# Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association

December 2011



Members attend Scroll Workshop at Gerald Franklins Shop east of Duncan, Okla. On October 29th.

Not necessarily in order: Gerald Franklin, Justin Cranford, Larry Roderick, Vickie Roderick, Don Shunk, Jerry Cathy, Bill Phillips, Ricky Vardell, Mike Coody, Charles McDevitt and Jim Carothers (not pictured)

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The Saltfork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association, a non-profit organization of amateur and professional artist and craftsmen, publishes this newsletter monthly. Our purposes are the sharing of knowledge, education and to promote a more general appreciation of the fine craftsmanship everywhere. We are a chapter of the Artist-Blacksmith Association of North America.

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Visit our Saltfork Craftsmen Website: www.saltforkcraftsmen.org

## Nail board for 2012 conference made by Gerald Brostek.

Lets cover this board with forged decorative nails like we did for the nail tree. Please keep nails a reasonable size so we don't split the wood. Make your nails and get them to Gerald Brostek or check with Gerald about a meeting where the board will be present and you can place the nail yourself.

\* Gerald Brostek is hosting the December meeting for the NE Region. There will not be a trade items, instead Gerald would like for everyone that attends to make a nail to be installed into the nail board. If you don't know how to make a nail then this is a great opportunity to learn how a nail is constructed and make one to add to the board.

\*

A nail for the board does not even have to look like a traditional nail. It only has to have a sharp point that can be driven into the wood. If necessary a hole can be drilled into the board to help with the installation.



## President's Notes

Gerald Franklin



Again this year, we have made it through a very busy fall season. What with our support of the Oklahoma State Fair, another very successful conference (our 15<sup>th</sup>), and several demonstrations for community events, we have been very productive. The weather has cooled off considerably so that we finally have some good forging weather.

Last month, I neglected to mention a donation that Ron Lehenbauer made to the club. He brought a box of "take-off" horseshoes to the state fair and sold them to the folks who visited our booth. He split the proceeds of this with the Oklahoma Farrier's Association and Saltfork. He presented our Secretary-Treasurer with a check for \$75 representing our share of the take. Ron also presented Gary Gloden with a similar check to be turned over to the OFA. Thanks to Ron for this donation.

Meetings will be a little sparse in December due to the holidays, travel, and company coming but try to make one if you can. Speaking of meetings, there has been a change to the S/C meeting location. The December S/C meeting will be hosted by Ricky Vardell in Temple. Check the schedule in this news-letter for Ricky's address. The website calendar also has the particulars on this meeting.

We can all look forward to visiting with family and friends during the remainder of the holiday season. If your schedule will allow it plan on attending as many of our regional meetings as you can. These meetings are where most of our individual teaching and learning takes place.

#### SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL PAGE

#### Meeting dates

**January 21, 2012** Host: Phone #

#### February 18, 2012

Host: Gerald Franklin Phone #: 580-252-6002 Trade item: feather

#### March 17, 2012

Host: Phone # Trade Item: Lunch:

April, 2012 (ANNUAL PICNIC)? Host: Phone #

May 19, 2012 Host: Phone # Trade item:

#### June 16, 2012 Host: Trade items Lunch:

**July 21, 2012** Host: Phone # Trade item:

#### August 18, 2012 Host: Phone # Trade item:

**Sept. 15, 2012** Host: Phone #: Trade item:

October 20-21, 2012 SCABA Conf. Perry, Okla.

November 17, 2012 Host: Bill and Diana Davis Phone #: 580-549-6824 Trade item:

December 17 2011 Host: Ricky Vardell Trade item; something Christmas-y Phone: 580-512-8006

### **Meeting Notes:**

We had a beautiful day for the meeting at the Lazy Ass Forge Shop. Members started showing up about 9:00 AM and filled the shop in no time. There were two forges going inside the main shop and a couple set up outside under the trees. We had several members travel up from Texas and we were glad that they came up to visit and do a little forging.

