



***BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN***

**BATSON FORGE DEDICATION and  
BLACKSMITH CONFERENCE**

**On April 7-9, 2016**

At

Burritt on the Mountain

The **“Jewel on the Mountain”** overlooking Huntsville, Alabama  
3101 Burritt Drive, Huntsville, AL 35801 • (256) 536-2882

The Registration fee for the Blacksmith Conference  
ALL WEEKEND, 7-9 April 2016, is for  
Burritt Members: In advance-\$40/ Onsite registration-\$50  
Non-Members: In advance-\$50/ Onsite registration-\$60  
For one day  
Burritt Members: \$25  
Non-Members: \$30

Saturday is free to Blacksmith Conference paid attendees.  
The Saturday Show Fee and Burritt on the Mountain Park Fee are included in the Registration.

On Saturday the Park will collect the normal fee from the Public

**Please pre-register by 3 April 2016.**

Send your name, address, and phone number with registration fee  
And how many people that will attend the Dinner on Wednesday evening

To Judd Clem, 111 Yorkshire Dr, Athens, AL 35613,  
Or contact by phone 256/232-2645, or by e-mail, [clem.judd@att.net](mailto:clem.judd@att.net).

**An extra fee of \$10 will be collected at the Site for Hands-On Forging.**

Bring an art piece for the Blacksmith Art Exhibit--\$100 to Best of Show

There will be **Suppliers, Tail Gate Sales and Tool Venders**

Bring items for the **Auction**





### **BATSON FORGE**

The Batson Forge was originally built in Madison, Alabama by James and Barbara Batson. It was started on St Patrick's Day and finished on Thanksgiving Day of the same year. It is built like a log cabin with 6X8 inch popular dove tailed timbers. In January of 2015 each timber was numbered and disassembled by the H C Blake Co. The Forge Shop was erected on this site by the H C Blake Co from June to November 2015.

### **BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN**

William Henry Burritt (1869-1955) willed his estate and mansion, known as Round Top Mountain, to the city of Huntsville to create Huntsville's first museum. The site features Burritt's eclectic mansion, a historic park with restored nineteenth-century houses, a barnyard with authentic breeds of farm animals, a series of nature trails, and concerts, plays, festivals and exhibits. Its mission is to enhance lives and build community through educational, artistic, and recreational experiences while preserving our heritage, land, and historic structures.

### **DIRECTIONS**

The Easiest Route from downtown, take Hwy 431 (Governors Drive) east towards Guntersville until you reach the traffic signal at the top of the mountain, turn on Monte Sano Boulevard, go 0.7 miles and turn left on Burritt Drive at the BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN sign under the Grecian Arch.

### **BY AIR**

Fly into the Huntsville International Airport which is located 17 miles from Burritt on the Mountain.

**CAMPING & CABINS** are available at Monte Sano State Park. For reservations call 256/534-3757 or 256/534-6589.

### **Driving Directions to Monte Sano State Park:**

From I-565 take exit 17b Governors Drive.  
Follow to top of mountain and turn left on Monte Sano Blvd.  
Go 2.5 miles and turn right on Nolen Ave.  
Follow it 1 mile until you arrive at the park.

**MOTELS**, There are many fine motels & restaurants in Huntsville, Alabama.

### **AUCTION**

Burritt on the Mountain is a non-profit organization. The proceeds from this auction will be used to support and maintain the Batson Forge to promote the art and craft of blacksmithing.

## ***BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN*** **BLACKSMITH CONFERENCE**

### **DEMONSTRATORS**

**CLAY SPENCER**, Brindley Mountain, Alabama

Clay was raised on a farm in North Alabama, attended Auburn University and worked for Marshall Space Flight Center, NASA on the Space Shuttle Program.

He started blacksmithing in 1987, redesigned the ABANA treadle hammer and designed a roller blade straight line version. He has led workshops to build about 1000 hammers and demonstrated use of treadle hammer and tools at ABANA conferences and many affiliates meetings. He has taught at J. C. Campbell Folk School since 1988 and Francis Whitaker asked him to take over his class when he retired. He has served on the Folk School and ABANA boards. He received the first Joe Humble Newsletter Editor Award, the Alex Bealer Award, life membership in ABANA and 2 affiliates. He has led 15 workshops to build 220 Ray Clontz 50 lb. Tire Hammers in last 2 years. The new Blacksmith Shop at John C Campbell Folk School is named after Clay.

