

A man wearing a straw hat and a light blue button-down shirt is using a wooden-handled tool, possibly a scythe or sickle, to cut tall grass in a field. The scene is set in a rural, agricultural environment with a warm, golden light. The man is focused on his work, and the background shows a vast field of similar vegetation.

TILLERS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL SKILLS

CLASSES IN BLACKSMITHING | WOODWORKING | FARMING | MORE

—2023—



Tillers International's campus in Michigan serves as a leading training site for food security leaders from developing countries. The site provides hands-on training with tool making, working with draft animals, nutrition for oxen, and more. Here, Claude B., from Cameroon, participated in our Oxen Basics class during his time at Tillers International School of Practical Skills.



In the U.S., several expert instructors teach students how to work and farm with horses, oxen, and donkeys. Students range from beginning farmers looking for alternative sources of power to living history museum professionals eager to faithfully preserve historic skills.

HELP SHARE THE MISSION

Jacinta Anoke began taking classes at our site in Mozambique in 2018 and has been returning periodically to continue learning how to improve her farm. She teaches what she learns to her children, nephews, and nieces when she returns to her village.



Farmers have been working with draft animals for thousands of years. Relatively recently, tractors replaced draft horses, oxen, and donkeys across most North American farms. But for millions of smallholder farmers around the world currently using hand tools in their fields, draft animals can be an amazing step forward.

In the early 1970s, during a stint in West Africa with the Peace Corp, Dick Rosenberg realized that oxen could still be a valuable source of power in developing countries where tractors were beyond the economic reach of most smallholder farmers but oxen, donkeys, and horses could be within grasp.

Dick founded Tillers International as a 501(c)(3) non-profit in 1981 to begin preserving and sharing this rural knowledge before it disappeared. He began meeting with senior and retired farmers to learn as much as possible while they were still able to share their knowledge. As word of Tillers International's efforts spread, aspiring and experienced craftspeople and farmers began approaching the organization eager to learn those same traditional and historic methods.

Smallholder farmers in developing countries

TILLERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG

Tillers International founder Dick Rosenberg prepping a team of oxen in the early 80s.



often find themselves working their lands with basic hand tools. Well-trained and healthy oxen, donkeys, and draft horses with appropriate-scale technology around these traditional draft animals, can provide small-scale farms the power to work their fields on a scale that using hand tools could never achieve. While most large North American farms moved beyond traditional methods, Tillers International teaches these still viable

methods and technologies to farmers in developing countries eager to put those skills to work.

Learning to Work Here, There, and Everywhere

Tillers International relies on a “teach a man to fish” approach to helping others. Our location in Scotts, MI, serves as our prime training center attracting people from around North America, as well as sponsored international students such as Claude B. from Cameroon (pictured on page 2) who visited our Michigan site to learn about working with oxen before returning to Africa.

Our international efforts are where the most lives are changed. Obvious rewards from our international classes and working with draft animals include a more successful farm, but other incredible benefits include, improved health and welfare for draft animals, freeing children from harsh labor, and giving women the means to provide an income for their families.

Thanks to support from donors and various organizations, we're able to host training

ANCIENT SKILLS. RELEVANT STILL.

clinics in different communities around the world and teach farmers how to work smarter, faster, all while helping improve the lives of farmers and their draft animals.

An International Success Story

Jacinta Anoke (page 3) found herself widowed with small children and five hectares (just over 12 acres) of farm land in the countryside of Mozambique. Jacinta struggled to work her fields by herself and could barely provide enough crops to provide for her family. In 2018, USDA Food for Progress Mozambique made it possible for Tillers International to offer classes to farmers in the Manica Province of Mozambique. Jacinta, eager to learn how to more effectively work her farm, jumped at the opportunity.

Since 2018, Jacinta was able to take several classes with Tillers International. Each time she learned something new, she passed along the knowledge to everyone in her family. Over the years, her children, siblings, nephews, and nieces all learned how to work and care for oxen including making nutritional feed for the animals, how to use and adapt tools like plows and planters, and more. The skills once used by 19th Century American farmers were now helping a 21st Century single mother and her extended family 8,500 miles away.



(Above) Tillers International started at DeLano Farms, the Kalamazoo Nature Center's historic homestead. From the earliest days of Tillers International, preserving and sharing practical skills was critical. The skills, such as traditional blacksmithing (shown above) are not only an important part of our North American heritage, but a vital skill used in the creation of ag tools in our overseas clinics. (Below) Blacksmiths in Mozambique posing with seed planters for their community designed by Tillers International. The project is intended to increase the economic and food security of smallholder farmers and decrease labor demands, especially for women farmers. The primary goal was to train 300 farmers in climate-smart agriculture and animal traction. The 2022 project was possible due to donations from individuals and families across the United States.



The principals behind the skills Jacinta learned - problem-solving, tool-making, animal-handling, are skill-building- are also taught in the United States. Our students range from retired CEOs and business owners to young farmers exploring sustainable farming alternatives to

teenagers discovering the joys of working with their hands. Whether the skills lead to feeding one's family or introducing someone to a historic trade, the most important thing that happens with Tillers International is the gathering and sharing of traditional skills that can still change lives.

Support from donors and businesses make it possible for Tillers International to conduct research and development, play a pivotal role in archiving traditional agricultural knowledge, and sharing practical skills to people around the world.

The classes in this catalog mirror the skills and classes taught at our international sites. Class tuition helps cover costs but we still rely on the support of people that understand the value of work, sustainability, self-reliance, food security, and the health and wellness of horses, donkeys, and oxen.