Teresa came down from OKC to help me with the meal preparations and also to show off her latest jewelry making technique. She tried her hand at fold forming of copper and turned out some nice leaves that she them turned into earrings and necklaces. Lunch was pulled pork sandwiches and the deserts were provided by members. To say the least no one left hungry.











December meeting will be

hosted by Ricky Vardell at his home in Temple, Ok. Lunch is provided, bring side dish to help. Map in back of newsletter.

### NORTH EAST REGIONAL PAGE

#### Meeting dates:

#### January 14, 2012

Host: Bill Kendall Phone # 918-742-7836 Trade item: ladle Lunch: provided, (possibly chili), bring a side/desert

February 11, 2012

Host: Gary Gloden Phone# 918-321-5015 Trade item. leaf Lunch: provided, bring a side dish or dessert

#### March 10, 2012

Host: Dan Cowart Phone: 918-440-0653 Trade items: spoon, fork or knife Lunch: provided, bring a side dish

April 14, 2012 Host: Omar Reed at Fort Gibson Phone: 918-478-4088

Trade items: cooking item Lunch: provided, bring a side dish

May 12, 2012 Host: Ed. McCormick Phone #: 918-733-9844 Trade item; something made from horseshoe Lunch: provided, bring a side dish

June 9, 2012

Host: Phone # Trade item: Lunch: July 14, 2012

Host: Phone # Trade item; Lunch:

#### August 11, 2012

Host: Phone# Trade item Lunch:

Host:

Sept. 8, 2012

Phone # Trade item: Lunch: October 20-21 2012 State conference November 10, 2012 Host: Phone # Trade item: Lunch: December 10, 2011 Host: Gerald Brostek Phone # Trade item: nail Lunch:







Map to Gerald Brostek's place in back of newsletter.

#### **Meeting notes:**

The Northeast regional meeting was held at the shop of Matt Goyer near Owasso Oklahoma. It was an extremely windy day so we did not fir up any coal forges. We all shared Matt's gas forge. We worked on a snowflake as per Don Neuenschwander specifications found in the December 2010 Saltfork newsletter and brainstormed on ways to further improve/change the design. This style snowflake is made similar to a Frederic cross in that the metal is split from each side and at different lengths. Then brought up to heat and forged open to create the snowflake.

At high noon we all feasted on barbeque beef and baloney, with potato salad , hot biscuits and hot apple pie along with other deserts all prepared by Matt's mother.

## Photos accompanying this article were taken by Jennifer Gray.

A couple more nails were also forges at this meeting and added to the 2012 nail board. We now have 5 nails in the board and have room for a least 100 more. So what are you waiting for....make a nail!

Gerald Brostek, Saltfork Craftsman

### NORTH WEST REGIONAL PAGE

January 28, 2012 Host: Phone# Trade item;

#### February 25th, 2012 Host:

Phone #

#### March 24, 2012 Host: Eddie Horton Phone #: Trade item; Campfire Tool Location; Fort Supply

April 28, 2012 Host: Tom Nelson Phone # Trade item: Lunch: Sack lunch or on own

#### **May 26, 2012** Host: Phone #

#### June 23, 2012 Host: Phone #: Trade item;

#### July 28, 2012 Host: Phone #: Trade item:

**August 25, 2012** Host: Phone #:

#### Sept. 22, 2012 Host: Phone #: Trade item;

October 20-21 2012 State conference

November 24th 2012 Host: Lunch:

December 22, 2012 Merry Christmas

### Northwest Regional Meeting

Gerald Franklin

Ron Lehenbauer hosted the northwest meeting on Nov 26 at the Major County Historical Society Blacksmith Shop in Fairview, OK. The gathering was part meeting and part workday as Ron was trying to get the shop in order for future meetings. There were about ten folks working and forging. They managed to get the old Little Giant hammer out of the shop in preparation for the arrival of the newer one that was given to the club by the John Burns estate.

