

FIRE & IRON

Northeast Blacksmiths Association

Spring 2019

Next Ashokan Hammer-In April 26, 27, 28

Demonstrator:

Peter Braspenninx



Spring Forging Contest

The project for the Spring
is a forged
*“Single Votive Candle
Holder”*

**This is your final paper-
newsletter! We are
transitioning to a digital
newsletter. See page 6 for
more information.**

Register Online

**If you pay at the door it
saves us the PayPal Fee**
www.northeastblacksmiths.org

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President's Message

As a group, we have quite a few talented members at all levels. For a couple of years now, I have tried to put together a list of our members who would be interested in doing public demos. Every year I receive a few requests for a demonstrator and I have no one from our group that I can refer. If you would be interested in doing a demo for the public and you have a portable forge and anvil, please let me know so your contact info can be put on the list. A public demo is an opportunity to be visible to people in your community, it creates interest in your work, in blacksmithing and can possibly lead to a commission. Plus, the demo is not necessarily a freebie, you ought to be able to negotiate a respectable fee for all the time and effort involved.

As was discussed at our last business meeting, we are looking to reduce our carbon footprint and the cost for printing and mailing several hundred paper copies of the newsletter each Spring and Fall. We have proposed emailing a link to a digital copy of the newsletter to all the active members who can receive emails. If they want a paper copy, it is easy for them to print it out for themselves. We can still mail out the paper version to those members who do not do email. If you are one of the few who do not use email you will need to let us know to be put on the hard copy mailing list. Contact Lucas Patsch our newsletter editor.

I hope that many of you have seen the updates and conference news on the Facebook page for the ABANA 2020 Conference. This will also be where the many volunteer spots available at the conference will be posted. We are lucky to have this major smithing event in our area! The 2020 ABANA Conference in Saratoga NY, June 3 – 6, 2020. Join the conversation on Facebook: ABANA 2020 Conference.

NBA Library Auction coming up at the Spring Hammer-In. It was decided at our Fall Business Meeting to sell at auction our library of books, periodicals, videos and CDs. We will auction these items right after lunch on Saturday. As always, remember to bring some of your latest work for display, great items to donate to the Iron-in-the-Hat lottery and your entry in the forging contest.

Hope to see you at Ashokan,

Jonathan



Fire & Iron is the official newsletter of the Northeast Blacksmiths Association. The projects and processes described in the newsletter are potentially dangerous. The Northeast Blacksmiths and its members do not manufacture, distribute, sell, test, warrant, guarantee, or endorse any of the tools, materials, instructions or products contained in articles in the Newsletter Fire & Iron. The Newsletter Editors, Officers and Members of the Northeast Blacksmiths Association disclaims any responsibility or liability for damages or injuries as a result of any construction, design, use, manufacture or other activity undertaken as a result of the use or application of information contained in any articles or features in the newsletter Fire and Iron. The Newsletter of the Northeast Blacksmiths Association assumes no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, fitness, proper design, safety or safe use of any information contained in the Newsletter Fire & Iron.

2019 Spring Hammer In



Peter Braspenninx is our demonstrator for the Spring Hammer-In at Ashokan. Peter's work has been receiving lots of notice due to his unique approach to designing and making interesting forms in steel.

While in college it was a visit to Scott Lankton's shop that got Peter interested in smithing. After a brief stint working for a local smith he set up a small shop of his own and got to work, learning from books and trial and error. As he puts it, "Time at the anvil has been the greatest teacher."

Peter's demo will be done as a few small projects, each with a different group of ideas and approaches. He will show his plan and preparation for the project, touching on design and intention, measuring and estimation. Then the forging will illustrate how that all comes together in making each part of the form. Peter wrote that if he were to title the demo it would be "Element Development".

Some of the techniques and skills he will draw on are: slit and drifting holes, isolation of material, forge welding, project planning, and form development. "I want to show how I go from paper to completion with an idea."

Pete Braspenninx, owner of Phyre Forge, is a graduate of the University of Michigan school of art and design (2004). He is an artist, blacksmith, and educator. His work has been shown, collected, and published nationally and internationally. His work focuses primarily on building shape and line through visual connections and joinery using traditional forging skills to make modern forms.

See more on Facebook or Peter's website: www.phyreforge.com

Hear him interviewed: <http://www.theblacksmithspub.com>

Fall Hammer-

In : 2018

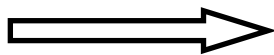
Our Fall demonstrator was Elmer Roush.



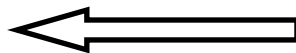
Elmer made a double-tined fork made from a piece of 1018 steel for the Saturday demonstration. He made the fork entirely by hand and spent a great deal of time sharing his passion for the craft and stories from the forge. Elmer has spent most of his life doing what he loves and it shows in his work. His attention to detail can be seen in his hammer technique and his file-work, which requires patience and an intimate knowledge of the metal. His quiet manner and humble personality made you forget that you were in the presence of a great blacksmith. The realization hit you when you saw the final product. On Sunday, Elmer made a woodworkers bench chisel.



Notice how Elmer stands parallel with the anvil. A technique he says he learned during his time studying in the Czech Republic.



Elmer's finished double-tined fork from the demonstration.



What's new with our e-mail service?

As many of you are aware, we have been having trouble with our e-mail address list. Ever since we started sending electronic invitations for our semi-annual Hammer-Ins, we have had the privilege of using the Ashokan Center's Constant Contact account. This was good, in that it did not cost us anything to create and send e-mails and we could use the same service for event registration. But it had the disadvantage of everyone receiving all the other "non-blacksmithing" emails that the Ashokan Center sent. In 2017, Ashokan was required to send an email to everyone on all their lists that required a reply to stay active on the list. Like so many other people, I did not even open that message, so was put into a suspended "awaiting conformation" category. I had to reach out directly to Constant Contact to get back on the very list that I manage! We lost over a 100 contacts in that incident, about a third of our mailing list, which we are now trying to recover.

The Ashokan Center suffered a similar loss to their mailing list, and thus have changed to a different e-mail and event registration service provider. Our organization no longer has access to use Ashokan's new account, so we will have our own account, shared with the New England Bladesmith Guild. I have looked into a few different service providers, and chose to stay with Constant Contact, that seems to provide the best service for the lowest cost. The additional cost of having our own account has added slightly to the overall registration cost, but that will be offset by a significant savings as we transition to an all electronic version of the Fire and Iron newsletter.

Because this may be the final paper version of the newsletter for the general membership, it is important that you get on our electronic mailing list, if you aren't already. You can easily do that by visiting our group website at northeastblacksmiths.org, and clicking on any of the links that say "Join our list". You will then be receiving announcements and invitations to the Hammer-Ins directly from our group. Since your contact information was already in Ashokan's system, you may continue to receive e-mails from the Ashokan Center or Jay and Molly, but you can choose to "unsubscribe" from that list without fear of missing news about upcoming blacksmithing events.

Thanks for your patience and cooperation as we go through yet another organizational transition, and get swept along into the 21st century!

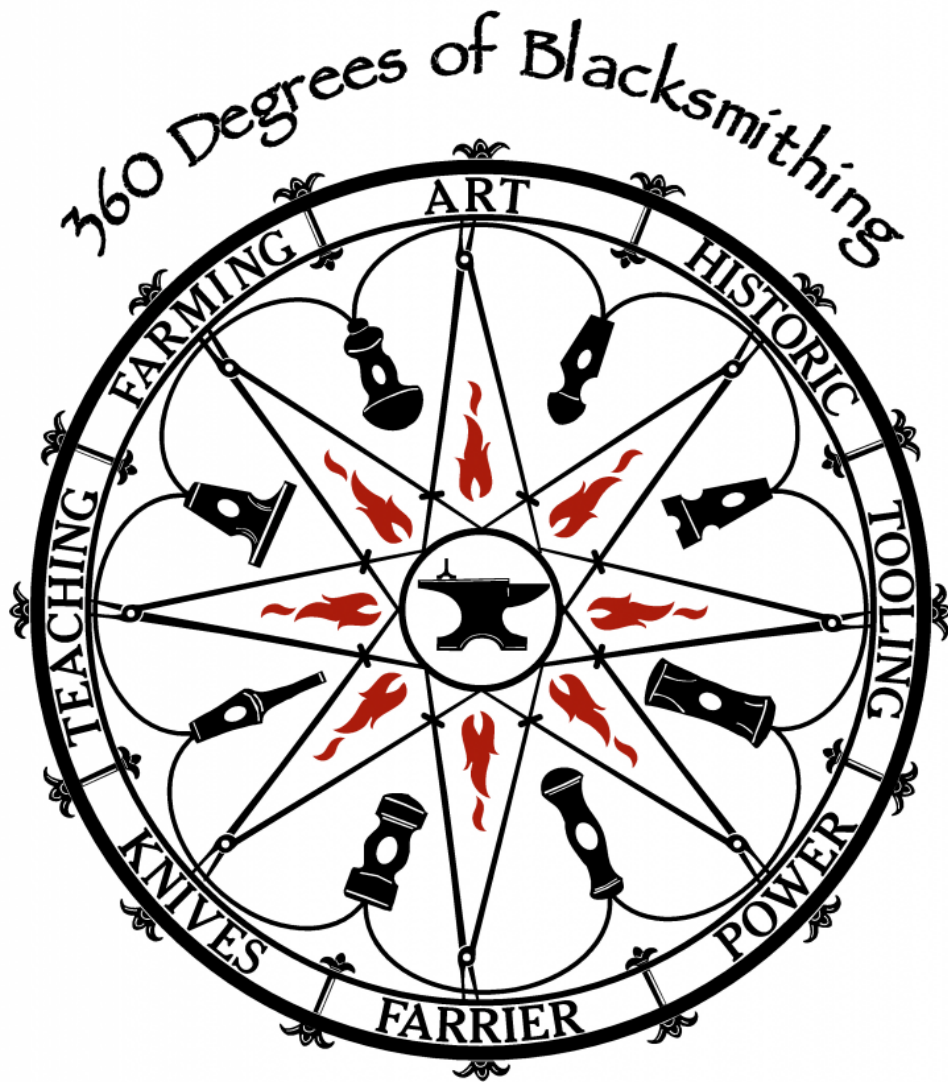
Tim Neu "The Registration Guy"

IMPORTANT!

Notice to ALL members of the Northeast Blacksmiths Assoc.: you must provide us with your current email address to receive future NBA announcements. If you don't use email and need a paper copy of the newsletter mailed to you, please send your info to:

Lucas Patsch
83 Jenkinstown Rd.
New Paltz, NY 12561
or

Email your info to Lucas: lucas.patsch@gmail.com



ABANA 2020

June 3-6

Saratoga, New York

The 2020 ABANA Conference to be held at the Washington County Fairgrounds near Saratoga Springs, NY, June 3-6. The conference committee consists of Bob Menard, Rand Condell, Bob Valentine, Mark Aspery, Dana Flanders, Dick Sargent, Matt Parkinson, and Leigh Morrell.

The fairgrounds has nearly 200 RV sites and many tent sites. There is also a very rustic bunkhouse on site. There are lots of buildings and demos will be held in these buildings. Vendors and tail gators will also be in covered buildings.

ABANA 2020:

With the ABANA conference so close to home, the North East Blacksmiths have a wonderful opportunity to get involved and help with the conference. There will be lots of ways you can volunteer and lend a hand.

