



**Now and Then**  
Newsletter of the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild  
**April 2016**

<b>Inside:</b> <b>Club Information</b> <b>Meeting Notes</b> <b>General Notes</b> <b>Items of Interest</b>	<b>Editor's Notes:</b> Woohoo...Blacksmith Fling Season is in FULL SWING!! What fun Blacksmithing is. The people who do this are so giving and freely share information [and if they have extra, even supplies]. SusanPlank.svbgeditor@gmail.com
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**Club Information**

**SVBG Board of Directors**

President...Dewey Baker      contact preference through email: chevy38truck@gmail.com  
or message him on Facebook by typing in Dewey Baker and messaging him;  
if you must contact him by phone only call between 8 am & 8 pm at (540) 421-5510; He is  
unable to be reached by phone on Monday evenings between 7 & 9 pm for Boy Scout Meetings  
and the 1st and 2nd Tuesday evenings between 7 & 9 pm for Ruritan Meetings

Shop Master...Everette Burkholder    (540) 879-9260

Secretary/Treasurer...Karen Robertson      (434) 989-2206      email: ksrobertson7@gmail.com

Librarian...Daniel Burkholder      (540) 879-9260

Safety Officer...Matt Williams    (910) 465-0463      email: stonecrestforge@gmail.com

Web Master...Darrell Gilman    email: web.svbg.darrell@gmail.com

Photographer...Dirk Gold    email: dirkgold@gmail.com

Coal Manager...Ed Fleming    email: flemishfoke@hotmail.com

Facebook Administrators...    Drew Alexander      email: magicdrew88@gmail.com  
Dale Morse      email: vulkanschmiede@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor...Susan Plank      (540) 896-1232      email: SusanPlank.svbgeditor@gmail.com

Guild Master - Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing, Dale Morse      (434) 960-9718  
email: vulkanschmiede@yahoo.com

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**More information on the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild can be found at these locations:**

The Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild website can be located on the internet at  
<http://svbg.squarespace.com>

and

On Facebook, like us at Shenandoah Valley Blacksmithing Guild

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**Club Information - Continued**

**2016 SVBG Calendar of Events**

Note: There are still plenty of chances to demonstrate this year. One demonstrator is needed in June, three demonstrators are needed in September and one demonstrator is needed in December. Contact Dewey Baker, SVBG 2016 President, at our monthly SVBG meeting or contact him by using information on the previous page.

**Has Occured:**

January	14th Monthly Meeting - James Spurgeon demonstrated "Venturi Style Propane Forge Burner"
February	11th Monthly Meeting - Lanny Campbell demonstrated "Brian Brazeal's Crane" 27th - Boone Pasture Party Hammer In held in Louisa, VA
March	10th Monthly Meeting - Dale Morse demonstrated

**Still to Look Forward to:**

April	14th Monthly Meeting - Beginner and Mentor Night 1. Drew Alexander 2. Matt Williams 3. if needed, Dewey Baker 15th, 16th & 17th-Blacksmith Guild of the Potomac Spring Fling 2016 in Berryville, VA; Demonstrators - Jymm Hoffman and Colonial Williamsburg Gunsmith, Richard Sullivan [Check their website for registration form.]
May	12th Monthly Meeting - Jerry Veneziano demonstrates "Mermaid from Farrier's Rasp" 21st & 22nd - Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland Blacksmith Days in Westminster, MD; Demonstrators Shel Browder and James Michael "Mike" Walker
June	9th Monthly Meeting -
July	? SVBG Work Day - 14th Monthly Meeting - Ray Plank demonstrates a "Rasp Snake"
August	11th Monthly Meeting - James Spurgeon 15th through 20th - Rockingham County Fair
September	8th Monthly Meeting - Beginner and Mentor Night 1. 2. 3.
October	13th Monthly Meeting - Jim Oates
November	10th Monthly Meeting - Al McDorman
December	8th Monthly Meeting -

Alternate - Daniel Burkholder

**Club Information - Continued**

**A Couple of Reminders...**

**Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild Membership Dues**

If you have not paid your 2016 Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild annual dues yet, please see Karen Robertson at the SVBG April Monthly Meeting. For visitors and occasional attendees there is no charge for meetings, but for those of you who attend regularly the SVBG appreciates your financial as well as your physical support. SVBG annual membership dues include a meeting place, coal, gas, fellowship, refreshments, access to our SVBG Library, extra eye and ear protection, open shop night privileges at VA Institute of Blacksmithing - cost of open shop is \$10.00 per hour per person (for more information and the gate code needed for entrance contact Dale Morse by email: [vulkanschmiede@yahoo.com](mailto:vulkanschmiede@yahoo.com)) and a quarterly electronic newsletter.

