



## Fire on the Mountain Blacksmith Festival 2018 Event Summary

Join hundreds of blacksmiths and thousands of visitors in Spruce Pine, NC on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> for this annual festival celebrating the art of the blacksmith. Coordinated by Spruce Pine Main Street, Penland School of Crafts, the Toe River Arts Council and local smiths, the festival gets bigger and better every year!

**Questions about the festival? Call 828-765-3008 or email [spms@downtownsprucepine.com](mailto:spms@downtownsprucepine.com).**

### 2018 FEATURED MASTER BLACKSMITH – MAEGAN CROWLEY

Maegan owns and operates her own shop in Dolores, Colorado where she produces custom metalwork for residential, public and commercial sites. She also continues to develop her sculpture, fulfilling her need to create works of art that emphasize the detailed beauty of nature. Her work is in private collections and is exhibited nationally. She received a BFA from University of the Arts in metalsmithing and continued her education to earn her MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art. Maegan has taught blacksmithing workshops at Haystack, Penland, Ox-Bow, Peters Valley School of Craft and the New England School of Metalwork. Her work can be seen in books such as “From Fire to Form” and “500 Vessels” and she has demonstrated at numerous regional blacksmithing conferences across the country.

### FESTIVAL EVENTS

#### Annual Blacksmithing Exhibition

- **March 31 – April 28<sup>th</sup> - Annual Blacksmith Exhibit** at the Toe River Arts Council, Spruce Pine. Featuring work by blacksmiths from the southeast and beyond. Juried cash prizes and awards. For details about how to submit work for the show, contact Kathryn Andree at [kathryn@toeriverarts.org](mailto:kathryn@toeriverarts.org) or call 828-765-0520. Submission deadline is March 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

**Master Blacksmith Demonstration Workshop** (at Daniel Beck’s Studio, Spruce Pine)

**9:30 to 4pm** - Master Workshop led by Maegan Crowley (Space is limited - advance reservation required - \$75 – for registration details contact Stacey Lane at [staceylane@penland.org](mailto:staceylane@penland.org).) We will spend the day exploring the possibilities of multiples, developing designs with the repetition of line, shape and form. Starting with a variety of materials, forging techniques will be demonstrated using sheet metal and structural shapes along with solid stock. We will discuss fabrication methods and how they can be applied throughout the design process. Metal finishing and the use of color, patinas, and sealants will also be addressed. During the demonstration we can cover conversations that include any business related concerns participants may have. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and share ideas throughout the day.

#### Gallery Reception

- **5 to 7pm** - TRAC **Annual Blacksmith Exhibit** Closing Reception. Join blacksmiths and guests for camaraderie, food and drink in celebration of the festival’s 12<sup>th</sup> year! Awards ceremony at 6:30pm.
- **7pm – Artist Talk by Maegan Crowley** at the ARC Center upstairs at TRAC.

**Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>** (Admission is free)

**Festival Downtown from 10am to 4pm**

**Blacksmith Demonstrations** (Lower Street, sponsored by Spruce Pine Main Street, Penland School of Crafts and Haywood Community College)

- 10am – Jason Lonon
- 11:30am – Maegan Crowley, 2018 Featured Master Blacksmith
- 1pm – Daniel Beck
- 2:30pm – Maegan Crowley, 2018 Featured Master Blacksmith

**Vendor Booths** (Lower Street)

- A great variety of smiths and tool vendors display and sell their work, with many booths featuring live demonstrations. Interested in having your own booth? Contact Libby Phillips at 828-765-3008 or email [spms@downtownsprucepine.com](mailto:spms@downtownsprucepine.com).

**Forging Competition** (above Main Street Central Park)

- A spirited competition for blacksmiths of all levels – this year the challenge will be forging hooks. Participants are given a rod of iron, minimal tools, and 55 minutes to complete their best hook. The public watches and judges at the end of the day. The winner receives a prize basket. To sign up in advance to participate, e-mail [staceylane@penland.org](mailto:staceylane@penland.org). We will hold a few spaces for same day signup, too.

**Hands On Tent** (Lower Street)

- An annual festival favorite, sponsored by Penland School of Crafts. Blacksmith volunteers assist the public in learning to forge garden stakes. If you would like to volunteer, contact Stacey Lane at [staceylane@penland.org](mailto:staceylane@penland.org)

**Awards** (the Spruce Pine Main Street Pocket Park)

- At 3:30pm awards will be announced for:
  - The People’s Choice winner for the TRAC Blacksmith Exhibit
  - The Forge Off winner
  - The Vendor Excellence Award
  - The John C. Campbell Folk School/Fire on the Mountain Volunteer Award

## **AREA INFORMATION**

**Great food** (throughout downtown)

Spruce Pine has a variety of choices for eating throughout the weekend! There will be a few food vendors at the festival, too. Downtown restaurants include:

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| ▪ 50’s Classic Diner | ▪ Hef’s              |
| ▪ City Drive-In      | ▪ The Knife and Fork |
| ▪ DT’s               | ▪ Tokyo              |
| ▪ El Rancho          | ▪ The Tropical Grill |
| ▪ Fox & Fig          |                      |

### **Lodging**

Coming for the day is great, but coming for the weekend is even better! Festival events, food, hiking and exploring make a great long weekend. There are a variety of small motels in the area, lots of beautiful campgrounds, and many listings on Air B&B.