

Inland Northwest Hammer-In and Swap Meet 2013



"You start by making a pyramid on the end --"

The hammer-in at Ron Weston's place on May 18/19 was a ringing success! About 45 smiths and camp followers attended over the weekend.

We had four forges going most of the time, with experts demonstrating and offering advice while novices made spike knives, coat hooks, steak turners, leaves, bottle openers, and more.



Will and Steve



Mike's coat hook



Nick's steak turner



Nice job, Clay!

Ron demonstrated his home-made power hammer, hydraulic press, fly press and belt sander. At lunch time he fired his bowling ball cannon, totally smashing a target made of 8-inch pine logs tied together by 1" rebar. Saturday evening Ron's dragon came to life, emitting great fiery blasts of dragon breath.



Ron and his power hammer



Ready, aim--



Fire!



The dragon awakes

Steve demonstrated the steps for making a wrapped rose, and his method for making forge-welded chain. Ron demonstrated several twists including a pineapple twist, and demonstrated his aluminum casting techniques.

Trudy made enough of her delicious elk chili to feed everyone on Saturday and Sunday, and provided all the water and hot coffee we could drink.



Forge welding a chain link



Sharon and Trudy kept us fed

People showed their creations in the exhibit space. Don's Lightfoot's salmon serving dish, Jess Chaney's iron flowers, Steve McGrew's knives and iris sculpture, John Huffstutter's myriad pieces, Ray Wilder's chain mail, and David Kailey's walnut & iron tables were highlights of the exhibit.



Don's salmon platter



Steve's cattail sculpture



Ray explaining chain mail

Ron Weston's work surrounded us, from the hinges and latches on his workshop and sheds, to the sculpture path lined with sculptures, and to his digital sundial. Ron is an amazing and prolific metal artist.



Ron's Cranes



Ron's Dino



Ron's Ant Family



Ron's Rockfish



Ron's Digital Sundial

"When is the next hammer-in?" was one of the most-asked questions. We don't know yet, but for sure there will be more!

*Steve McGrew
Incandescent Ironworks Ltd.
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