It was a chilly and windy day but the shop is pretty tight so things were relatively comfortable inside the shop. The work area is about 30' X 30' or so, which gives a good amount of space for working and visiting.

I had to leave just before lunch but it looked like Mandel and Laquita Greteman were whipping up a fine meal for those who were able to stay around. Ron plans to host several meetings at the Fairview shop in 2012 so be sure to make some (or all) of them. It's an interesting place to visit.

The next meeting date for the NW Region falls on Christmas Eve so there is no meeting scheduled.

## Hope everyone has a safe and Merry Christmas.

We need members in the NW region to host meetings. Please contact the editor to schedule a meeting for 2012

#### SOUTH EAST REGIONAL PAGES

January 7th 2012 Host; Bill Phillips Phone: Lunch: provided, bring side/desert Trade item: steak turner February 4, 2012 Host: Eddie Horton (Ft. Towson) Phone #: 580-873-2634 Trade item: Heart March 3, 2012 Host: Eddie Horton (Ft. Towson) Phone #: 580-873-2634 Trade item: Leaf or Flower April 7, 2012 Host: Phone #: Lunch. Trade item: May 5, 2012 Host: Bill Phillips Phone # Lunch: provided, bring side/desert Trade item: spoon June 2, 2012 Host: Ronnie Smith Phone<sup>.</sup> Lunch: provided, bring side/desert Trade item: critter July 7, 2012 Host: Phone #: Lunch: Trade item: August 4, 2012 Host: Phone #: Lunch: Trade item: Sept. 1, 2012 Host: Bill Phillips Phone: Lunch: provided, bring side/desert Trade item; knife October 20-21, 2012 SCABA Conference **November 3, 2012** Host: Phone #:

December 3, 2011 Host: open

#### Gerald Franklin

The November southeast meeting was hosted by Brandon Reid at the historic Peter Conser Home near Heavener, OK. The Conser home is operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society and it is a spectacularly conserved site. This home is unique in Oklahoma history. It belonged to the captain of the light horse that was the only law enforcement agency in the Choctaw Nation during Indian Territory times.

There was a lot going on there during our meeting, which was held in conjunction with the Conser Classic Car and Motorcycle Show. The Friends of Peter Conser group sponsored the activities and had invited several rein actors and living history folks from the OHS. There was a quilt show along with tractor clubs, musicians, and gun fighters.

Jim Carothers was there with his forge, I had mine, and Omar Reed brought his down from Ft Gibson. Due to a technical difficulty, Omar couldn't set his forge up but Jim and I shared. Byron Doner, Bill Phillips and Doyal Smith were there as were John Davis and Eddie Horton from Ft Towson. We forged most of the day and had a good flow of visitors coming by our set-ups. I signed up one new member but I also passed out several newsletters so maybe some of those newsletters will get us another member or two.

Mr. Robert Wallace of Hugo fed the blacksmiths as part of the "work crew". Many of you will remember Mr. Wallace from the great Dutch Oven meals he has put together for past Fort Towson meetings. This meal was no exception...it was great. Robert has offered to teach Dutch Oven cooking classes. Maybe we can take advantage of his offer at a future southeast meeting. Thanks, Robert, for another fine meal.

## Saltfork Craftsmen November Basic Blacksmith Workshop

Route 66 Museum Elk City, Oklahoma By Jerry Boyd, Snyder Texas

I like working with metal. I can remember heating and bending coat hangers with a little propane torch my Dad gave me when I was a very young teenager and I went to vocational school to learn welding. I started working in a borrowed forge in the early 80's but as my kids started taking up more and more time, my blacksmithing "hobby" was put on hold.

Late this summer my wife and I stopped at the Route 66 Museum in Elk City, Oklahoma where we met Bob Kennemer. Bob was about to close the doors on the Blacksmith Shop but he let us come in and look around and the desire to work in the forge was re-kindled. Although we live in Snyder, Texas, our youngest Son recently moved to Shamrock, Texas and I thought many times while visiting him about going to Elk City on a Saturday morning to see the shop again. When I saw the November 5<sup>th</sup> Basic Workshop on the web site, my wife twisted my arm to go and reintroduce myself to the forge and anvil. After a quick phone call to workshop leader Dorvan Ivey I was set.