Please consider making a donation to help bring training to people like Jacinta and to keep these useful skills alive for generations to come.

A donation can be mailed to Tillers International, 10515 E. OP Ave, Scotts, MI, 49088, online at tillersinternational.org, or by phone at (800) 498-2700 or (269) 626-0223.

LEGACY GIVING: PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE

Connect your legacy to America's farming heritage. There are several ways you can help preserve the skills and tools yesterday and make sure they're here for generations around the world. Tillers International offers several ways for you to make a gift that lasts. To see which method works best for you and your family, please consult with your financial planner. Call Tillers International for additional details at +1 (800) 498-2700.



After that, the remaining assets will be used by Tillers International to continue sharing traditional tools and skills with people in the United States and with farming communities in desperate need of improving their yields.

Here are a few common ways to secure your legacy including:

Qualified Charitable Distribution - Required Minimum Distribution (RMDs)

Charitable Gift Annuity

Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds

Leaving a Gift for Tillers International in your will

Cryptocurrency via Donor-Advised Fund

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION)

Several popular retirement plans give people 72 years old and older the option to make a gift of up to \$100,000 to a non-profit like Tillers International through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) also known as an IRA charitable rollover.

The IRS allows only a certain amount of money to be kept tax-free in common retirement plans such as traditional IRAs, SEP IRAs, SIMPLE IRAs, 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, and others. The money past the maximum must be pulled out of the retirement plan as part of a required minimum distribution (RMD) as taxable income.

This RMD could be made as a tax-free donation meaning it not only helps you fulfill an IRS requirement but can also help Tillers International keep traditional skills alive and viable here and around the world.

To learn more about how your RMD can help share traditional skills around the world and about other financial benefits to you, please call (269) 626-0223 or consult with your tax professional.

A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY PROVIDES YOU WITH GUARANTEED INCOME FOR LIFE PLUS A TAX DEDUCTION

A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) made to Tillers International is invested and we pay you and/or your spouse (the annuitants) a fixed amount for the rest of your life. This also makes you eligible for an income tax deduction if you itemize on your tax return.

The CGA continues to make payments annually, semi-annually, quarterly, or monthly to the annuitant(s) for the rest of their lives.

STOCKS, BONDS, AND MUTUAL FUNDS

Gifts of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds may have favorable tax benefits worth considering. These non-cash assets are routinely donated to charitable organizations such as Tillers International due to how many people own them and the associated tax deductions.

If you're interested in exploring the donation of publicly traded securities (stocks, bonds, and mutual funds) we encourage you to discuss the current tax benefits with your financial planner. Tillers International works with Comerica Bank as a broker to handle these sorts of transactions on our behalf.

LEAVE TILLERS INTERNATIONAL A PLANNED GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Planned gifts have played a vital role in helping Tillers International continue our work of sharing important knowledge to small-scale farmers overseas and around North America.

Gifts in wills include:

- A specific monetary amount
- A percentage of your estate
- Specific assets including financial products, marketable properties, and items that may be helpful to the mission of Tillers Intl.

If you intend on leaving a gift in your will for Tillers International, please contact us at 269.626.0223 or email us at tillers@tillersinternational.org.

CRYPTOCURRENCY DONATIONS

We welcome donors interested in using cryptocurrency to leave a gift with Tillers International. The easiest way to support the work we do with cryptocurrency is by using Donor-Advised Funds, which are 501(c)(3) public charities. These non-profits, which include Charles Swab Charitable, Fidelity Charitable, Vanguard Charitable, National Philanthropic Trust, and several others, take the cryptocurrency, cash it, then make a donor-advised donation to an organization such as Tillers International.

As with most ways of making large donations, there are unique tax benefits and we encourage you to find the Donor-Advised Fund you like the most as you consider leaving a gift to Tillers International. To discuss these and other options, please call us at (800) 498-2700 or email us at tillers@tillersinternational.org.

WORKING WITH DRAFT ANIMALS**



* Every class with oxen also includes a free one-year membership to the Midwest Ox Drivers Association (MODA). Learn more about MODA at MidwestOxDroivers.com and on social media.

OXEN BASICS* (w/YOKE or NO YOKE)

Rob Collins

This comprehensive class led by the former president of the Midwest Ox Drivers Association, Rob Collins, develops skills in driving, training, and yoking. Learn to select, team, and care for oxen. Use low-stress training to teach calves. Drive teams hitched to various loads, practice field tasks, and the June class participants can try their hand at making their own small yoke (added charges for yokes more than 6" bow width. Note: The August class does not make a yoke).

OX TRAINING/DRIVING CLINIC*

Rob Collins

Designed to take your ox training skills to a higher level. Experienced teamsters share training skills for remote commands, driving from behind, use of lines, etc. Participants are also encouraged to bring their own animals for focused training

OX DRIVING INTRO*

Rob Collins

Humans have been working with oxen for more than 6,000 years. In many parts of the modern world, oxen are still in heavy use because they're an inexpensive alternative to tractors and an excellent resource on small farms or in woodlots. This class will teach you to drive oxen using visual, verbal, and tactile cues. Expert instructors introduce you to these amazing animals by concentrating on driving skills, yoking, training, hitching, and alternatives to standard techniques. No previous experience with large animals needed.

DONKEY BASICS

Bob Erickson | Rick Eshuis

Bob Erickson's knowledge of working with donkeys has even earned him the respect of the draft horse Amish community. Not only are classes with working donkeys rare in North America, this class will reconnect Bob with

the team he donated to the school, Bernice and Olga, making it an extremely unique opportunity to see a master with a team of donkeys he trained since they were colts.

