



2010 Demonstrators

(Additional information, photos and links constantly updated at www.sofablacksmiths.org)

Non Ferrous Casting Company Inc. - Dayton, Ohio ***J. D. Claffey and Jeremy Claffey***

J.D. and Jeremy are fourth and fifth generation metal casters. Having been in the non ferrous metal casting business for 57 years, Non Ferrous Casting produces cast parts for a number of national industries including pump, water, and bearing. Their business also works on many local projects that provide the opportunity to partner with businesses and artists from the area to produce one-of-a-kind and limited edition items.

For this demonstration they are going to be making an aluminum sand casting and a brass sand casting. The first process, the making of the aluminum eagle casting, they will be detailing the sand properties, the molding process, the pouring, and the finishing of the casting. The brass casting will be a 20 lb. brass bell to commemorate the Quadstate 2010 Round-Up, and will re-visit the sand properties and the differences in techniques used when casting brass versus aluminum. For more information visit www.nonferrouscasting.com

Caleb Kullman - Montrose Colorado

Caleb was first exposed to blacksmithing while studying anthropology at Reed College in Portland, OR. After graduation, having realized that a BA in anthropology was not particularly marketable, he decided to pursue blacksmithing and attended horseshoeing school and began apprenticing with a farrier. At his recommendation, he attended Frank Turley's basic blacksmithing class in the spring of 1994. As part of the class, Frank routinely took his students out to visit the studio of Tom Joyce. Caleb made two or three trips per year to Santa Fe to work with Tom during the period 1995-2002.

In the late 90's he decided to go back to school to pursue a Master's Degree in anthropology. Field research and the desire to combine his professional career and academic background led to travel to Nigeria working with Yoruba blacksmiths, studying traditional Yoruba forging techniques, religion, and culture. Upon returning to the US, and deciding not to continue shoeing horses he committed to blacksmithing full-time and moved to Montrose, CO in March of 2006. Kullman Iron is now a 2500 sq. ft. studio in downtown Montrose equipped with three forging stations, modern fabricating equipment and machine tools. Caleb has completed commissions across Colorado, including projects in Telluride, Aspen, Boulder, Ridgway, and Breckenridge as well as in Santa Fe, NM and Cooper Landing, AK.

Caleb's demo will explore how we, as blacksmiths, develop designs and bring our projects from concept through to completion of production. He will show how he arrives at design concepts and ideas, taking them from the drawing board to the anvil. The demonstration will focus on creating current, contemporary designs that draw inspiration from the natural world, the built environment and the works of previous masters. Remaining true to our craft by highlighting traditional blacksmithing methods, most of the demo will involve forging techniques with small forays into discussions of design theory. The demonstration will include the use of non-ferrous and ferrous materials in conjunction, as well as some patina finishes that add yet another dimension to the work. For more information visit www.Kullmeniron.com

Whitney Potter - Petaluma, California

Whitney first saw a blacksmith where many people do, as part of an historic reenactment. Charged with excitement, he spent many hours forging s-hooks from coat hangers with a claw hammer in front of the family fireplace. He was nine years old. With no more information, his progress was limited and he soon lost interest, but the seed was planted deeply.

Many years passed as school then college and work intervened. He never again experienced that magic until finding a group of modern blacksmiths called the California Blacksmith Association. It was a revelation to him as much as that first afternoon spent crowded around an old guy in funny clothes. Many of the tools are new, but the old ones still have their place. Some smiths recreate the work of the past, while others push the limits of the future. What started as a passion has become, for Whitney, a full-time job, but the excitement of discovery returns with each new project.

Whatever the time and wherever the place, the magic of shaping metal red-hot from the fire is the same. Although most of his works are one-of-a-kind pieces made for specific locations, he does make some production items. Each one is made by hand in small batches with the same care and artistry that goes into a large architectural project. Because each piece is made by hand each is unique even though there are others made to the same design. For more information visit www.whitnepotter.com

J.W. Randall - Keithville, Louisiana

J.W. Randall is a Mastersmith from Louisiana with unique talent. He has great dedication to his craft, which shows in his work. He makes his own mosaic damascus and hand forges his blades. From hunting knives to swords, all his knives are well-balanced and feel good in the hand. He has been self-employed in the welding and steel fabricating business for 27 years, but has been moving into knifemaking full-time the past few years. J.W. is an active member of the American Bladesmith Society and an advocate of the Moran Bladesmith School in Washington, Arkansas.

"I make knives because of the creative release it gives me. It gives me great personal satisfaction to know I am providing a customer with a tool that is both functional and artistic. I would want my customer to view their purchase as a sound investment, and as a family heirloom."

He loves the challenge of Damascus, both mosaic and face patterned, and truly enjoys the search for new and exciting patterns."

J.W. has instructed at hammer-ins and also teaches basic knifemaking, advanced knifemaking, handles and guards, basic and advanced Damascus, and silver and stainless sheaths in private classes at his shop several times a year. His knives have been featured in several issues of "Blade Magazine" and other major Knife publications

J.W.'s demonstration on Saturday will focus on damascus development with in-depth discussion on face pattern ladder and raindrop patterns. Sunday will be an informal discussion on powdered metals from beginning to finished product. For more information visit www.jwrandall.com.

Marsha Nelson - Cold Spring, Kentucky

Before her introduction to blacksmithing in 1979, Marsha was inspired at a young age by the metal work of her father and the feminist encouragements of her mother. After attending the 1982 ABANA conference and taking classes taught by Peter Ross and Mark Bokenkamp at the Campbell Folk School,

she found her niche forging traditional ironwork. The defining period of her training occurred during a yearlong apprenticeship with master blacksmith Paul Spaulding at the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

After working and teaching at The Farmer's Museum, she was hired as a blacksmith/interpreter at Middleton Place in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1990, she began forging period ironwork for The Workshops of David T. Smith, a small furniture company in southern Ohio.

Twenty one years later, Marsha is still forging for The Workshops and has also been providing hardware to Horton Brasses in Connecticut. She occasionally tackles larger works like railings, trellises and sign brackets. As a volunteer with the vocational skills program Bond at the Betts, she introduces blacksmithing to inner city children in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her traditional ironwork has been exhibited at the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center in Madison, Georgia, the Artisans Center in Waynesboro, Virginia and the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft in Texas. She lives with her husband and son in a higgledy, piggledy log cabin on her family's northern Kentucky farm.

Marsha will be demonstrating forging colonial style utensils with brass flow-in on the whitesmithed handles as well as rattail hinges and several other variations of traditional items.

Beginning-Hands-on Forging Area

Our U-Forge area is set up with several forges, both coal and propane, and basic forging tools. A team of SOFA members led by John King will be offering introduction/hands-on instruction to basic forging. They will be assisting "first timers" with a basic project that will include tapering, drawing out and twisting. The process will include discussion of heat sources, temperatures, mild steel, tool steel and non-ferrous metals. This demo/hands-on instruction is designed to give everyone the chance to experience working with hot metal, a hammer and anvil.

The U-Forge area is open to all Quadstate attendees except when in use for the basic instruction and during the forging competition. Any person in the forging area **MUST WEAR SAFETY GLASSES** and are working at their own risk. Children under the age of 18 are required to have a parent or guardian present and be under their supervision. SOFA requires everyone to be extremely Safety conscious. Return all tools to where you found them and clean up after yourself. Enjoy!