Leaving Shamrock early Saturday morning to be in Elk City by 8:00am, apprehension was creeping in. What if I was walking into a group of guys that have known each other for years and I was an outsider that was crashing the party? Boy was I worrying about nothing. Every person there made me feel at home and the shop felt like a shop I had worked in for years. Bob helped me with the form to join the Saltfork Craftsmen and Dorvan helped us sign in for the workshop. My only regret is that I can't remember the names of everyone I met.

Once all the paper work was done, we quickly had all the forges fired up and given our first assignment. Draw a taper on a quarter inch rod and get ready to make an S hook. Dorvan did a swift demonstration of what he was looking for and we went to work. Each forge had 2 students and an experienced blacksmith to help work the project. My mentor was Mandell and he did a great job suggesting different ways to get the job done without interfering with what I had in mind for how I wanted the S hook to look. I put a little curl on the taper and Mandell said why not tighten that curl up a little and see how that looks. Frankly, it looked much cleaner tightened up than it did the way I had it. After the S hook, we moved to a leaf key fob. Again Dorvan demonstrated an efficient way to make a leaf and back to work we went. Making leaves is simple, but actually making leaves is about a fifty fifty proposition for me. My leaf was fair at best but I felt better when Roy Bell explained that this was a drought year and insects had caused all the leaves to look bad.

The key fob project lead to the highlight of the day, lunch. Bob and a group of ladies put together an awesome meal of pulled pork and a pot of potatoes, carrots, corn and onions cooked like you would expect at a crawfish boil. All this was capped off with desert. It doesn't get much better than sitting in a shop eating and visiting with a bunch of good hard working people. Thanks to the crew that took the time to prepare the food and serve us, it was outstanding.

The after lunch lesson was a steak turner made from quarter inch square rod. Dorvan asked us to make a leaf and use it finish off the handle of the turner. He showed us how to shorten up the leaf and this time I made a leaf that I was proud of. That leaf is laying in my shop where I can see it every day. Usually I can see where I should have done something better or different, but for me that leaf is just about right. We then put a twist in the middle of the turner. I thought the twist would look nice very tight so I put the hot rod in the vice and went to town twisting. Mandell pointed out that you can twist the rod into if it is twisted enough. I probably did need to let up a little on the twisting. After finishing up the steak turner Mandell gave me a brass brush and said brush that leaf while it is hot. The brass bristles made the leaf turn a nice shade of gold and added a very nice touch to the turner.

What a good day. I was pretty pleased with myself on the way back to Shamrock. I am thankful to get back in touch with an art form that had been put on hold for years. The other day I took time to make a steak turner for a friend and I am in the process of making my first rose using some of the techniques I learned at the workshop. The Salt Fork Craftsmen Artist-Blacksmith Association did a wonderful job and I feel fortunate to spend that Saturday at the Route 66 Museum Blacksmith Shop.

#### Scroll Workshop

Gerald Franklin

Saltfork sponsored a Basic Scroll Workshop for some of its members on Oct 29, 2011. The class was filled to the planned capacity of ten students. We could have signed up more folks for the class but we just didn't have the space or equipment for more students.

I hosted the workshop at my shop near Loco, OK. We got started at 9AM with a class picture. Then we went back to the shop where we started out talking about safety. Then we went over some basic scroll tools and terms. Once the initial talking was over with, we got to work on the "ribbon-end" scroll on a piece of <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" X 1" flat strap. Some of the students were a little more experienced and these "old hands" helped the newer smiths get started.

Then came the snub end scroll. We forged a snub end scroll finial on the end of a piece of 1/2" square stock. Each student made at least one of these and some made more.

After the snub end finials were complete, it was time for lunch and a little rest.

