



N.J.B.A. Newsletter

NJBA Volume 18, Issue 2 02/20/14
<http://njba.abana-chapter.com>

Editors Soapbox

News letter is late, so I apologize , I need to get myself back on the old schedule. But its only by a few weeks this time.

NJBA has suffered a blow and we need some members to step up from the shadows and fill in some big gaps.

David Macauley our Chairman, treasurer and events coordinator passed away from a heart attack on January 1st. David took on a lot of responsibility's in NJBA and we have some large shoes to fill. No one person has to do all that David did but we could use several to help cover the needs. Bruce Freeman has been working to cover some of what David did, but he cannot be expected to cover it all.

We need to repaint the trailer, probably in April. We may do it on a Monday night or weekend, If you want to help call a board member, in particular, Bruce Hay

We are working on setting up meets with opportunities to learn, forge or teach others what you know. Come out and chat or get your hands dirty! Let's boost the attendance at the upcoming meets. If you are interested in helping please contact one of the board members listed on page 2.

Larry Brown, Editor

Upcoming events for 2013

Get you calendars out and mark these events down. Please bookmark our web site and check for updated meet information. Remember most of our meets have an "Iron in the Hat" drawing, so be sure to bring something.

Meet information starts on this page and continues on page 3.

April 26th Damascus workshop

Info on this page

May 18th Tuckerton info on page 3, date may be changed

May 18th Walnford info on page 3

June 7th Eric Cuper Studios in Easton, PA more info to come

September 14th Red Mill

December 7th—Annual Holiday Party, Marshall and Jan's house.

Please check the web site for updates and changes.

Damascus Workshop

Saturday April 26th

This will be a basic damascus steel class for knives or specialty tools led by Mark Morrow (<http://www.swordsmith.net/>). This will be a beginner level class. We will be making a simple pattern bar of folded steel in both gas and coal , coke forges, tools and forges will be provided. Attendees will need to bring leather gloves and safety glasses. The patterns will be twist , ladder and random , also covering types of steel to use , grinding methods and heat treat of finished blades and how to bring out the pattern in the steel.

Charge to be \$125 per person. (Open to members only, but anyone may join NJBA on the day of the event.) To be held at Marshall's shop. Mark's email address is; swordsmith2001@verizon.net and also the shop phone 732-458-5823 , we need a at least a \$20 deposit and balance at the door. There is a minimum of 4 participants and a maximum of 10.

Directions on page 3.

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The NJBA Web Site!

The NJBA Web Site is:

<http://njba.abana-chapter.com/>

The Newsletter is at:

<http://www.lightningforge.com/njba/index.htm>

or use the link on the NJBA web site
for the newsletter.

Official NJBA Address

NJBA

P.O. Box 224

Farmingdale, NJ

07727-9998

**Rather than use room in the newsletter,
All correspondence between
ABANA and NJBA can be found on the
ABANA web site.**

**If you cannot access it there, contact me
and I will send you copies.**

NJBA Board of Directors

Directors are not listed on line

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Directions:

Marshall's farm is at 663 Casino Drive, Howell (Monmouth Co.). NJ, which is about 1/4 mile east of Route 9. Casino Dr. is a few miles north of I-195, and a few miles south of Rte. 33. Either of these routes can be easily reached from the major north-south highways, including the Garden State Parkway, the NJ Turnpike, I-195, Rt. 18 or Rt. 34. Marshall can be reached at his shop at (732) 780-0871.

Tuckerton Seaport, May 18th Open Demonstration

This may be changed due to the conflict with Walnford, check the web site for updates!

On Sunday May 18 NJBA will be doing a demo at Tuckerton Seaport, at their Annual Bluegrass & Barbeque Festival. We did this event a few times before and always had a good time. So come on down, or up, depends where you live, and spend some time with us. Do a little blacksmithing, enjoy the music, the food, and the seaport.

Set up time is around 9:00 am. To get to the seaport take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 58 Rt 539 go east or follow the signs at the top of the ramp to Rt 9 (Main St) in Tuckerton make a right the seaport is on the left. Hope to see you there.

We were promised good weather this year. But just in case here's my cell phone number,
201-815-0746.

Don't be afraid to call in the morning I'll be up.
Tom Majewski

For information on the seaport go to
www.tuckertonseaport.org

Meet at Walnford Park May 18th

We will be demonstrating and holding a membership meeting at Walnford Park on September 30th. Walnford is also known as Crosswicks Creek Park and is in Upper Freehold, N.J.

Hammer in and demo at Walnford Park. Please come out especially with your family to enjoy a

day at the hidden jewel of the Monmouth County Park system - Walnford Park. NJBA will have the trailer with three forges at the demo. We will be immediately across from the working gristmill. There are many activities for children so this is another great family event.

Historic Walnford is the 36 acre Historic District at the heart of Crosswicks Creek Park. This country estate and former mill village provides a window to view more than a century of social, technological, and environmental history in Western Monmouth County.