DRAFT HORSE BASICS: MI | NY

Donn Hewes | Rick Eshuis

Please note: The April class will be taught at Tillers International's training site in Scotts, Michigan, and the October class is being offered at Donn Hewes' Northland Sheep Dairy Farm in Marathon, New York.

Draft horse experts share draft horse handling, hitching, and driving skills. Participants begin by building confidence with the gentle giants in the barn, brushing, and harnessing. Then, skills will be honed with simple ground driving of a single horse before progressing to plowing and other fieldwork with a team.

More details on www.tillersinternational.org.

☆☆ **NEW FOR 2023!** ALL draft animal classes now include a free one-year introductory membership to the Draft Animal-Power Network (DAPNet). Learn more about DAPNet at www.draftanimalpower.org. Additional details on our website. Oxen classes also include Midwest Ox Drover Association memberships! (see opposite page)

ENROLL AT TILLERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG/CLASSES
PRICES AND DATES ON PAGES 18 & 19



DRAFT HORSE TRAINING SEMINAR

Harlan Yoder

This rare class will take place at the farm of an Amish farrier in Centerville, MI, and will cover Draft Horse Basics for students interested in training techniques. Harlan Yoder, who specializes in training working horses, will take you through the steps for transforming an inexperienced colt into a well-behaved workhorse. Topics include working inadequately trained horses and building confidence in horses.

FARMING WITH HORSES & OXEN*

Rick Eshuis

A unique opportunity to use oxen and horses to do real farm work. We immerse you in a wide variety of fieldwork- tillage and planting, hay harvesting, and cultivating, for example. Part of each day is spent learning skills and the rest in field practice. Coaches help refine field



skills and draft animal handling. Assignments depend on skill, but we entrust you with real farm work. Activities flex with the weather.

LOGGING WITH HORSES

Brandt Ainsworth | Rick Eshuis

Draft horses demonstrate ecological methods for skidding logs from woods with tongs, sleds, and arches. Practice skidding exercises with coaches. Learn ways to load logs on a sled or wagon, learn sales strategies, observe and discuss lumber seasoning and home kilns. Logging in snow helps demonstrate ideal logging conditions. Learn about micro-forestry from tree to specialty lumber.

Free open house featuring 10 teams of draft animals and more.



PLOW DAY
THE LAST SATURDAY OF APRIL

At Tillers Intl. 10515 OP Ave. E., Scotts, MI 49088

WOODWORKING



INTRO TO HAND TOOLS

Dave Kramer and Rob Burdick

In this day and age, so many people are rarely taught how to use basic hand tools even though most of these tools have been around for hundreds of years. This is Part One of a series of fundamental classes for those wanting to return to basics and be able to work and create with your hands. The skills covered in this class will get you started creating your own small wood projects. This class will cover fundamentals such as:

- Identifying chisel types and best uses
- Identifying saw types and best uses
- Identifying hand plane sizes / styles
- Hammers and mallets
- Measuring and marking / basic layout tools
- Vices and clamping methods



WOODEN BOX WITH HINGED LID AND DOVETAILED CORNERS

Dave Kramer and Rob Burdick

Build a wooden box as you learn several important woodworking skills in the process. This two-day class will focus on laying out and hand-cutting dovetails for the box and apron corners, gluing and assembling the box and apron, and fitting the lid.

MAKE A SHAVING HORSE

John Sarge

A shaving horse is an invaluable aid when using tools such as a draw knife. Working with a shaving horse allows you to “clamp” a piece of wood in place while you work on it then quickly move it as needed. It’s a surprisingly helpful tool! Photos on our website.

SQUARING ROUGH LUMBER WITH HAND TOOLS

Dave Kramer

Squaring lumber to size is the first step in most woodworking projects. Learn how to use a scrub plane, winding sticks, bench plane, try square, marking gage, block plane, and shooting board to make a smooth and perfect rectangle from a rough sawn, warped piece of lumber.

TOOL SHARPENING

Dave Kramer

Hand tool woodworking is a pleasure when the tools are sharp. Learn how to grind a bevel to the correct angle, and use oil stones, water stones, and diamond plates with a honing guide to get a razor-sharp edge. The focus of this class will be on sharpening wood chisels and plane irons. We will also briefly cover filing and setting teeth on traditional hand saws. You can sharpen some of our tools, or bring your own dull tools with you to work on.

WINDSOR CHAIR MAKING

Jim Crammond

Students will transform literal logs into an iconic chair in the world of traditional American furniture. Versions of the Windsor Chair can be found in museums, living history sites, homes around the world, and has served as the inspiration for countless chair designs that followed it. In this five day class, students will fabricate parts and assemble them for the construction of a Windsor bowback chair. The topics covered will include riving a log, sharpening, and using a drawknife and spokeshave, bending wood, edge jointing, carving a seat, round mortise and tenon joinery, spindle turning on a lathe, chair assembly, and finishing with milk paint.

HOW TO MAKE A ROCKING CHAIR

Dave Kramer

Arts and Crafts Style Rocking Chair Class. The design for this chair is based on an early 1900's rocker made in New York. The through mortise-and-tenon on the armrest is a classic touch that will make this project a family heirloom in your house. This class will cover steam bending and laminate bending curved parts, laying out and cutting mortise and tenon joints with hand tools and power tools, shaping curved legs and armrests with hand planes and spoke shaves, assembly and clamping, how to make a simple seat with a recycled cushion, and finishing options. Materials are included in the fee. Finishing options will be explained, but you will need to apply your own finish at home.

