



Rutherford County Blacksmiths Association

August 2014

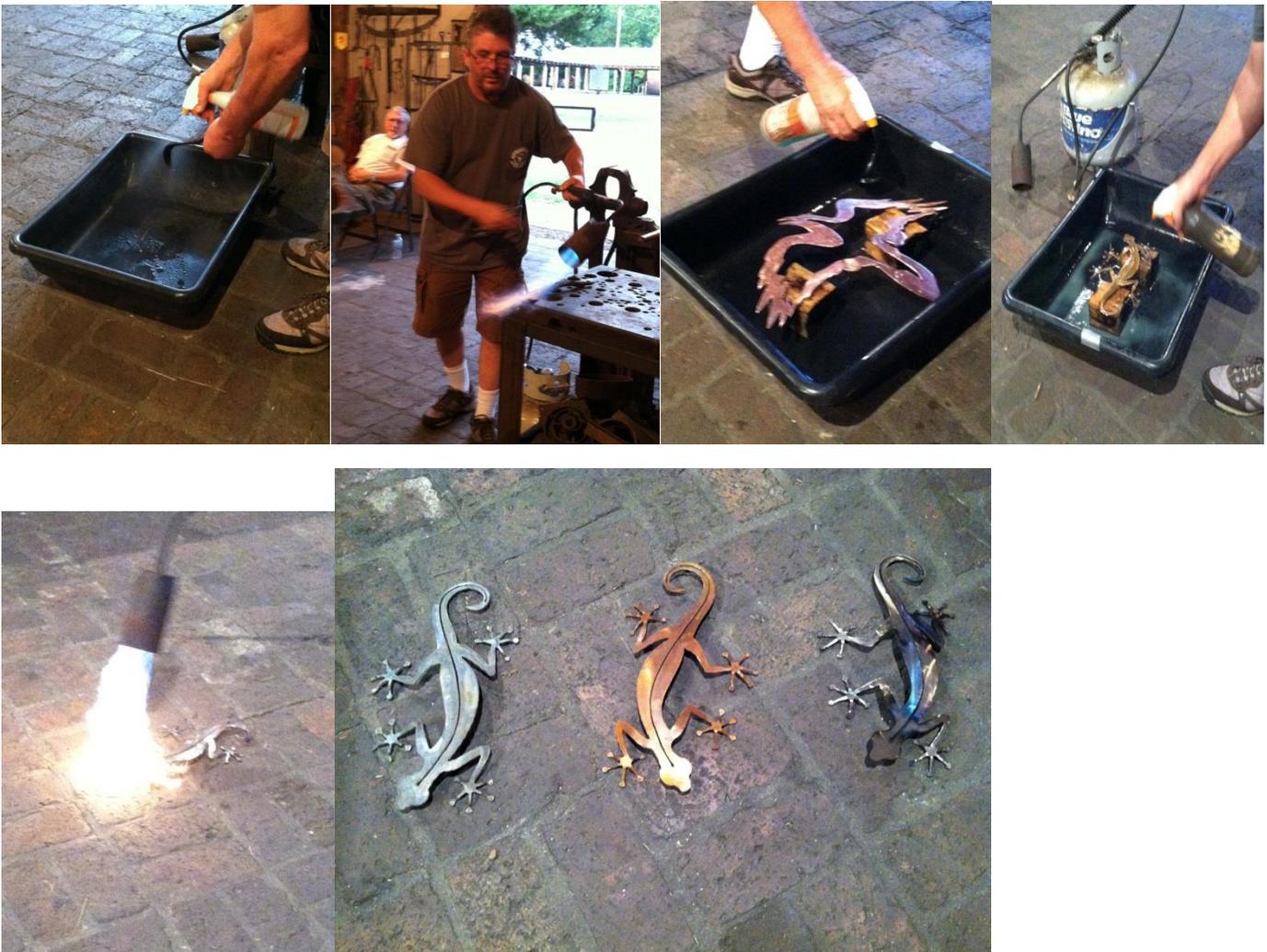
RCBA Inc.

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President: Buzz Busbee - 615 962-9140

August Meeting

A huge thank you to Johnny Woolsey for opening our August meeting with a demonstration of several techniques for applying a unique patina to any metal piece.



Johnny explained that you can either make your own chemical solutions or purchase them. Johnny's favorite solution is a mixture of about a quart of hydrogen peroxide and a capful of muriatic acid. First, clean your metal piece very well. There should be no oil on it at all. Handle it carefully so as not to get fingerprints on it. Then spray with your chemical solution. Watch closely until you get the look you want, then rinse your piece off with water. If you are using the above mixture, you can put the metal in the sun, keeping it moist, to get a more intense patina. It's up to you and what you like. Once the metal is rinsed, blow the water off with compressed air, and dry the metal as quickly as possible. Johnny used a torch. Be careful to dry the metal without heating it any more than necessary. Once your masterpiece is to your liking you can finish it with a simple coat of wax. Heat the metal only until the wax will go on smoothly. Buff carefully. Johnny also showed us how to apply a copper patina, rainbow patina, and black patina. More information and more photos will eventually make their way into the photo album at the shop.

