



## ABANA Conference Special Edition June 2010

# Hampton Roads Hammer

### **Director's Holler:**

June 2nd-5th I had the great pleasure of attending the 2010 ABANA Conference for the first time. I found it to be everything that I ever heard about it. Terrific!!! I went down with the other 3 charter members of our group and we all had a great time. Oh sure there were a few bumps in the road for this conference, but overall it was worth going to and being a part of. I really cannot stress that enough.

If you have not heard we have been officially accepted as an ABANA Affiliate Organization and were presented with our Certificate during the conference. We were all very happy at being accepted.

I am sending our notification of our newsletter for the first time with Mailchimp. I hope that it works out because I don't want to have to retype my entire contact list again. I have about 135 that get our notified directly when the newsletter is on our website, of course this includes the Affiliates list which is about 96 right off the bat and the rest are other interested individuals that have asked me to. This is a free service for up to 500 email addresses and I think two or three mailings per month. It should suit my needs for several years to come. I will let everyone know how it works out and please let me know of any problems that you are having with receiving our newsletter. I wish I could do the newsletter directly in Mailchimp, but I did not like the way it came out so all you will be getting is a tagline and hopefully a link to our website with the newsletter.

During the conference I was able to meet many of the fellow Blacksmiths and enthusiasts that I have either heard about, emailed or read about. There was so much to see and do. I did work as a volunteer and while they gave me a great T-shirt, I would have helped out without it. I had almost as much fun helping with the tents, setting up the gallery and helping out with the auction as I did at the demonstrations. You've all read about the demonstrators that were there and you know, I had seen several of them before, but it's great to see them again, because

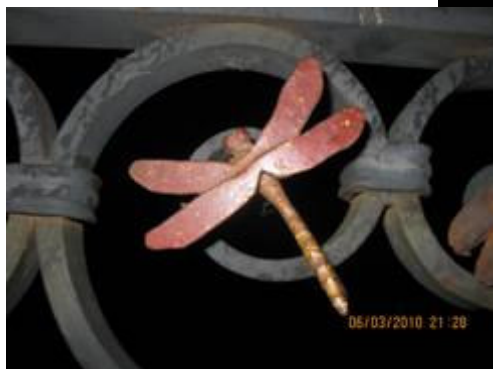
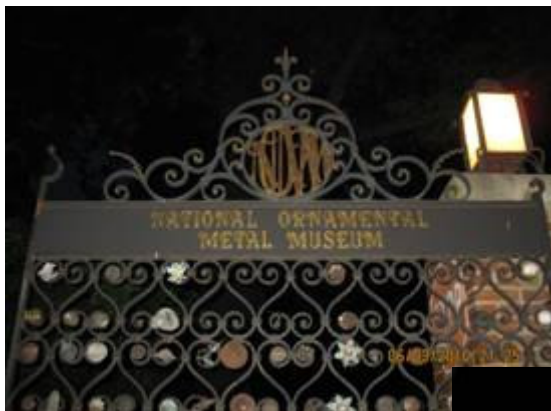
they don't always do the same thing and even if they do you missed something. At least I do all the time.

I even found time to take a broom making class with Jeff & Brooke Mohr. I purchased his tape several years ago and never got around to actually taking the time to make one. Hey, he makes them just like he does on the tape or disc now. So if you were wondering, now you know.

I have to admit that as a volunteer I didn't get fired once nor did I have to work like a dog and feel used and abused, so if your attending one of these things go ahead volunteer, you will have plenty of time to do what you want.

Did I mention the new, well new to me, anvil named Peter W. that followed me home or the almost working hand blower that when fixed up is worth about \$350 and I got for \$60. Or how about Iron in the Hat! Len Ledet is very amusing and fun to do IHT with. I won a great couple of pieces of copper work and didn't even realize that there was a set of repousse tools in a plastic bag with my grouping. How lucky is that! Everyone was envious and I was unconscious. Hahaha.

We did have a very nice time at the NOMMA reception. The works in the museum are beautiful. The entrance gate is a real work of art that certainly sets the tone as you enter.



This is the NOMMA entrance gate and a few of the details from it.

We did make a small item for the gallery and donated it to ABANA to help kick off the reemergence of the conferences, but I will let Joe Gentile tell that story. He did a great job on and we are proud of his workmanship. I know that we are of him. Here are a few pictures of the happenings during the conference.



Ah the sign we were looking for!

When we arrived we (Joe Gentile, Steve LaPaugh, Eric Hinckley & me; Vince Nakovics) volunteered to help set up the gallery and since we had to deliver our own gallery item we spent the bulk of our afternoon in the gallery and then we ventured out into the vastness of the tailgating and demonstration tents.



Eric is stronger than he looks! Scrub Oak Forge had a great display and really nice anvils for sale.



Joe and Eric gave that poor anvil a pounding; Steve was asking something about a discount since it was now used!



This is the Ring Project that Francis Whitaker worked on back in 78'. Beautiful today as it was back then. Kudos to the team taking care of it for us.

To your right is the River Ring Project, just in case you couldn't tell.



06/04/2010 09:23



06/03/2010 15:38

This is the Yellin Tribute Gate, the inscription reads:  
Harvey Z. Yellin 1918 – 1985 40 Years keeper of the Iron

Julie Hailey-Clark Spider



06/03/2010 15:43



Sorry but I lost the card with who made this, but isn't it cool!

Ernie Dorset's Lantern



Francis Whitaker – Andiron



DANNY AED  
STAINED GLASS PANEL  
Aston



Shelly Thomas demonstrating bending pipe and other tubing & stuff.

I don't need a hammer I can smash my nail into the log with my hand. Piece of cake.



Brian Brazeal w/assistant demonstrating how to make a hammer.

Dan Nauman on Repousse



I tried to keep him under control and out of trouble, but he just got away from me. Sorry Brenda!



Vince finally got around to making use of that video by Jeff Mohr. He took the class Jeff and Brooke offered Saturday morning. He let Jeff & class know that the video and now disc is just like the class!



Brooke Mohr explaining how to start a broom.



New York Blacksmiths tie the knot on ABANA Auction Night & Stage!!! Congratulations!! May your hammers ring in time for the rest of your days.



Vince adds his nail to the stump.



Don't split the log Joe!



Judy Berger was present and had her terrific collection of books to choose from. She was set up right beside Blacksmith Supply AKA John Elliot.



I want one! I want one!



Steve adds his nail to the stump.



Darryl Nelson making a Bear & Osprey head

Len Ledet, Clay Spencer &? draw for the  
Tire hammer!



A surprised and happy Elisabeth Brim received the  
Alex Bealer Award – shown here with Peter H.



Have you ever wondered what you would do with an extra \$21K? Well we know someone had the good sense to make the high bid of \$21K for the Patient Order of Meticulous Metalsmiths lock. See the photos on the next page please.



Nothing more to say! Beautiful!

Well all I can say is that there was just so much going on that it was hard to keep up with it all and there were four of us attending! I want to thank Joe Gentile, Steve LaPaugh and Eric Hinckley for providing pictures for this newsletter and of course for being such good company during the conference. We all had a great time and I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in Blacksmithing. South Dakota is in only two years!



Break Time!



Man you guys are strong.

