and waiting, the pieces came together quickly at the end and he still had 10 minutes to spare until lunch! For anyone that is interested, he offers a two day class on this project.

# This Year's Gallery





# Classifieds



If you are looking for a fun vacation this summer that involves blacksmithing, Touchstone is a great place to consider! It's about a 4 hour drive from the Club, located in the beautiful mountains of Farmington, PA. They offer a wide

array of classes for beginners to advanced smiths. This year they will have instructors such as Glenn Horr, Bob Rupert, Mark Aspery, Wayne Apgar, and many others. Weekend workshop tuition is \$242, and weeklong classes cost \$530. If you're strapped on cash, you can apply for a scholarship. Check out more at [www.touchstonecrafts.org](http://www.touchstonecrafts.org).



## FOR SALE:

Early Champion coal fired forge with a custom fit stainless steel vent hood. Hearth @ 22" and blower @ 9". Blower in good condition. Forge body in good condition. Mortar has a few cracks and slight erosion near the grate. Asking: \$400.00, but I need a few items to set up my gas forge, so some trading is possible. Call Tony at 740-404-2412 or email [t2kiefer@yahoo.com](mailto:t2kiefer@yahoo.com).

*Join Us at the* **Village**

**SAUDER VILLAGE**  
22611 ST. RT. 2 • P.O. BOX 235  
ARCHBOLD • OH • 43502

*Join the craftsmen at Sauder Village who form a community of talented artisans in contemporary and historical trades. We are seeking a highly skilled Blacksmith with comprehensive knowledge of the field.*

- Independent business opportunity
- Attractive, well-designed facility includes...
  - 2040 sq. ft. work space
  - Double coal forge & gas forge hook-up
  - Overhead cranes
  - 2 power hammer foundations
  - In-floor heat
  - Gallery & Office space
- Located at Ohio's largest Living History Village
- Annual attendance about 100,000

**Sauder Village**  
Fun in the Past

See our website & learn more about us... [www.saudervillage.org](http://www.saudervillage.org)  
For more information on this opportunity call... 800.590.9755

**SOFA**  
Southern Ohio Forge & Anvil  
P.O. Box 727  
Troy, OH 45373

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
TROY, OH  
PERMIT #613