

Illinois Valley Blacksmiths Association

42nd Annual Summer Conference

June 21, 22, & 23, 2024 @ Thresherman's Park, Pontiac, IL

Demos: Saturday - Steve Wells, Sunday - Selected Local Talent

Beginner Training Class - Friday June 21st

Cost: \$75.00. Class registration includes one year membership in IVBA.

A child (under 18) of a member, is free if the adult member pays for one day registration.

Contact Jon Housour at 309-830-3831 PRE-REGISTRATION IS NEEDED

Or, contact Gary Riss @ 815-257-2634

- Gallery – Display your talents. Show us what you have done.
- Tailgaters & Vendors are welcome. **They must register and pay conference fees.** (Suggest donation to iron in hat or auction)
- Trade Item – A Flower!
- Iron in the Hat (bucket raffle style), Saturday – please consider something nice to donate.
- Tickets for Saturday evening meal will be available at the conference.
- The Sat. night auction will consist of demonstrator items and donated items from attendees and guests. We encourage your generous support. No consignment or reserve.

Pre-Registration helps us plan ahead.

Make checks out to: **IVBA**. Mail to: **Gary Riss, 1409 E. 2309th Rd., Streator, IL 61364**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____

Date ____/____/____ Amt. \$ _____

I understand and acknowledge that blacksmithing activities can be dangerous for participants and observers. I release IVBA, Central States Threshermen, officers, directors, staff, demonstrators, and participants from all liability and expenses arising from any accident, injury, or activity during the conference. I take responsibility for my own safety, and the safety of my family and guests.

Signature _____, (Parent or Guardian if under 18 yrs.)

Conference Fees Includes Spouse and Children under 18

Full conf. \$45.00 _____

Sat. only \$35.00 _____

Sun. only \$15.00 _____

Camper Electric Hookup \$20.00 _____

Beginning class on Fri. **\$75.00** _____

Total _____

*Beginner's Class - Pre-Register
With Jon Housour @ 309-830-3831, Or
Gary Riss @ 815-257-2634*

Steve Wells Biography

I served in the Army National Guard from 1988-1994. I rode bulls in local and professional rodeos from 1993-2001 competing in roughly 100 rodeos per year. I qualified for the PRCA Great Lakes Circuit Finals in 2000 making me one of the top 12 bull riders in the Midwest. My 3 kids have all taken up the rodeo passion in different events. After several injuries and starting a family, I transitioned to full time farrier work. I've been doing that the last 21 to 22 years. I grew up a hunter and fisherman and knives were always a big interest to me so my forging and farrier work morphed into blade smithing as a hobby and now it's a part of my business. Forging horseshoes didn't excite me, but I found I love forging and creating knives. I now split my time between farrier work, and blade smithing. I competed on Forged in Fire in 2019 (Season 7) and 2021 (Season 8). It was a great experience even though I didn't win. It made me better and more passionate about blade smithing. It's been a constant learning experience and I think I will be making knives as long as I am able.