The site includes a large home built for the Waln Family in 1774, an 1879 Carriage House, and assorted outbuildings and farm structures. Much of the site's interpretation is connected to the newly restored and operating late 19th century Gristmill.

Directions

Directions: Please note: If you choose to do an internet search for directions to this address, be aware that the parking lot on site is not accessible from the Walnford Rd/Hill Rd intersection. Directions below. From the East Via I-195: Take Exit 11 (Imlaystown/Cox's Corner) and turn left onto Rt.43 (Imlaystown/Hightstown Rd). At the first intersection, turn right onto Rt. 526/Red Valley Rd. At the first light, turn left onto Sharon Station Rd and follow approximately 2 miles. Turn right onto Rt. 539 North. Travel a short distance and turn left onto Holmes Mills Rd. Make first right onto Walnford Road which leads directly into the park. From the West: Follow I-195 to Exit 8 (Allentown), Rt. 524/539. Turn right and follow Rt. 539 through Allentown. Turn right onto Holmes Mills Rd and then right onto Walnford Rd, which leads directly into the park. From the North: Take Rt. 9, 79, or 34S to 537W to Rt. 539 in Upper Freehold. Turn right onto Rt. 539 (Forked River Rd), then left onto Burlington Path Rd. Turn right onto Holmes Mills Rd and then left onto Walnford Rd, which leads directly into the park.

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June 7th Cuper Studios

More information next newsletter, so mark the date!

Middlesex 2014 Fair Dates:

Monday, August 4 through Sunday, August 10. No word from them yet which days they want us there.

Historic Cold Spring Village (HCSV)

-July 12th - 13th, Celtic Festival

Historical Cold Spring Village

-August 23th and 24th

Seafarer's Weekend

Cape May NJ.

-Canal Day Wharton NJ

August 23rd

These are a few of the events that David Macauley used to demo at and run. If you want to take over the coordination of these events or demo at them please contact a board member. If you participated at these in the past we would appreciate the assistance in keeping them going.

Millstone

David had been working with the people of Millstone who are rebuilding a building for a blacksmith shop. Anyone who wants to help them set up the shop or demo after it is completed should contact them about volunteering. I made recommendations during a phone call about laying out the slab for the shop and may help them otherwise as time allows. Their web site is: <http://www.mtfriendsofhistory.org>, Pam D'Andrea, (732)446-1936

Higgins Armory

By Bruce Freeman

On Dec 19, 2013, Larry Brown and I drove up to Worcester, MA, to see the Higgins Armory. It was essential to go before the end of the year, because it will be closing permanently on Dec. 31, after being in existence for 70 years or so. (The collection will be transferred to the Worcester Art Museum, but it sounds like it might take a while before it's back on display.) I had picked up a book about the Armory many years ago, and had seen it a few years ago on a trip through that area, but Larry had never seen it at all.



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The museum is an all-steel construction, two wings arranged in a symmetrical "L", 4-story high, with two elevators (fortunately). You start the tour in a little orientation room on the first floor, where they have a few objects and a couple videos playing, then take the elevator to the 4th floor, which is a balcony overlooking the great hall, and has some ex-

hibits of arms and armor along. The great hall (the 3rd floor) has mannequins posed as knights on horseback, and knights combatant, as well as a lot more of displays of arms and armor. (Judging from the video, the complete collection contains a lot more complete suits of armor, but they aren't on display.)



By Larry Brown

I had heard many times about the museum but I never got the time to go there as I usually don't travel that direction. When I heard they were closing/relocating I wanted to get up there and figured it would be worth a special trip. The museum is supposed to move to the Worcester Museum of Art with more being displayed as time goes on.

Bruce, said he'd be interested in going and said he had seen it before and it wasn't that big, so we should look for other things to see on the trip. We planned on other places to stop and we took off on our journey. The weather, previous snow storms and traffic sucked a lot of time from our trip, but it was a go/no go type of thing as our time frame was dwindling.

We only saw the museum which had some impressive items in it, I'm going to keep my eyes open for the book as the pictures I took of the armor in glass cases weren't great, good to remember it but not to reproduce.

They had a leg vise that had a carved face in the front of it and tightened by the screw from the back, a one of a kind item, a real combination of art and function. I had a good time looking at the armor and swords of all

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kinds and I hope they are able to display the entire collection in the new location in a few years time, the plans sound good, but we all know what happens with museums, plans and budgets. Now I want to get up to the Met in NYC for their arms and armor, which I haven't seen in a few years, a trip I highly recommend.



**Master "EFB"
Anvil, 1763
Perhaps Central Europe
Wrought iron, steel**

EXTRA

From Wikipedia article on Magnesium Sulfate (Epsom salts):

The use of Epsom Salts is an effective method of "drawing out" stubborn or buried slivers. Simply placing a pinch of Epsom Salts over the area of skin in which the sliver is lodged and covering with a Band-Aid for 24 hours will normally remove it or effectively facilitate its removal.