Frankie put together a nice lunch of stew and cornbread and a nice pumpkin-pecan pie dessert. After lunch, we concentrated on the halfpenny scroll. The students did pretty well on this finial and again, some made more than one. This finial was forged on <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"X1" flat strap.

The last finial was the convex scroll, which is also called the beveled scroll. As with the halfpenny and the ribbon scroll, the beveled scroll is suited for flat strap. Again, we used  $\frac{1}{4}$ " X 1" strap. By the time we got to this finial, several of the students were content to watch the demo without trying their hand at forging it.

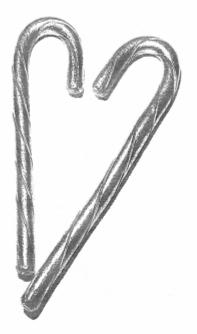
We knocked off about 5PM, tired, dirty, and hopefully more knowledgeable about basic scrollwork.

As the holiday season approaches, here are a couple of items you might find fun to make at the forge. Both would be good beginner projects.

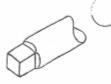
### **Iron Candy Canes**

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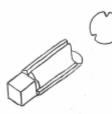
Created by: Steve Anderson



 Start with 1/2" diameter round stock. i use a piece about 2 feet long to avoid using tongs.



 Heat the end and square up about 1/2" of the stock for holding in vice.



for holding in vice. 3) At a yellow heat, groove

3 lines for 11 inches, using a chisel while placing the stock in a half round hardy or swage block. Repeated heats will be needed. You will only get a few inches

at a time. (You can also use a spring groover on a power hammer by making two passes.)

4) Place the square end in a vice and use channel locks or vice grips to make a slow twist in grooved portion. Quench if necessary to keep the twist even.

5) At a yellow heat cut twisted portion off on hardy while rolling piece to center. This keeps the stock round and looks more like an actual candy cane. Dress and round over ends to remove any sharp edges.

At a yellow heat use a wooden mallet to bend shape over horn.



Clean up the candy cane with a wire brush or on a wire wheel. Apply a wax or other finish.

\*If you want to get creative, add a ribbon made from flattened 1/4" x1/4" angle iron.

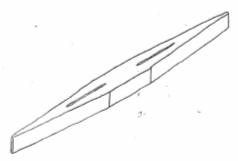
(editor's note: When I tried the candy cane for the article I flattened both ends and grooved the entire length. Because the stock was hot I used a 1/2" bolt tongs to position stock in vise. I twisted both halves and made two 11" candy canes from the 24" piece of stock. The grooving took me a little time, this first pair of candy canes were finished in an hour and a half. Steve Anderson said he can make one in about 15 minutes. They were fun to make!)

## Reindeer Shoe tree ornament

### Created by: Steve Anderson

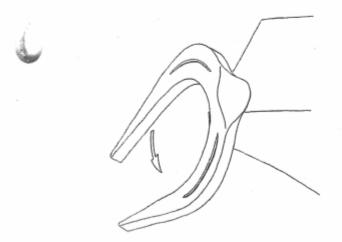
1) Start with 1/4" x 1/2" flat bar stock 4-1/2" long.

2) Taper from both ends to center to obtain a total length of 7". Be sure to maintain the 1/4" thickness.



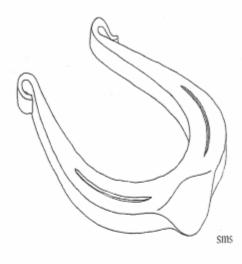
3) Chisel a 1-1/4" nail groove 1/2" off both sides of center as shown.

4) Bend to a pleasing horse (reindeer) shoe shape.



5) Forge a toe clip on corner of anvil heel.

Use small scroll tongs to shape heel ends as creative as you like.

