

'The Forum'



December 2024

Vol. 26 No. 12

Visit our website at <https://www.metalsmith.org>

Annual Meeting/Holiday Gathering is Sunday, Dec. 8 at the CSPS Hall in St. Paul!



TGoM's annual holiday gathering is set for Sunday, December 8 at the CSPS Hall in St. Paul, MN. Join Guild of Metalsmiths families at 383 Michigan St., St. Paul, MN 55102, at the corner of West 7th and Western—map below.

The hall will open at noon. We usually share hors d'oeuvres as people arrive, so bring your favorites if you wish. The annual business meeting is first on the agenda, including awards, elections, and the normal business stuff starting at 1:00 pm and going on for an hour or so.

That leads into show and tell, and possibly an impromptu mini-auction. By then, we'll all have worked up an appetite to sit down to our always delightful holiday potluck. Please bring a dish to pass.

If you're a first-timer to this event, just go upstairs at the front of the building when you get there. An elevator entrance is also located on the side just off the parking lot. Bring your family!

Any questions about this meeting can be answered by contacting meeting champion Mike Frattalone at icemanfratt@aol.com.

If you're interested in learning more about the CSPS, go to their website <https://www.sokolmn.org>



The Program Committee Needs Your Input!

The Program Committee is requesting that between now and the Holiday Party that you ponder some thoughts on:

- ◇ Venue ideas? Where would you like to go for our bi-monthly Membership Meetings?
- ◇ What would you like to see demonstrated or ideas for lectures at the bi-monthly Membership Meeting?

The committee will have a suggestion box at the Holiday Party for you to share your suggestions of where to go and what you want to see.

QUICKNEWS

Class: Handled Struck Tools
December 7, 2024. Details page 2.

Class: Box Jaw Tongs
January 25, 2025. Details page 2.

February Membership Mtg.
Plan now to attend our February 2025 membership meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at the MN Transportation Museum/Jackson Street Roundhouse.

Sad News from LAMA

Some of TGoM's smiths have traveled to Louisiana annually to attend the Louisiana Metalsmiths Association's (LAMA) Annual Conference, "Bangin' on the Bayou," in March. We learned earlier this week that one of our long-time friends there, Jerry Baker, has passed.

Jerry was LAMA's president for a number of years, was a talented blacksmith who shared his knowledge with all of us, and will be missed by both his Louisiana friends and his Minnesota friends.

Volunteer Opportunities

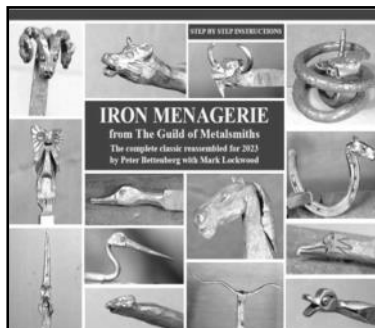
Are you a smith looking for volunteer opportunities and not sure whom to talk to? Contact: Kim Maas, Volunteer Coordinator at: tgom.volunteer@gmail.com or call 651-328-7219.

New 'Iron Menagerie' book

The new version of The Guild's IRON MENAGERIE workbook is available to purchase!
Cost \$20 (+\$10 S/H if mailed).

What a wonderful holiday gift for your favorite blacksmith!

Contact person: Peter Bettenberg
tgomeditor@gmail.com



Scammer Alert!

It is being reported that members of the Guild are getting text messages and email from scammers using other Guild members' emails and/or contacting members via text messages from phone numbers not belonging to members they are claiming to be. No one in the Guild will ever email or text message you to pick up gift cards, send money/money orders for some sort of emergency, or any other way into your wallet.

Do Not Open any attachments for anyone you don't know...ever!

Handled Struck Tools Class 2024

Date: Saturday, Dec. 7, 9am to 5 pm

Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (new map page 8)



Instructors: Bob Brown, Wayne Olson, the Gavins, Herb Fick, George Auel

Cost: \$85 Class size: Max 8, min 6

Class Description: The tools made will be punches with wire handles and chisels with wire handles. We will offer the option to use treadle hammers supplied by the teaching staff. (Find out if you really need one of these by trying them.) Tools for the treadle hammers will be supplied. Steel supplied will be 5/8 and 3/4 inch round 4140 AN for the punches and chisels. Handles will be fabricated from 1/4 and or 5/16 inch round mild steel.

