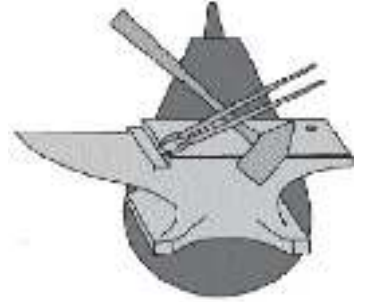


Alabama Forge Council



Proudly presents our

35th Annual AFC Blacksmithing Conference

September 10, 11, 12, and 13, 2020

Tannehill State Park
McCalla, Alabama

With Featured Demonstrators

Kirk Sullens

and

John Taylor

Sunday Morning Surprise Demonstration

by Richey Crew of Pontotoc, Mississippi

Returning family program: Making Rings From Coins

with Edd and Donya Harbin

Show and Tell

Green Coal (Beginners) Classes

Iron Art Auction

Iron-In-The-Hat and Tool Box Drawings

Tailgate Sales in designated sale area

Demonstrator Biography

Kirk Sullens

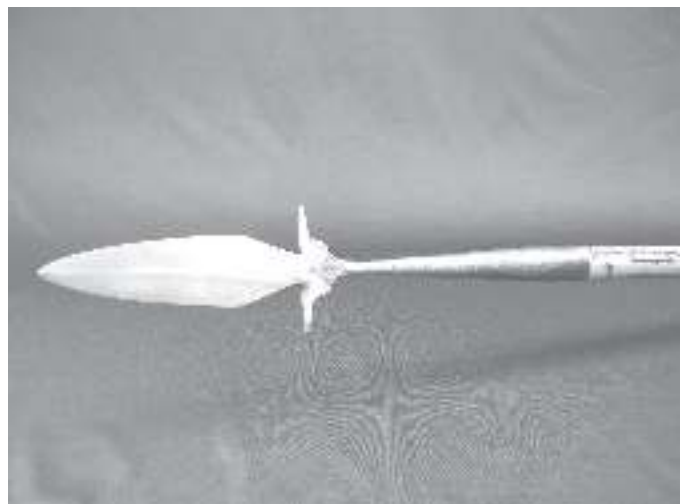
Kirk started blacksmithing in 1988 after finding Alex Weygers' "The Modern Blacksmith" in a bookstore. He was working as long distance operator for AT&T at the time. When he was laid off he convinced the powers that were to send him to blacksmithing school for retraining. He learned the basics in a six-week intensive course with Bob Patrick.

Kirk's first paid forging job came in 1989, making a set of railings for Bass Pro Shops under a sub-contract from an ornamental fab shop. He continued working in the fab shop for 5 years after that, and met the managers of the Bass Pro metal shop at the 1994 ABANA conference. He worked for Bass Pro Shop for 15 years, primarily doing architectural embellishment including forging, chasing, raising, and fabrication work for gates, railings, lighting, and just about anything where traditional ironwork could be done.

Kirk has served as president for the Blacksmith's Association of Missouri (BAM), as a board member of ABANA, and as program chair of the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA). He has demonstrated for BAM, IVBA, NWBA, MASA, and FABA.

When Kirk saw Bob Patrick again at the 2018 BAM conference, Bob recalled that "when you started you didn't work very well with your hands." Kirk says that's proof that anyone who sticks with the craft long enough to gain skill can do it!

Kirk's main demonstration project will be an octopus, using the "Julia Child method". That is, he'll have pieces in several stages of completion so we don't have to sit through all the tedious parts. If he finishes the octopus and has time left, he may demonstrate making a winged spear.

