September 26, 2008

Lewisburg, WV

Decorative Iron Work Course offered by New River Community and Technical College

New River Community and Technical College will offer an eight week course in Decorative Iron Work. This course will be taught by Jim Wells, artist blacksmith/biologist. Wells started blacksmithing over 20 years ago. His interest arose from a love of working with wood, but when he found Iron he fell in love. For more than 20 years he has owned one of several blacksmith shops ranging from one man shops to shops with 5 full time workers. His current shop, where this course will be held, is located in the Lewisburg area. Wells life work is grounded in nature which is shown in his ironwork.

The primary goal of this course is to have fun learning to do something decorative and artistic together as a group. Students will be introduced to the layout and function of tools in the blacksmith shop. This eight week course will cover such topics as the history of decorative iron work, the forge, and basic iron working techniques. As students become proficient in all of these basic techniques, they will design and develop a material list for a project which they will complete and take home. These will include either a fire place set, candelabra, or candle chandelier. During this process of learning, students will study what it is that makes a piece of work high quality, and how to avoid pitfalls. If you would like to see examples of Well’s work, please visit his web site - www.jimwellsdecorativeiron.com.

This course will start on October 15th, and meet every Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. for eight weeks. This is a fabulous course for anyone wanting to learn a rewarding new hobby from a very old art form. Call 872-4520 for more information on this course. Class size is limited by the number of work stations available and pre-registration is required.