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Quarterly Newsletter of the SOCIETY FOR MIDWEST METALSMITHS

# FORGING

**March 2010**

P.O. Box 31314 St. Louis, MO 63131 [www.midwest-metalsmiths.org](http://www.midwest-metalsmiths.org)  
[midwestmetalsmiths@gmail.com](mailto:midwestmetalsmiths@gmail.com)

Next Meeting: Saturday, March 13th, Noon - SWAP MEET

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## Spring is Right Around the Corner

With Spring fast approaching, many of you will be thinking about clearing unwanted items from your studio to make room for new tools, books, and gadgets.

Immediately following the **March meeting**, SMM will hold its annual **Swap Meet**. The guidelines for the swap meet are fairly simple and straightforward. Members may bring anything that they want to sell, trade, or give away. Items can include jewelry-making and metal-working tools, but are not limited to these items. In the past, people have brought cabochons, beads, copper sheet, wood blocks for dapping, jewelry books, past issues of magazines, and even novels, yarn, and audio books. We never know for sure exactly what items will show up for the swap; we just know that it will be fun.

Also, during the **March meeting** we will hold elections for SMM Executive Board Officers for 2010.



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## Tools For Sale & Advertising

Starting with the newsletter's May issue, we will have a "Tools for Sale" page. This page will appear at the end of the newsletter, and will feature items related to jewelry-making and metal-working (books, machinery, tools, etc). Placing an announcement in the tools for sale section is free to all SMM members who have paid their current membership dues. If you are interested in selling an item via the newsletter, just send me, Elizabeth Wood, an e-mail that contains a brief description of the item, your contact information, and a picture (if possible), and I'll include it in the next newsletter.

The "Advertising Page" is open to anyone, but will not be free. Like the tools for sale page, the ad page will appear towards the end of the newsletter. Several other metalsmithing organizations have an ads section, as it is a great way to generate funds for the group, and an affordable way to increase one's exposure on the internet.

## Tools For Sale & Advertising (cont.)

This page is an example of how the SMM Advertising Contract will look. I am including it in the newsletter this time because ads are a new endeavor for us. However, in the future, if you wish to advertise in the newsletter, you will need to go directly to the SMM website to obtain a copy of the ad contract. From there, print out a copy of the contract, fill it out, and mail it to SMM with your check. Your actual ad, on the other hand, needs to be sent to me, Elizabeth Wood, at ej1699@prodigy.net

I am happy to help with basic questions that you might have about putting an ad together. But I want to stress that ad layout and design is NOT my area of expertise. For something tight and professional, I suggest you consult with someone who has a background in advertising or graphic design.

The pricing structure for advertising in the newsletter is as follows:

<u>Ad Size</u>	<u>1 Issue</u>	<u>2 Issues</u>	<u>3 Issues</u>	<u>4 Issues</u>	<u>5 Issues</u>
<b>Eighth</b>	\$30	\$27	\$25	\$22	\$20
<b>Quarter</b>	\$45	\$42	\$39	\$34	\$30
<b>Half</b>	\$75	\$68	\$62	\$56	\$50
<b>Full</b>	\$110	\$99	\$90	\$82	\$74
<b>Business Card</b>	\$25	\$22	\$20	\$18	\$16

Issues in which you would like the ad to appear: Jan\_\_\_ Mar\_\_\_ May\_\_\_ Sept\_\_\_ Nov\_\_\_  
(Please include the year if your ad will run from one calendar year to the next.)

### Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please send your payment to the following address:

Society for Midwest Metalsmiths  
P.O. Box 31314  
St. Louis, MO 63131

Please send ad information (and/or questions regarding ads) to:

Elizabeth Wood, SMM Newsletter Editor  
ej1699@prodigy.net

## Silver Hammer Awards

The Silver Hammer awards are not entirely new to SMM. But beginning this year, SMM is tweaking the structure for earning these awards. Awards are now tied to an established point system, and points correspond to hours spent volunteering for SMM. For example, if you volunteer 200 hours to the group, then you earn 200 points.

The purpose of these awards is to make sure that the organization recognizes and thanks those members who graciously donate their time and hard work in making SMM what it is today and what it will become in the future.

To earn an award, members record the number of hours they spend volunteering for SMM, and then at the end of each month e-mail those hours to **Sherri Jaudes** -who also made these beautiful pins- at [srjaudes@hotmail.com](mailto:srjaudes@hotmail.com) (**Wendy Walsh** also sends out friendly reminder e-mails each month in case you forget.)

