

Summer Issue 2014



*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.*

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Director Emeritus  
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## Upcoming Events

**Aug. 02, Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** *Monthly Meeting*  
**Aug. 18-29** *Weekdays American Bladesmith Society Basic Bladesmithing course*  
**Aug. 22-24** *Annual ABS Conference*  
**Sept. 06, Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** *Monthly Meeting - Quadstate Preparation*  
**Sept. 26-28, Friday - Sunday**  
**QUADSTATE CONFERENCE**  
**Oct. 04, Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** *Monthly Meeting*  
**Nov. 01, Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** *Monthly Meeting*  
**Dec. 06, Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** *Monthly Meeting*

### Table of contents

1. Front Cover
2. About SOFA
3. Upcoming Events
4. President's Corner  
Note from the Editor
5. Mid-America Blade-smithing Symposium
- 6-12. Demonstrations
13. Quad-State 2014
14. Classifieds
15. Membership App.
16. 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



First of all, my apologies to the membership for the delay in the production of the newsletter.

Roy Adams, long time SOFA member, has stepped up to the plate and volunteered to be the new newsletter editor. Many thanks, Roy, for your volunteerism. We had to also locate a new printer and new mailer all at the same time, so transition was not easy. You may notice changes in the format. Roy is also searching for content for the newsletter, so please forward any pictures with descriptions you have that would be of interest to the membership, or maybe even an article of a recent blacksmith event you have attended.

2014 is shaping up to be an awesome year for SOFA and the SOFA membership. The SOFA Board has been very busy bringing more to the membership. We have come to an agreement with the American Bladesmith Society to open a bladesmithing school at the SOFA facility. For those of you not familiar with the ABS, I describe them as an elite group of knifemakers. They really are the finest bladesmiths in the world. SOFA is honored to host their school at our facility. Please watch for class openings in future newsletters and on the SOFA website.

Secondly, we are hosting the ABS hammer in at the SOFA facility in mid-August (see details in this newsletter).

Lastly, we are expecting a record crowd this year at our annual Quad State (see details in this newsletter). Long time SOFA member and SOFA Director, Mike Roberts, has graciously taken on the responsibility of "Quad State Coordinator". Mike has some great new ideas for Quad State, and an awesome program set up for the Friday night opening ceremony. He also has for you great new options for the entire event. This year promises to be the best ever (or at least until next year). As you are all aware, SOFA strives to raise the bar every year, at every event.

I hope to see each of you this year at Quad State, and to have an opportunity to catch up with you and see what blacksmithing projects you brought to the "art gallery".

In your service,

Gary Ward

### A Moment with Roy the Editor



Dear Fellow Blacksmiths,

Greetings from your new Sofa Sounds editor! My name is Roy Adams. I do a bit of every type of forging...from practical to ornamental. I'm the fellow who demonstrated the rasp snake at the April 2014 club meeting.

I've been a member of SOFA since 2009. It has really been a blessing for me, to have access to the tools, knowledge, and workshops available through SOFA. I appreciate all the hard work that people put in to keep the club running. I've taken up the position as Sofa Sounds editor, to give back to the club who has done so much for me!

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.

Keep those forge fires going!

Roy Adams, *Editor in Chief*

# Mid-America Bladesmithing Symposium

August 22, 23, and 24, 2014

Offered by the American Bladesmith Society, Inc.

Hosted by the Southern Ohio Forge and Anvil  
Blacksmith Association

**Location: Miami County Fairgrounds**  
**650 County Road 25A**  
**Troy, Ohio 45373**

**For more information, contact:**

Butch Sheely (419) 832-5801 or email [sheelyblades@gmail.com](mailto:sheelyblades@gmail.com)

**Registration: \$65**

Pre-Register and pay the \$65 Registration fee online in the ABS Store or Cindy Sheely, ABS Office Manager at [cindy@americanbladesmith.com](mailto:cindy@americanbladesmith.com) or (419) 832-0400

**Accommodations:**

Electrical Hook-ups & Primitive Camping, washrooms & showers are available, no sanitary hook-ups.

