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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News from Touchstone Center for Crafts

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“TENTH ANNUAL JIM CAMPBELL HAMMER-IN WITH RIVERS OF STEEL IRON POUR: FOR THE LOVE OF IRON”

Farmington, PA —

Touchstone Center for Crafts will host the 10th annual Jim Campbell Hammer-In from May 18–20, 2018. Anyone interested in learning more about the art of blacksmithing is welcome to register and attend. Held in the Hart Moore Blacksmith Studio on campus, this yearly celebration of all things blacksmithing honors the enduring legacy of longtime volunteer and Touchstone friend, Jim Campbell. In addition to a stellar line up of demonstrations at the forge, we are thrilled to be hosting an exhibition iron pour by Rivers of Steel. Historically there has always been a close relationship between forge and foundry practices. Each discipline compliments the other by providing the working necessities particular to these trades. Many tools employed by the smith originate in a stream of molten iron poured into specially prepared sand molds. Foundrymen would be at a loss without finely wrought tools provided by the smith. In cooperation with the Rivers of Steel organization, the art and practice of these two disciplines will be celebrated for the first time ever at Touchstone. Make plans to come out to Wharton Furnace Road and enjoy the day as the sparks fly! Interested participants may choose to attend just the Iron Pour, spend the day on Saturday, or the entire weekend. Anyone interested in attending the full or partial event can register at touchstonecrafts.org/hammer-in. As a special offering, currently enrolled college and graduate students can attend at a severely reduced cost.

Demonstrations by artist/blacksmiths include Glen Gardner and Anna Koplik. Both Glen and Anna are well known in the blacksmithing and arts community and have strong ties to Touchstone Center for Crafts. Glen currently serves on the board of directors and Anna served as a studio tech at Touchstone for two seasons, for which she credits helping to launch her career.

For more information and to register for the event visit touchstonecrafts.org or call 724-329-1370.

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Founded on the principles of heritage development, community partnership, and a reverence for the region’s natural and shared resources, Rivers of Steel strengthens the economic and cultural fabric of western Pennsylvania by fostering dynamic initiatives and transformative experiences. Through its attractions and programs, Rivers of Steel actively promotes education and heritage tourism, highlighting western Pennsylvania’s assets to regional, national and international audiences. Behind-the-scenes, Rivers of Steel works with a diverse network of community partners to support grassroots initiatives and the new regional economy. More information available at riversofsteel.com.

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Glen Gardner is a longtime friend to Touchstone Center for Crafts and currently serves on our board of directors. Glen is a sculptor/metalsmith whose work ranges from purely sculptural to functional. He works in all metals, including bronze, silver, gold, and iron. Glen has taught workshops in a variety of settings, including craft schools and several universities across the country. This season, he will be teaching ‘The Art of Welding’ at Touchstone, an in-depth weeklong workshop from August 6-10, 2018.

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Anna Koplik has studied jewelry, blacksmithing and bladesmithing and is currently working as a blacksmith at Spirit Ironworks, Inc. in Long Island, New York. We are excited to have her back for the Jim Campbell Hammer-In and also to teach a weeklong workshop this season. If you have always wanted to learn how to work a coal forge, swing a hammer at the anvil, and heat and forge steel, then join Anna from July 9-13 for 'Introduction to Blacksmithing' at Touchstone Center for Crafts. Sign up today at <https://touchstonecrafts.org/blacksmithing-workshops/>

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Touchstone Center for Crafts is situated in the Laurel Highlands region of Southwestern Pennsylvania about 70 miles from Pittsburgh. Now enjoying its 46th year, the craft school offers weekend and weeklong workshops in traditional and emerging craft forms, along with events, symposiums, and educational programming. Touchstone recruits some of the best artists in the country to teach beginning and experienced artists a broad selection of traditional and contemporary interpretations of: blacksmithing, ceramics, glass, metals & jewelry, mosaics, painting, drawing, printmaking, fiber & paper arts, and more! Touchstone's unique 150-acre wooded campus features art studios; the Blaney Lodge housing the Kinard library and art galleries; a variety of overnight accommodations, including cabins and dormitories; as well as many options for hosting private events. Learn more about Touchstone Center for Crafts and view the 2018 Workshop Schedule at www.touchstonecrafts.org.

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