MAKE A BOW SAW

Dave Kramer

The bow saw is used by coopers, wheelwrights, and other craftsmen to shape curved parts. Adding a wide ripping or crosscut blade can make it a versatile tool for cutting large timber frame tenons. You will cut and shape parts for a medium-sized bow saw, mortise and tenon the cross member, and turn handles on the lathe. A fine-toothed blade for cutting curves will be included, making this a nice tool to include in your toolbox.

WOODEN PLANE MAKING

WINDSOR TALL STOOL

Jim Crammond



Students will learn wood-turning techniques, the joinery involved in making a Windsor stool, and carving a Windsor style seat. After fabricating the legs, stretchers and seat, students will assemble them to complete a stool. Topics covered will include sharpening, hand tool use, spindle turning, edge jointing, round mortise and tenon joinery and finishing with milk paint.

Dave Kramer and Rob Burdick

Shaping and finishing a project with a plane you crafted yourself is a rewarding experience. In this class, every student will make two planes. Each student will make a rabbeting plane (a tool used to cut a notch — a rabbet — along the edge of a board) and then choose between a coffin profile smoothing plane or a jack plane with a handle. Learn how to shape the wooden bodies for the planes and then harden and temper your own cutting irons to fit your planes. You will also be taught how to set and adjust the blade in a wooden plane with the blade secured by a wedge.

USING A WOODEN LATHE

Dave Kramer

This class introduces you to a lathe, one of the most useful tools in woodworking. Wood lathes allow you to make handles, legs for pieces of furniture, rolling pins, candlestick holders, and so much more. Join us to learn the basics of the Wood Lathe and how it can work for you.

WHEELWRIGHTING

Dave Kramer and John Sarge

Learn to construct wooden wheels for wagons. See how small hubs are turned and mortised. Practice shaving spokes. Felloes are steam bent. Lend your hand as the team heat shrinks steel tires onto wheels in a cloud of steam. Wheel wrighting is a fascinating combination of early precision wood and metal working. This is the only class like this in North America. Discount available for members of the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM). ALHFAM members should contact us for discounted rate.

BENCH HOOKS, MITER BOXES, AND SHOOTING BOARDS

Dave Kramer

Shooting boards and bench hooks make it easy to hold work in position while planing end grain or crosscutting small parts. Miter boxes hold crosscut saws in position to give accurate cuts of 45 and 90 degrees. In this class you will build one of each item to take home, and learn how to correctly use them to make a small picture frame.

IDENTIFYING WOOD FOR PROFESSIONALS AND SERIOUS WOODWORKIERS

Tom Nehil

This class targets woodworking professionals and serious amateurs wanting to learn how to identify wood no matter the sample size, be it a board, a log, antique chair, or a splinter. Learning to identify wood is an indispensable skill whether you are trying to sort through a stack of mixed timber to attempting to evaluate the strength of an existing timber building.

SUPPORT THE SHARING OF TRADITIONAL SKILLS

One of several groups of students that have toured our site in Scotts, MI, recently to learn about sustainable farming methods, international development, and the viability of traditional methods in a modern world.





Donations and other means of financial support play a critical part in getting tools and training to small-scale farmers.

Tuition mainly covers the costs of providing the classes and contribute towards Tillers International USA, our training site in Scotts, MI.

We're always looking for support in whichever way it can be provided. For example, Plow Day or Oxtrot sponsorships, for which we are immensely thankful.

A supporting gift can be made with the included remittance envelope, on our website, by calling (269) 626-0223, or at Tillers International, 10515 E. OP Ave., Scotts, MI, 49088.

Businesses or organizations interested in sponsoring domestic or international projects, future catalogs, events, or special projects can contact us via email at tillers@tillersinternational.org

In-kind gifts of goods or services are also appreciated.

METALWORKING



BLACKSMITHING I

John Sarge

This fast-paced introduction to blacksmithing moves you through the fundamentals: basic hammer skills, heat treating, forge welding, and identification of “found” steels. By the end of the second day students will be turned loose to make interesting forged pieces with the support and collaboration of a blacksmith with 30 years of experience. Safety, tools, techniques, materials, terminology, and shop set-up will all be explored. With an anvil for each student, there is plenty of hands-on learning and superb coaching in this popular class. Students will work almost exclusively with coal. This class is an excellent start for a hobby, taking advanced classes, or for career development.

BLACKSMITHING II: SKILL BUILDING

John Sarge

Build on skills learned in Blacksmithing I. Hands-on projects improve your hammer skills and add to your techniques. Work on two projects, a trivet and tongs, and have plenty of time for individual projects. Coaching speeds your progress. A great way to enjoy and refine your smithing skills.

BLACKSMITHING FOR WOMEN

John Sarge with Guest Instructor

This introduction to blacksmithing covers the same projects as Blacksmithing I except in an all female environment. This class is intended to create an atmosphere where students feel free to ask questions and explore tools, materials, and techniques as they begin their journey into the craft.

BLACKSMITHING I: OFF-GRID

John Sarge

If there is one blacksmithing skill in which we uniquely excel in it's blacksmithing in areas under less than ideal conditions. Join us for this one-of-a-kind blacksmithing class where we explore ways to improvise forges, create anvils, and ways to work with metal when a traditional workshop is nowhere to be found. Great for those into international development, missionary work, homesteading, and those that want to be prepared for anything life throws at them.

ADV. BLACKSMITHING: FORGE BRAZING & HOLE PUNCHING

John Sarge

This class will primarily focus on two different skills: forge brazing and punching a hole through metal such as the handle holes on a hammer's head. Forge brazing is a way to weld

pieces of metal together with softer metals such as copper or brass. Punching allows smiths to create a hole through metal for functional or design reasons.