**Super 8 Motel** (937) 339-6564, 1330 Archer Dr, 1-75 exit 73 East to Archer Dr, ask for ABS rates

**Best Western Luxbury Inn** (937) 335-0021, 1375 W Ohio Rt 55, 1-75 exit 73 East to Dorset Rd on left

**Econo Lodge**, (937) 335-0013, 1210 Brukner, 1-75 exit 73 East to Archer Dr turn right just before Waffle House

**Best Value Motel** (937) 339-1515, 30 Troy Town Dr, 1-75 exit 74 West turn left on Troy Town Dr.

**Holiday Inn Express** (937) 332-1700, 60 Troy Town Dr, 1-75 exit 74 West turn left on Troy Town Dr.

**Residence Inn by Marriott** (937) 440-9303, 87 Troy Town Dr, 1-75 exit 74 West turn left on Troy Town Dr.

**Comfort Inn Piqua** (937) 778-8100, 987 E Ash St., 1-75 exit 82 East, connected to mall next to Interstate

**Travel Lodge Tipp City** (937) 667-2481, 1100 W Main, 1-75 Exit 68

## February 2014 Belt Buckle Demonstration Demonstrator Chip Brown



This month's demo was straight from the mind of Chip Brown, custom leatherworking and blacksmithing enthusiast. He demonstrated to us all, how to make a Viking era belt buckle.

He was very informative, and the demo was short and sweet!

**Materials:**

3/16" x 1" Flat stock

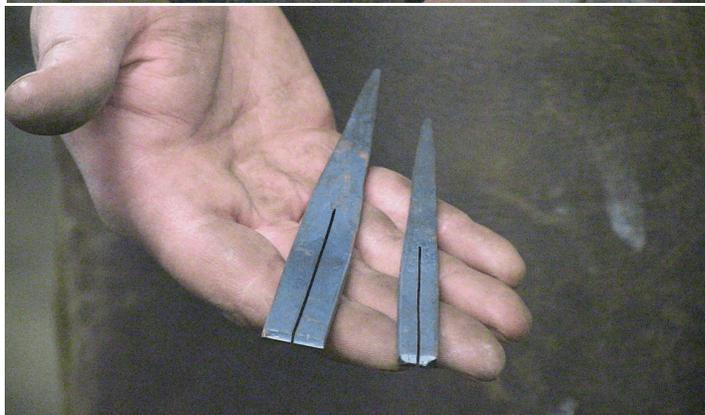
**Tools:**

Chisel, hammer, and scrolling tongs

1. He started out by drawing out a very simple taper.

2. Then he cut off the piece from the parent stock. In the photo, he shows two different sizes that he has made.

You will also notice that he used a band saw to cut them for about 2".





3. Next, he spread and tapered the split end to look like this.



4. Then he rounded them up like so.



5. The next part got a little tricky... he needed to make sure that he tapered them enough so they would be equal when he scrolls them inward.



6. As you can see, he did a good job. They should look like this.



7. The final step was to bend the scrolls back into a graceful hook. He gave the whole buckle a slight bend and bent a small prong on the tapered end.



8. And now he can hold up his drawers! Thanks, Chip, for a great demo!

## March 2014 Forge Welding Demonstration Demonstrator Steve Roth



1. This month's demonstrator was our very own Steve Roth. The knowledge this man has about forge welding and forging in general is absolutely amazing. During his demo, he exhibited various forge welds including some really tough ones.



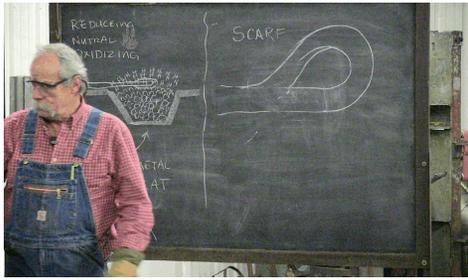
**Materials:**  
Flux  
Metal  
Lots of coke (pre-burnt coal)

2. In the second photo, Steve was explaining the elements of a good welding fire for a coal forge.



3. The first weld he tackled, with ease might I add, was the link weld. On the board behind him, he was showing the way the ends of the link would come together in order to be welded and have enough material extra.

## April 2014 Rasp Asp Demonstration Demonstrator Roy Adams



4. The next weld he moved onto was the simple, but elegant, loop weld, as shown on the chalk board behind him.



5. In this photo, he is doing another type of weld called drop the tongs for a really neat fire poker.



6. Next he was cleaning up the joint.



7. Final shaping!



8. A few minor adjustments...



9. And this is what a master blacksmith looks like! OH YEAH!!! Thanks, Steve, for a great demo...



This month's demo was an in-depth look at how to make a file become a snake!