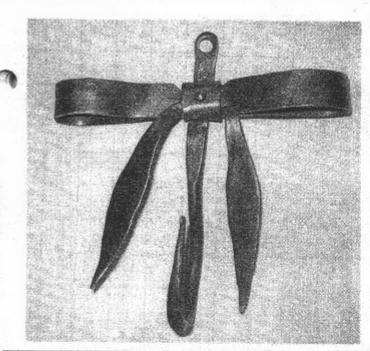


7) Use fish line and a paper clip to make a hanger.\*Use a brass brush for Rudolph's shoes (they were always made of gold).



(editor's note: for me, these 3 shoes took 2 hours to finish. While Steve Anderson has them down to 15 minutes each.)

#### A nice item not only for Christmas. Reprinted from Blacksmiths Association of Missouri, Sept/Oct 2003



A Christmas Bow Wreath Hanger Submitted by BAM Member Dave Edwards From Forge Facts, a publication of: the Rocky Mountain Smiths and it is a reprint from the Ocmulgee Blacksmith Guild Newsletter by David Fink of Westville (Lumpkin), Georgia

> Materials Needed 1 - 1/8" X 1" X 28" 2 - 5/16" round X 11"

FIG. 2 FIG. 2 FIG. 3 FIG. 3 FIG. 4 FIG. 3 FIG. 4 FIG. 5 FIG. 9 FIG. 7 FIG. 9 FI

 Cut or forge both ends of the 1/8" X 1" to a very steep angle (fig 1)

 Mark the center of fuller or cut a notch 3/8" deep by 1" long (fig 2) leaving a little more than 1/4" of material in the center

Measure 8" from notch and add another notch to each end (fig 3)

4. Forge the material from the outer notches down to a gradual taper as shown (fig 4)

5. Bend ends down 90 degrees (fig 5)

Bend over horn that the 90's overlap & rest over the center notch (fig 6)

7. Make collar of the same 1/8" X 1" stock and attach it so that the joint is on the same side as the ribbons: that were bent down 90

degrees.(The ribbons will hang from the back of the finished piece (fig 7)

 Push the collar down so that it is recessed into the bow and bow bulges outward to the front as shown (fig 8)

 Adjust the "ribbons" to a pleasing angle and bend on the horn or with scroll tongs to give them dimension and appearance of real ones 10. Forge a 1" to 1.5" hook on the 5/16" round stock and flatten the opposite end. Punch or drill a 5/16" hole in this flattened end and to hang it (fig10)

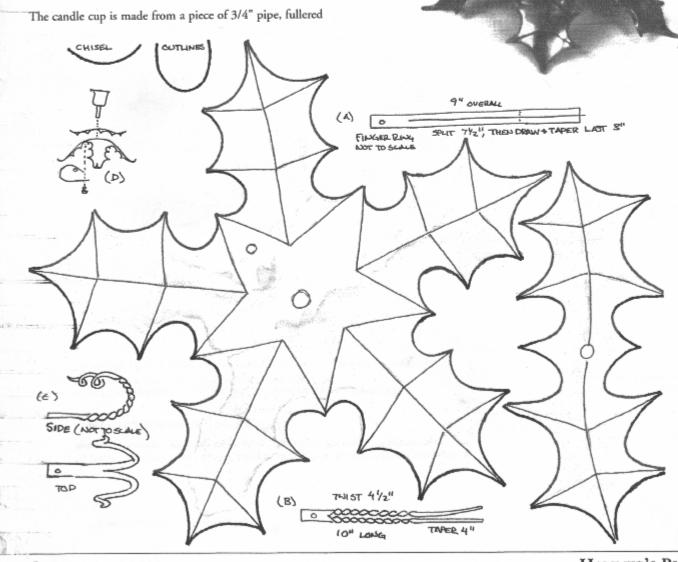
1. Drill a 5/32" hole through collar and hook. Rivet with 8d nail and apply finish.

## A Holly Candleholder

#### Designed by Gary Scasbrick, written by Brian Gilbert

Here's a simple project that I wrote about a couple of years back in the Appalachian Area Chapter newsletter. Even though it's been around the chapter newsletters for awhile and you may have already soon it, it's such a neat little design that I couldn't resist printing it again. Christmas will be here sooner than you think, and this would make the perfect gift for someone special!