**TRAVIS FLEMING**, Fleming Ironworks, Athens, Alabama

Travis began blacksmithing in 1994, full time in 2008. He has designed and forged a ram's head that now adorns the main gate of the Globe Theater in London. "He's an extremely skilled artisan," said Sherri Gross an interior decorator. "He's executed so many designs for us."

He was juried into the Roycrofters At Large Association in 2013 and is also a member of the Alabama Forge Council, the Appalachian Area Chapter of Blacksmiths, and ABANA. He has demonstrated and instructed in many venues, and along with friend and fellow blacksmith, Al Stephens, started teaching beginning and intermediate classes in 2011 for Athens State University's Center for Lifelong Learning.

**STEVE WILLIAMSON**, Columbia, Tennessee

Steve has been blacksmithing for 22 years. He operates a shop in Columbia, TN, where he specializes in custom ironwork. He is an accomplished blacksmith in the architectural, functional, and ornamental fields, and recently completed a five-year restoration project at the Nashville TN City Cemetery. He also completed handrails for the James K. Polk home in Columbia, TN. Steve does commission work for clients from his shop, teaches at various venues, and demonstrates at conferences and blacksmith meetings.

He has studied at the Folk School under many well-known smiths and enjoys sharing his knowledge with others. Steve is an active member of the Alabama Forge Council. His teaching experience includes the Folk School, Appalachian Center for Craft, and Hot Iron Master 2002 in Brisbane, Australia.

**BUTCH SHEELY**, Beaver Creek Forge, LLC, Grand Rapids, Ohio

Butch started Blacksmithing in 1982, after getting involved with re-enacting. For the next twenty years he forged knives, tomahawks and various items used in the fur trade. Five years ago he started blacksmithing and bladesmithing full time. He joined the American Bladesmith Society in 2005 and obtained his Journeyman's stamp in 2009. He is member of the Southern Ohio Forge & Anvil where he teaches.

**MARK HADDIX**, Birmingham, Alabama

Mark started Blacksmith in 1980s. He was the original Forge Master of the Bay Forge located near Bay Minette, Alabama. He is an experienced and excellent blacksmith. He is the President of the Alabama Forge Council and is on the Board of Directors of the Artist Blacksmiths of North America.

**ALLAN KRESS**, Cullman, Alabama

Allan has earned his living as a blacksmith since 1995. He has taken classes from many well-known Master Blacksmiths. His work is hand forged, is inspired by nature, and has an organic feel and occasionally a sense of humor.

When teaching at John C Campbell Folk School and demonstrating at different conferences, he engages everyone from the beginner to the Master Blacksmith. As an active member of the Alabama Forge Council, Allan has served as President from 2003 to 2005 and is currently on the building committee. The AFC's mission is to promote the craft of blacksmithing by teaching young people as they are the future of the craft.

**STEVE ALFORD**, Athens, Alabama

Steve started blacksmithing in 2002 after reading a book, "Tool Making for Woodworkers" and liking the idea of making his own tools. He discovered the Alabama Forge Council when he overheard someone in a meeting at work talking about this group the coworker's son was involved in. Steve is a past forge master of the Athens Forge of the AFC and contributes regularly to the Bituminous Bits, the journal of the AFC. He has demonstrated blacksmithing at Constitution Village and numerous other "heritage festivals" around north Alabama.

**RON THOMAS**, Huntsville, Alabama

Ron started blacksmithing in about 1985. He attended the First Batson Bladesmithing Symposium at the Batson Forge in Madison, Alabama. He is now the Forge Master at the Alabama Forge Council's Huntsville Forge that meets once a month at the old timey blacksmith shop at Burritt on the Mountain. He teaches blacksmithing at these meetings. You can find Ron demonstrating blacksmithing on U tube on the internet.

**EARL BURKETT**, New Market Iron Works, Huntsville, Alabama

Established in 1997 New Market Iron Works, Inc. has grown to provide high quality custom ornamental iron for residences and businesses in North Alabama. We do any size job from the simplest rail to the most elaborate staircase. Each job is tailored to the customer's exact budget, design, and required building codes.

**TIM RYAN**, Brasstown, North Carolina

Tim began auctioning blacksmith crafted items at the first Alabama Forge Council Blacksmith Conference at Tannehill in 1986. To quote Bruce Voyles, "Tim is the best benefit auctioneer." Tim has raised tons of money to promote the art and craft of blacksmithing for just about every Blacksmithing organization in the United States.