Volume 28 Issue 03 March, 2016

FORGE

Dedicated to the revival of the King of Crafts

Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association
www.viblacksmiths.com

Class is back in session, Neil was demonstrating a gate hook while willy was demolishing my photo shoot.

If you're interested in making poppies check this link out
http://blacksmith.org/ypres-poppies/

Great video on Fish hook pattern welded steel.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHmyOEMVJuM

Current Events:

Monthly meeting Sunday, April 24, 2016 @ 11:00 AM

Blacksmith Course
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7, 2016 from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Spring Days May long weekend, May 21 to 23.

2016 Executive

President: Neil Gustafson
VP:John Archer
Secretary:Charlie Low
Treasurer:Norm Norby
Editor: Brody Smith

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Secretary's Report
By:Charlie Low
January 2016

Show and Tell:

John W brought a cupping tool and matching hammer head. The hammer at least is made of 4340 steel, purchased at retail (wild extravagance!) It was originally 2 inch diameter, and he used the press to upset it to the current dimensions.

Mika brought in 3 pieces of cable damascus, originally ¾ inch cable, and now about a quarter inch in diameter. The pattern is not obvious. He tried etching them in vinegar overnight, and that was not enough to bring out the pattern.

Wes brought in a forge welded block, mild on the outside, spring on the inside, which will be damascus in the fullness of time.

Gus brought in some gardening implements also known as weed hooks to sell at the fairs.

Financial:

we are still nicely solvent.

New Members: Lloyd Mathews & Charlie Bodman. Lloyd comes from the other side of the wall- he is with the old machinery guys and figured he might as well come and play with us too. He wants to make an adze.

Charlie is a friend of D's, and is interested in bladesmithing. He is a software developer in real life, and I was thinking it could be very useful having someone around who is actually computer literate.

Old business: There is a plan afoot to have a draw for blacksmithing books. To enter, you need to contribute something to sell at the fairs. The details need to be worked out a bit yet, but keep track of the stuff you are making for the club.

There are a couple of websites that people might find interesting: Vivian Beer, and Carley Eisenberg. Carley is at Iron Mountain Forge, and both live in the eastern US.

The gas bottle for the mig welder has been filled. If you weld anything, be absolutely sure you turn off the gas when you are finished- it is just horrendously expensive.

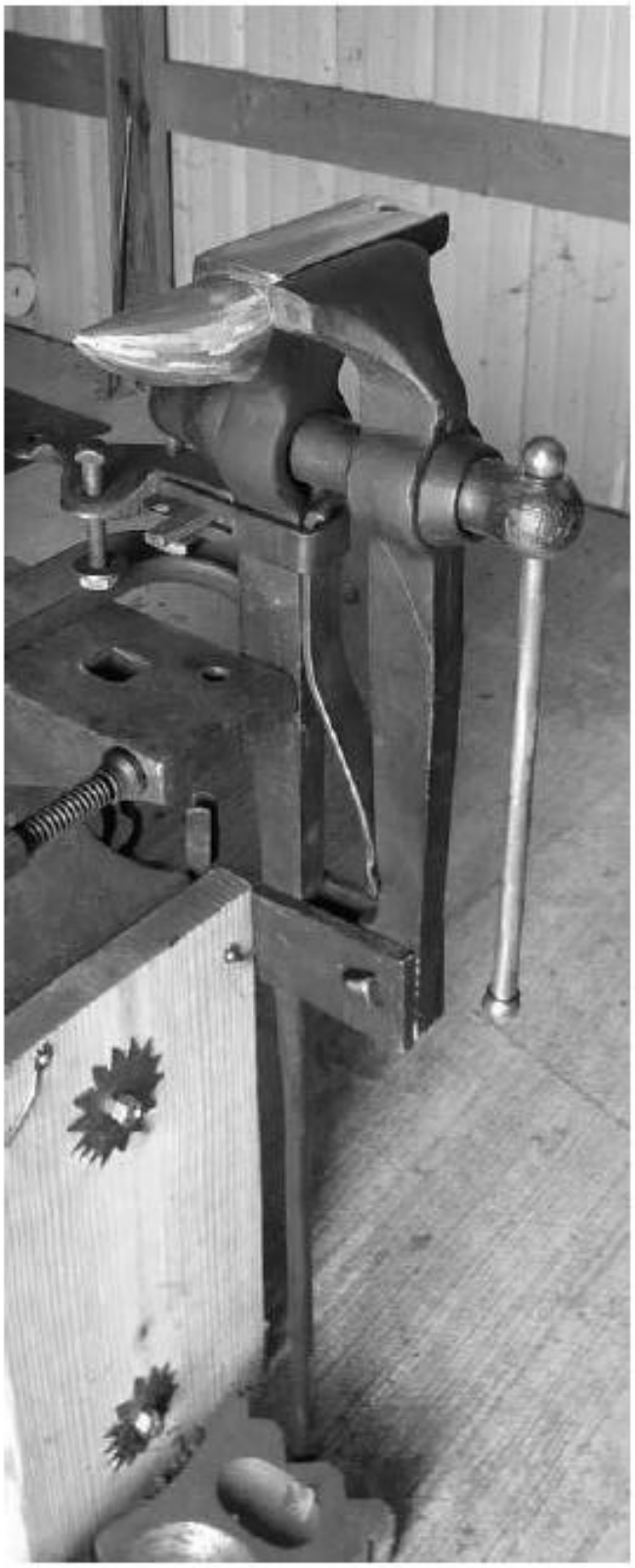
Poppies: John A is looking at shipping, and John W is looking at getting a supply of blanks from the NWBA.