The instructor's goal for the workshop is to produce students comfortable with the process of forging and heat treating tools from nominal tool steel. A secondary goal is to have the students comfortable with the use of treadle hammers. We expect to have three treadle hammers of different styles available. The workshop gives one the ability and confidence to modify and/or repair legacy and or neighbor's tools. We forge in the morning, heat treat and install handles after lunch. Much of the time is spent focusing on understanding the heat treat process. There will be enough stock so we can encourage you to make a couple of serious mistakes and still go home with real tools to use.

Bring: Power grinders are supplied. Bring your favorite hammers and tongs suitable for the stock if you have them. So far we have never run out of Guild tools to share. Bring your basic safety gear (leather, cotton, gloves, eye and ear protection and safety shoes). The building will be open by 8 am, introductions and coffee will start at 8:30, in the shop by 9 AM. We usually finish just before 5 pm.

To register online: [click here to our website Education page](#)

To register with a check: Contact class manager Herb Fick 507-649-1611 (CEL) or herb@phyque.com for instructions.

Acceptance will be in the order submitted, based on the online transaction date or postage date, and each person will be notified individually.

Updated Directions to MN School of Horseshoeing:

Take US10 towards Elk River. Past the exits for Main St, Anoka and Thurston Ave there is a new stop light that comes up quickly, so be watching. Google and Apple don't have this intersection yet. Turn Left and follow the frontage road to Tungsten St. Then turn right on Riverdale Drive.

2024 Intro to Arc Welding Class



L-R Tom Teisberg, Virginia Dale, Ben Groves (instructor), Marty Masters (class manager).

Box Jaw Tongs Class 2025

Date & time: Saturday, January 25, 2025, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Cost: \$65 Class Size: Max 8, Min 4

Instructors: Dave Gavin & Jesse Gavin
Location: MN School of Horseshoeing (new map page 8)



Class Description: This class will have you making tongs that will hold onto 1/4" X 1" flat bar stock. This class is for beginners that have gone through and have had some additional practice beyond the basics class. You will finish drawing out the reins and forging the boss to shape and matching the two different jaws to hold the stock.

Tools and Equipment or other items participants are to bring to the class: Favorite hammer for forging and peening rivets, tongs to hold 3/4"x 3/4", 1/4" x 3/4", plus other tools as you see fit – i.e. grinder, files, etc.

Safety Equipment: the usual for forging with coal: safety glasses, hearing protection, clothing of natural fiber with no cuffs or fraying, and leather boots or shoes.

Lunch arrangements: local restaurants or bring your own.

To register online: [click here to our website Education page](#)

To register with a check: Contact class manager Jesse Gavin at 1-715-808-5891 or jagavin6273@hotmail.com for instructions.

Acceptance will be in the order submitted, based on the online transaction date or postage date, and each person will be notified individually.

Updated Directions to MN School of Horseshoeing:

Take US10 towards Elk River. Past the exits for Main St, Anoka and Thurston Ave there is a new stop light that comes up quickly, so be watching. Google and Apple don't have this intersection yet. Turn Left and follow the frontage road to Tungsten St. Then turn right on Riverdale Drive.

Taste of Blacksmithing 2024



(L to R) Jason Brott, Alice Bruderer, Ethan Brott, Louis Johnson, *Lee Meilleur, *Rebecca Hrobak, *Bob Keller (* = instructor & assistants)

TGoM now has a 'Discord Account'

What is Discord? Discord is an instant messaging and VoIP social platform. The service converts your voice into a digital signal that travels over the Internet. Users have the ability to communicate with voice calls, video calls, text messaging, media, and files in private chats or as part of communities called "servers"

Invitations went out in October 2023 to all our members by email. If you did not get an invitation and want Discord, please contact Kim Maas by email at tgom.volunteer@gmail.com and you will be sent an invitation by email.