### Materials:

- (1) 14" Ferrier's rasp (used is fine)
- (1) 3/8" x 16" piece of mild steel rod

### Tools Needed:

- (1) 1" bottom swage
- (1) 3/16" eyeball punch
- (1) round center punch
- (1) slit chisel



1. You start by rolling up the edges of the rasp using your swage block, being careful not to hammer too hard (that would destroy the scales). You continue doing this for the whole length of the rasp until you get to where the jaws are supposed to be. It should look like a "u".



2. At this point, it is a good idea to straighten any bending with a rawhide mallet. Also, it is easy to correct any twisting by any misplaced hammer blows. Make sure to keep it clean with a wire brush as you forge.



3. Now for the 3/8" bar... put the 3/8" bar in the "u" shape, and close up the tail. Work your way back up to the head of the snake.



4. Make sure when you put in the bar, it does not come up completely to the tang. Leave this area open for the tongue. At this point, you can start to split the tongue, as pictured.



5. After the tongue is split, it should look something like this.



6. Now bend the tongue back into the jaw area, and close up the head and jaw area.



7. It should look something like this. Make sure to bend your tongue so it is not in the hottest part of the fire for your next heat.



8. Now finish shaping the head by hammering behind the jaws on the far side of the anvil, then putting a light taper to the nose also using the far side of the anvil.



9. Now to the vise! This is a tool Roy uses to aide in punching the eyes and nostrils into the snake. It is called a "v block"- simply put, a triangle piece welded to a scrap piece of angle iron.



10. The finished head should look like this. Use your eyeball punch first, then your center punch for the nostrils and a small slot punch for the pupils. Next spread the tongue.



11. Good news- you're almost finished! Flip the snake around and draw out the tail. (Tail has to be welded first).



12. Optional step- use hot cut/hardie tool to fuller small grooves/rings around the snakes tail, if you want a rattlesnake. Beware of cutting off the tail!



13. Now just bend her up, using whatever is handy. Roy likes a good bending fork, but you can use the horn of the anvil, and a rawhide mallet instead.



14. Voila! Finished product! Good luck :)

## Quad State 2014!!!

September 26 - 28, 2014

Miami County Fairgrounds  
*Information and details will be posted soon!*  
*Please plan to attend*

Each year one of the largest Blacksmithing Conferences in North America occurs on the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of September at the Miami County Fairgrounds in Troy, Ohio USA.

Quad State is organized each year by Southern Ohio Forge and Anvil and grew out of the early gatherings that founder Emmert Studebaker held on his farm. About a thousand smiths come from all over the U.S. and other countries for four days of demonstrations, vending, tailgating, forging contests, and the fellowship of celebrating our craft.

**You won't want to miss it!!!**

## **Classifieds**

### Variety of Blacksmith Tools

**For Sale:** 41 inch, 36 inch, and 18 inch cone anvils/cone mandrels, forge blower, foot vice, 78 lb Arm and Hammer Anvil, 146 lb Peter Wright anvil, 152 lb Peter Wright anvil made between 1856 and 1860, 235 lb Mouse Hole anvil. I also have tongs, hardies, hammers, and coal for sale. If interested please call or text (740) 703-2951

### 25 Lb. Anvil

I have a 25 lb. anvil for sale, great condition, \$40.00. I also have for sale a piece of old railroad track 2 ft long, 40 lbs., for \$20.00. Call Steve at 769-1004.

### Wanted: Blacksmithing tools

**Wanted:** Blacksmith anvils and other related items. Old tools, and vintage farm equipment and tools. Call (740) 978-8036

### Wanted: Blacksmithing tools

I am just starting out, and I am looking for some of the basic blacksmith tools such as hammers, tongs, an anvil, and even a forge. If you have any of the items and are interested in selling, please call (419) 934-0532

### "The Working Man's Friend"

Robert "Bob" Cruikshank's  
Iron Emporium  
Deals Extraordinaire

Always a great selection of gently used blacksmith tools and now the purveyor of the famous Bob Zeller inspired forge fire pots in Association with SOFA! If you burn coal, this fire pot is a must have! It is most durable, has a replacement clinker breaker, and comes completely assembled and ready to use. I have used one that is simply dropped forged into a steel plate on top of my forge without any fire brick. Don't settle for cheap imitations!  
Call Bob at (937) 323-1300