And with that, we adjourned.

New Business: Spring Days, the May long weekend, May 21 to 23. The MFI are planning a fair-substitute. We will be there demonstrating. In June there will be Heritage Days, and we can come out and demonstrate again.

Making the Jim Claar Anvil Vise

Michael Wollowski



Jim Claar made this kind of vise when he was asked to make 20 hooks for a pot rack. He wanted to be able to form the hooks under closer scrutiny than allowed by the low height of an anvil. A post vise provides the right height but not enough surface to work the hooks. To solve this problem, Jim modified a post vise by cutting off the rear jaw and welding in its stead a stake anvil. His design seems to be a natural progression of the post vise, extending its use to work where good clamping power enables the use of both hands to form metal. I found his design intriguing and decided to build one myself. On these pages, you will find Construction notes.

To begin, you need a post vise and a small anvil. A post vise with 4 ½" jaws seems to be just about the right size. While I would have liked to use a slightly larger anvil, I settled for a 25 pound anvil that is 11 ½" long and has a 3 7/8" wide face. Both were in pretty good shape. It takes some heart to cut up a perfectly fine tool, however, the end result is a tool that is far superior to each of the individual ones.

Cut off the rear jaws fairly close to the screw hole as seen in figures 2 and 3. This way, you can leave as much of the anvil as possible, giving you more mass. Cut the anvil so that its top aligns with the top of the front jaws. In order to ensure a strong weld, grind a ½" bevel in the front and rear of the anvil as well as the front and rear of the vise. See figures 2 and 3 for details. There is no need to cut a bevel on the heel and throat of the anvil as the bottom of the cut anvil and the top of the cut vise form quite a large cavity.

The welding was done by a local fabrication shop. I gave them the post and anvil and asked them to weld the anvil so that it is square to the post.

This was a mistake.

"WRABA Tips and Techniques"

As the post is forged and has a taper to it, it is hard to determine a good reference point for squareness. Instead, assemble the front jaws to the back post when dropping off the welding job, giving the welder the intended reference points. It pays to take some time to aligning the anvil to the post when first tack welding them. The more precise you align the anvil with the front jaw, the less grinding you will have to do.

Figure 2: Dry-fit anvil and leg showing the ground bevels

Figure 3: Cavity created by the anvil and vise top.

Figure 4 shows the weld between the anvil and the leg. As you can see, they did a fine job filling in the cavities. Next, clean up the welds and grind the sides of the anvil as well as its top so that it aligns with the front jaw.

Figure 4: Anvil welded to post.

