



# WNYATCA



## WESTERN NEW YORK ANTIQUE TOOL COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Website: [www.wnyatca.org](http://www.wnyatca.org)

The next meeting of WNYATCA will be held **September 23, 2018**  
at the Quality Inn, Batavia, NY, just off the Thruway, Batavia exit.

**Tool trading opens at 9:30 am...No Charge for a Trade Table**  
**Meeting starts at 10:30 am**

(Early birds get there around 8:30.) Come early and enjoy the trading, talking, coffee and pastry.

### Meeting Dates for 2018:

(Please write these down)

- ✓ September 23, November 4
- ✓ Membership \$15.00/year payable at your 1<sup>st</sup> meeting
- ✓ Regular Meetings held in Batavia, NY 4 times/yr.
- ✓ \$5.00 Meeting donation to help with room rental

We value Members' input w/Programs and Newsletter.

### At September 23, 2018 WNYATCA Meeting:

- ✓ **Speaker TBD**
- ✓ Check on the payment status of your 2018 membership
- ✓ Buy raffle tickets to support the club
- ✓ Consider donating an item to the raffle

### 2017-2019 Officers

President: Otto Dole 585-503-2230  
 Vice President: Vacant  
 Secretary: Keith McCormick 518-365-8399  
 Treasurer: Reid O'Connell 585-266-5286

### Meeting Contributors

Benefit Drawing: Tim Rhubart  
 What's It & Show Table: Dan Weinstock  
 Website: Keith McCormick

**Western New York Antique Tool Collectors Association**  
**June 3, 2018 Minutes**

**Attention club members!**

Please ensure your dues are up to date. If you are unable to pay your dues at a meeting, mail checks, made out to WNYATCA, to Reid O'Connell at his home address 146 Pinecrest Dr., Rochester, NY 14617.

**Welcome:** The June 3, 2018 meeting of WNYATCA convened at 10:28 AM at the Quality Inn in Batavia, NY. President Otto Dole presided. 33 members were in attendance. President Dole welcomed everyone to the 2nd meeting of 2018. New club member David Smart was introduced. Bill Banker was introduced as the guest speaker for the June meeting with a presentation on Blacksmithing. For your planning, tool trading starts at 9:30; meeting begins at 10:30; meeting/program complete by 1:30; and room must be cleared by 2:30. 2018 club meeting dates are scheduled as follows: 9/23 and 11/4.

**Contributors:** President Dole thanked all meeting contributors. Secretary Keith McCormick for preparing the meeting minutes, sending the Newsletter mailings and maintaining the club website. Treasurer Reid O'Connell for preparing the Treasurer's report, maintaining club member information, logging member sign-in at meetings and interfacing with the hotel on behalf of the club. The Vice President's position is currently vacant. Dave Iverson for handling the benefits drawing on behalf of Tim Rhubart during the last meeting and Dave Murdoch for leading the What's It and Show tables on behalf of Dan Weinstock during the last meeting. President Dole thanked all members that bring tools for trading, donating items for the raffle drawing and bringing examples for the What's It and Show Tables. A special thanks to Joe Paolucci for continuing to recruit new club members which are becoming hard to find.

**Member's Tasks:** Club members were reminded of the various ways to support the club by paying the yearly membership fee (\$15) and meeting room use fee (\$5), reviewing membership spreadsheet at check-in time to ensure contact information is correct, bringing What's It and Show Table items to future meetings, buy raffle tickets, bring a potential new member to the meetings, reading the Secretary's report in advance and wear a name tag. All members were thanked for their dedication to the club.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's report was sent prior to the meeting. No additions or corrections were made by the members in attendance and the report was accepted as published.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report indicated a checking account bank balance on 2/28/18 of \$1,509.93. Income since the last report was \$464. Expenses since the last report were \$418.30, which included a \$50 deceased member memorial donation and a Quality Inn invoice for the 3/8/18 meeting for \$368.30. The checking account bank balance was \$1,555.63 on 4/30/18 and the checking account checkbook balance was \$1,555.63 on 4/30/18. The net gain since the last report was \$45.70.

There are currently 72 members, a decrease of eight vs. the 3/18/18 list. This reflects deletion of members Thomas Bruce, Donald Ervin, Robert Galluzzo, John Geer, John Matulewicz, Paul Regan, Raymond Seward, and Harry Spoor whom have not paid dues since 2013 or earlier. Each was contacted individually via U.S. Mail or e-mails. No one replied asking to be retained as a member.