A good friend Gary Scasbrick designed these neat little holly candleholders a few years ago. It's made mostly from sheet steel, cut with curved chisels he forged from jackhammer bits. (For more on-curved chisels, see the Spring issue of the *Hammer's Blow*, Vol 8 #2.) Note that the pattern below is reduced a bit. Enlarge it about 20% on a xerox machine for best results. down. Leave a long stem on the base of the pipe to use as a rivet to hold the piece together, and please don't use galvanized pipe... nasty fumes! The unique double-finger ring is made from a piece of  $1/8" \times 1/2"$ , split, tapered, and twisted, and riveted to the large leaf. Dish the leaves in a swedge block or over a stump, then heat and brush with a brass brush to give it a golden color.



## Holíday Candle Holder

Step 1 - Using a 1/4" x 1" x 18" piece, forge a 4" section square and taper at both ends of square section 4" from one end.

Step 2 - Draw out the handle end thinner and wider to form a slightly pointed shape. Forge the handle shaping concave, lengthwise.

Step 3 - Twist the square section evenly, leaving the handle and the bulk of the bar in one plane.

Step 4 - Cut a 2" split in the other end. Spread wider and thinner with the cross peen. Leave the peen marks showing to give it character.

Step 5 - Spread the feet an curve the whole piece as shown. The handle will curve back under with the concave side underneath. Step 6 - Forge the pin from a 1/4" round rod and put a 3/16" tenon on the end, about 1/2" long. At this small size, it is just about as easy to file it to a tenon.

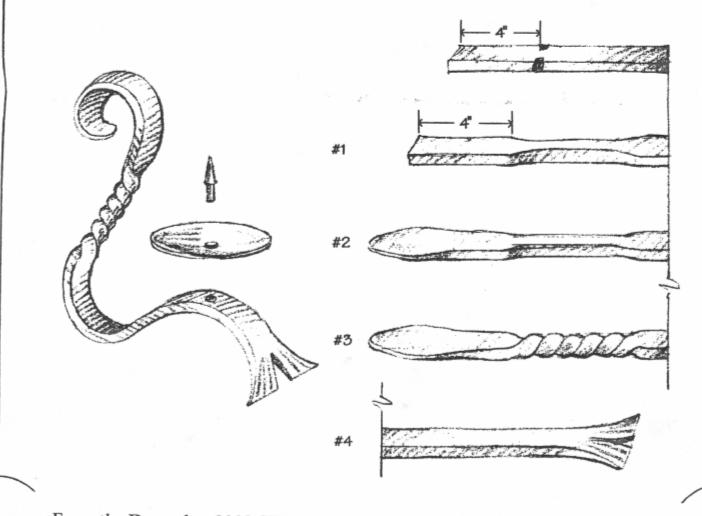
Step 7 - Cut a 4" circle from 1/8" plate and drill a 3/16" hole in the center.

Step 8 - Upset the edge of the plate to add a little depth to the wax tray. This can be done over the end of a piece of 3" pipe. Turn up the edge just enough to look nice.

Step 9 - Center the plate on the legs and mark the spot for the hole and drill to receive the tenon. It is easier to get the tray level after the legs are curved and the tray upset and drilled.