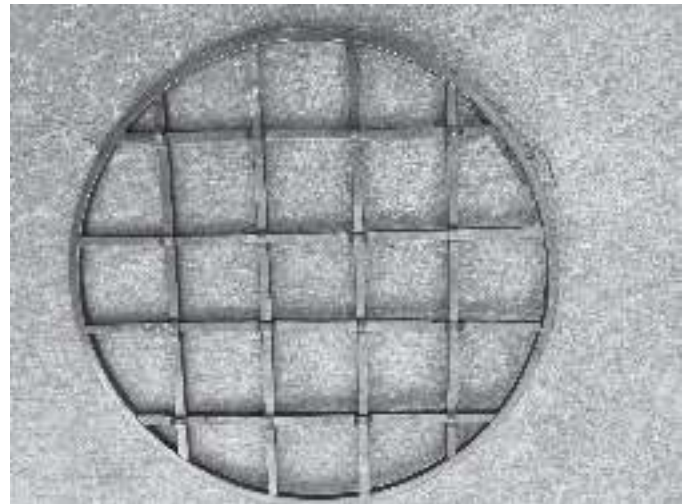


Demonstrator Biography

John Taylor

John Taylor began his career as a welder and moved into industrial plant maintenance. He always had a love for steel and the things that can be done with it. After he discovered blacksmithing, John credits Ron Nichols for early help and guidance and for introductions to Clay Spencer and Mark Aspery. Since studying with Clay and Mark, the hydraulic press and traditional joinery have become John's niches. John was scheduled to demonstrate at the 2020 ABANA conference in Saratoga, NY, that had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

John has a passion for blacksmithing that comes through as an infectious enthusiasm when he demonstrates. Come, be inspired, and then go home and make something!



Richey Crew

Richey Crew of Pontotoc, Mississippi, is an accomplished blacksmith and bladesmith and runner up on the History Channel's *Forged in Fire* competition where he made a Japanese sword. If you've seen the tee shirts with "If you're gonna be a bear, be a grizzly" and "Might oughta call someone", those are from Richey's TV appearance!

Richey will be doing a special surprise demonstration on Sunday morning. Come and find out what he'll be making!

Family Program

Pre-registration is recommended! Classes fill up fast. Don't miss out.

Minimum age is 16; younger only if accompanied by an adult. We are sorry for the inconvenience, but the adult must remain with the youth during the entire class.

Class size is limited to ensure personal attention.

All classes are beginner level with no experience required!

Edd and Donya Harbin - Rings from Coins

Participants will learn how to make a ring out of a quarter. This is a beginner level class where students will be given a demonstration of the basic steps of coin ring making using specialized tools and dies. After the demonstration each student will use the tools and dies to make a ring out of a regular circulation quarter. Students may bring coins with them, and time permitting, they may make additional rings.

Class & Material fee is \$40 per student. Class size is limited to 6 students per class. This 3 hour class is available Friday morning and afternoon and Saturday morning.

Green Coal with Tony Holliday

Teaching stations will be available for hands-on instruction by accomplished blacksmith AFC founding member Tony Holliday. If you are just getting started in blacksmithing, here is your chance to learn the basics from one of the best the AFC has to offer. A specific curriculum has been set for the students.

Class fee \$15 per student. Class size limited to 6 students. A specific area will be set aside for this class. This class is available Friday morning, Friday afternoon, and Saturday morning.

Friday Night Blast Forging Competition

Bring your hammer!

Our Friday Night Blast contest will be nail making with an added challenge.

We will give you a rod and you will make as many USABLE nails as possible in a pre-set amount of time.

Conference organizer Raymond Head will explain the extra twist to the contest on the evening of the event. This will be a great time for all, please consider participating.

Cash prizes will be awarded!!

Auction

Your donated items for the auction are very much appreciated. The auction proceeds are where the AFC generates its income to offer blacksmithing scholarships and to host the free workshops each year. The conference fees pay for putting on the conference but the auction is how we continue to provide the activities that further the art and craft of blacksmithing. Our auctioneer this year is Col. Anthony Goodrum. This is a charity auction, so bid generously. **This year we will also give out door prizes during the Auction.**

Iron-In-The-Hat and Tool Box Drawings

This year the AFC will be conducting Iron-In-The-Hat and Tool Box drawings to help raise funds for our educational programs. Tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5, 25 for \$20 and 150 for \$100. A drawing will be held for donated items and the centerpiece is a blacksmith's toolbox. Any items for the general iron-in-the-hat or tools for the toolbox would be greatly appreciated.