TEEN BLACKSMITHING (12-16 y/o)

John Sarge

Many teens see blacksmithing in movies, video games, and online and become curious about this timeless trade. For the first time, Tillers now offers a blacksmithing class specifically for young people ages 12 to 16. This class one-day class will introduce teens to the basics of the craft: heating the metal, proper hammer techniques, shaping fiery iron, and more. We do offer a two-day Parent and Teen Blacksmithing class as well which offers a more in-depth look at blacksmithing.



KNIFE MAKING

Tim Carr

Instructor Tim Carr shows you the care needed in forging high carbon blades. Refine hammer skills, make corrections with the file, and develop annealing and tempering techniques. Mount a fine wood handle to add beauty and contrast to the steel. Tim is active on the board of the Michigan Artist Blacksmiths' Association (MABA) and has been smithing professionally for nearly 20 years. This class is recommended- but not required - before taking advanced knifemaking classes. PREREQUISITE: Blacksmithing I or equivalent.

KNIFE MAKING: HAMON BLADE

Ben Graber

Blending styles and techniques from both Japanese and Western knifemakers, this class will cover clay hamon heat-treating, acid etching the blades, hand-sanding and finish of the blade and handle, and the importance of a good grind. Hamon is a visible indication between the hard and soft portions of the blade obtained by using differential hardening. The end effect is an organic-looking line separating two tones on the blade which looks even more striking against a finely sharpened edge. This class will focus on both the functionality and beauty of the knife. PREREQUISITE: Blacksmithing I or equivalent.

FRICTION FOLDER KNIFE

John Sarge

A friction folder relies on the handle pressing against the blade to "lock" it in place. The simplicity of the design alludes to the fact that this is one of the first styles of folding knives commonly used around the world. This class will focus on creating the blade, handle, and hinge required for this unique knife. The photo above shows roughly what to expect by the end of the second day, but students can continue buffing their knives to their liking at home. Blacksmithing I or similar experience recommended.

PARENT AND TEEN BLACKSMITHING

John Sarge

Teens and their parent (or other adult) together can learn metal forging skills in the blacksmith shop with experienced instructors in this popular class. Students make BBQ tools, chisels, and other projects. The fire and tools used in this class demand respect and develop responsibility. Note-Teen and parent/adult need to register together for this class. Tuition and materials price reflects registration for the pair.

COPPERSMITHING

Doc Schertz

This is a beginners class for those who are interested in learning the basic skills to

manipulate copper. Students begin by learning to deburr, clean and anneal copper. Basic hammer control introduces texturing. Design layout and chasing will add another skill level by introducing chisels and their unlimited uses. Students will also learn the technique of silver soldering and low relief. Finishing up with a patina finish will highlight the texturing and designs. Students will take home four class projects.

SMALL FOUNDRY AND PATTERN MAKING

Russ Allen and Paul Mcguire

Learn to cast aluminum in green sand molds. Begin with mixing your own sand and making a small furnace. Fuels, furnaces, and crucibles are discussed, challenges of patterns and molding are explored. Learn different techniques for duplicating objects. Bring a small, simple object for use as a casting pattern.

BLACKSMITHING MASTER CLASS: MAKE A SWIVEL TOASTER

Jim Slining

Hearth toasters allowed people to toast bread in their home's fireplace. Swivel toasters added an extra measure of convenience by allowing the user to simply swivel the end of the toaster to expose the other side of the bread to fire instead of manually turning each piece of bread around. This beautiful and functional piece will help you refine several blacksmithing techniques and approaches. See examples of swivel toasters at pinterest.com/tillersinternational. Blacksmithing I and II (or equivalents) required.

BLACKSMITHING MASTER CLASS: LEARN TO MAKE NAILS

Jim Slining

In modern times, most people take nails for granted. Before the days of mass industrialization, nails were made by hand in metal shops and took a considerable amount of skill. Students will learn how to make the humble- but demanding- nail. See examples of handmade nails at pinterest.com/tillersinternational. Blacksmithing I and II (or equivalents) required.

CONSTRUCTION | COOPERING



STONE MASONRY

Blair bates and Tom Nehil

Instructors will take you through the history and theory of stone construction, making of mortar, and shaping of fieldstone into building stone. Presentations will provide insight into geology and the characteristics of different stone types, the mechanics of splitting and dressing stone, and the evolution of mortar systems from ancient to modern. You will then have opportunities to practice selecting, splitting, shaping and building with raw materials quarried locally.

TIMBER FRAMING & RAISING

Chris Newman and Tom Nehil

Participants can expect to begin hands-on learning within a few hours of the first day of class. An engineer will discuss design elements and experienced framers guide you through layout, boring and chiseling mortises, forming tenons, cutting wind

braces, assembling bents and more. This class is popular with several groups of people including construction professionals, architects, and outdoor enthusiasts. Please enroll at least a month in advance to give the sawmill enough time to prep materials.

COOPERING: BARREL MAKING

Chuck Andrews | John Davenport

This class moves students from straight-stave to tapered stave coopering. Water-tight coopering is the most difficult form of coopering. Students learn to make bent staves and assemble them into traditional barrels. In this class, each student will complete a 5-gallon pin keg made with white oak. **PREREQUISITE:** Coopering Tankard Class or Coopering Bucket/Piggins Class

COOPERING BUCKETS / PIGGINS

John Davenport and Dave Kramer

The cooper was essential to packaging early fluid products. Learn to make your own small bucket or piggin with hand tools only. Among other things, students will shape bucket staves on the shaving horse with draw knives. They will also use a croze, inshave, hollowing knife, floor jointer, and hoop driver to complete the project.

