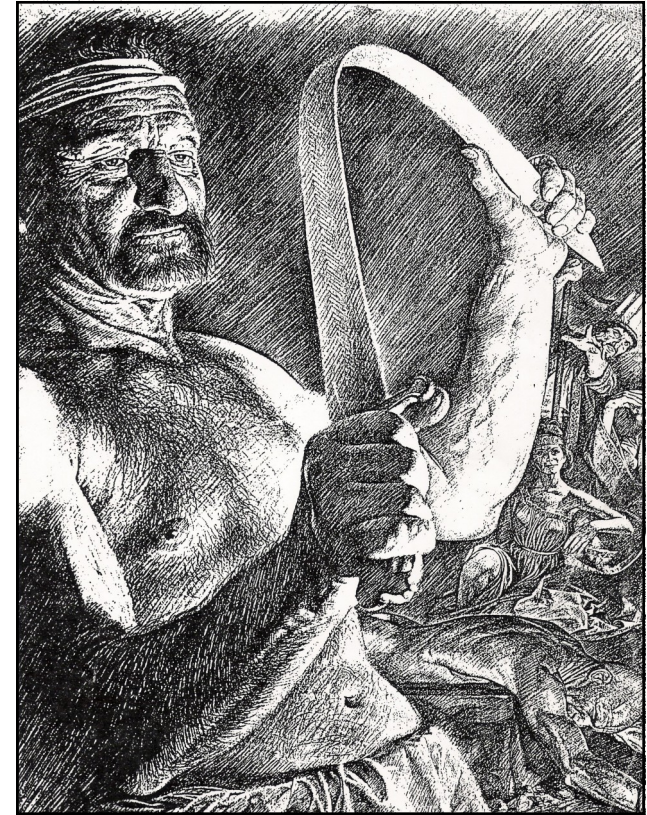




New England Bladesmiths Guild  
Ashokan Center  
477 Beaverkill Rd.  
Olivebridge, NY 12461

New England Bladesmiths Guild  
**Sword Seminar 2011**

*From Ore to Sword in Hand*  
History, Smithing, and Martial Arts Techniques  
September 16th, 17th, & 18th



at the Ashokan Center  
in New York's Catskill Mountains

# Sword 2011

## SEMINAR REGISTRATION

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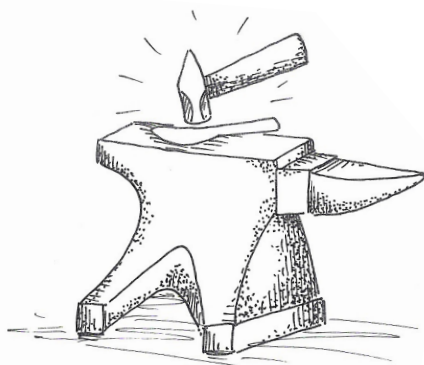
**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!** Participation will be limited to the first 90 registrants. Registration deadline is September 5th. Payment is refundable 100% if you are unable to attend and you let us know by the deadline date. After this date a 50% refund is available. Register early to guarantee your space! **Please register on-line at [ashokanknifeseminar.com](http://ashokanknifeseminar.com)**

**WHEN:** Plan to arrive at Ashokan after 3:00 p.m. Friday September 16th Seminar concludes after lunch on Sunday September 18th, 2011.

**MEALS:** Served buffet style, beginning with Friday dinner and ending with Sunday lunch. Please note any special dietary needs on the registration form.

**LODGING:** Bunkhouse style. Blankets and pillows are provided. Bring your own linens or sleeping bag and toiletries. A separate bunk area will be provided for couples. For those who may need more privacy, a rustic campground is available or we recommend Reservoir Motel in Shokan, N.Y. (845) 657-2002 three miles away.

**NOTE:** Eye protection must be worn by all participants in all demonstration areas! Please bring your own safety glasses or be prepared to purchase them on site.



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Thirtieth Annual New England Bladesmiths Guild

### Ashokan Seminar - 2011

#### Friday, September 16

4:00 - 6:00	Set-up forges and demo area	Pavilion
6:00-7:00	Buffet Dinner	
7:00-7:15	Introduction – Dan Maragni	Lecture
7:15 – 7:45	Introduction to Smelt- Tim Zowada/Kevin Cashen	Lecture
8:00-12:00	Smelting—Smelting team	Pavilion

#### Saturday, September 17

8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast	
9:00 - 10:00	Rapiers- Kevin Cashen	Lecture
10:15 - 11:15	Rapier Techniques- Stewart Feil and Brian Hunt	Pavilion
11:15 - 12:45	Blade Forging- Tim Zowada	Pavilion
1:00 - 1:45	Lunch	
1:45 –2:45	Modern Sword Production- Harlan Hasting	Lecture
3:00 - 4:00	Longsword and Sword and Buckler Techniques- Stewart Feil and Brian Hunt	Pavilion
4:00 - 5:00	Southeast Asian Sword Techniques- Bill McGrath	Pavilion
5:00 - 6:00	Tamashigiri and Kendo- Tom Walter and Mike Polluck	
6:00 - 7:00	Dinner	
7:00 - 8:00	Documenting Original European Swords- Peter Johnsson	
8:00 - 9:30	Blade Grinding and Heat Treatment- Tim Zowada and Kevin Cashen	Pavilion
9:30 – 12:00	Open Forge	Pavilion

#### Sunday, September 18

8:00 - 8:45	Breakfast	
8:45-9:00	Checkout	
9:00 - 10:30	Design Theory of European Swords- Peter Johnsson	Lecture
10:30 - 12:30	Knife Display and Show	Dining Hall
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 - 2:00	Pack up forges	



# Sword 2011 Seminar Overview

By Dan Maragni

The goal of the Ashokan Sword Seminars is to gain an understanding of the sword. Not just a specific sword from a particular time or culture, but swords from all over the world and throughout time.

As with the study of any tool, the focus needs to be on how the tool was made and how the tool was used. Unfortunately swords are tools which, for the most part, are obsolete and this complicates the study and causes it to be prone to many misinterpretations and misconceptions. Therefore the study of the sword must be multidisciplined and multifaceted and every bit of information must be utilized and subjected to rigorous analysis and testing.

Available sources of information include the swords themselves. We have the artifacts to study, as well as any literature documenting their making and use. To this we must bring our current knowledge of mining, iron/steel smelting and metallurgy to better interpret this information and give us some insight and understanding of the construction and performance of these unique tools. The study of the artifacts and literature is usually the focus of academicians- archeologists, historians and metallurgists are necessary to clarify these aspects of the study of the sword.

We also need the input of craftsmen, skilled artisans who can through study, reconstruction and experimentation create the steel by smelting, forge blades and produce finished weapons utilizing techniques not all that different from those used on the original artifacts. Finally we need the input of the martial artists who train in the use of the sword and who provide the final test on the accuracy and completeness of our understanding of this subject, for only in use can any tool be judged. After all, it is the effect of the cut or thrust which defines the quality of the tool, not the tool itself.

A quick look at the program of the seminar will reveal that a multi-disciplined investigation of the sword will be presented bringing together specialists from a variety of related fields. Techniques for making swords will be discussed and demonstrated, martial arts from three different cultures will be presented and there will be a variety of swords from different cultures and different times on hand to examine. This is a unique event that should not be missed by any serious student of the sword and is guaranteed to increase your knowledge and appreciation of this ancient weapon.