Changes at the Shop

A change has been made to the Green Coal project list. The boot scraper has been taken off, and tongs have been added. New students will be required to make the tongs. Students who are long past the boot scraper stage are welcome and encouraged to make the tongs. All members are welcome to attend tong demonstrations and make a pair for themselves.

RCBA has a small collection of photos, newsletters, idea books, and miscellaneous information in the library in the white cabinet in the McDonald Annex. We would like to add to it. If you have borrowed something from the cabinet, please bring it back in a timely manner so others can enjoy it. If you have books, newsletters, or any useful information you would like to donate, please feel free to add them to the collection. I think we all like to page through a variety of resources to get new ideas.

We have a new woodstove! Thank you to Woody at Clark Iron for finding this treasure for us. It needs a little work to spruce it up, but we will definitely be able to stay warm this winter. It has lots of character, and it fits right in with the museum side of the shop.

We still would like to have a larger refrigerator. For this I really don't think we should rely on what Woody might find at the scrap yard. However, if you find something suitable, please contact Buzz.

Other Information

John Couch spoke about our insurance coverage. Details about insurance will be sent in a separate e-mail as soon as all information is available. I want everyone to have very accurate information.

The AACB Newsletter will be posted at the shop. Please take note of all upcoming events. If you are not a member of AACB, you are encouraged to join. It is only \$20 a year and the opportunities are priceless.

We hope to have Johnny Kierbow come back to the shop sometime this Fall, once the weather becomes a bit cooler. There is no set date or project yet, but if you have ever seen Johnny work or attended one of his workshops, you know it will be something special and worthwhile. Please sign up as soon as possible. There will be room for about ten people.

We have coal for sale. A five gallon bucket is \$5.00. Someone at the shop on Monday or Thursday can help you.

Project of the Month

Well, you had your chance. My (Julia's) entry for gun hooks was still the only one. Next month's project is a boot scraper – in honor of the retired Green Coal project. Come on Green Coal students, let's see what you can do! You can make a Green Coal boot scraper, OR YOU CAN MAKE A FLOOR BOOT SCRAPER. Green Coal students, I'll send you a picture of a boot scraper in case you haven't seen one yet.

Tom Danielson made a gun hook stand out of a pitchfork. Too bad he didn't make the meeting. No doubt he would have won. He has kindly sent photos of his project. Tom used the middle three prongs of the pitchfork and formed the hooks to fit his gun. He has found that the gun hook helps when shooting from a prone position. Tom, bring this to the next meeting and show it off!



The Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

The next RCBA business meeting is September 8 at 7:00. I am looking at the correct month in the correct year, so I am sure this is the correct date. Dan Broomhead will be demonstrating electro-chemical etching on a poor blacksmith's budget. You'll never guess his power source! All members are strongly encouraged to attend. Bring your entry for Project of the Month and something for Iron In The Hat – perhaps something you made.

AACB at Fiddlers Grove – September 13

AACB at Warren County – October 18

Cannonsburgh Village – Harvest Days (aka: Closing Days) October 25

AACB at John C. Campbell – November 1

AACB Christmas Party at Appalachian Center for Crafts – December 6

Field Trip Demonstrations

RCBA is occasionally asked to demonstrate for school field trips. Children are divided into groups, and each group comes to the shop for a 15 minute demonstration. Please let Buzz know if you would like to take part in these demonstrations. Green Coal students, this is a wonderful opportunity to get some extra forge time in. The next field trip demonstration is on September 24, starting at about 9:00. I believe there are six groups coming through.

The Sign

All the buildings in Cannonsburgh Village are required to have a sign on the outside of the shop explaining the traditional use of the building. The wording for the signs comes from the brochure that is handed out to visitors. Our sign will read as follows:

“Under the spreading chestnut tree, the village smithy stands...” The craft of the blacksmith was in existence for 2000 years before it nearly vanished in the early 20th century. This reconstructed working blacksmith shop represents an essential part of a 19th century Middle Tennessee town. The entire community depended on the blacksmith; and from his forge and anvil came horseshoes, wagon and buggy wheels, nails, spikes, and tools. He also repaired and made farm implements. The blacksmith can be seen here in the village on occasion in our open season.

An additional line stating that the shop is now operated by RCBA may be added.

The shop will be closed for Labor Day.

If you must build a fire, light your grill, and cook some hotdogs using your hotdog fork. Be safe. Eat well. Relax!