

Rocky Forge News

Volume 13, Issue 4 – April, 2014

Next Meeting (4/12/14)

The next meeting of the Rocky Forge Blacksmiths will be April 12th at Ted's shop. This has been such a brutal winter I want to invite you to an open forge time where you can fire up and make whatever you have in mind. Most of us are all biting at the bit to do some forging. The weatherman, for what he is worth, is predicting temperatures in the 70's. We can finally use the forges outside and not freeze our toes and fingers.

A short business meeting will include what can be done to fund completion of the two sides of our blacksmith shop at the Illiana show ground. Even with the \$3000 commitment from the Illiana it looks like we are going to be short on funds. Think of things we can do to help fill our coffers.

Carol is going to cook a ham for lunch, so please bring a covered dish to pass for the meal. Everyone needs to participate in the contributions to the lunch. It is not fair for only a few to bring items for the meal. We have a reputation among the blacksmithing community as having good food, good friendship and a very good Iron-in-the-Hat drawing. Let's maintain this reputation. Feel free to bring a friend who may be interested in starting to blacksmith.

Coffee and doughnuts will be available at about 8:30, see you all then. Ted

Status of Our Building

The Rocky Forge blacksmith building at the show grounds in Rainsville looks great. The lean-to on the west side has the concrete floor laid and the main posts up. The lean-to on the east side is excavated with some crushed asphalt partially laid down. We need approximately \$2500-3000 of additional funding to complete the current phase of our building project. This phase will see two lean-to extensions, one with a concrete floor for the machine shop and the other with an asphalt floor for the wood shop. There will be a lockable tool crib but no sidewalls or doors.

Sadness in the Blacksmith World of Indiana

It is with great sadness that we report that long time Indiana blacksmith Ray Phelps has passed away. He was a wonderfully talented blacksmith and generous host to the blacksmith community. Ray likely was a charter member of the Indiana Blacksmith Association founded in 1980.

We will e-mail out visitation and funeral information when available.

Ray's shop in Greenwood, Indiana has a traditional forging area with all the tooling you would expect from a rural blacksmith. Attached to the shop is a meeting room where many of his blacksmith creations are displayed. Numerous meetings of the IBA and of the Rural Smiths of Mid-America were held in his shop. His wife, Tina, was always a gracious and welcoming host.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Tina, and his entire family during this difficult time.

Ted Stout and Dominick Andrisani



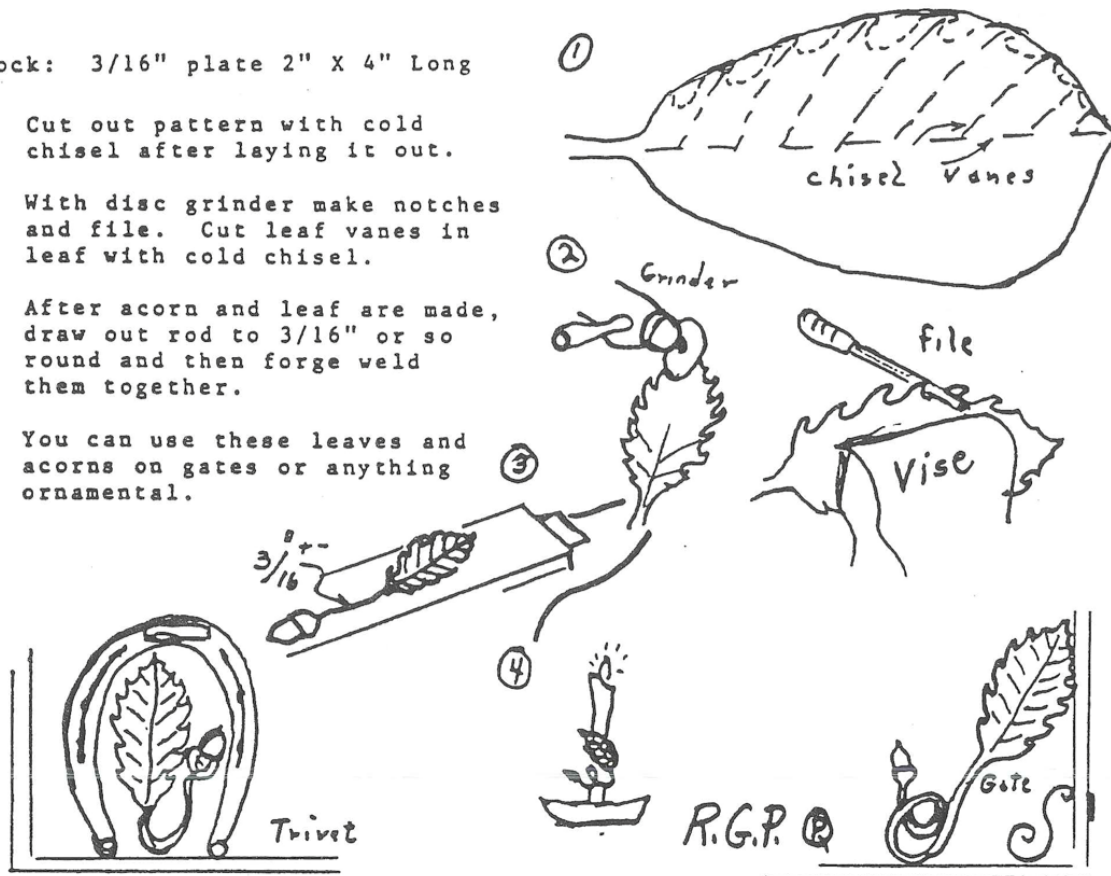
Trivet by Ray Phelps at SOFA in 2006

A OAK CHESTNUT LEAF

BY: Raymond G. Phelps

Stock: 3/16" plate 2" X 4" Long

1. Cut out pattern with cold chisel after laying it out.
2. With disc grinder make notches and file. Cut leaf vanes in leaf with cold chisel.
3. After acorn and leaf are made, draw out rod to 3/16" or so round and then forge weld them together.
4. You can use these leaves and acorns on gates or anything ornamental.



Article by Ray Phelps in the IBA Forge Fire

Dates to Remember

April 12, 2014:

Rocky Forge meeting.

May 10, 2014:

Rocky Forge meeting.

June 6-8, 2014:

IBA Annual Conference in Tipton, IN.

July 18-20: Illiana Antique Power Association Show, Rainsville, IN.**August 13-16, 2014:** ABANA 2014 Conference, Delaware State Fairgrounds.**SOFA QuadState:**

September 26-28, 2014.

Feast of the Hunters' Moon:

October 4-5, 2014

Interesting Web Sites

Ray Phelps: He's the iron man (Indianapolis Star):<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070202/LOCAL040203/702020366/1023/LOCAL>**Willoughby Forge and Studio (Iron Work and Wood Carving):** <http://www.willoughbyforge.com/>See also **Willoughby Forge** on Facebook.

Contacts

Forgemaster: Ted Stout (stout8525@tds.net, 765-572-2467 home).**Newsletter Editor:** Dominick Andrisani (andrisan@purdue.edu, 765-463-4975 home).**Web Site:** <http://www.rockyforge.org/> (previous newsletters can be found here).

Our dearly departed friend, Ray Phelps (10/2010)