74% of members have paid dues through 2017 or later. 26% of memberships expired 2016 or earlier.

A March 24, 2018 \$50 check sent to Disabled Persons Action Organization in memory of Bill Curtis was received and acknowledged. (They serve Jefferson and Lewis Counties.)

The club computer projector fund has a balance of \$383 with a goal of \$450. Tim Rhubart suggested we donate the funds generated from the raffle to the projector fund. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

#### **Vice President's Report:**

**1) Speaker Series** – President Dole mentioned that the speaker slots are still open for the 9/23 and 11/4 meetings. Leon Golder may have some suggestions. President Dole asked the club members in attendance for any recommendations on speakers for the Sep or Nov meetings.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

**1) Club computer projector** – Projector cost is driven by brightness (lumens). A portable PA system may be of benefit to the club also. Otto will continue to research options.

**2) WNYATCA website** – The website is still operational with all major information on the site updated (2018 meeting dates, contact info, newsletter). Keywords were updated to improve the Google search ranking. Keith will continue to work on site updates as necessary. A password protected portion of the website was discussed for the purpose of exchanging or finding club member contact information. It was agreed that the club membership spreadsheet will be distributed annually to satisfy this request.

**3) Facebook page** – Myrna to provide update at the next meeting.

**4) Club membership dues increase** – the topic of raising the club membership dues from \$15 to \$20 per year was discussed at the 11/5/17 and 3/18/18 meetings. The dues increase was put to a vote among all club members in attendance and passed. Effective January 1, 2019, the club membership dues will increase to \$20.

**5) Officer Nomination Committee** – Dan Weinstock is leading the club officer nomination committee, along with assistance from Bill Kovacs. We need to nominate others in order to keep the club running and need a slate of people for the next meeting. Please reach out to Dan Weinstock with people that would do a good job in the officer positions and serve the club well.

#### **New Business:**

No new business was discussed during the meeting.

#### **What's It table**

**Item #1** – device that looks like a spout or spigot. Lockable, appears cast and has a 3/4" pipe thread. Oil barrel spigot?

**Item #2** – tool that appears machinist made from steel stock. Marked with owner/maker "F. Loose". Consists of oval jaws, convex and flat. Similar to a vise for gripping on four sides. Similar in design to a tommy bar for opening/closing.

**Item #3** – round device with a mounting flange and consisting of a split nut. Hollow inside and made of brass, including the split nut. Once the device was operated, it was evident that it was a door bell.

**Item #4** – machinist piece, with cross hatch knurling on the holding end. Stamped #'s, allen set screw with alignment V. Consists of a notch and the end of a plunger that can be turned, perhaps for turning a recessed fastener. A government sourced item grouped together with others of the same size. Use for Heli Coil repair?

**Item #5** – a nickel plated cast iron item resembling a kitchen tool. Press for meat juice or a lemon squeezer.

**Item #6** – cast iron piece patented 1866. Appears to be a primitive multi tool, consisting of a hammer head with grooves, nail puller, chisel edge and pliers. Frank Kosmerl and Joel Havens did subsequent research and could be a nut cracker or gas burner forceps.

#### **Show table**

**1)** Heavy iron casting, complete with plane handle and vise. Looks similar to a tenoning jig, perhaps by Delta or Craftsman.

#### **Benefits Drawing**

A sum of \$95 was raised for the raffle drawing consisting of ten lots.

At 11:17AM, the official business portion of the meeting was adjourned.

## Speaker Series

Bill Banker - Artist-Blacksmith-Metalworker - presentation on Blacksmithing

### Bio

Bill Banker has been employed for many years as a Mechanical Engineer with a wide variety of experience in machining, shaping, and finishing metal. Bill's Dad was the third generation in a household furniture moving business in which there was always something to repair or refinish. Bill helped with this work although Dad sometimes thought it was not very helpful. It was a learning experience and not having a lot of money craft and DIY projects were ongoing in our household. This led to an interest in tools and metal working. In 1992 Blacksmithing was discovered through a basic course taught by Rich Wansor at the 17th century French Fort on Onondaga Lake, Liverpool, New York. Since then Bill has been very active with the New York State Designer Blacksmiths and Artist Blacksmiths Association of North America. He attends numerous demonstrations, "Hammer Ins", and conferences. Bill has demonstrated at the New York State Fair, the Naples Spring Festival and Genesee Country Museum and many other places. Sundance Forge specializes in hand forged one-of-a-kind decorative and functional pieces for the home and garden. While attending various demonstrations techniques and configuration are learned. This translates into a personal interpretations, which are built on and used. Bill looks to nature and objects in our everyday lives for inspiration taking note of form, color, and texture.