From the Librarian, Richard Zielike!-

Hooks and Gas Burners for Forges, Furnaces, and Kilns, and pictures of our books



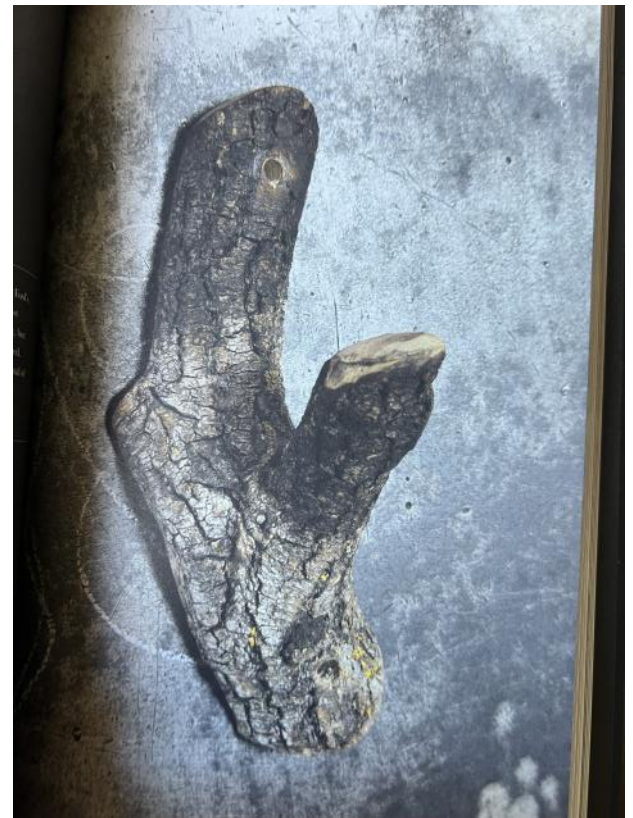
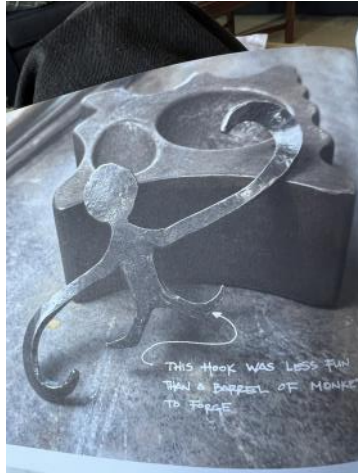
Well, our library has certainly grown. Last year, we purchased some welding text books from Hennepin County Technical College on welding following our tour at their campus, and we had a whole lot of books donated at our fall conference. Some of them are duplicates. I guess we all have similar tastes.

For example, I purchased *Hooked* by Matt Jenkins, and he also donated a copy to the Guild. Matt was one of our “Covid” online presenters, and he also presented at our Fall Conference several years ago at the Pierce County Fairgrounds.)

Matt decided to expand his skill by making a different hook each day of the year. He divided the book by months, with the hook he made each day, and gave plans for two of each month’s more complicated designs.

He expected to get called out on April Fool’s Day where he just used a tree branch as a hook. He has much, much, more complicated designs.

Here are some of Matt’s more unique designs, including the April Fool’s hook:



Great bedtime reading-well looking-lots of pictures

The other book has lots of words and much fewer pictures. *Gas Burners for Forges, Furnaces and Kilns*.by Michael Porter. In fact, the first 27 pages are mostly theory with some drawings. After that, he starts with a basic (and then super charged) 1/2” burner, followed by a 3/4 “, a 1”, and a 1 1/4” burner. He also has plans for four furnaces, including a multiport glass furnace.

Just to give you a reference for that glass forge, bronze melts at 1675 degrees, steel and iron melt between 2,500-2,800, and the upper melting point for melting glass is 2,912degrees. Not something to use wearing gym clothes and tennis shoes.

See next page for photos of the library of books we have available for checking out.

April Fools!

