



Artist Blacksmith's Association of North America

ABANA Conference News

Scheduled Activities - Teaching Forge Program
November 2009 - Vol. 1 Issue 4

Greetings from ABANA! This is an ABANA 2010 Conference Program Announcement about an opportunity you won't want to miss out on.

ABANA Conference Workshops / Teaching Stations

Mark Aspery, Darryl Nelson and Gerald Boggs will be facilitating these Workshops at the "Green Coal" teaching stations during the the 2010 Conference in Memphis.

Mark Aspery works with both Darryl Nelson and Gerald Boggs on a regular basis, teaching twice a year at Darryl's school in Washington State and teaching with Gerald at some of the craft schools in the Eastern States on a somewhat regular basis.

Gerald will be handling the fundamentals classes and Darryl will be running the advanced classes. Mark Aspery will be manning the intermediate section with a basic forge welding class and a tool-making class.

Gerald's class will explore the basic tenets of blacksmithing using leaf-making as a vehicle. Hammers, hammer swings and types of blow along with tapers and spreading will get you well on your way as a beginning smith. Gerald's attention to detail and a seemingly unending supply of patience and a healthy sense of humor will be a boon to the new smith in this class.

Darryl will focus on two-dimensional animal heads and the related tooling for his classes. The steps used to complete an animal head in 2D are very similar to Darryl's 3D heads but are a little easier to complete given the time frame that we will be operating within. Darryl will be showing the larger three-dimensional heads during his demonstration at the conference.

Mark Aspery will be looking at forge-welding in the gas forge making a flux spoon and a BBQ fork for his first class and tool-making for his second class. The tool-making class will focus on a section of his tool-making demonstration given during the

on a section of his tool-making demonstration given during the conference. This will give some smiths a chance to try their hand at some of the things they may have seen at the demo.

If we have time, Mark might try to fit in an evening talk about basic heat treatment and offer a practical demonstration for those interested.

ABANA has arranged to borrow 'BAM's' well-provisioned equipment trailer to make up a section of the teaching station.

Many thanks to Don Birdsall and the BAM board. We should have a mix of gas and coal forges and upwards of a dozen anvils at the teaching station.

Don't forget to bring your personal safety equipment if you would like to participate in the classes. We are planning to have some seating available at the teaching station for those that prefer to watch but not participate.

I hope to see you at the conference, until then I wish you safe and productive forging.

Cheers,
Mark Aspery
School of Blacksmithing

The ABANA 2010 conference will be held at the AgriCenter International in Memphis, Tennessee. Opening ceremonies will be on Wednesday, June 2, 2010. Thursday through Saturday will be full days of forging demo's and excitement ABANA style.

Saturday will conclude with a pay as you go Memphis BBQ banquet and the conference auction.

The theme of the conference is to be "ABANA's Greatest Hits" in keeping with Memphis' musical heritage. The ticket price will turn the clock back at least 8 years...

The site ([click here](#)) is within a few miles of thousands of reasonably priced hotel rooms. Camping and RV hook-ups and hot showers will be available on site. Stay tuned for additional announcements.

Combine your trip to the ABANA conference with some Memphis sightseeing! Visit <http://www.memphistravel.com> for some ideas on Memphis Area Attractions

on Memphis Area Attractions.

AgriCenter International is located at 7777 Walnut Grove Road, from I-240, on the east side of Memphis, take Exit 13 and drive east on Walnut Grove Road approximately 4.2 miles to Farm Road and turn south, go .1 mile.

The Conference Demonstrators

The 2010 ABANA Conference Committee Demonstrators

Shelley Thomas - The Forge, Kew Bridge Steam Museum, Brentford (West London), England - Demo TBD

AMIT HAR-LEV and TSUR SADAN (of Israel) team forging demo

Joe Anderson (of NC) will do one demo on forged kitchen ware and 2 sessions on sculpture

Mark Aspery (of CA) will do tool-making demos.

Gerald Boggs (of VA) will do a demonstration; subject Leaves.

Dan Boone (of VA) will do 2 demo sessions on dragon's heads and his other products

Dan and Judy Boone along with Chris Holt and John Steel will do a round table talk and question session on how they market their wares.

Phil Cox (of MO) will do a session "power hammers - getting the most out of them" including both mechanical and air hammers, he will also cover tips on checking used hammers and rebuilding them

Dan Nauman (of WI) will demonstrate repoussé

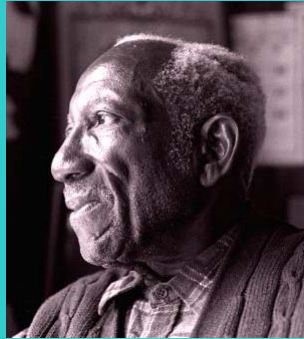
Darryl Nelson (of WA) will do a demonstration forging of animal heads.

Steve Parker (of IL) will demonstrate power hammer tools and forging.

Tom Latane (of WI) will lead the "Meticulous Metalsmiths" forging a lock during the conference.

Mark Aspery will run the "Green Coal" teaching station, with Darryl Nelson and Gerald Boggs.

**ABANA Conference
Memphis June 2010**



**Philip Simmons
1912 - 2009**

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**Gallery Open to Public "Green Coal" Forges  
Memphis Style Banquet  
Top Demonstrators  
Tailgate Heaven  
Vendors for the Craft  
Lectures & Workshops**

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"We will preserve a meaningful bond with the past.
We will serve the needs of the present, and we will
forge a bridge to the future. Function and creativity
is our purpose. Our task is great and so is our joy."

Dimitri Gerakaris, 1973

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**ABANA has bundled registration  
and membership as a package deal  
offering reduced fees and great  
value!**



**Download the Conference  
Registration Form [\[CLICK HERE\]](#)  
and send it along with your  
payment of and you are in. Or if  
your ABANA membership needs  
attention, take advantage of the  
package deals and save even  
more.**

**Save the date! - June 2-5,  
2010**

Continue to be on the look out for additional 2010 conference announcements on the ABANA website, and here in the Constant Contact email

On behalf of your ABANA 2010 Conference Committee

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rome Hutchings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rome H. Hutchings, Chair Member Services  
Artist Blacksmith's Association of North America**