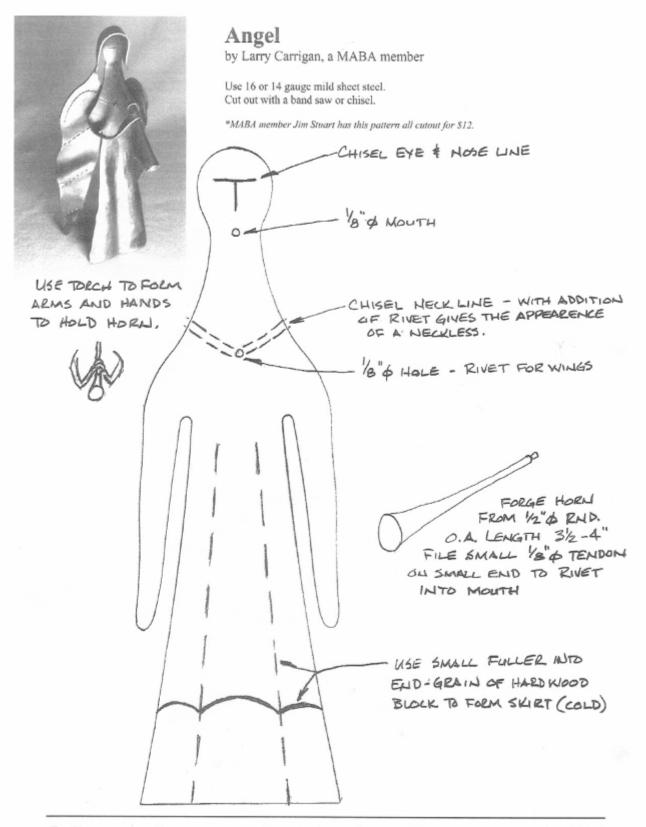
Step 10 - Rivet the bottom of the pin in the holes to attach the tray.

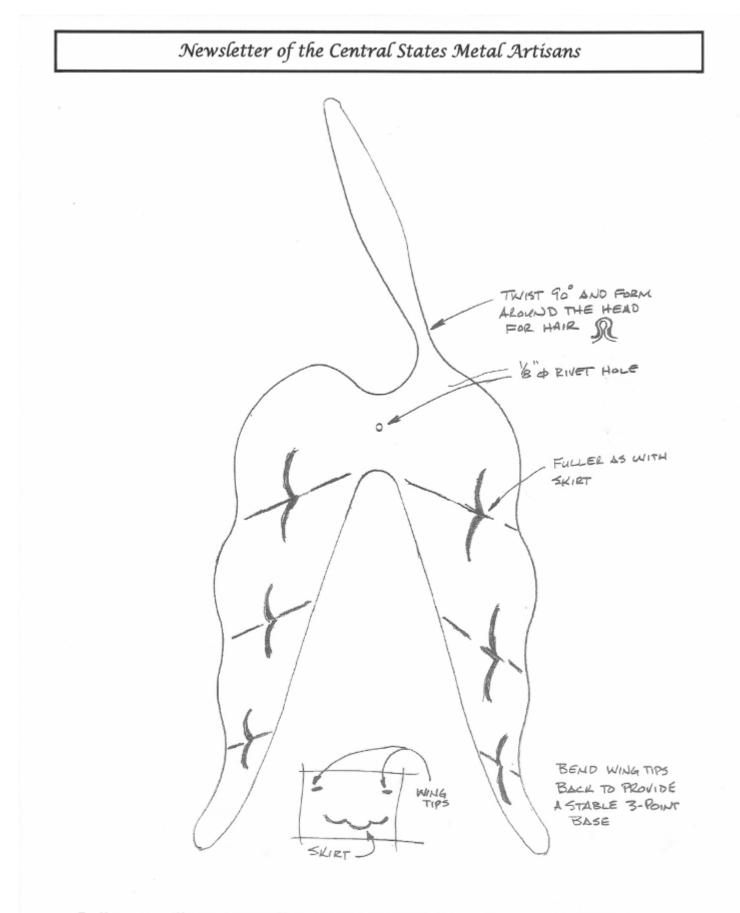
Step 11 - Finish by sanding lightly and applying floor wax or some other clear finish. &



From the December 2003 SWABA news letter POUNDERS PRESS

## Newsletter of the Central States Metal Artisans





THE UPSETTER NEWSLETTER OF THE MICHIGAN ARTIST BLACKSMITH'S ASSOCIATION NOV/DEC 2008

### Map page:

