

# FIRE & IRON

Northeast Blacksmiths Association

Spring 2020

**Next Ashokan Hammer-In April 17, 18, 19**

**Demonstrator:**

Terry Sheridan



Spring Forging Contest

The project is a forged  
*“Shoe Horn”*

We have transitioned to a  
digital newsletter. See page 8  
for more information.

Online registration  
preferred.

If you pay at the door it  
saves us the PayPal fee

Visit us at  
[www.northeastblacksmiths.org](http://www.northeastblacksmiths.org)

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## NBA President's Message

## Spring 2020

Time to make your plans for attending the ABANA Conference, June 3–6, at the Washington County Fairgrounds, near Saratoga Springs NY. This is a rare opportunity to attend an ABANA conference in our area. I encourage everyone in our group to attend this dynamic 4 day event. For more info: [www.abana.org](http://www.abana.org)

We will need volunteers to work our NBA table at the ABANA conference. Tasks will include: sales of NBA shirts, hats, mugs, videos, and encouraging new members. Our Volunteer Coordinator is John Arrighi: [rvillestsmithy@gmail.com](mailto:rvillestsmithy@gmail.com)

Dana Flanders is the ABANA conference volunteer coordinator. Volunteer shifts are only 4 hours. You can commit to more than one task and shift, if you'd like. Volunteers receive a limited edition 2020 ABANA Conference Volunteer T-Shirt. Please consider volunteering for at least one of the following tasks:

1 - Golf cart drivers: shuttling people and equipment around the fairgrounds (some riders may be mobility challenged). Shifts open for morning, day and evening.

2 - Parking lot stewards: ensuring that the parking area is safely and efficiently utilized. Shifts needed are mainly mornings.

3 - Demonstrator assistance: general support at each of the demos. Shifts needed are mornings and afternoons. Exciting opportunity to be up close for the demo!!

4 - Youth education: working with young students. Shifts needed are mornings and afternoons. This area needs the most volunteers. A chance to give an eager student a good start on the path.

**If you are interested in volunteering, contact Dana and include your name, phone number and email address. [dfflanders1@gmail.com](mailto:dfflanders1@gmail.com)**

There will be more conference news announced at our Hammer-In. So, see you all April 17. Bring your Forging Contest entries, some of your latest work to display and lots of items for our Iron-In-The-Hat fun and fund raising lottery.

Thanks and see you in the spring!

Jonathan Nedbor

**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.

## Northeast Blacksmiths 2020 Spring Hammer-In

Terry Sheridan, from Collingwood Ontario, Canada, is our demonstrator for the Spring weekend. I saw Terry's forging demo last year and learned quite a lot from his clear explanations and well thought out approach to forging and shop work. Terry's day job is running a machine shop where he works on heavy construction machinery and is on call to do work for several nearby ski resorts. In the shop, most of his forging is for industrial applications, using gas forges and power hammers.

What we will see though, is his traditional approach to forging and hammer welding. In the photos of his work you will see tools, utensils and hardware all done in a very practical manner at the anvil. The methodical approach he takes includes knowing to size the eyes of his adzes to the commercial adze handles available, using simple shop math to work out dimensions and practical applications of such things as case hardening compound for wear resistant tooling.

Terry's plan for the demo is to forge several traditional tools from wrought iron with carbon steel edges, such as a small axe, chisel, spoon auger. There will also be a demonstration of a set of box joint pliers and a set of forged joint dividers. And, if time permits, a demo of techniques used for forging sockets and other internal shapes

Expect a fact filled demo that will send you home with notes filled with simple approaches to forging traditional items, practical solutions, tooling ideas and inspiration.

Photos of Terry's work: <http://thebarnstudio.ca/gallery/album/blacksmithing-hand-forged>

Link to an article on Terry and his wife Cheryl, who is a weaver: <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/ca88a406-8790-4853-b05a-1962b6df2bd8/downloads/Georgian%20Bay%20Today-Fall%202019-Email.pdf?ver=1572481742389>

## 2020 Spring Hammer In

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Work by Terry Sheridan. For more of Terry's work visit <http://thebarnstudio.ca/gallery/album/blacksmithing-hand-forged>





## Our Fall demonstrator was Doug Wilson



Anyone who attended Doug Wilson's demonstrations got to witness his expertise up close. He made a series of smaller projects, demonstrating different forging techniques, welds, and tool work. He made a fire poker, tongs, tong rings and iron knots to mention a few. Doug entertained us with his stories from years behind the anvil and working in various different shops. His minimalist spirit came through during the demonstration, while he paid close attention to detail and hammer technique. Thank you Doug for a great weekend!!

For more information on Doug Wilson visit <https://www.wilsonforge.com/>



Fire poker made by  
Doug Wilson

Michael McCarthy  
teaching in the  
Pavilion



Our Iron-in-the-Hat  
always draws a  
crowd.



## Fall Forging Contest— Hearth cooking utensil



Congratulations to Jonathan Nedbor,  
our President, for winning the forging  
contest with his ladle.



## 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.

**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](http://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.patsch@gmail.com](mailto:lucas.patsch@gmail.com)



## Northeast Blacksmiths Assoc. Member Profile

### Interview with Asa Beckwith



**Editor:** When did you get interested in Blacksmithing?

**Asa:** In 1937, when I was 9 years old, I made my first knife. I made it in the coal stove in my kitchen. Then I brought it to school the next day and everyone thought it was great.

**E:** Where did you grow up?

**Asa:** I grew up in Dutchess County.

**E:** Tell me about your schooling.

**Asa:** In high school, I got involved in the Army college recruitment program which allowed me to attend Syracuse University and Rutgers University. When I was there I took courses in Engineering.

**E:** What did you do after college?

**Asa:** After college I worked in the automotive industry as a mechanic. I also worked for the Army Air Corp. and taught Aerial photography and mapping. Next I went to IBM and worked for 34 years in computer programming. Prior to retirement I started taking official blacksmithing courses at the Pennsylvania Farm Museum and the Farmers Museum at Cooperstown. I was at Cooperstown for 3 years and studied with Paul Spalding who taught me a lot. After retirement, I started an Antique business with my wife. I spent a lot of time repairing antique iron for the business.

**E:** Are you working on anything now?

**Asa:** I'm still currently working in my shop, designing and building folk-art weather vanes.

A loss to the NBA, ABANA and metalsmithing community:

## Robert J. Trout

July 17, 1943 ~ February 7, 2020 (age 76)

Bob was a member of our group for many years and was our demonstrator at Ashokan a few years ago with his Craftsman Style Copper-smithing. Bob was an active member of our group and was well known for the tools he fabricated. He made the forges and side draft hoods we use in our Teaching Program. He was happy to share info and encouragement with all. He will be missed.

<https://www.crawfordfuneralhome.com/obituary/Robert-Trout?fbclid=IwAR2UtPwstYmqB42OmixLdiEMu LYdhnBXngq7ITPST2gkLqCYxehsoCWfG4>

Survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Carol; sons, Daniel (Sarah Betstadt) and Andrew (Brittany) Trout and grandchildren

An Army veteran, serving in Germany, Robert worked at Xerox for 33 years, as a sheet metal welder/fabricator. He was the site facilitator for two ABANA conferences. Robert was admitted to the Roycroft Renaissance Guild in Metal in 1998 and elevated to Master Artisan in 2001 for his copper work. He enjoyed sharing his skills, artistry, and knowledge with others with lectures and demos. Robert found special joy in teaching at the John C. Campbell Folk School.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Outreach Ministries at Asbury or the Robert J. Trout Metalsmithing Scholarship, c/o John C. Campbell Folk School, 1 Folk School Rd., Brasstown, NC 28902.

**New Section:**  
**“Show us your Shop”**

If you are interested in sharing photos of your shop, tools or projects and a brief description, please email me at [lucas.patsch@gmail.com](mailto:lucas.patsch@gmail.com)

Here’s a peek at my son, Everett at the demo shop at the Ashokan Center.





## NBA Fall 2019 Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:22PM

Note: **Bold entries** indicate **tasks to be competed before the April meet.**

**\*Please check the minutes for anything you may have volunteered for.**

**Old Items:** April minutes were read and accepted

### Video Camera

Chris Doherty researched video camera options and found that new ones were too expensive

- **He has an old one that he will donate that requires a charger**
- Jonathan made a motion to **purchase a charger** — motion approved

### Whitaker Tapes

- **Chris Doherty will contact Ian for the original tapes**
- NBA still owes Chris \$60 for tapes
- We had 8 copies at the time of the meeting, consensus - we need 10-20 more
- **Chris agreed to make the extra copies of the DVD sets**

### Trailer

- **Tim Neu will license the trailer and acquire a spare tire**
- The need was expressed for a space to store tools that are not going to the ABANA conference and for a way to get them to that storage location. — Further discussion tabled until April meeting

### Teaching Program

- **Need hand punches and chisels**
- Daniel Lapidow brought more steel
- **Michael McCarthy and Daniel Lapidow agreed to put together a list of tools needed for the Teaching Program.**

### NBA Branding

- **Tim Neu agreed to research options for NBA Banner and trailer decal as well as rack cards for the Ashokan Center**

### List of willing Demonstrators for Public Events

Chris Doherty, Daniel Lapidow, (Fred Von Mechow — not present, **Tim agreed to ask him**)

### **New Items:**

#### 2020 NBA Hammer-In Demonstrators

Spring: Terry Sheridan  
Fall: Ellen Durkan

- Mike Hirsch requested that **earplugs be made available** at Spring Meet
- **Jonathan Nedbor agreed to bring a box** and will require reimbursement

Daniel Lapidow requested that a list of **NBA volunteers be added to the NBA website**, including contact information.

Minutes cont...

Jordan LaMothe suggested that Tim add a request for members' contact information to the next email newsletter.

2020 NBA Fall meet is scheduled for September 25-27 2020.

- NBA will not meet with the Bladesmiths next Fall. The New England Bladesmiths' Sword seminar, September 18-20, is very popular and the site would be too crowded with both groups.

#### Treasurer's Report

- The bank balance before the meet was \$11,440.
- The group made \$282 in merchandise sales (hats, mugs, caps, etc).
- Iron in the Hat lottery brought in \$327.

#### NBA Merchandise

- Notebooks, Bumper stickers - possible new items
- **Anniversary logo T-shirts** — Tim will look for better quality printing with the new logo
- **Old logo T-shirts** — Tim will place another order of screen-printed shirts
  
- Doug Delurey suggested **NBA logo pint glasses** be purchased: a conservative order to start, some of each logo
  
- Hank Rehm made a motion to purchase pens and pencils — motion approved
  
- A poll taken to have farriers demonstrate for an NBA Hammer-In had a favorable response
  
- Doug Delurey made motion to adjourn — motion approved

Note: Bold entries indicate tasks to be completed before the April meet.

# REGISTRATION Spring 2020 HAMMER-IN

On-Line Registration available at [www.Northeastblacksmiths.org](http://www.Northeastblacksmiths.org)  
If you can't register on-line fill out & mail in the form below

After April 1st  
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 1st.)
- 2) \_\_\_ \$ 230.00 Student weekend pkg. Student ID required: 6 meals, 2 nights lodging, demo fee & dues.  
(Late \$260 after April 1st.)
- 3) \_\_\_ \$ 215.00 Adult weekend commuter pkg. 6 meals, 2 day passes, demo fee & dues.  
(Late \$235 after April 1st.)
- 4) \_\_\_ \$ 180.00 Student weekend commuter pkg. Student ID required: 6 meals, 2 day passes, demo fee & dues.  
(Late \$ 200 after April 1st.)
- 5) \_\_\_ \$ 130.00 Adult Sat. pkg. 3 meals, demo fee, day pass, & dues. (Late \$ 140 after April 1st.)
- 6) \_\_\_ \$ 100.00 Student Sat. pkg. Student ID required : 3 meals, demo fee, day pass & dues.  
(Late \$110 after April 1st.)
- 7) \_\_\_ \$ 140.00 Adult Sat. & Sun. Lunch pkg. 2 lunches, 2 day passes, demo fee & dues. (Late \$150 after April 1)
- 8) \_\_\_ \$ 105.00 Student Sat. & Sun. Lunch pkg. Student ID required: 2 lunches, 2 day -passes, demo & dues  
(Late \$125.00 after April 1st.)
- 9) \_\_\_ \$ 95.00 Adult Sat. or Sun. Lunch pkg. Lunch, demo fee, day pass & dues. (Late \$105 after April 1st.)
- 10) \_\_\_ \$ 65.00 Student Sat. or Sun. Lunch pkg. Student ID required, lunch, demo fee & dues.  
(Late \$75 after April 1st.)
- 11) \_\_\_ \$ 70.00 Adult Sat. or Sun. demo fee, day pass & dues. (Late \$80 after April 1st.)
- 12) \_\_\_ \$ 34.00 Student Sat. or Sun. demo fee, day pass & dues. (Late \$ 50 after April 1st.)
- 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 1st 2020.  
Registration fee will be refunded 100% if you cancel by April 1st, After this date, a 50% refund is available.

**When:** If you register for the whole weekend, plan to arrive to the Ashokan by 2:30 PM. Friday April 17th Seminar concludes after lunch on Sun. April 19th.

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

### 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 2020 HAMMER-IN AT ASHOKAN**

**Friday, April 17th**

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

**Saturday, April 18th**

8:00 AM - Breakfast  
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM - Shop: Demonstration by Terry Sheridan  
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 Terry Sheridan  
Pavilion: Hands-on basic forging skills continued  
5:30 PM - Dinner  
7:00 PM - Chapter business meeting .

**Sunday, April 19th**

8:00 AM - Breakfast  
9:00 AM to 11:30 PM -Final demo / wrap up with Terry Sheridan  
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.**

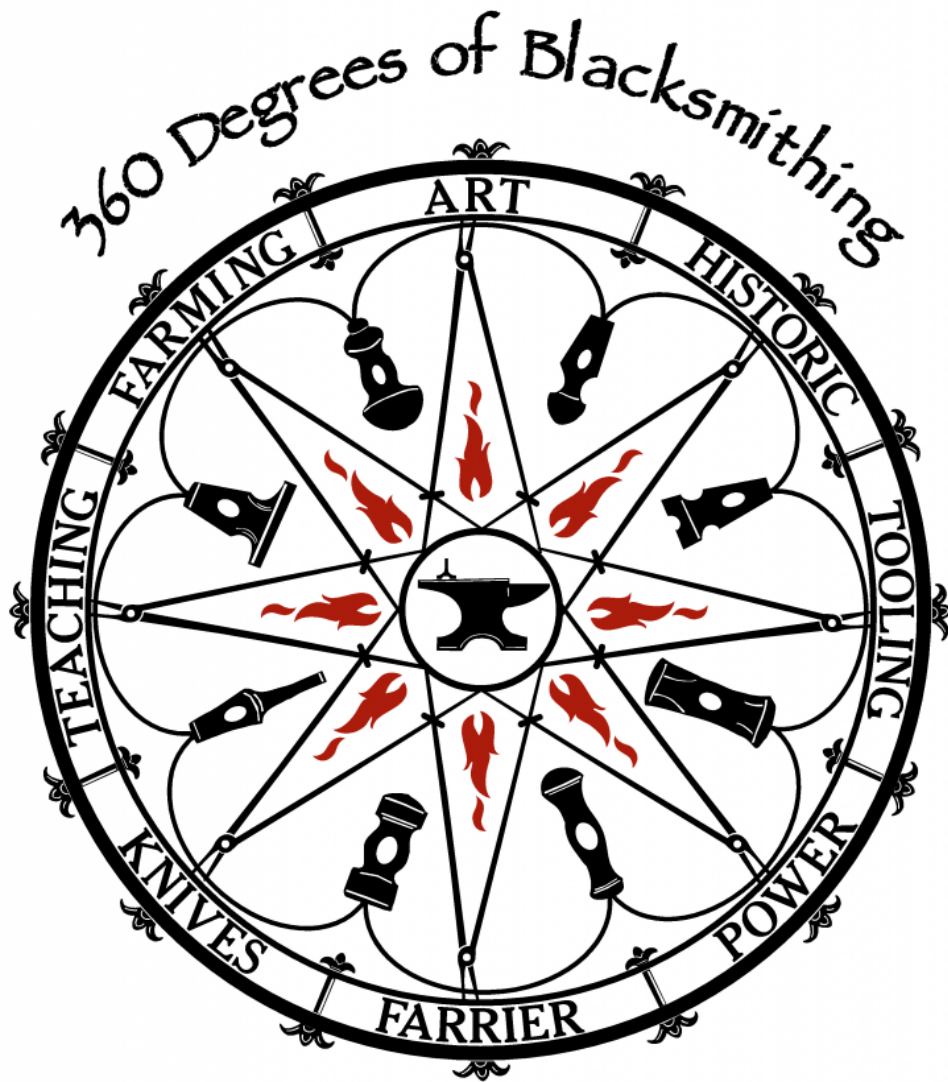
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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:** \_\_\_\_\_



# 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.

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](http://www.njblacksmiths.org)**

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**Ashokan Blade Seminar, September 18-20, 2020**

The New England Bladesmith Guild will be at Ashokan this year hosting it's once every 5 years sword specific seminar. As program and registration details become available they will be posted on the [New England Bladesmith Guild website](#).

For more information view

[www.ashokanknifeseminar.com](http://www.ashokanknifeseminar.com)

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**Artist Blacksmiths Association of North America– ABANA**

**[www.abana.org](http://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**

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**SAVE THE DATE !**

North East Blacksmiths Fall Hammer-In September 25-27, 2020

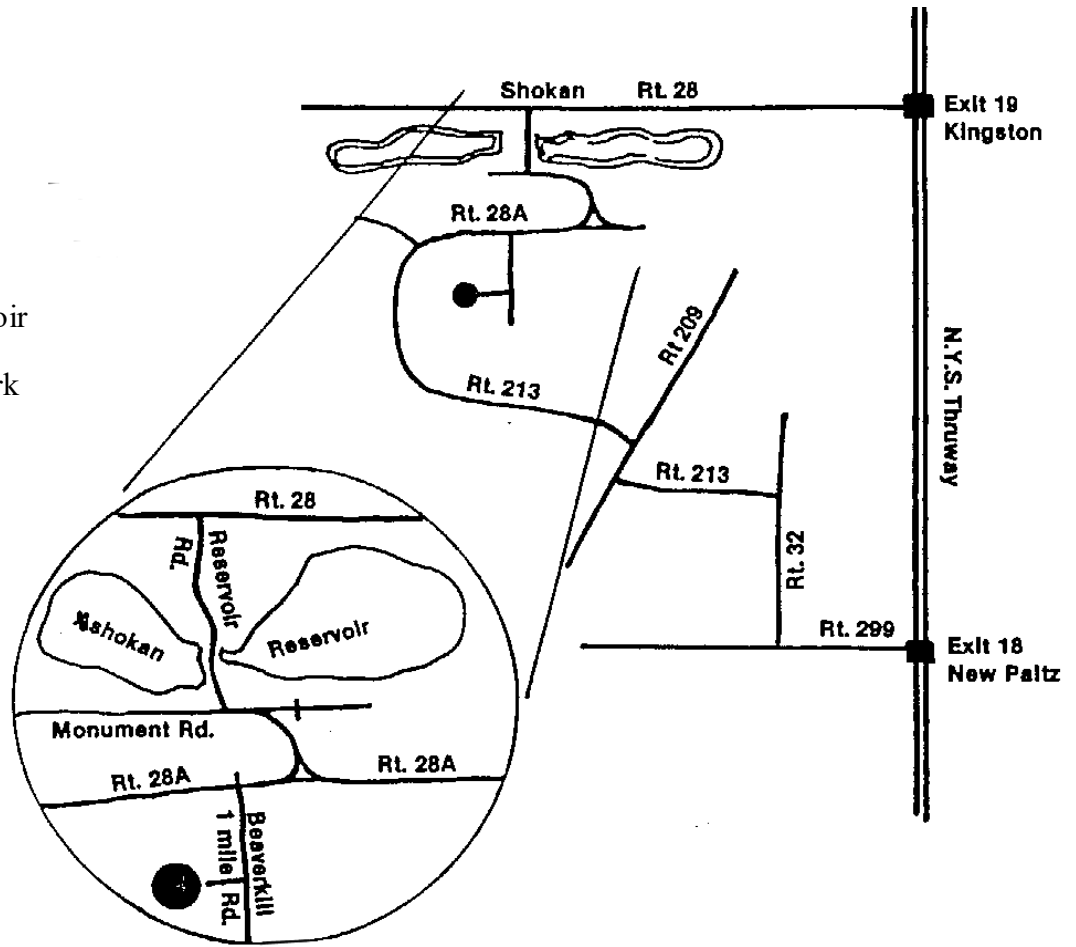
We have Ellen Durkan booked as our featured guest demonstrator. See more of Ellen's unique work at [Iron Maiden Forge](#).



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

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

Telephone:  
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