<u>Pin</u>	<u>Points needed to acquire pin</u>
Silver hammer	400
Silver pliers (they move like real pliers)	350
Silver sawframe	300
Silver raising stake	200
Silver half round file	150
Silver enameling fork	100
Silver sandpaper	100
Silver bandaid	100
Silver solder pic	50

Still to come in the series are: round nose pliers, bench pin, anvil, ring mandrel, sinusiodal stake, mushroom stake, blowhorn stake, and many more. And bronze versions of the first six pins are also available to earn.



## Viking Knit Workshop

At the end of February, SMM held its first workshop of 2010, and welcomed **Aimee Domash** for her one-day Viking Knit Workshop. The Viking knit chain is a fun and relatively easy knit to learn, and one that can be adapted and incorporated into chains for pendants, bracelets, earrings, and anklets; and could even be added to non-jewelry items such as hollowware.

Aimee began class by outlining the workshop agenda, and showing samples and pictures of the types of projects that are possible using the Viking weave. Variations are endless; you can add beads or charms to the inside / outside of the weave, fabricate different styles of clasps, and layer multiple weaves for a more dramatic look.

The first step in making the bracelet is to construct a foundation petal. Students watched Aimee demonstrate how to make this petal, attach it to a weaving dowel, and begin threading the first loops of the weave. At first this was a complicated step, but once everyone became comfortable with building the foundation, weaving the silver wire was a snap. Students were then free to weave on their own, and add beads based on their own personal tastes.

Once everyone had completed their weaves, Aimee showed students how to properly end their weaves, and remove them from the weaving dowel without damaging the wires. When the weave is removed from the dowel it looks a bit wonky. But pulling it down through a wooden draw plate transforms the woven wire tube into a lovely little bracelet with accent beads. The addition of an S clasp completes the bracelet.

SMM thanks Aimee for sharing her ideas and creativity with its members.



## **SMM Workshops for 2010**

If you haven't checked already, the 2010 workshop schedule is now available on the SMM website. Workshops are a great way to learn new techniques, meet visiting artists, and connect with other SMM members. Below is an overview of upcoming workshops. Fees listed are for SMM members; non-members add \$30. For more detailed information, please visit our website <http://www.midwest-metalsmiths.org/workshops.html>

If you are interested in hosting a visiting artist in your home, please contact **Howard Siegel** at [hjsiegel@charter.net](mailto:hjsiegel@charter.net)

### **May 8th & 9th, Coloring Titanium by Noel Yovovich**

Maryville University, 3D Art & Design Building

We will explore both anodizing and heat-coloring titanium, including coloring with brushes, plus techniques for creating imagery as well as abstract uses of the colors, from geometric to painterly.

Enrollment fee including kit fee -\$145

Sign-up start date (Feb. 18) Deadline (Mar. 20, 2010)

Lecture by Noel Yovovich tentative; day, time, and place TBD.

### **June 26, 2010, Build Your Own Work Bench by Sherri Jaudes**

Maryville University, 3D Art & Design Building

This is a workshop that many people have been interested in. Sherri has made this with her students a few times and they are very happy with their benches. The bench is 2' x 3' and has a belly tray.

Enrollment fee including kit fee -\$90 Participants must purchase materials, estimated cost -\$60

Sign-up start date (Apr. 10) Deadline (May 15, 2010)

### **July 2010, (exact date TBD), Moving Metal, Joe Muench**

Maryville University, 3D Art & Design Building

This workshop will focus on anticlastic and synclastic shell forming processes. The exercises demonstrated and practiced are accurate to Heikki Seppa models (my grad prof)- a good fit for St.Louis.

Enrollment fee including kit fee -\$TBD

Sign-up start date (info. to come) Deadline (info. to come)

### **September 18 & 19, 2010, Victoria Landsford Russian Filigree**

Maryville University, 3D Art & Design Building

In this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to learn Russian or open back filigree through extensive demonstrations and hands on exploration. Victoria teaches the method of forming, framing, and placing individual wires to create works of depth, pleasing complexity, and unique design.

Workshop fee -\$310 Kit fee -\$35

Enrollment fee including kit fee -\$345

Sign-up start date (July 10) Deadline (Aug. 7, 2010)

### **October 9 & 10, 2010, Keum Boo, Sherri Jaudes**

Maryville University, 3D Art & Design Building

It is recommended that students bring some finished pieces to this workshop on which the Keum Boo can be applied. If no finished pieces are available, the techniques can be learned on pieces of flat metal. Participants will be shown how to Keum Boo fine silver, sterling silver, copper, brass, steel and stainless steel with 24k gold and fine silver foil. They will learn the burnishing technique for smooth surfaces and pouncing for texture.