Your Skill

"Labor" is commodity delivered en masse.

When a laborer works merely with his muscles like a horse, he delivers horsepower. The market value of horsepower is 1 cent per H.P. hour. Falling water and burning coal satisfy this demand. Much as we require and admire well developed muscles, physical achievement requires co-ordination of other faculties.

A Craftsman is a trained worker who utilizes his hands, his nerves and his head. When he also utilizes his heart in appreciation, imagination and creative effort, he becomes an artist.

Every artisan who strives to become an artist will become a better craftsman, and oh, how the world needs better craftsmen to raise the standard of living in this Man Age of Mass Production!

Your highest goal is skill-physical skill, mental skill, and spiritual skill.

Seek skill through intelligent practice.

John W. Higgins
1922

(From a wall plaque in the museum)

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David Macauley, 1960-2014

By Bruce Freeman

It is with much regret that I report the death of David Macauley, acting chairman of NJBA and one of our most active directors. I understand that David died in his sleep of a heart attack on Jan. 1, 2014.

I have known David since the mid-1990's, almost exclusively in his avocation as a blacksmith. I met him while we were historic reenactors and volunteer blacksmiths at Historic Allaire Village. When some of us blacksmiths decided we needed an ABANA chapter in New Jersey, David became a founding member and director of the New Jersey Blacksmith Association. He soon assumed a leading role in the group, and remained one of the most active members in the group almost to the day of his death. His participation was so all-encompassing the NJBA board is now scrambling to pick up the loose ends resulting from his untimely death.



David at Cold Spring Village at

David and I started out as novice blacksmiths at Historic Allaire Village, and over the years we each improved our skills, attaining some degree of competence in the art, and sometimes attending the same classes in blacksmithing at the Peters Valley Craft Center, in Layton, NJ. I sometimes teased him with an anecdote from our past: Many years ago, we were attending a blacksmithing class at Peters Valley when a reporter / photographer showed up to do a story. David cooperated fully and was posed for many minutes in many positions at work at the anvil. Then the story appeared -- with my picture in it instead of his. It seems the photographer hit the shutter at the perfect moment -- my hammer coming down on hot steel on the anvil, with the forge fire in the background. Naturally, David was miffed and I had a good chuckle.

But, over the years, I watched as David improved his skills beyond mine, simply by spending more time at the anvil than I ever did. He developed a certain repertoire that he was good at and comfortable with, and he frequently made these pieces when doing blacksmithing demonstrations before the public: A leaf keychain attachment, a simple, elegant candle holder, a courting candle holder, and a few others. He probably made dozens of these pieces over the years, and I imagine that some of them grace homes around the state.

David ran many of the state-wide NJBA blacksmithing demonstrations, sometimes single-handedly, and literally thousands of people have seen him demonstrating. David championed NJBA demonstrations at Cold Spring Village in Cape May, sometimes vacationing with his family in the area. He was the coordinator and chief proponent of the NJBA demonstrations at the Middlesex County Fair. The list goes on: Historic Speedwell Village, Peters Valley Craft

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Center, Wharton Canal Day, Walnford Day, Waterloo Village, Princeton University PUMRS "Man of Steel" day, and others.

David also coordinated his interests in blacksmithing and the Boy Scouts by inviting Scouts to participate in NJBA demonstrations at various events, especially the Middlesex County Fair. I lost count how many boys, over the years he coached at the forge and anvil. He took this interest to the national Boy Scout Jamboree, at least two times. He didn't limit this enthusiasm to young kids, but jumped at the chance to demonstrate at Princeton University (to name one), where, in all-day workshops, students got to try their hand at the anvil. (photos: www.princeton.edu/prism/news/archive/?id=8347 and www.princeton.edu/prism/blacksmith2013/photos/) David also frequently attended the open forge meetings, run by another member, at which NJBA members can work at the forge and anvil and get coaching from more experienced smiths.

In fact, the ONLY activity I know that David preferred to blacksmithing was skiing. I often quipped that he was ne're to be seen during skiing season. But the share of the load that David shouldered more than made up for his occasional absence at an NJBA board meeting.

I knew David before he met his wife, Kathy, and have watched their daughter, Molly, grow up. Kathy and Molly have frequently attended many NJBA events such at the Middlesex County Fair, Walnford Day, and workshops we held in Howell, NJ. Kathy, who is herself a skilled potter, often contributed food such as soup or cookies. They always attended the annual NJBA Holiday Party. I can attest that David was a devoted husband and father. He stayed by Kathy's side for hours on end when she had a stay in hospital. He bragged about Molly every chance he got, but it was always clear he had good reason for bragging.

David will be missed by me, by the NJBA, by the several historic sites and other institutions that he worked so closely with, and by the many people whom he assisted in their interest with blacksmithing.

I would add to this but I can't say it any better, He will be missed by us all, L Brown



Relaxing at the Red Mill



David and Kathy at Cold Spring Village