DO NOT THROW OUT YOUR TICKETS AFTER THE DRAWING! SAVE THEM FOR THE DOOR PRIZE DRAWING DURING THE AUCTION

If you have items but cannot attend, please send items for the auction, iron-in-the-hat, or toolbox to:

Raymond Head – AFC
138 Cone Lane
Wetumpka, AL 36093

Please indicate whether the items are intended for the auction, iron-in-the-hat, or toolbox.

Tailgate Sale Tables

This year the conference will open on Thursday for tailgate sales. This day has been set aside for the buying and selling of tools and equipment at your leisure.

Special note; Unless you are selling directly from your camper please set up all sales tables in the designated area only. If you have any questions please contact Raymond Head for assistance. **This is for the privacy and safety of your fellow campers.**

Coal for Sale!

The AFC may have a very limited amount of coal for sale in 50 pound bags. **If available**, the price will be \$17.00 per bag at the conference with all of the proceeds going to our building fund. If you need coal get it while you can. It might be several years before the AFC makes another bulk coal Purchase.

Schedule of Events

Wednesday September 9: Tail Gate Sales

Thursday September 10: Registration and Setup

Tail gate sales in designated sale area

1:00 to 4:00 PM

Conference set up - volunteers greatly appreciated!

6:00 PM

AFC cookout at Stewart House. All attendees invited!

Friday September 11

8:30 to 11:00 AM

Featured Demonstrator Kirk Sullens - Forge Pavilion

Featured Demonstrator John Taylor - Vulcan Pavilion

Coin Ring Making with Edd and Donya Harbin - Location TBA

Green Coal

Break for lunch

12:30 to 4:00 PM

Featured Demonstrator Kirk Sullens - Forge Pavilion

Featured Demonstrator John Taylor - Vulcan Pavilion

Coin Ring Making with Edd and Donya Harbin - Location TBA

Green Coal

Saturday September 12

8:30 to 11:00 AM

Featured Demonstrator Kirk Sullens - Forge Pavilion

Featured Demonstrator John Taylor - Vulcan Pavilion

Coin Ring Making with Edd and Donya Harbin - Location TBA

Green Coal

Break for lunch - Board of Directors meeting in classroom

12:30 to 4:00 PM

Featured Demonstrator Kirk Sullens - Forge Pavilion

Featured Demonstrator John Taylor - Vulcan Pavilion

4:30 PM Sharp

Iron in the Hat - Auction - Awards Ceremony

Sunday September 13

8:30 Surprise Demonstration by Richey Crew

Packup and clean up - PLEASE STAY AND HELP - every hand is appreciated

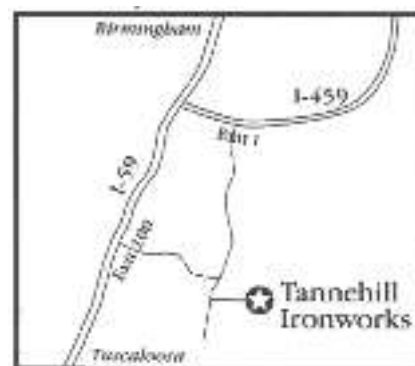
Registration

Gate entry will begin **Wednesday afternoon, September 9th**. Pre-registered attendees pay \$60 and **AFC membership is required**; AFC dues are \$25 per year and include 6 issues of the Bituminous Bits. **Registration at the conference will be \$70 plus membership for 3-days and \$40 plus membership for 1-day, per person. Again AFC membership is required.** Anyone attending the demonstrations or are setting up tailgate sales are required to pay the conference fee. Family members or temporary visitors need only sign the release and obtain a badge for TEMPORARY entry into the conference area. Family members of a registered conference participant, attending family program classes only, are not required to pay the full conference fee.