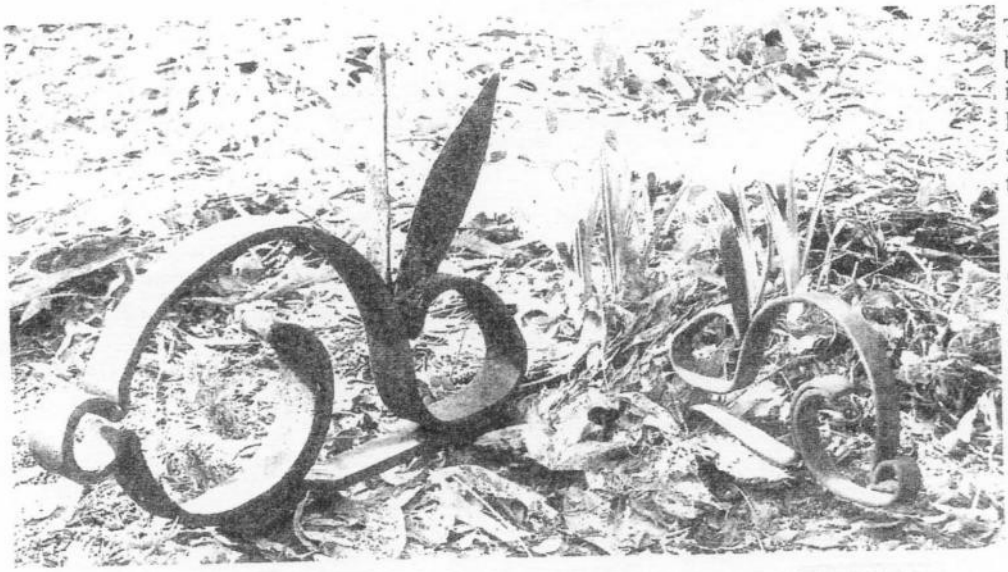
Figure 5 shows that the left side of the jaw does not line up neatly with the side of the anvil, instead there is an overhang. While not intended, I imagine that this may come in handy when attempting to bend a piece over the horn, while holding it tightly in the vise.

Figure 5: Detail showing jaw overhang.

All in all, this was a neat project. I am anticipating years of back-saving use.

Mika

John W



The large rabbit is made out of 1" by 1/4" stock and the small bunny is made from 1/2" by 1/8" stock. Both rabbit ears were made by splitting, shaping and spreading the original stock.

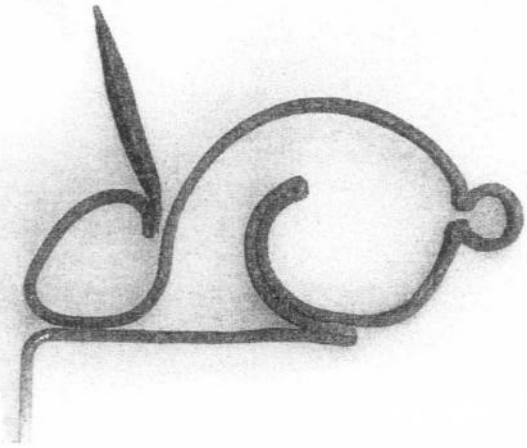
Carol places them at the corners of her garden beds. The heavier stock and substantial spike protect the plants at the corners as garden hoses are pulled by the flower beds.

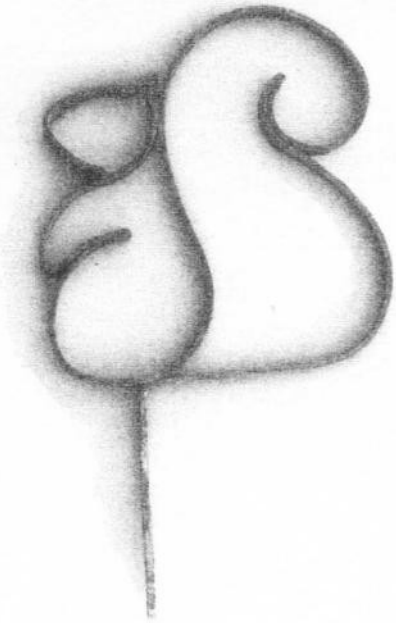
Rabbits and Squirrels

By Steven Spoerre, a MABA member

The squirrel and rabbit figures are made from a single piece of stock, bent along a continuous chalk line, marked on the layout table. The projects are both a puzzle to design and a surprise to the people who found them while looking at the flowerbeds they were placed in.

The design puzzle is to come up with a pleasing profile for the figure - clip art programs and coloring books are a couple of places to start. Once a profile has been found, ask yourself if a line can be drawn that starts with the ground spike and travels around the figure showing some detail and having the final shape be recognizable. It may take several tries, but a continuous path can usually be found by altering the path or eliminating some of the detail in the profile. If more detail is desired, the profile can also be broken into smaller pieces, these pieces formed from the stock, then everything arc-welded together.