Paul Hubler Animal Heads Location

The animal heads used in *Iron Menagerie* are now on display at the Minnesota Transportation Museum, aka: The Jackson Street Roundhouse.

The display will also be shown annually at the “Madness”, The Guild of Metalsmiths’ fall conference.

The tooling that was used to make these animal heads would be a nice addition to this display. If anyone has any information on the location of the tooling, please contact someone on the board of directors.



Help Needed at Santa’s Train Shop

Saturdays and Sundays of December, the Minnesota Transportation Museum, aka: The Jackson Street Roundhouse, has an event called “Santa’s Train Shop.”

During the event the blacksmiths are busy making candy canes for the guests going through the museum. And this is where the need is. We need folks to volunteer to help make the candy canes on Saturdays and Sundays. The largest need is on Sundays.

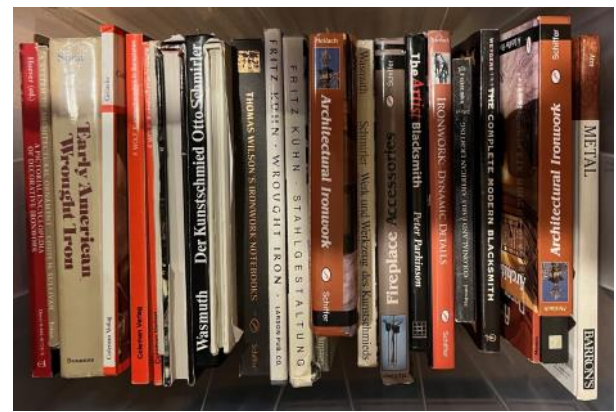
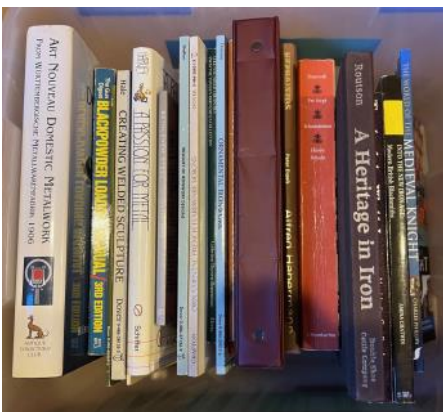
If you have not attended this event in the past, think about putting it on your calendar this year. The Roundhouse does a wonderful job of making the museum festive for the holiday season.