__Here is a list of potential jobs;

Help at each demo site

Help at the youth teaching area

Help at the lecture series site

Help with directing parking

Help with registration

Help stuffing attendees swag bags

Help with conference sales

Help at an information booth

Help moving items at the auction

Help with iron in the hat and raffle sales

Helping the setup crew with what ever they might need

Help set up audio and visual equipment

Picking up and dropping off people at the airport

Other tasks to be determined



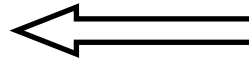
The volunteer coordinator, Dana Flanders will be organizing and assigning tasks. The earlier you volunteer the better chance you have to express your choice. Reach out to him directly to get on his lists. dfflanders1@gmail.com

*Information taken from the New England Blacksmiths winter newsletter.

Iron in the Hat is a great way to support the club. We always welcome donations.

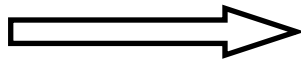


Families are always welcome. Here, Father and Daughter work the iron together.



This is the next generation! It is great to see children learning the craft.

Our hands-on program has seen an increase in younger kids getting involved. Keep it coming!



Northeast Blacksmiths Assoc. Member Profile

Interview with Chris Doherty

Editor: How long have you been in the Northeast Blacksmiths?

Chris: Since the 1990's, I remember the old housing by the river.

E: You run the blacksmith program at Brookfield Craft Center in Connecticut. Can you tell me a little bit about that program?

C: The craft center has been there since 1954 and was purchased by Nancy Hagemeyer, It is family-oriented with kids programs for all sorts of crafts. Blacksmithing is increasing in popularity. In the last ten years, knife and bladesmithing have really peaked. The craft center went from having classes six days a year to almost every week.

E: What type of crafts do you have there?

C: Ironwork, woodworking, glasswork, weaving, jewelry, and ceramics. We hope to have digital photography and 3D printing soon.

E: Tell us about your shop.

C: We doubled the size of the forge since last year, due to a grant. We have a power hammer, press, new building and welding equipment.

E: I hear that you do some work on the popular show *Forged in Fire*. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

C: I got a call one day from the TV producers and asked me if I could do some work on the show tempering. The show is now shot in Connecticut, so we are fairly close to the set.

E: When do you temper the blades?

C: I almost always temper the blades in between rounds 1 and 2 to maintain consistency. It's a lot of fun. I have met a lot of great people on the show. I've already signed on for the upcoming season!

New Section:
“Show us your Shop”

Every newsletter we will be including a new section titled, “Show us Your Shop”. If you are interested in sharing photos of your shop and a brief description, please email me at lucas.patsch@gmail.com

This newsletter we will look at pictures from the Brookfield Craft Center in Connecticut.



Reading of minutes from April 2018 meeting:

Meeting called to order: 7:10 by president Jonathan Nedbor

Trailer registration still unresolved, Tim needs to find registration

Tool liability - Meeting on September 30 with Ashokan Center Board

Hammer-In attendance issue - resolved by sharing the site for the weekend

Dates for Spring Hammer-In April 26-27-28, 2019

Discussion on Possible Demonstrators, suggestions offered by the group

Discussion of 2020 ABANA conference needs

Discussion on Whitaker Tapes, how to present them as a package

Attendance at business meeting portion of hammer-in needs to be improved

Tim Neu has built the new NBA website and is now the site administrator

Voting on Forging Contest needs more member participation

Continue to improve items for forging contest

Tool box for trailer still needed

New meeting minutes: September 2018

Discussion on tool box for trailer: Doug DeLury made motion to buy. Approved

Newsletter Distribution: motion to phase out mass mailing. Mail post card announcement to all and get the names of those who want paper copies.

All members will get E-Copies and can print themselves. Approved

List of Members needed who are able and willing to offer public demonstrations. At this time no members have signed up.

Whitaker Tapes: duplication for distribution. Motion for Chris Dougherty to make 10 copies for distribution. Approved

Library: motion by Frank Shaw to disburse groups physical library at auction at the next Hammer-In. Approved

2020 ABANA Conference: Rand Condell submitted conference update.

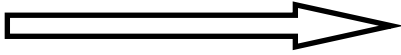
Volunteers needed for 2020 ABANA Conference. Told to join "ABANA 2020" on Facebook for ways to get involved and stay informed.

Name tags: changing name tags starting Spring Hammer-In 2019 to reduce work for Tim (and his wife Lily)

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 by Jonathan

**Respectfully submitted, Hank Rehm, secretary*

Members Work from the Fall meet.



Special thanks to **Nick Rossi** and **April Witzke & Forge-Aprons** for donating these items to our auction!!!



Nick Rossi Knife



Forge-Aprons



“Forging Project” Submissions from the Fall meet



The project was a key chain.

Next Forging Contest

The project for the Spring is a “Single Votive Candle
Holder”



NBA Members Library

We have an extensive assortment of blacksmithing books / DVD's and VHS tapes for loan to members.

Fred Morse is our Librarian Contact <fmorse@frontiernet.net> (845)783-2049

You will have to pay shipping both ways or pick up and drop off items at the hammer-in

For a complete list go to our website

www.northeastblacksmiths.org

REGISTRATION Spring 2019 HAMMER-IN

On-Line Registration available at www.Northeastblacksmiths.org

If you can't register on-line fill out & mail in the form below

After April 8th
there will be a late
registration fee

Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City & State _____ Zip _____

Check Package choice below Late = postmarked after Commuter package = no lodging.

- 1) ___ \$ 260.00 Adult weekend pkg. : 6 meals, 2 nights lodging, demo fee & dues. (Late \$280 after April 8th)
- 2) ___ \$ 230.00 Student weekend pkg. Student ID required: 6 meals, 2 nights lodging, demo fee & dues.
(Late \$260 after April 8th)
- 3) ___ \$ 215.00 Adult weekend commuter pkg. 6 meals, 2 day passes, demo fee & dues.
(Late \$235 after April 8th)
- 4) ___ \$ 180.00 Student weekend commuter pkg. Student ID required: 6 meals, 2 day passes, demo fee & dues.
(Late \$ 200 after April 8th)
- 5) ___ \$ 130.00 Adult Sat. pkg. 3 meals, demo fee, day pass, & dues. (Late \$ 140 after April 8th)
- 6) ___ \$ 100.00 Student Sat. pkg. Student ID required : 3 meals, demo fee, day pass & dues.
(Late \$110 after April 8th)
- 7) ___ \$ 140.00 Adult Sat. & Sun. Lunch pkg. 2 lunches, 2 day passes, demo fee & dues. (Late \$150 after April 8)
- 8) ___ \$ 105.00 Student Sat. & Sun. Lunch pkg. Student ID required: 2 lunches, 2 day -passes, demo & dues
(Late \$125.00 after April 8th)
- 9) ___ \$ 95.00 Adult Sat. or Sun. Lunch pkg. Lunch, demo fee, day pass & dues. (Late \$105 after April 8th)
- 10) ___ \$ 65.00 Student Sat. or Sun. Lunch pkg. Student ID required, lunch, demo fee & dues.
(Late \$75 after April 8th)
- 11) ___ \$ 70.00 Adult Sat. or Sun. demo fee, day pass & dues. (Late \$80 after April 8th)
- 12) ___ \$ 34.00 Student Sat. or Sun. demo fee, day pass & dues. (Late \$ 50 after April 8th)
- 13) ___ \$20.00 Dues only

Make checks payable to: Northeast Blacksmiths Association
c/o Tim Neu
511 Beaverkill Rd.
Olivebridge, NY 12461

Please check box if you would like to
participate in the Hands-On Forging"
activity

Special Dietary Needs: Vegetarian _____ No Red Meat _____

PREREGISTRATION IS IMPORTANT! Please fill out and return the registration form before April 8th, 2019.
Registration fee will be refunded 100% if you cancel by April 8th, After this date, a 50% refund is available.

When: Plan to arrive to the Ashokan by 2:30 PM. Friday April 26th Seminar concludes after lunch on Sun. April 28th
Student ID required for full time student discount rates .
For first time attendee's **Discount \$10**

Meals: Served buffet style with a vegetarian alternative. Please indicate on the registration form any special needs.