Bill kicked off the presentation with a short talk on safety. He shared a story of how he got a piece of metal in his eye. Be safe and always wear your safety glasses!

Bill mentioned some of his mentors, John Scarlett, Charles Orlando, John Rausch and Bob Trout. In addition, famous historical blacksmiths include John Deere, James Oliver and Emmert Studebaker were noted. James Oliver made improvements over the wooden plow by designing and making metal/steel plows. Muddy soil or soil with clay in it can accumulate or stick to wooden plows. This advancement helped farmers because they did not have to stop and clean their plows. Studebaker was a foundry guy and came up with a cast iron plow and devised a scheme for hardening the plow edge within the mold. Studebaker's Conestoga wagons in WWI gave rise to the Studebaker car Starlight coupe.

Bill explained the Blacksmith hierarchy. An Apprentice would work for 7 years under a Master Blacksmith. Once completing the apprenticeship, they became a Journeyman, where they would travel to other shops and further their skillset. After a Journeyman, they became a Master Blacksmith, where they were able to run their own shop.

Common fuels used by blacksmiths consisted of bituminous soft coal, with the preferred coming from the Pocahontas vein of coal known for its low ash and Sulphur content. Other fuels used are peat, propane, coke and charcoal.

Bill showed photos of the Harris Brothers Forge at the NYS Fairgrounds in the Carriage House Building in Syracuse, NY. The forge was relocated from nearby, complete with brick hearth and cast iron fire pot. A cast iron forge is weighted with a pivot point that opens, ash drops out. A tuyere prevents fire from dropping. Bill shared other photos of a Buffalo Forge, which was very common and can still be found today. An anvil near Williamsport which was part of a gravestone in a cemetery. Peter Wright London pattern anvils are popular. Bill described the English Hundredweight system for identifying the markings and weights of English anvils. The first digit is hundredweight, where a "1" corresponds to 112 lb. The second digit is quarter weight, where a "1" corresponds to 28 lb. The third digit is in pounds, where a "16" corresponds to 16 lb. The three figures are added together to calculate the total weight of the anvil. For example, an anvil marked "1-0-16" would weigh 128 lb. "4-1-2" would weigh 500 lb.

Bill reviewed some of the tools used and made by Blacksmiths, including a post vise, cross peen and straight peen hammers and a unique mill pick. Glenn Leathersich wrote an article on the secret method for hardening the mill pick called super quenching with water, salt, detergent and a surfactant.

The forging process was described in general with the first step heating the metal to 1700 degF. Wrought iron is a primitive form of steel but has layers or inclusions. Mild steel is workable similar to modeling clay. Alloy steel, which contains more carbon, requires more energy to work.

Bill described some of the basics, which have not changed in 3,000 years. Drawing (longer & thinner), upsetting (shorter & taller), punching, bending, twisting and decoration were outlined. Heat treating processes referred to as annealing, where the metal is heated to the transition state. At the transition temperature, the metal is non-magnetic. Normalizing (stress relieving), Hardening (heating to transition temperature and oil quenching) and Tempering (drawing down at low temperature to reduce hardness and brittleness). The file test for hardness was described as a quick test for evaluating the metal and testing if the file digs into the metal. Forge welding, consists of heating the metal to a high temperature and uniting two pieces together by hammering. Forge welding uses a flux such as Borax in the process. Traditional forging, knifemaking, architectural railings, gunsmithing and carriagemaking were all briefly described.

Local historic sites related to Blacksmithing include the Harris Brothers forge, Genesee Country Village, Heritage Village of Southern Finger Lakes and the Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown, NY were mentioned. Bill brought along many free handouts for blacksmithing learning opportunities, including NYS Designer Blacksmiths, Adirondack Folk School and the Rochester Arc & Flame Center.

Bill concluded his presentation by showing some samples of his work. The first were door latches made for his circa 1850s house. He was able to reproduce some of the missing parts/pieces of the Norfolk latches to complete the historic latches. Bill also shared photos of a circular window screen with a brass flower in the center that he fabricated for a client.

Thanks to Bill, Bill's wife and Jason for an outstanding presentation!



**Bill Banker Blacksmithing presentation**



Flower courtesy of Bill Banker



What's It Table items