

# Rocky Forge News

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## Next Rocky Meeting: 5/14/16

The busy season for blacksmiths is rapidly approaching. We have a lot of commitments ahead of us as well as a lot of fun time. Spring, summer, and fall are always busy, and we are a part of it. The Indiana Bicentennial Commission has designated the Illiana Show and History Day as "2016 Legacy Projects". That is a very prestigious position. The neat part is that Rocky Forge is an important part of both events. The Bicentennial torch will actually pass through the show grounds during History Day.

Our next hammer-in will be May 14<sup>th</sup> at Ted's shop. Coffee and doughnuts will be available starting around 8:30AM, followed by a business meeting. Agenda items for the business meeting will include the following subjects: Indiana Blacksmith Conference, Rocky Forge raffle status, Illiana Antique Power Show, coal supply and distribution of coal to those who ordered it. In addition, Tillman gloves were ordered and received. So those of you who ordered gloves and coal should be prepared to settle up for those items on Saturday.

We will have an open forge time with forges available for use. You supply the coal and bring your own favorite tools. A gas forge is being built by Dan Michael and Ted so you may want to take a look at the prototype and plans for the burner design. Roger Davis may have some input into burner designs. Also, Gene Hollingsworth will do a sheet metal project that some of you will find interesting. Saturday will be a day to see a lot of different projects going on. So come and enjoy the day with hands on, camaraderie with friends and good eats.

Lunch for the day will be a pot of bean soup and whatever else you bring to share with the group. Also, bring items for Iron-in-the-Hat.



**Remember the IBA Conference is June 3-5.**

See you on Saturday.

Ted Stout

## Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Cutting through your work on the anvil without using a plate. Doing so will mar the face of your anvil.
- Not wearing glasses. Burns to your skin will heal, burns to your eyes are permanent.
- Gripping your hammer too tightly. Your hammer should be held loosely, so that the power comes from your body, through your shoulder, arm, wrist and hand. Grip the hammer too tightly, and you'll put too much stress on your wrist and elbow.
- Hammering on steel that is too cold. Not only are you wasting a lot of effort, you risk putting undue stress on the work.
- Not cleaning the scale off your anvil between heats. If you don't, the next time you work your piece, you'll be driving that scale into your work.
- Not straightening your work as you go. If you don't straighten your work after every heat, you'll end up with a lot of unnecessary work at the end. A few seconds at the end of every heat will save you valuable minutes later on.
- Hammering all the way through your piece on your cutoff hardy. You will cause yourself unnecessary work having to redress the edge of your hardy and you'll put yourself and others at risk when the piece flies off.
- Using an improper set of tongs. If you don't have firm control of your work, you'll waste energy and even risk losing control of it completely.
- Positioning your head directly over top of your work when hammering on it. This is a simple recipe for a forehead bruise.
- Working when fatigued. Being overly tired makes you sloppy, grumpy and causes you to make poor decisions.
- Working when distracted. Unless you are very experienced, if you are about to engage in a conversation, pull your work out of the center of the fire and leave it there until you are ready to work again.
- Trying to forge weld with an oxygen-rich fire. Oxygen is the enemy.

From *The Iron Trillium* September 2010 and from Philip Simmons Artist Blacksmith Guild, May-June 2106

## Images from the 2015 IBA Conference in Tipton, Indiana



Nathan Robertson demos.



Revealing comments!



Working the eye.



From the Gallery



From the Gallery



From the Gallery



Michael Bendele leaf.



Michael Bendele flower.



Michael Bendele bowl.

### Contacts

**Forgemaster:** Ted Stout (stout8525@tds.net, 765-572-2467 home).

**Newsletter Editor:** Dominick Andrisani (andrisan@purdue.edu, 765-463-4975)

### Dates to Remember

**June 3-5, 2016:** IBA Conference, Tipton, IN.

**July 13-16, 2016:** ABANA 2016 Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah

**July 15-17, 2016:** Illiana Antique Power