Lodging Lodging is bunk house style. Blankets & pillows are provided by the Ashokan Center. Bring your own linens or sleeping bag and toiletries. A separate bunk area will be reserved for couples. For those who may need more privacy, a rustic campground is

Child Participation Scholarship

We have initiated a reduced rate for children that want to participate with their parents in the workshop. This is a limited offer and must be reserved ahead of time. Availability is on a first come first serve basis, Call ahead of time for qualifications and availability [845] 657-7553

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Spring 2019 HAMMER-IN AT ASHOKAN

Friday, April 26

2:30 PM - Arrival & shop setup
6:00 PM - Buffet Dinner & Registration
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM - Presentation by Peter Braspeminx

Saturday, April 27th

8:00 AM - Breakfast
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM - Shop: Demonstration by Peter Braspeminx
Pavilion: Intro. to equipment, fire tending, and hands-on forging skills

12:00 PM - Lunch
1:00 PM to 1:30 PM - Iron-in-the-Hat drawing, Forging contest judging
1:30 PM to 5:00 PM - Shop: Demonstration by Peter Braspeminx
Pavilion: Hands-on basic forging skills continued

5:30 PM - Dinner
7:00 PM - Chapter business meeting .

Sunday, April 28th

8:00 AM - Breakfast
9:00 AM to 11:30 PM –Final demo / wrap up with Peter Braspeminx
11:30 AM to 12:00 PM - Shop clean up
12:00 PM - Lunch

Safety Alert

To participate in the Hands-on forging area you must

- Wear safety glasses
- Wear non flammable clothing, cotton / wool
- Wear shoes that cover your feet completely, leather.

Personal Release Form
(Please read carefully and sign)

I acknowledge that the blacksmithing activity I am about to participate in is a potentially dangerous activity. I understand that the activity has been organized and is being led by private individuals working as unpaid volunteers, and is not a program of the Ashokan Center. I take full responsibilities for my health, well-being, behavior, and experience during this activity. I agree to exercise appropriate care and awareness during the activity and accept this as my responsibility in consideration for permission to participate. I agree to wear appropriate protective clothing and footwear, and will use protective eyewear at all times while in and near the activity area. I understand and assume the risk and responsibility for any injuries or damages suffered by me arising out of my participation in this event, and any costs I may incur associated with such injuries or damages, or otherwise incurred on my behalf in the furtherance of my well-being or safety.

I release from any liability and surrender all rights to make a claim against the Ashokan Foundation, Inc., the Ashokan Center, Inc., the staff of the Ashokan Center, the members and officers of the Northeast Blacksmiths Association and the persons who are facilitating the event and other participants in the event, as a result of any injury, damage, death, or any other loss suffered by me. This includes any claims resulting from negligence (but not its willful or wanton misconduct) on the part of the property owners or staff of the Ashokan Center.

I have read and understand and agree to the above statements.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

In the event of an emergency I request and give permission to the organizers to contact the person listed below and to secure appropriate treatment at my own expense.

Name (please print) _____

Telephone number: _____

There are other opportunities to get involved with local clubs. Check out some of these upcoming events:

New Jersey Blacksmith Association- NJBA www.njblacksmiths.org

Braided Handle AND Hot Cut Workshop Sat. Feb 16 A demonstration of the forging of two different items -- a braided handle and a hot-cut -- will be followed by a hands-on workshop. All fees -- the \$15 material fee

Joint Meeting of NJBA, PABA and NOMMA in Easton, PA Sat. April 6 Eric Cuper is holding a joint meeting at Cuper Studios

Bowie Blade Workshop April or May You will be guided in the forging of a simple knife blade

Steel Bloom Smelt Spring A demonstration to be run by Mark Morrow. Date and details yet to be determined.

Red Mill Meet & Picnic Sat. August 24 Hold the date and plan to tailgate all your unwanted treasures.

New England Blacksmiths-- NEB www.newenglandblacksmiths.org

The NEB 2019 Spring Meet has not been posted on their website yet...

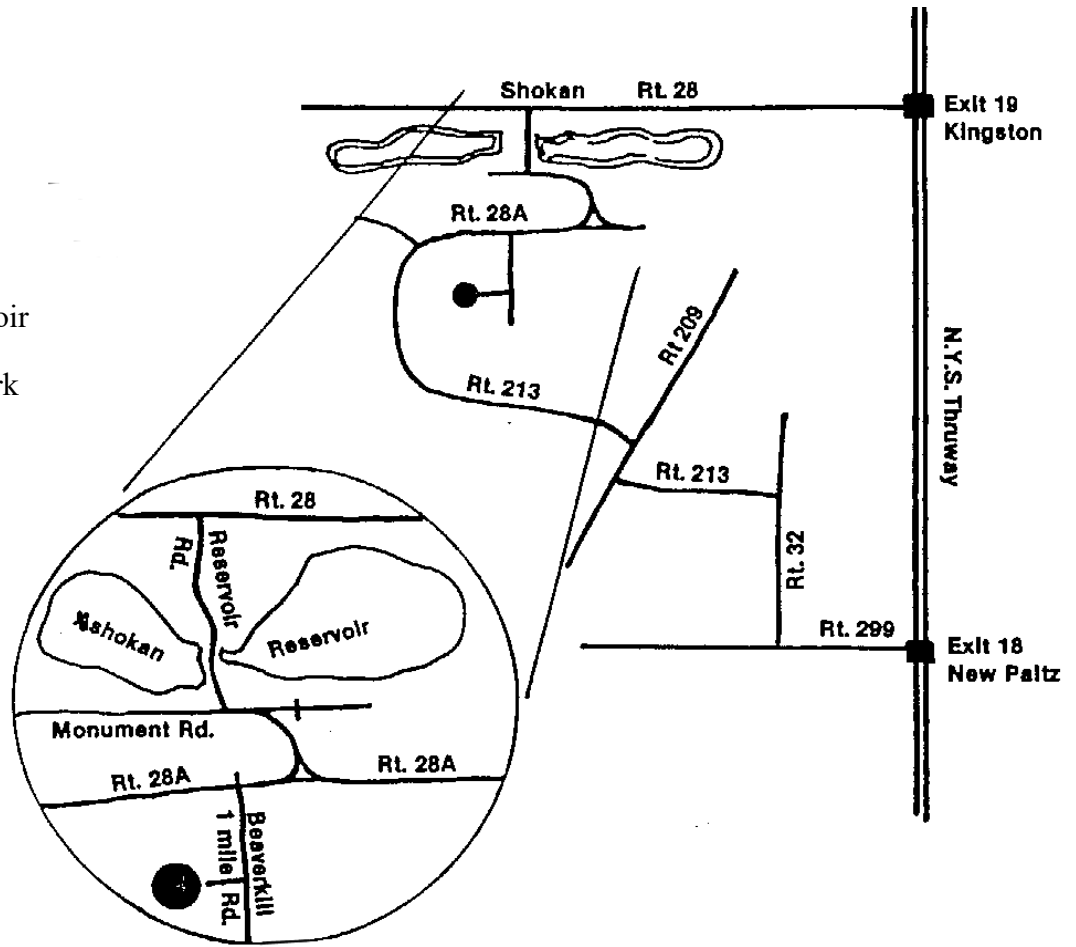
Artist Blacksmiths Association of North America-- ABANA www.abana.org

**The ABANA 2020 Conference
will be held at the
Washington County Fair Grounds
392 Old Schuylerville Road, Greenwich NY 12834
Wed, Jun 3rd – Sat, Jun 6th, 2020
Save the Date!**

Ashokan Center
477 Beaverkill Road
Olivebridge, N.Y. 12461

Location :
Beaverkill Road
near the Ashokan Reservoir
Town of Olive
Ulster County, New York

Telephone:
(845) 657 - 8333
<http://www.ashokancenter.org/>



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