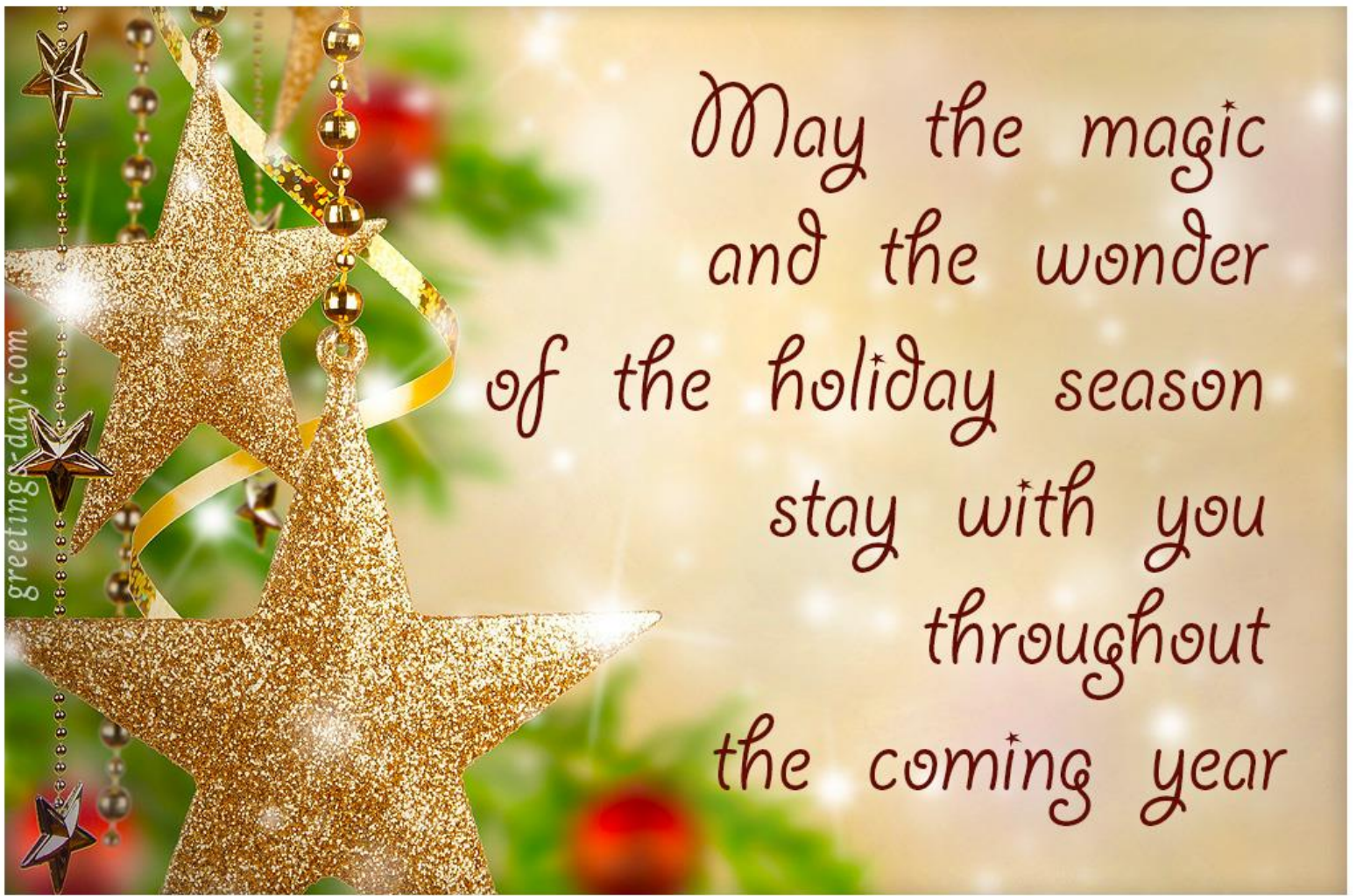
For more information you can contact Gordon Barr by email agbarr@aol.com or Kim Maas by email tgom.volunteer@gmail.com.



TGoM Library

The Guild of Metalsmiths is fortunate to have a dedicated librarian in Richard Zielike. He provided pictures of the stacks of books seen below. These and others are available for check-out. Richard says, “Let me know what you’re interested in. I can’t fit them all in the car. Email me at richard@edinaclock.com”.





May the magic
and the wonder
of the holiday season
stay with you
throughout
the coming year



TGoM Membership Perks

Discounts

The following companies are extending discounts to The Guild of Metalsmiths members. You will need to ask for their Guild of Metalsmiths discount, show your membership card (found on the back of your "Metalsmith"), and a Picture ID. These discounts are a gift to us and can be taken away if they are abused. If you have a hobby shop, no problem. If you are a professional with a few employees, no problem. What is not fair, is turning yourself into a dealership by reselling/trading products that you have purchased with our discount or being a big company and using our discount for your bottom line. Please don't ruin this for everyone. These businesses deserve our recognition and patronage:

Please see The Guild of Metalsmiths website for additional information regarding discounts and products available:

<https://www.metalsmith.org/about/friends-of-the-guild/>

Carhartt at Work Program

Mall of America
144 North Garden Bloomington, MN 612-318-6422 or
Riverdale Village Mall
12680 Riverdale Blvd. Coon Rapids, MN 952-885-8000
www.carhartt.com

15% on almost everything in the store, except Flame Retardant (FR) gear, which is 10% off whether you shop online or at Mall of America

Minnesota Glove & Safety & Bob's Workwear

West St. Paul, MN 651-552-8840
www.minnesotaglove.com 10% discount off merchandise not already on sale or discounted

Smith-Sharpe Fire Brick Supply

2129 Broadway St NE, Minneapolis, MN 612-331-1345
www.ssfbs.com 866-545-6743
The quantity of product purchased dictates the normal "Level" of discount. Smith-Sharpe Fire Brick Supply is offering to discount "Level" better to Guild members. It will vary with types of products, but may average about 10%.