If you take up space at a blacksmith demo you must pay the conference fee.

Location

Tannehill State Park is located approximately 25 miles southwest of Birmingham. Take Exit 100 from I-59/20 and go east about 2 miles to the park or take Exit 1 from I-459 and go south about 7 miles, the park entrance will be on your left. The conference will be held in Farley Field at the extreme northern end of the park.



The blacksmithing demonstrations will be in the Forge and the Vulcan Pavilions. Plenty of bleacher and chair seating are available. The family and children's programs will be held in nearby tents and pavilions.

Lodging

Camping: Tannehill is one of the premier camping sites in the state. Campsites are available at the Tannehill Ironworks near the demonstration site on Mill Creek. Improved (water and electricity) sites, primitive camping and cabins are available. Check-in at the country store. For reservations and information, call the park at 205-477-5711 or <http://www.tannehill.org>.

Conference attendees are responsible for their own camping fees.

BE ADVISED: No Alcoholic Beverages are allowed at Tannehill Ironworks State Park.

Hotels:

Sleep Inn
1259 Greenmor Drive
AL-52 at exit 6 off I-459
205-424-0000

Best Western
5041 Academy Lane
Exit 108 of I-59/20
205-481-1950

Comfort Inn
5051 Academy Lane
Exit 108 off I-59/20
205-428-3999

Wellesley Inn
11170 Will Walker Road
Exit 89 off I-20/59
205-556-3606
(Across from Mercedes plant)

Jameson Inn
5021 Academy Lane
Exit 108 off I-59/20
205-428-3194

Holiday Inn Express
5001 Academy Lane
Exit 108 off I-59/20
205-428-9972

**Alabama Forge Council
Tannehill 2020 Conference Registration
September 10, 11, 12, and 13, 2020**

Please pre-register; classes fill up quickly.
No shows will have their conference fee refunded minus any class fees.
Pre-registration must be received by August 31, 2020.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone (____) _____

Blacksmithing is an inherently dangerous activity. You are responsible for yourself and your visitors using eye, ear, respirator, and other protection as required, and the use of safe work methods. The Alabama Forge Council, its officers, demonstrators, writers, editor, and members specifically disclaim responsibility or liability for any damages, injuries, or destruction of property as a result of any information published in the Bituminous Bits or demonstrated at conferences, meetings, classes, or workshops. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and safety of information provided, but use thereof is solely at the user's own risk. By requesting or renewing membership you are stating that you agree with this release.

Signed _____ Date _____
Additional name tags: _____

Mail this form with payment to:

Tannehill 2020
111 Yorkshire Drive
Athens, AL 35613
Or call card info to Judd Clem at 256-232-2645

Schedule of Fees

All Weekend: Member Advance = \$60 Onsite = \$70
Non-Member Advance = \$85 Onsite = \$95 \$ _____

One Day Only: Friday _____ Saturday _____ Sunday _____
Member Advance = \$40 Onsite = \$45
Non-Member Advance = \$65 Onsite = \$70 \$ _____

Membership Renewal: _____ Years @ \$25 per year \$ _____
(Qty) (Attendee Names)

Friday AM Classes (Mark first and second choices in case class is full)
_____ Green Coal \$15 _____ \$ _____
_____ Coin Ring \$40 _____ \$ _____

Friday PM Classes (Mark first and second choices in case class is full)
_____ Green Coal \$15 _____ \$ _____
_____ Coin Ring \$40 _____ \$ _____

Saturday AM Classes (Mark first and second choices in case class is full)
_____ Green Coal \$15 _____ \$ _____
_____ Coin Ring \$40 _____ \$ _____

Total Fees ----- \$ _____
Make checks payable to Alabama Forge Council

If paying by credit card: _____ Visa _____ Mastercard

Card #: _____
Name on card: _____
Expiration date: _____ CVV: _____
Signature: _____