COOPERING: WOODEN TANKARD

John Davenport

This small coopering project is a straight staved small container, with a twist, mainly the handle, and cover. This style of tankard is based on those found on The Mary Rose, a warship in King Henry VIII's navy that was sunk in 1545. Its wreck was rediscovered off the coast of the Isle of Wight in 1971. Coopers have been using its distinct profile as inspiration ever since.



HERB WALK & MEDICINE MAKING

Brenna Pixley

Herbs are a traditional source of nutrition and medicine. Join us for an herb walk to learn to identify and responsibly forage native seasonal plants with an emphasis on those that foster immunity and vitality, followed by a workshop on preparing herbs for use in teas, tinctures, infusions, and salves.

APPALACHIAN BROOM MAKING

Nancy Binkowsk

Take a traditional skill to a new artistic level. Use hand-tying and stitching techniques to make superb sweeping brooms and great gifts. Learn broom handle selection, preparation, surface finishing, and broom corn

selection. Learn the history of broom making. This class will prepare you to move forward with your skills and continue to develop this unique craft. All skill levels welcome.

ADVANCED BROOM MAKING

Nancy Binkowsk

Advanced Broom Making will further dive into the aesthetic side of the craft. Functionality and creativity will come together to create beautiful pieces that work. We'll touch on various regional design cues and consider cultural influences that impact broom styles. Appalachian Broom Making or equivalent required.



FIND T-SHIRTS AND MORE AT [HTTP://TEE.PUBLIC/TILLERS](http://TEE.PUBLIC/TILLERS)

POLICIES AND MORE



OUR SITE

Tillers International School of Practical Skills, is located off I-94 Exit 85 on a 200+ acre farm in Scotts, MI. We have several timber-framed structures onsite including picturesque barns, two main workshops, and a beautiful stone-house where students may stay overnight at additional charge.

WHERE TO STAY

We offer neo-rustic bedrooms with access to a fully-equipped kitchen, a dining area, a library, and more. Most bedrooms have their own private bathrooms. The house's stone walls help keep the rooms cool through the early part of summer and a wood-fired furnace keeps rooms toasty in the fall and winter. The house includes rural Wi-Fi. Rates for the rooms start at \$95 per night plus six-percent sales tax.

Students are welcomed to camp on-site for only \$10 per night or \$15 per night with power (water or septic hook-ups for RVs are not available). On-site camping comes with access to bathrooms and a shower in The Stone House.

We are located minutes away from Airbnbs and hotels in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek.

Students planning to take the Draft Horse Basics in New York: Due to the popularity of New England's fall foliage tourism, students should secure a hotel as early as possible.

SAFETY & WHAT TO WEAR

Most of the classes we offer come with inherent dangers especially when safety or other instructions are disregarded. Our classes often involve working by an open fire, handling sharp or heavy tools, working with powerful draft animals, etc. While all efforts will be given to student safety, an assumption of risk is still involved.

The specifics of what to wear may vary by class, but as a general rule we suggest dressing in layers as weather in Michigan is often unpredictable. For our blacksmithing classes, we recommend avoiding synthetic fabrics such as nylon or polyester which may melt and adhere to skin when they're burning. While all fabrics are flammable, we suggest natural fabrics to minimize dangers.

Closed-toed shoes are required for most classes. Steel-toed boots and other safety shoes are not required, but you're welcome to wear them. Draft animal classes include field work so please bring appropriate footwear such as muck boots. Brimmed hats, sun screen, and general sun protection is recommended. Rain gear should also be brought as most classes are "rain or shine". Some students appreciate having insect repellent with them.

We do have some Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) available on site, but encourage you to bring your own protective eyewear, ear plugs, and work gloves, etc. Not all classes require PPE.

FOOD

All day-long classes include a simple boxed lunch from a local restaurant. The restaurant will make a reasonable effort to accommodate special diets, but it's recommended you bring extra food to supplement the provided lunch to be safe. Please email tillers@tillersinternational.org with questions or concerns regarding lunches.

People staying overnight are welcome to use our kitchen to prepare their own food. The nearest grocery store is in Galesburg, MI, and is six miles away (about ten minutes) from our site. There are many restaurants to choose from in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, MI.

COVID

Hundreds of people come to Tillers International School of Practical Skills throughout the year and their safety is our utmost concern. We're asking that people respect other students, volunteers, and staff, by doing your part in creating a safe environment including extending the courtesy of wearing a mask when indoors. We're not requiring proof of vaccination, but rather are relying on your sense of honor to respect the health and well-being of others enough to follow current CDC recommendations.

Many of our classes take place outdoors or in large, well-ventilated buildings which will have open doors and windows as weather allows. During colder months, when doors and windows are closed, we ask people to please refer to CDC recommendations.

CANCELLATIONS

Most of our classes require students to make arrangements at home and/or work months in advance meaning it's difficult for us to fill a suddenly available opening – regardless of how popular the class may be – at the last minute.

Cancellations more than 21 days before the first day of class will result in a \$50 administration fee. Due to the cost of materials and preparation required by our organization and instructors, cancellation by the student less than 21 days before the class start date will result in the full forfeiture of tuition. The cancellation policy extends to 30 days before the first day of class on select courses such as Timber Framing, Draft Horse Basics, and Windsor Chair Making. Failure to attend the class will result in the full forfeiture of tuition.