Garelick Steel Company

Minneapolis, MN 612-521-8857 888-521-8857
www.garelicksteel.com
10% discount for members

Mississippi Welders Supply

Seven locations between MN & WI. 800-657-4422
www.mwsco.com
See website or phone book for locations. 15% discount on gases and most in-store items that are not already marked as a sale item or already at a discount from MSRP for members.

Toll Gas and Welding Supply

Eight Twin City metro locations. 763-551-5300
www.tollgas.com
See website or phone book for location near you. 15% off of gases and most in-store items, for Guild members.

Oxygen Service Co.

St. Paul, MN 651-774-7273 800-774-1336
www.oxygenservicecompany.com
15% discount on gases and most items that are not already marked on sale for members.

Division V Sheet Metal

218 Ohio Street, St. Paul MN 55107 651-291-8662
<http://divisionv.com/>
Architectural sheet metal company: zinc, steel, copper, Cor-Ten, aluminum, composite

Our neighborhood of smiths

The Guild of Metalsmiths (TGoM)

Most membership meetings are the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, and October, except December. For most meetings a potluck meal begins at 6:30 pm and the business meeting begins at 7, with a demonstration or activity starting around 8 (times approximate). To check your membership expiration date, see the mailing label on your latest copy of "Metalsmith."

President: Larry Wasmund poundedtreasures@gmail.com
612-599-4762

Vice-President: Paul Widenhoefer pwidenhoefer@gmail.com
952-930-0070

Our website is: <https://www.metalsmith.org>

Badger Blacksmiths

President: Dave Weiss Newsletter editor: John Grump
715-379-5007 715-829-4559

diamondmetalworks13@gmail.com

johngrump@att.netBadger

website: <https://sites.google.com/site/badgerblacksmiths/>

Lake Superior Metalsmiths

Lake Superior Metalsmiths (LSM) meet the fourth Saturday of the month. Potluck at noon with meeting to follow.

Contacts are:

Charley Brown, President, CharleyRB@charter.net
218-428-7906

Dave Hanson, VP, duluthblacksmith@yahoo.com
218-391-4466

Northern Minnesota Metalsmiths

The NMM meets the first Monday of the month at Lake Itasca Region Pioneer Farmers (LIRPF) show grounds, 1/4 mile east of the north entrance to Itasca State Park. Contact Jeff Olson for monthly specifics at olsonironworks@gmail.com. The NMM's website is <https://www.northernminnesotametalsmiths.com/>

Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center (CAFAC)

Quarterly blacksmithing classes, exhibits, and open house events.
www.cafac.org email: info@cafac.org

Tunnel Mill Crafts

Blacksmith shop, traditional iron work, classes
Located 20 miles south of Rochester MN, near Spring Valley MN.
507 289-4189 or 507 289-5246
Email: Carol Adams jc-adams@msn.com,
<http://www.tunnelmillcrafts.com/>

Sandy Lake Forge on Raspberry Island

Blacksmith shop offering classes, workshops and more. See raspberrylakefolkschool.blogspot.com for details or call: 218-851-6085
Gary and Janet Hill
Raspberry Island
50569 218th Place
McGregor, MN 55760

Goings on...a listing of TGoM events at a glance



- **Most membership meetings** are the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, and October. Date for December will be announced. **Watch each Forum for date and location changes.** For these meetings a potluck meal begins at 6:30 pm and the business meeting begins at 7, with a demonstration or activity starting around 8 (times approximate).
- Education Comm. meets first Thursday of each month. Contact Martin Masters, mastersmw@yahoo.com
- Program Comm. meetings are 7 pm the third Thursday monthly. Derrick Phillips, co-chair DerrickPhillipsA3o3@gmail.com
- Most board meetings are the second Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November via ZOOM.