Cost for SVBG annual membership: \$15.00

Membership dues can be paid with cash or a check made out to SVBG. Thanks for supporting your guild!

**and**



**Directions to our SVBG Monthly Meetings and Parking reminder...**

The Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild meets the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm in the Burkholder Buggy Shop located in Dayton, Virginia. Directions: From Route 42 in Dayton, take Route 257 West (Mason Street) .6 miles. Burkholder Buggy Shop is located on the left at 795 Mason Street. Reminder that parking for the SVBG

Monthly Meetings will be across the street in the paved parking lot instead of in the Burkholder Buggy Shop parking lot. The parking lot to use is on the right just past the Burkholder's driveway. You will turn right onto Stonecroft Drive (Road 1225) like you would be going into *SOUTHBREEZE Estates*. Just past the *SOUTHBREEZE Estates* sign, take an immediate right into the parking lot. If you have heavy items or multiple items to unload or are handicapped, you may still park in the Burkholder Buggy Shop parking lot while space is available.



Thank you for your cooperation!

**Meeting Notes**

Quick look at Lanny Campbell's February demo  
notes and photos by Dave McKinnon  
[pages 4 through 7]

Lanny demonstrated how to forge a Brian Brazeal style crane out of  $\frac{1}{4}$  by 1 inch flat bar. You can use a different size material as shown here, where he used  $\frac{1}{4}$  by  $\frac{3}{4}$  stock. He uses a comfortable length of stock so you can forge the body on one end, cool it and use the other end for a wing. This way you do not need to use tongs.



Step one: Using the near side of the anvil and half face blows you create a step and isolate the material for the beak.



Step two: Using the far side of the anvil and half face blows you isolate the material for the head.



Step three: Round out the edges and draw out the beak.



Step four: Add the eyes being careful not to burn a.k.a. Dirkerize the beak



Step five: Slot punch for the rivet to hold the wings. A punch is used to add volume to the body. Drilling a hole would simply remove stock.



Step six: Drift the slot to round using increasing diameter drifts. The drifts are tapered at the ends so they can be driven through the hole.



Step seven: Use half face strikes to start a tail, make sure the tail is going in the opposite direction of the beak.



Step eight: Transfer the swan to the vise to clean up the tail with chisel.



Step nine: Your basic body needs some curves to give it an organic look. When you are satisfied, cool that end and head to the other or wing end.



Step ten: Forge the end of the bar into a wing-like shape. For the next step you can use a chisel or make a lining tool. The lining tool allows you to line the long edge of the tool against the wing then strike it with a hammer so it creates a line that is always the same distance from the edge giving a smoother finish.



Step eleven: Make a light pass using your chisel or lining tool.



Step twelve: Make a second pass using your tool of choice to deepen the groove.



Step thirteen: Use a teardrop tool to create the feathers. Remember you need two wings and you need to texture them, create the feathers, on opposite sides. Cut the wing off, punch a hole for the rivet, clean up the round and assemble and rivet the wings to the body.



**General Notes**

**The littlest blacksmith!**

Congratulations go out to Brittany and Tom Harris on the birth of their daughter, Willow Lynn Harris. Willow Lynn was born on February 19, 2016 at Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital. She weighed in at 6 lbs 1 oz. We, along with Captain [pictured] and Mismo [not pictured] say "Welcome" to Willow Lynn.



**Edible Grade Finish for Metal and Wood**

by Susan Plank

A few year's back, Ray and I were looking for an edible grade finish for Metal and Wood. At this point I can't remember who told us about this product, but I am happy they did. I am passing this information on to you...