Any funds forfeited to Tillers International because of cancellation or failure to attend class will be treated as a donation and used to further the work done by the organization.

Tillers International reserves the right to cancel classes for any reason. In the unfortunate event that Tillers International cancels a class, all paid tuition will be refunded in full.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, students must be at least 18-years-old at the time of the class. There are a few exceptions such as our Teen Blacksmithing, Parent & Teen Blacksmithing, and middle-school classes. We can make additional exceptions on a case-by-case basis after speaking to the prospective student's parent(s) or legal guardian.

PETS

Students are not allowed to bring pets such as dogs and cats to Tillers International while taking a class. We are not responsible for the welfare of pets that get too close to any of our draft animals or electric fences. If you have a service animal, please let us know by calling (269) 626-0223.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Impaired students pose a danger to

themselves, other students, and our instructors. Illegal drugs are not allowed at Tillers International School of Practical Skills nor is the use of alcohol or recreational cannabis during a class. Tillers reserves the right to eject a student from our property without refund if that student fails to comply with our policy on drugs and alcohol.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND OTHER INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Tillers International is a fun place to hang out and enjoy the company of other people who are into learning new skills. That said, Tillers International will not tolerate sexual harassment of any kind including from our own instructors and staff. If you experience any sexual harassment while at Tillers International – whether it's from a student or member of our staff- please contact our executive director immediately. We will work closely with neighboring legal authorities and support you and them in any resulting investigations.

Students acting out inappropriately may be asked to leave without refund.

INTERNSHIPS

Each year Tillers invites internship applicants who are interested in international development and/or farming with draft animals. Most intern compensation is the opportunity to learn rare skills. For the duration of three to nine months, interns work on the farm and in our shops. Their work is focused on hands-on learning in farming, blacksmithing, woodworking, tool design & innovation, and international development. Many of our interns have gone on to work overseas or on small farms in North America.

For more information on our internships, please visit our website.

DISCOUNTS

We offer discounts during sales on select classes throughout the year. However, we will be offering a few permanent discounts:

10% Senior Discount (65+)

10% Veterans Discount

To use a discount, please call (269) 626-0223 to receive a discount code.

MEMBERSHIPS: SAVINGS AND EXCLUSIVE ACCESS ONLY \$100

Membership at Tillers International comes with a variety of enriching benefits while helping to keep historic traditional skills alive. Members will be able to enjoy exclusive privileges that include the use of workshops with an experienced artisan, access to picturesque walking and running trails, and print copies of our quarterly newsletters.

\$75 off any one class once a year! Once you become a member, you'll receive a one-time use discount code for \$75 off any class good for one year after enrollment. Each time you renew your membership, you'll receive another discount code good for another \$75 off any one class for that year.

Access to tools and workshops. One of the school's most enticing assets is the workshops and the hundreds of tools in each. One evening a month will be set aside for members to use our workshops for only \$25 for up to three hours of access (typically 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.) A staff member or experienced volunteer will be available to supervise the evening as members work on any project they want. Members will be able to access the blacksmith shop and the woodshop on the same night. You just bring your own materials (i.e., your own wood, iron, hardware,

etc. - we supply the coal for blacksmiths) and spend a fun evening happily working away on your project.

Invitations to Expert Speaker Series. The school attracts dozens of people who are experts in their areas of study. They range from master gardeners to professional artisans to farmers using exciting techniques, to scholars passing through the United States. Each month, a different speaker will give a live presentation either in person at our site in Scotts, MI, or online. Members will be able to interact with the speaker, ask questions, and enjoy coffee and donuts with other members when the speaker presents on our campus. Later, the speaker's presentation will be uploaded to a member's only gated area of our website. Active members will be able to watch any of the videos as the collection of archived presentations grows.

Early access to new classes. Be the first to know each time a class gets added to the schedule! Get a week's heads-up on anything new before classes are opened to everyone else. This prioritization will help members get into some of the school's most in-demand classes.

Hit the Trails! The school sits on 200 acres of beautiful Michigan countryside with walking trails crisscrossing through the most scenic portions. Members can walk or run (no bikes) through the trails, take you past Cooks Mill Pond, the iconic 1880s Spring Hill Barn, through the middle of the school's teams of draft animals, and much more. Routes will be identified as easy, moderate, or difficult allowing you to decide between an easy stroll or a challenging trail run. Maps will be on our website by May. Friends and family can also enjoy the trails with an active member. Dogs allowed on leash.

Print copies of quarterly newsletters
Everyone on our mailing list will receive email copies of our quarterly newsletters but members will be able to opt into receiving printed copies. Many people still prefer printed copies including our friends in the Plain Community. Members can choose to receive the newsletters through the postal service as well as by email.

For more information on the memberships, please email tillers@tillersinternational.org or call (269) 626-0223.

2023 CLASSES

All classes 9 am - 5 pm unless specified

Enroll at TillersInternational.org/Classes

or by calling (269) 626-0223



DRAFT ANIMALS

Logging with Draft Animals \$390.....	Feb 18- 19
Ox Driving Intro \$390.....	Mar 11 - 12
Oxen Basics \$595	June 19 - 23
Oxen Basics (No Yoke) \$410.....	Aug 5 - 7
Ox Training / Driving Clinic \$390.....	Oct 14 - 15
Draft Horse Training Seminar \$175	Apr 22
Draft Horse Basics (MI) \$595	April 25 - 28
Farming with Horses & Oxen \$550.....	July 20 - 23
Draft Horse Basics (NY) \$595	Oct 18 - 21
Donkey Basics \$595	June 25 -28