December 2024

Dec. 7, Handled Struck Tools Class, MN School of Horseshoeing
 Dec. 8, TGoM Annual Meeting/Holiday Party, CSPS Hall, St. Paul

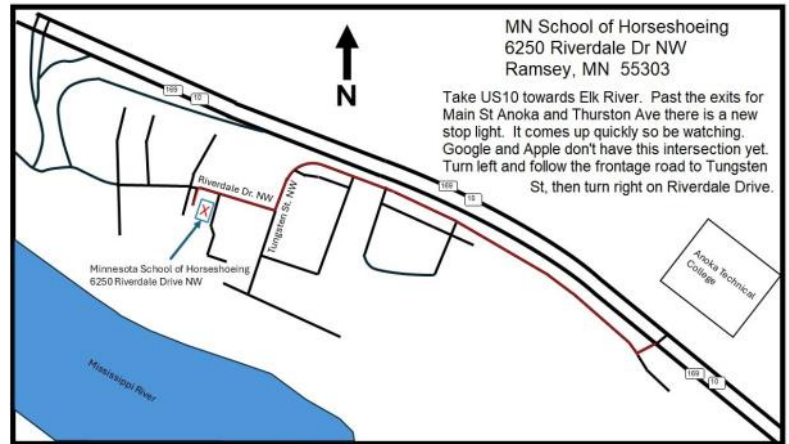
January 2025

Jan. 4, Beginning Blacksmithing Class C1, MN School of Horseshoeing
 Jan. 11, Beginning Blacksmithing Class C2, MN School of Horseshoeing
 Jan. 18, Beginning Blacksmithing Class C3, MN School of Horseshoeing
 Jan. 25, Box Jaw Tongs Class, MN School of Horseshoeing

February 2025

Feb. 12, Guild Membership Meeting, MN Transportation Museum/
 Jackson Street Roundhouse

Map to MN School of Horseshoeing



Join The Guild of Metalsmiths

Send \$30 dues to the address below. Please circle if you want to be listed in our membership directory and/or check items you don't want listed.

The Guild of Metalsmiths
 PO Box 72
 Hudson, WI 54016

List Me in the directory but don't list address - phones: home - work - fax - cell - email - web page
Don't List Me in the Directory
(circle items above you DO NOT want published)

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Primary phone: _____ Secondary phone: _____

All memberships are family memberships. Persons of all ages, professionals, and hobbyists, are invited to join.

We do not sell our mailing list.

ELECTRONIC FORUM

If you have not been receiving an email notification that *The Forum* is available, please verify that we have your correct email address. Contact Gordon Barr at agbarr@aol.com.



Address Service

If you have items to be included in *The Forum*, please send them to Georgia Myers, editor, by email to: gldmyers@embarqmail.com by the third Monday of the month, if possible.

The Guild of Metalsmiths on the web

Visit our website at <https://www.metalsmith.org>

Looking for something? Try the search engine. On our home page, at the top of the right sidebar, enter your query and click on "Search."

To reach our website quickly, just scan the QR code below.

December 2024



Your membership expiration date will show on the address label of your quarterly "Metalsmith" magazine.

TGoM now accepts PayPal and most major credit cards

The Guild accepts PayPal and most major credit cards, in addition to paper checks, for the payment of annual dues. This should make it more convenient for members to pay dues.

The Forum

The Guild of Metalsmiths publishes *The GoM Forum* monthly. It is intended as a tool to further our educational mission, to keep members up to date on current happenings, to publicize projects and workshops, a place for all members to express their opinions, concerns, learn more about each other—in short, to help us run our organization

Guild educational grants

There is grant money available for Guild members to study intermediate and advanced metalworking techniques.

The Guild educational grant program is designed to bring new skills into the metalworking community. Participants are given money to pay for a portion of their expenses and are expected to learn some new or poorly understood skill, and then to share what they have learned with other members and the public through an article in our quarterly magazine, "Metalsmith." They're also expected to lead a workshop on the topic (or other educational service approved by the board).

Application forms are available from the president or treasurer at a regular meeting, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Guild of Metalsmiths
PO Box 72
Hudson, WI 54016