Enrollment fee including kit fee -\$135

Sign-up start date (July 31) Deadline (Aug. 28, 2010)

## Calls & Events

- **Exhibition in Print 2010** call for submissions. "Neo-Palatial: Objects of Virtue and Vice," curated by Garth Clark. Objets de Virtue - extravagant works that challenge the limitations of technique, scale, and sometimes good taste - is seeking examples of giant "exposition vases," canonical candlesticks, and jewelry on steroids for the purpose of exploring the brilliance and decadence of metalsmithing. Work will be exhibited at SOFA Chicago in November. **Deadline** to submit work is **March 15th**. For more information go to [www.snagmetalsmith.org](http://www.snagmetalsmith.org)
  - The **Professional Guidelines is seeking images of SNAG members** while they are working in their studio or selling their work. These images will be used in printed brochures about the Professional Guidelines. **Deadline** to submit is **March 15th**. For more details go to [www.snagmetalsmith.org](http://www.snagmetalsmith.org)
  - **SNAG Educational Endowment Scholarships** are offered each year. Three scholarships are awarded, each worth \$1,000 and a one-year SNAG membership. **Deadline** is **March 15th** and an application is available at [www.snagmetalsmith.org](http://www.snagmetalsmith.org)
  - **Halstead Bead, Inc.** is calling for entries to its **5th annual Business Development Grant** competition for new American jewelry designers entering the bridge jewelry trade. The **deadline** for submissions is **June 9th**. The winner will receive \$6,000 in cash and merchandise as well as other benefits. Complete details can be found at [www.halsteadbead.com/Grant/Application/](http://www.halsteadbead.com/Grant/Application/)
  - **Jewelry Design Challenge: 30-Minute Rings.** Your mission is to design a ring that can be made in 30 minutes flat. Sound fun? We think so. 30-Minute Rings will showcase more than 50 incredibly stylish step-by-step projects without investing too much time. You can **download an entry form** at [www.larkbooks.com/submissions/artist-submissions](http://www.larkbooks.com/submissions/artist-submissions)
  - **Metal Inclinations2 2010-11**, an international online jewelry exhibition. Sponsored by Hauser & Miller and presented by the Society for Midwest Metalsmiths, will include selections of exemplary fine metal art jewelry created by metalsmiths, silversmiths, goldsmiths, and jewelers from all over the world. Jurors include: Jaime Bennett, Klaus Brugel, John Cogswell, and Sydney Lynch. Debut date October 31st 2010; exhibition will remain on-line until October 31st 2011. For more information and registration to go [www.smm-metalinclinations.org/enter.htm](http://www.smm-metalinclinations.org/enter.htm)
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- **Santa Fe Symposium** May 16th-19th in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Now in its 25th year, the Santa Fe Symposium is the premier conference for jewelry manufacturing technology. For more information on how to improve your jewelry business go to [www.santafesymposium.org/](http://www.santafesymposium.org/)
  - Thursdays at the **Foundry Art Center in St. Charles.** Have lunch at the Foundry (\$10 adult, \$5 child) and afterwards explore the many galleries exhibiting work by regional, national, and international artists. For more information and directions go to [www.foundryartcentre.org](http://www.foundryartcentre.org)
  - **Articles of Dress** March 12th - May 9th 2010, **Craft Alliance - Delmar.** Artists Susan Freda, Brenda Jones, and John Petrey explore ideas of the female garment as sculptural art form.
  - **Bench Jewelers Conference**, June 17th - 19th 2010 in Atlanta, GA. Become a better bench jeweler in 3 days. Your paid registration includes general sessions, seminars, meals, gala reception, and an E-book on shop management. For more details go to [www.BenchConference.com](http://www.BenchConference.com)
  - **American Craft Council** has several upcoming shows in Atlanta, St. Paul, MN, San Francisco, and Savannah, GA. If you are interested in taking a trip to see great work check out the details at [www.craftcouncil.org/](http://www.craftcouncil.org/)

## Articles of Interest & Member News

- **Galleries: Issues to Consider After Your Work Has Been Accepted** by Andy Cooperman. This is part four in a four-part series of articles written by Don Friedlich, Harriete Estel Berman, and Andy Cooperman. To read each part, go to [www.snagmetalsmith.org/Events/Professional\\_Development\\_Seminar/](http://www.snagmetalsmith.org/Events/Professional_Development_Seminar/)

- **American Style** has a great resource on their website for fairs and festivals throughout the United States. You don't need to subscribe to the magazine; just go to their website [www.americanstyle.com/ME2/Default.asp](http://www.americanstyle.com/ME2/Default.asp) and on the far right side of the page is a small box labeled fairs and festivals. Click on that, and a virtual magazine will open, and you can flip through pages like a real magazine.