METALWORKING

Blacksmithing I \$340	Jan 14 - 15
Blacksmithing I \$340	Feb 11 - 12
Blacksmithing I \$340	Mar 4 - 5
Blacksmithing I for Women \$340	Mar 18 - 19
Blacksmithing I \$340	Apr 15 - 16
Blacksmithing I \$340	May 20 - 21
Blacksmithing I \$340	June 17 - 18
Blacksmithing I \$340	July 8 - 9
Blacksmithing I \$340	Aug 5 - 6
Blacksmithing I \$340	Sept 16 - 17
Blacksmithing I \$340	Oct 14 - 15
Blacksmithing I \$340	Nov 4 - 5
Blacksmithing I \$340	Nov 30 - Dec 1
Blacksmithing I \$340	Dec 2 - 3
Blacksmithing II \$410	Feb 16 - 17
Blacksmithing II \$410	Feb 18 - 19
Blacksmithing II \$410	Aug 24 - 25
Blacksmithing II \$410	Aug 26 - 27
Parent & Teen Blacksmithing \$595.....	Jan 28 - 29
Parent & Teen Blacksmithing \$595.....	July 15 - 16
Parent & Teen Blacksmithing \$595.....	Oct 7 - 8
Teen Blacksmithing \$175	June 14
Teen Blacksmithing \$175	July 19
Off-Grid Blacksmithing \$175.....	Aug 4
Friction Folder Knife \$390.....	Feb 25 - 26
Knife Making with Tim Carr \$390	Apr 22 - 23
Knife Making: Hamon with Ben Graber \$410.....	June 10 - 11
Knife Making with Tim Carr \$390	Sept 23 - 24
Swivel Toaster \$525	Mar 10 - 12
Small Foundry Work & Pattern Making \$410.....	April 1 - 2
Nail Making \$440.....	Apr 13 - 14
Basic Coppersmithing \$390	Aug 12 - 13
Adv. Blacksmithing: Forge Brazing... \$425.....	Nov 18 - 19



PLEASE HELP SUPPORT TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL AG CLASSES

10515 E OP Ave. Scotts, MI 49088
TillersInternational.org/donate

TILLERS INTL. SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

PLOW DAY

LAST SATURDAY OF APRIL • 11 AM



Visit our TeePublic store,
[HTTP://TEE.PUB/LIC/TILLERS](http://tee.pub/lic/tillers),
 to find branded t-shirts,
 coffee mugs, stickers,
 magnets, and more.



SPONSOR A HORSE, DONKEY, OR OX

Tillers International.org / donate



EE I EE I GO!



APRIL 29, 8AM
WWW.OXTROT.RUN



WOODWORKING

Basic Joinery \$175	Feb 11
Bench Hooks \$175	Feb 25
Intro to Hand Tools \$175	Mar 4
Windsor Tall Stool \$450	Mar 10 (6 - 9 pm)
	Mar 11 - 12
Make a Bow Saw \$175	Mar 15
Sharpening \$75	Mar 18 (9 - 12 pm)
Sharpening \$75	Mar 18 (2 - 5 pm)
Lathe Turning Class \$175	April 1
How to Make a Rocking Chair \$750	May 3 - 6
Identifying Wood for Serious Woodworkers \$175	May 6
Intro to Hand Tools \$175	May 17
How to Square Rough Lumber \$75	May 20 (9 - 12pm
	or 2- 5pm)
Wheelwrighting \$440	June 3 - 4
Lathe Turning Class \$175	July 15
Dovetail Tool Chest \$440	July 28 - 29
Windsor Chair Making \$750	Sept 12-16
Hand Plane/Coffin Wood Plane \$440	Oct 19 - 20
Mitre Boxes \$175	Nov 1
Basic Joinery \$175	Nov 3
Basic Edge Tool Use \$75	Nov 18 (9-12 pm)
Basic Edge Tool Use \$75	Nov 18 (2 - 5 pm)
Make a Shaving Horse \$395	Dec 9 - 10

BUILDING / CONSTRUCTION

Timber Framing & Raising \$925	May 8 - 13
Timber Framing & Raising \$925	Sept 25 - 30
Stone Masonry \$490	Sept 21- 23

COOPERING

Piggins/Buckets \$410	Mar 24 6 - 9 pm
	25 & 26 (9 - 5 pm)
Tankards \$440	Oct 6 (6 - 9 pm)
	and 7- 8 (9 - 5 pm)
Buckets \$410	Oct 13 (6 - 9) pm)
	14 & 15 (9 - 5 pm)
Barrels \$850	Oct 25 - 29

HERITAGE

Appalachian Brooms \$390	Aug 5 - 6
Advanced Broom Making \$390	Sept 16 - 17
Herb Walk and Medicine Making \$75	May 6 (9 - 12 pm)
Herb Walk and Medicine Making \$75	May 6 (1- 4 pm)
Herb Walk and Medicine Making \$75	May 7 (9 - 12 pm)
Herb Walk and Medicine Making \$75	May 7 (1- 4 pm)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Oxtrot Trail Run	April 29 8 am
Plow Day Open House	April 29 11 am
Midwest Ox Drivers Association Meeting	June 23 - 25
Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council (MOMCC)	Nov 8 - 11

ACCESS GUEST EXPERT
LECTURES AND MORE
WITH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Details on page 17



TILLERS international

10515 East OP Ave.
Scotts, MI USA
49088

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
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Kalamazoo, MI



Can't take a class? You can still support the sharing of traditional skills with a gift by scanning this QR code.

“To be a farmer is to be a student forever, for each day brings something new.”

John Connell
THE FARMER'S SON
2018

