



Rutherford County Blacksmith Association

November 2014

RCBA, Inc.

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Tenons in six easy steps.



Ron and Christian working on step one.



Hmmm. How about a workshop to make these?

Thank you again to Ron Nichols for demonstrating at our November meeting. Ron showed us several methods for making tenons – square, round, and angled. He used standard hand tools with the anvil, a smithing magician, and the power hammer. Throughout the demonstration, Ron offered tips on such things as how to keep a tenon centered on the stock, how to determine where on your stock to start your tenon, how long your tenon needs to be in order to hold your two pieces together, and how to make your own dies. And once again, thank you to Christian for being a wonderful assistant.

Project of the Month

Well, sigh!! Once again, there were no entries. The project was a shepherd's hook or other type of plant hanger. Actually, I did have mine, but I didn't want it to be the only entry, so it stayed in the car. It has since been given as a gift to an appreciative sister. This project will be

carried over to the January RCBA meeting, and I will definitely be making another plant hanger. The project for the December meeting is a Christmas ornament. I hope to see lots of entries. Project of the Month is open to all members, including Green Coal students.

Back Online

Thank you many times over to Gary Brown for setting up a new facebook account and starting up a new website. The web address is rcbablacksmiths.org. Notice the 's' on the end of blacksmiths. Our email address lacks that s. Find us on facebook as you would find any friend. Use rcba as the first name and blacksmiths as the last name. Look for a picture of a fire in the stone forge.

Heat

I hear the new woodstove is up and running. Thank you to everyone who worked on getting it set up. We'll be needing wood to burn in it. Logs need to be cut fairly small – let's say 6" X 12". RCBA will probably purchase some wood, but donations are preferable. If you are working at a forge, you are warm. Those who are teaching you need a place to warm their hands and feet.

Upcoming Events

December 6 – AACB Christmas party at the Appalachian Center for Craft. There will be coffee in the morning and a good lunch after the demonstration. You can also look forward to a huge Iron in the Hat, an inspirational show and tell display, and the opportunity to purchase items made by fellow blacksmiths in the annual auction. You can also do some Christmas shopping in the gallery/gift shop. Bring your wallet! If I do this right, driving directions will follow.

From Interstate 40: From I-40 take Exit 273 (Smithville/McMinnville), go south on Hwy 56 for approximately 6 miles. After crossing Hurricane Bridge over Center Hill Lake/Caney Fork River take an immediate left at the Craft Center sign. This drive leads to the Craft Center parking lot and facility.

Also on December 6 – Christmas in Cannonsburgh Village from 10 – 3. The shop needs volunteers to demonstrate. This is a good time for Green Coal students to work on projects, or maybe just play around a bit. Please let Buzz or me (Julia) know if you are planning to be there. I plan to spend the day in the shop this year, and I would love your company.

December 8 – December RCBA meeting at 7:00. Bring a Christmas ornament for Project of the Month and something for Iron in the Hat. Buzz will tell you that I am going to demonstrate how to make nails. I will if I get in some practice time. It's really quite easy, but I'm out of

practice. Also, Rhea Cole will share his photos of ironwork he saw on a recent trip to Germany. I have seen some of these photos. They are truly inspirational! You may not want to make an eight foot gate, a fence to surround your estate, or giant hinges resembling lace for your front door, but you may want to incorporate a curve, a method of joinery, a scroll, a twist, or some other small element of design into a project of your own. Don't miss this. Thank you, Rhea, for sharing your photos with us.

Sometime soon – We will need to pick a date or two for cleaning up the shop to get ready for the January meeting. We will be expecting a huge turnout to help clean the shop! This is part of being an RCBA member (OK, I missed last year's cleanup, but I've done my share of cleaning, including crawling under the benches and vacuuming the walls and scrubbing the windows in the annex.), and it really is a lot of fun. We can arrange to have coffee and snacks. I am in the cookie baking mood.

January 10, 2015 – This is RCBA's day to shine. We will be hosting the AACB meeting, and we have a reputation to maintain. First of all, we serve breakfast. Usually we serve sausage and biscuits (with jelly if you like). This January we plan to add sausage gravy. We will probably need a few cooks with cast iron skillets and Dutch ovens to help with this. I plan to make some biscuits and my grandmother's cherry preserves. If you have a favorite biscuit, gravy, or jelly recipe you would like to share, we will be happy to serve it. We also serve lunch. In the past we have had pulled pork with all the expected sides. This January will most likely be no different. RCBA will provide the pork. Where do the sides come from? YOU!!! At the November meeting we had a signup sheet for bringing food items, but for some strange reason, it is mostly blank. I will be bringing a very large bowl of broccoli salad (it all gets eaten) and something for dessert (I have a new cookbook.). We need people to sign up to bring fruit, vegetables, breads, cornbread, and dessert items. Macaroni and cheese works well, too. We can accommodate crockpots. Bring what you like, but please let us know. We don't want anyone leaving hungry. The signup sheet will be at the December meeting.

Joe Brown will be demonstrating. Joe is a very accomplished blacksmith. Check out his work at www.brownviewforge.com. You will not want to miss this demonstration!

Project Board for Green Coal

As you know, our old project board is no longer available. However, for our Green Coal students, we need sample boards for each project. Several members have volunteered to make sample boards for individual projects. Please let Buzz know what project you are making a project board for. We can use more than one sample board for each project. We need sample boards for all the types of hooks, several types of twists, leaves, hotdog fork prongs, and several types of handles. Thank you in advance for all your hard work.