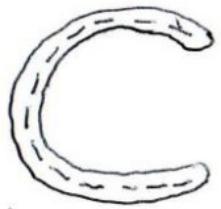




The squirrel is made out of 1" by 3/16" flat stock – that is 68" long and has 4 points that get laid out in the flat. The 90-degree bend at the top of the ground spike, and the 3 points that are doubled over on themselves at the ears, in the belly area and in the tail. The direction the stock is doubled over is very important so look at the picture very carefully. Starting at the spike end, mark the stock at 3-1/2" and 20" from the end. The first mark is for the 90-degree bend and the 3-1/2" was drawn out to a 7" taper. The 20" mark is where the tail doubles back on itself. From the other end, mark the stock at 6" and 16". The 6" is for the double-over that forms the ears and the other mark is the double-over that is in the belly area. The forge was used to get a nice tight fit in the doubled over areas and the 3/16 stock was easily shaped cold using a bending fork mounted in the vise. The overall dimensions (excluding the spike) are 11" tall and 10" wide.

WEEDING HOOK

27 Mar 2016
R. Gus



Used Horse Shoe

① Straighten

② 1" FLARE ONE END 2" ↓

③ FLARE Other End

④ Bend 1 end - over 90° about 2"

Finishing Alternates

(A) Wire wheel bright - Coat ("Future" - "Clear" - ?)

(B) Twist center section - Counter-twist

(C) Split bent end for rake.

(D) Shape ends.

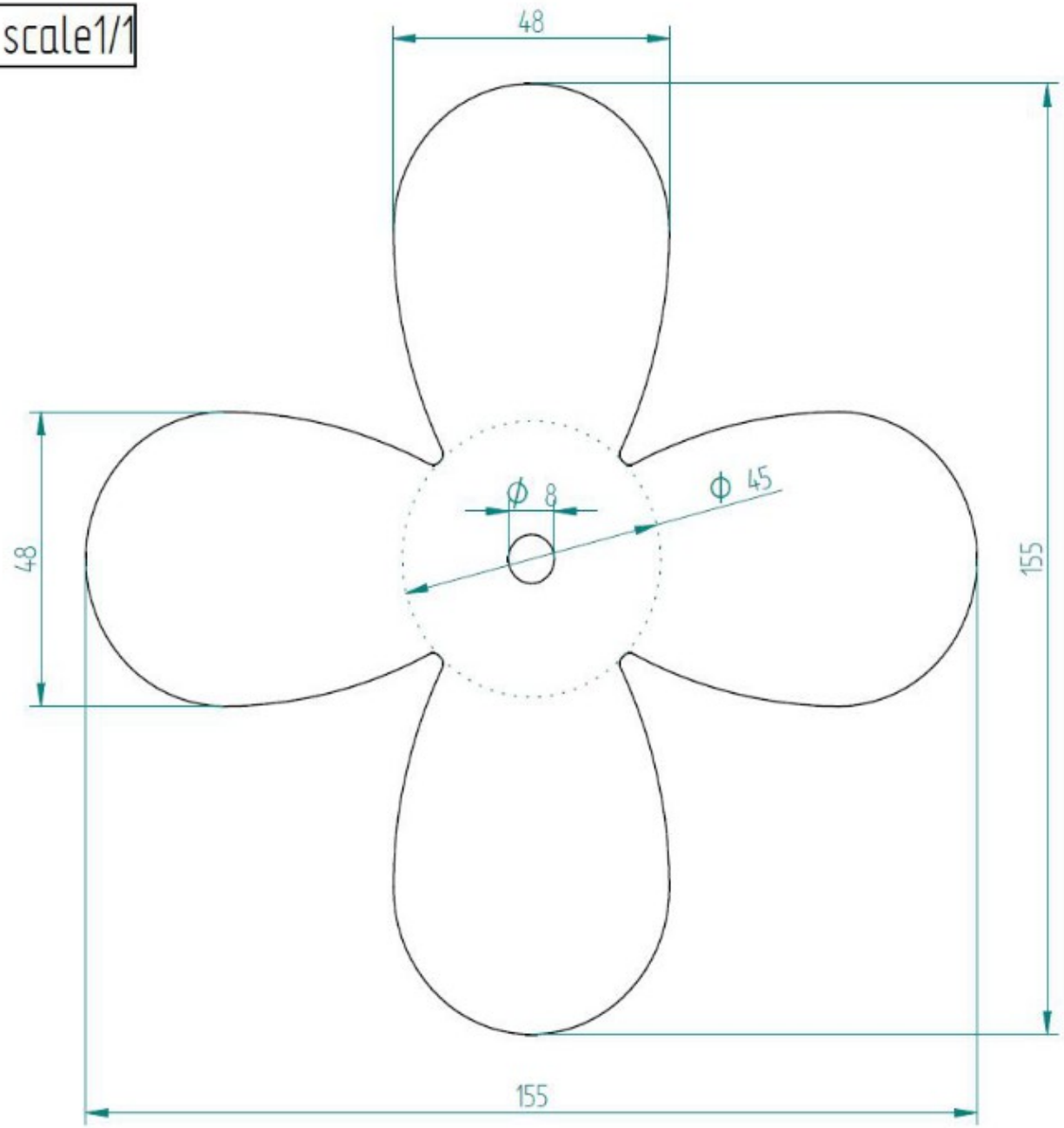
Point Chisel

Idea for a thing to sell @ Fairs
$15? $20?

Gus


SALT LAKE CITY
2016 ABANA CONFERENCE
JULY 13–16
education
abana.org/2016SLC
ABANA

Poppie: scale1/1



thickness = 3 mm
measurements in mm

Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov/State: ____

Post/Zip Code: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: (___) _____

[_] Regular Membership.....$50/year
Members are required to sign a liability waiver. Make cheques and money orders payable to:
Vancouver Island Blacksmith Assoc.
1040 Marwood Avenue
Victoria, BC, Canada.

Artist Blacksmith Assoc. of North America Membership Application

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Prov/State: _____
Post/Zip Code: _____
Phone: (___) _____
[_] Youth 18 and under..... $20/year
[_] Full Time Student.....$45/year
[_] Regular Membership.....$55/year
[_] Senior Citizen (Age 65+) ...$50/year
[_] Overseas Surface Mail $60/year
[_] Overseas Air Mail $80/year
[_] Contributory Membership....$150/year
[_] Educational Institution membership $250/year

Credit Card Payment.
Card No. _____
[_]Visa [_] Mastercard
Expiry Date: _____
Signature: _____

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Phone: (423) 913-1022
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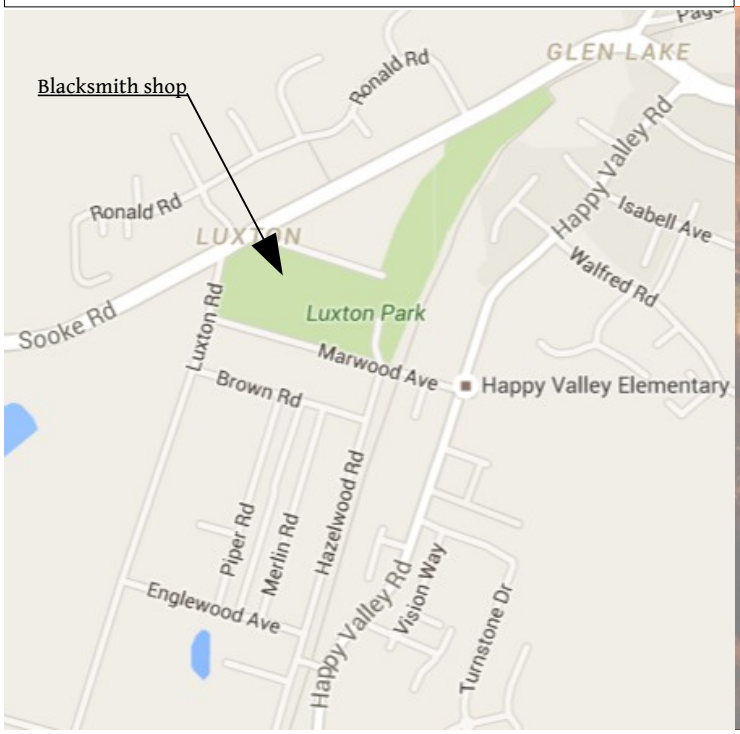
Email: centraloffice@abana.org



Have you seen something that you want to share or have something you would like to write. We are always accepting freelancers send in photos, upcoming events shoot me an Email:

Arcingbrody@gmail.com