HOLLAND BOWL MILL **Bee's Oil**

Made in the USA

Our original Natural Beeswax and Mineral Oil Blend Protects and Preserves Salad Bowls & Other Wood Products. Bee's Oil penetrates wooden bowls and other woodenware to prevent drying and cracking and add a soft luster finish. Protect Woodenware with Bee's Oil. Rub Bee's Oil Inside and out with a clean cloth. Let Stand 15 minutes, then buff off any excess. Use Bee's Oil Regularly. On new woodenware, use Bee's Oil once a week for the first month. Apply 2-3 coats on new untreated wood. After that, use Bee's Oil once a month, or whenever wood seems dull and dry.

Holland Bowl Mill  
Holland, MI 49424  
(800) 774-1230 \* fax (616) 396-0642  
hbm@hollandbowlmill.com  
www.woodenbowl.com

Ray and I also use **Bee's Oil** on our kitchen metal that needs protecting. After forging item, wash in warm soapy water, rinse in warm water and dry. Then, coat metal by putting a little **Bee's Oil** on a 100% cotton cloth and rubbing the entire piece until well coated. Take a clean paper towel and wipe off any excess. I am sure other blacksmiths use different finishes. I would love to have you write me an article on what you use so that I can pass that information on!

Send it to me at SusanPlank.svbgeditor@gmail.com

General Notes - Continued

Boone Pasture Party



After the anvil blew



Phil looking at cannons

On February 27th, Dan and Judy Boone were happy to welcome blacksmiths to their annual "Boone Pasture Party"! Last year the weather did not cooperate for them to host us and we sorely missed it. This year the weather was fine, except for a bit of wind off and on throughout the day.

Anvils sort of flew this year at 9 am, 12 noon and 4 pm. Fay LeCompte who directed this part was frustrated by the lack of height of the anvils. Cannons were also fired off, so along with blacksmithing we got smoke from other sources! Tailgating deals were fast and furious with everyone looking over items almost before the items were out for sale. Even when you purchased an item, good luck trying to get it back to your own vehicle with someone yelling, "Hey where did you get that? Do you what to sell it?" There were many great items in the Iron-in-the-Hat.

Dan and Judy has two blacksmith demonstrations planned for our enjoyment this year. At the inside gas forge their son, Mike Smyth Boone, who lives in Colorado came and demonstrated quite a few items. Some items he demonstrated throughout the day were a two layered poppy flower, a Yellen Style pointed flower, a Yellen flower made out of square metal plates that are hammered and laid over each other, and a couple of pieces of form folding. Form folding I am told by Lanny Campbell [My thanks Lanny on the inside demonstration information, but if I got it wrong - I take full credit] gives layers and textures to the metal. Mike demonstrated a Giving Cup doing an abstract folding of metal made into a candle cup sort of in the shape of a hand. He also made a set of lips by form folding a couple of large forged balls, some with narrow stems. Making them this way showed the strength of a steel item having something really big, the large ball, being held by something really small, the narrow stem. Mike made a dragon's tongue scroll rolled up and welded onto a bar so that he could use it as a tool to make negative impresses in steel for embellishing bases for people figures.

Demonstrating at the outside coal forge were two smiths from Colonial Williamsburg. Mark Sperry, a blacksmith, was being assisted by Richard Sullivan, a gunsmith. Mark hammered out a large double sided dagger. Mark also showed how to hammer out iron using the home-made power hammer that was driven by a tractor power takeoff.

For those of us who wanted to take a bit of time away from the other activities, there was creative art work to do. Before lunch, one of Dan and Judy's granddaughters, Maggie, showed how to create chalk drawing of a city skyline and a tree. After lunch, one of their daughters, Carolyn, showed how to create a cat painting in acrylic. All ages took advantage of this opportunity to try their hand at these two non-blacksmithing projects.

Lunch was again provided by Dave's Famous BBQ. The Boone's also had a musical group entertaining us during lunch.

If you haven't yet attended a "Boone Pasture Party," you should try and make it next year!



