

# Rocky Forge News

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## Next Meeting: 10/14/2017

On October 14<sup>th</sup> the Rocky Forge metal smiths will meet at Ted's shop for some fun working with metal. As a result of the "Feast of the Hunters Moon" and the TV series "Forged and Fire" we have had many inquiries about our group meetings. We are expecting a lot of visitors at this meeting. No question about it, our group is growing and we welcome all newcomers to join in and be a part of the exciting field of metal work.

At the October meeting we will have a session to introduce the new people to forging hot metal. This will involve safety, building a forge fire, using a gas forge, tools involved, metals and basics blacksmith operations. While that is going on others can have an open forge time to entertain your ideas and feed your creative juices or complete your unfinished projects.

Ted has a project for the local Methodist Church he can use some help with, if anyone would like to assist. It will involve heating previously straightened antique wagon wheel rims and cupping the rim long way to make it rigid. A scroll will be added to each end of the sections. Three sections will be fabricated and used as hand rails along steps to enter the church.

"Christmas in the Village" at the Illiana Show grounds is coming up real fast, and Rocky Forge has been charged with making freestanding outlines of Christmas figurines to hang lights on. They will be viewed from a distance to look like the Christmas tree, Santa Claus, reindeer, etc. Three-eighths inch rebar will be used as the metal. If you are interested in helping with this project take a look on Google images to locate patterns.

We will have an Iron-in-the-Hat drawing, so be sure to bring some neat items for the drawing. As I have said before the Iron-in-the-Hat drawing is our main fund raising event, and it has helped us to build the blacksmith building on the grounds of the Illiana Antique Power Association in Rainsville. To

further develop that shop we need to keep our fund raising in full swing. Contributions are also always welcome. The next steps in the completion of the building are to add siding and enclose the west sections housing the machine shop tools, and to add a new electrical breaker box with outlets and lights.

For lunch Carol will be serving a pot of ham and beans so bring covered dishes that will go with the soup. Our satellite group is well known for having great lunches, so let's keep the tradition going. Some of you have really brought some outstanding dishes and for that we all thank you.

Coffee and doughnuts will be ready by 8:30, so come early to enjoy social period and build relationships. See all of you on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ted and Carol Stout

## Dates to Remember

**October 13-14:** Upper Midwest Regional (Pontiac) Blacksmith Conf. Pontiac, Illinois.

**December 1-2?:** Christmas in the Village, Illiana Show Grounds, Rainsville, IN.

**June 27-30, 2018:** ABANA 2018 Conference will held in Richmond, Virginia at the Meadow Event Park.

## Contacts

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

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## Meeting Location

At the home of Ted and Carol Stout, 8525 W 700 S, West Point, IN 47992-9258 (765-572-2467 home).

Take IN25 two miles south from West Point, IN.

Take a right onto West 700 South. Ted's house is the first house on the left.

## **Wax for All Seasons, by Doug Merkel**

A significant portion of my work deals with the repairs and reproduction of antique ironwork. Most of my customers want a natural finish that looks old, protects the metal and which can be touched up if needed without lots of work or fancy chemicals. To meet their needs I have modified a few formulas that have been around for sometime into one that works for my customers and me. For some of the larger jobs, I leave a small container of the wax for use by the customer. It wears well inside and does quite well outside, if applied correctly. I have a piece of ironwork with this finish that has been out in the elements for over a year without rusting.

1 cup Johnson's Paste Wax	1/2 cup Shaved/pieces of Beeswax
1 cup Boiled Linseed Oil	2 tbsp. Japan Drier
1 cup Turpentine	

The first three ingredients can be obtained at most any hardware store, such as Lowe's, Home Depot, etc. The Japan Drier is used by artists to speed the drying time for their oil paints, so is available at many art supply stores or Amazon.com. The beeswax can be obtained from a local beekeeper, beekeeper supply shops, or blacksmith supply companies.

### **Mixing The Ingredients**

Put all the ingredients into a glass quart jar. Put the lid on with the retaining ring very loose. A metal container may be used, but it needs a tightly fitting cover. Either set up a double boiler or set next to your forge to get the mixture to melt. Do not put directly on the heat source, and watch out for open flames. Once the ingredients are melted, tighten the lid ring and shake like crazy until all the wax is dissolved and is a homogenous mix. As it cools, it will become a soft paste. Keep the lid on when not in use.

### **Metal Preparation**

Remove all scale with a power wire brush or by hand. If you want a dark finish, remove the scale at a dull red and let the metal air cool until you can just handle it with your bare hands. For a brighter finish, use a power wire brush and remove all the scale while the metal is cold, then apply enough heat until you can just hold it in your hand.

### **Application**

Apply the mixture with a brush, your fingers, or with a small rag. The heat will melt the mix and it will run into every nook and cranny. Let it cool and buff out with a rag. If you let the excess mix stay on the iron, it will eventually harden, but every place that has excess will show up as a bright spot. A second coat can be added to heighten the luster while the metal is cold. Just remember to buff off the excess with a cloth.

### **References**

<http://blackforestartworks.blogspot.com/2009/11/wax-finish.html>

Doug's recipe first appeared in the March 1996 Appalachian Area Blacksmith Assn. Newsletter:  
<http://www.mooseforge.com/Techniques/finish.html>