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- In January, **Case Leeser** opened Red Door Gallery, LLC (T, TH 10-6) at 308-B South Main St. in Palmyra, MO. It is a cooperative effort sponsored in part by the Palmyra Area Arts League. So far, interest has been high; and there are ten artists in the gallery at this time. For more information contact Case at 573.248.7932 or <http://www.wix.com/jcaseworks/jewelry>

- Additionally, **Case Leeser** is heading south to the Great Smokey Mountains of Georgia for the first of three sessions teaching Chain in 2010 at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. Case has been an instructor at Wm. Holland for the past four years and will be teaching in April, June (Federation Week) and August 2010. Check the [www.lapidaryschool.org](http://www.lapidaryschool.org) for class listings.

- **Howard Siegel** and **Nancy Brickner** have been selected to co-teach ten chain making workshops and classes at the June 2010 Bead and Button Show in Milwaukee, WI.

- **Rebecca Barton's** artwork "Tree Pot" is featured in the Beyond Jewelry column of the March 2010 *Art Jewelry Magazine*.

- **Kelly Robinson** is a finalist in the "Fine Art Finals Midwest Scholarship Competition." Kelly is currently earning her master's degree at Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville studying under **Paulette Myers**.

- As always, if you have any **news** about upcoming shows, awards received, or interesting art events, please **send it to Elizabeth Wood [ej1699@prodigy.net](mailto:ej1699@prodigy.net)**

## Bench Tips - Organization

### Keeping Straight Wire Straight

To keep silver or gold wire from being bent out of shape after it's been straightened, use containers made from sturdy PVC tubing. Purchase 1/2" diameter PVC tubing from your local hardware store and cut into manageable lengths. Add your wire pieces and place 1/2" caps on the ends. No more worrying about kinks and unwanted bends. These are especially handy when you need to transport wires to and from classes or shows.

-Nancy Layer

### Turning Burs into Vital Stonesetting Tools

Stonesetters frequently convert and reuse tools intended for other purposes. Often when a tool is needed they will cast around the bench looking for raw material - and as every setter knows, used burs abound. There are a number of tools that can be made from such defunct burs; one of the most useful is a point burnisher.

This kind of point burnishing tool is made by taking an old or broken bur and sanding and grinding the end of it to a rounded point. If there is still a bur remnant on the end, this is snapped off using a pair of pliers before you start reshaping it, leaving a hardened steel shaft with a taper towards the end. To further taper and finish the tool, mount the bur shank in a flex shaft handpiece and hold it against emery papers while it spins to sand it into the long, smooth taper required of a good point burnisher. When reshaping the bur, be careful not to overheat it. The very tip of the tapered shank is rounded slightly and polished to a bright shine.

This tool can be mounted into a graver handle, or held in a universal collet handle. It is a great burnisher for fine, detailed work.

-Charles Lewton-Brain



The Society for Midwest Metalsmiths is an organization established to promote, educate and encourage metalsmiths, silversmiths and goldsmiths. Complete Minutes from the meetings are posted to the web site.

[www.midwest-metalsmiths.org](http://www.midwest-metalsmiths.org)

**Annual Membership Dues payable by:**

**Jan. 1 Delinquent after Jan. 31**

### Next Meeting Date:

**Saturday March 13th  
2010, Noon  
Maryville University  
Art & Design Building  
Swap Meet**

### MEMBER CATEGORIES:

Regular.....	\$30
Dual.....	\$40
(Family, same address)	
Student (with i.d.).....	\$20
Silver Level.....	\$75
Gold Level.....	\$100
Platinum Level.....	\$150

For membership info.

e-mail Wendy Walsh

[wwalshdesigns@charter.net](mailto:wwalshdesigns@charter.net)

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Mary Puchalski  
Dave & Marigold Colvin**



## SUBSTANTIAL EXHIBITION DONATIONS MADE BY



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The Society for Midwest Metalsmiths is indebted to VLAA for providing valuable legal services to our organization.

## ARTIST INSPIRATION

Success is not final, failure is not fatal:  
it is the courage to continue that counts.

-Winston Churchill