Lanny and Dave intently watching Mike



Ray watching Mark; Richard in front talking with Lee



Fay and Dan look on while Mark hammers

**General Notes - Continued**

**Our Condolences go out to John Mead**

One of our SVBG members, John Mead, lost his wife, Barbara Ann Mead last month.

Johnson Funeral Services, Inc. in Bridgewater, Virginia had this Life Legacy posted:



**BARBARA ANN MEAD**  
May 13, 1935 - March 16, 2016

Barbara Ann Mead, 80, of Bridgewater, passed away on, Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at Sentara RMH Medical Center.

She was born in New York on May 13, 1935, and was a daughter of the late André and Margaret LePage.

Barbara was a member of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Harrisonburg. She graduated from Sewanhaka Central High School in New York; she then went on to get an Associate's Degree in nursing, from L.A. Wilson Technological Center, Suffolk County New York in 1978. She worked as a home health Licensed Practical Nurse.

She was united in marriage to John Gordon Mead on July 25, 1959, at St. Catherine of Sienna, Franklin Square, NY.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a brother Andrew LePage of Florida; four sons: John G. Mead III and wife Lisa and children, Kyle Spotts and great granddaughter Aria Spotts and Katherine Mead of Florida; Andrew S. Mead of California; Daniel J. Mead and fiancée Sheila M. Whetzel of Harrisonburg; and Michael T. Mead and wife Beth and children, Stephanie Pepe, Shannon, Aaron, Emily Mead, and great granddaughter Aurora Pepe.

She was preceded in death by parents André and Margaret LePage and sister Carol Crowley.

The family will receive friends on Monday, March 21, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Johnson Funeral Service in Bridgewater.

A mass of Christian Burial will be held at the Johnson Funeral Service Chapel in Bridgewater at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 with Father Silvio officiating.

Family requests any memorial donations be made to Bridgewater Rescue Squad, PO Box 268, Bridgewater, VA 22812.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.johnsonfs.com](http://www.johnsonfs.com).

Please keep John and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

**General Notes - Continued**

**25th Annual Greater Shenandoah Valley Knife Show**  
article and photos by Susan Plank

Three of our Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild members, Rudy Dean, Jeremy Liskey and Mark Thomas, set up displays at the Greater Shenandoah Valley Knife Show on April 1, 2 and 3. I know this show was a draw for at least these SVBG members: Merle and Mandy Armentrout, John Grogg and his sons, Hudson and Garret, and Ray and Susan Plank. As usual there was fantastic work to be seen and some not so fantastic work to be seen, but the ideas that one can come away with are AMAZING! Okay, if you were me...you probably could not just look, you had to buy. Ray of course got more knife making supplies (plus a knife and a machete!).

On Saturday, Rudy Dean did a Steel Forging Demo at 11 am and 1 pm. He had a simple set up with a gas forge, anvil, hammer and steel. I liked how he began with a discussion that this is a basic set up and these are the basic tools. Some people just stopped by for a little bit of time and others watched his entire demonstration. This was a nice new feature at the Greater Shenandoah Valley Knife Show.



Rudy Dean



Jeremy Liskey



Dick Garber and Mark Thomas



Ray and Merle at  
Mark's table



John B. Hege and Susan



Rudy beginning demo

**Items of Interest**

**By the way....**

If your forge looks like this [note the bird's nest in the upper left corner]



you probably haven't been blacksmithing enough!

Items of Interest - Continued

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**Classes available locally for late Spring and Summer:** (info gathered by Susan Plank)

Here are our findings for late April, May, June, July and August 2016:

Dale Morse at Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing located at 200 West 12th Street in Waynesboro, Virginia 22980 has various classes. For any questions regarding his classes, call (434) 960-9718 or email him through [info@vablacksmithing.org](mailto:info@vablacksmithing.org)

Apr. 23 - 24: Modern Metalwork and Welding  
Apr. 23: Introduction to Metalsmithing  
Apr. 23 - 24: Intermediate Blacksmithing: Tools, Tongs and Knives  
Every Tuesday Evening - Open Shop

May 3, 10, 17, 24: Fun-da-Metal - May - Tuesday Evening Class  
May 7: Metalsmithing - Ornamental Scrolls in Jewelry  
May 7 - 8: Fall Certification (Fireplace Set Part 2)  
May 14 - 15: Modern Metalwork and Welding  
May 14 - 15: Spring Certification (Wall Mounted Pot Rack)  
May 21 - 22: Certification Lab Weekend  
May 28 - 29: Modern Metalwork and Welding  
Every Tuesday Evening - Open Shop

June 4 - 5: Fall Certification (Common Business Practices & Scale Drawing,  
Start Final Projects)  
June 7, 14, 21, 28: Fun-da-Metal - June - Tuesday Evening Class  
June 11: Metalsmithing - Small Scale Steel  
June 11 - 12: Modern Metalwork and Welding  
June 18 - 19: Spring Certification (Tools and Tongs)  
June 25 - 26: Certification Lab Weekend  
June 25 - 26: Modern Metalwork and Welding  
Every Tuesday Evening - Open Shop

July 2 - 3: Fall Certification (Final Projects)  
July 5, 12, 19, 26: Fun-da-Metal - July- Tuesday Evening Course  
July 9 - 10: Spring Certification (Sketch in Iron)  
July 9 - 10: Modern Metalwork and Welding  
July 16 - 17: Certification Lab Weekend  
July 23 - 24: Modern Metalwork and Welding  
July 30 - 31: Beginning Blacksmithing - Build a Spear  
Every Tuesday Evening - Open Shop

August 2, 9, 16, 23: Fun-da-Metal - August - Tuesday Evening Course  
August 6 - 7: Fall Certification (Final Projects)  
August 13 - 14: Modern Metalwork and Welding  
August 18 - 19: Spring Certification (Trifold Trivet)  
August 27 - 28: Certification Lab Weekend  
August 27 - 28: Modern Metalwork and Welding  
Every Tuesday Evening - Open Shop

**Items of Interest - Continued**

**Thanks again go out to the SVBG Blacksmiths who helped  
the Daughters of the American Revolution Restoration of a local cemetery**

Some of you will remember that last year I, Susan, joined the Massanutton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and requested help from the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild to refurbish the wrought iron fence surrounding President Abraham Lincoln's Family Cemetery just North of Harrisonburg, Virginia. Everette Burkholder, Daniel Burkholder, Ray Plank and Al McDorman volunteered and completed the job of straightening the fence. "Straightening the fence" sounds like such a small thing. For those of you who did not get to see any of the pre and post fence refurbish work these guys did, take a look at the two pictures below.



**Pre**



**Post**

After the SVBG did their part, the DAR sanded and painted the fence. General yard work was also done. The tombstones were cleaned and restored as needed. As a final touch, one of the DAR members created a plaque showing the names and locations of each person buried there. This past February 12th during the annual Lincoln Birthday Ceremony, attendees who were unable to attend the October 2015 Re-dedication Ceremony were pleasantly surprised to see all that had been done.

The 120th Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution State Conference was held in mid March and during the annual awards luncheon the Massanutton Chapter won three awards. Reported in the North Fork Journal, "the chapter won first place for the State History Award for the restoration of the Lincoln Family Cemetery, first place in the state for Historic Preservation for the Lincoln Family Cemetery and second place for the same in the National Eastern Division for the project."

Thanks again go out to the Shenandoah Valley Blacksmith Guild members who volunteered their time and energy assisting in this local restoration project. The fence still looks great guys!

**Items of Interest - Continued**

**Item for sale -**

An elderly friend of mine would like to sell her recliner that she can no longer get out of. This three year old, made in Ohio (USA), recliner was purchased locally. She purchased it for \$395 or \$400 and is asking \$150. It is a dark chocolate brown microfiber (faux suede).



Recliner dimensions:  
back height 42"  
outside - arm to arm is 38"  
front to back it is 34"  
seat width 17"  
back to front 20"  
knee height 20"  
chair reclined 57"



If interested call Susan Plank at (540) 896-1232 and leave your contact information on the answering machine. Susan will then pass on your information to her friend. [Note: This may make a difference to you, my friend does smoke in her home.]

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**Have you been hammering?**



**Only the Phantom Blacksmith knows!**

