



# THE MELTMINDER

A PUBLICATION BY THE BENTON FOUNDRY, INC.

Web Site: <http://www.bentonfoundry.com>

WINTER 2011

## Congratulations - Employees of the Year



**BOB GREEN-1ST SHIFT**

Bob has received the Employee of Quarter Award 5 times and has been elected Employee of the Year twice. It's easy to see why. Bob has worked here for 38 years and has always been gracious in sharing his experience with those around him. He's earned the respect of his supervisors (and he's "trained" many supervisors during his career).

Bob has received a Certificate of Merit and a paid personal day.



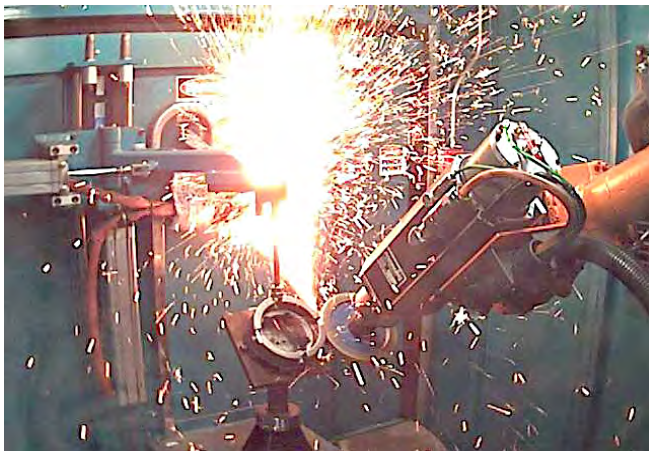
**DEB MARTZ-2ND SHIFT**

Deb is another multiple honoree having received 4 prior Employee of the Quarter awards and 2 Employee of Year awards. Deb has over 10 years experience in our quality control department. She's always been well-regarded by her supervisors who depend on her every day. Deb does whatever it takes to get the job done.

Deb has received a Certificate of Merit and a paid personal day.

### What's New at Benton Foundry?

Here's the latest addition to Benton Foundry's grinding room in action. This new FoxAll produced by Vulcan Engineering came equipped with advanced robotic technology from ABB Robotics known as "Force Control". This is the first cell Vulcan has produced that has this technology. It offers force feedback to the robot which permits limited grinding decisions and speed changes to produce better quality castings.



## Congratulations - Employees of the Quarter

### LYNN SHEATLER-1ST SHIFT

Congratulations to Lynn Sheatler, Benton Foundrys' 1st shift Employee of the Quarter. Lynn is a 21-year employee who works in the maintenance department. His attention to detail and motivation to get the job done earned him this recognition. Lynn lives in Benton with his wife Mary.

Lynn has received a Certificate of Merit and a paid personal day.



### JESSE SPERRY-2ND SHIFT

Congratulations to Jesse Sperry, Benton Foundrys' 2nd shift Employee of the Quarter. Jesse works as an automatic molding machine operator. He's worked here at the Foundry for the past 11 years & has a history of outstanding performance on the autos. His pride is evident in his production. Those attributes were recognized by his supervisors and resulted in this award.

Jesse has received a Certificate of Merit and a paid personal day.



## Thoughts on Lockout/Tagout

**Energy** is an important part of our lives. It runs everything from a night-light in our bathrooms at home to industrial equipment in the workplace. It can be electrical, hydraulic, pneumatic or mechanical and can be a safety hazard if it comes on or is released unexpectedly while we are servicing or maintaining equipment. That's why we need to know about lockout/tagout and to know and follow these 6 steps:

- 1 Notify all affected employees that a lockout is planned.
- 2 Shut the machine down by the normal stopping procedure
- 3 Isolate the equipment from its' energy source (ie. switch or valve)
- 4 Apply lockout devices
- 5 Check to ensure no one is exposed, then operate the normal operating controls to make certain the equipment will not operate.
- 6 The equipment is now locked out.

Think about what you're doing. Make safety the first priority in everything you do.

## EMPLOYEE SAVINGS & RETIREMENT PLAN

The Benton Foundry Employee Savings and Retirement Plan also known as the 401K plan closed out its year on 12/31/10. The following shows an overview of the plan. This plan is reviewed by Parente Beard, the accounting firm. We post a copy of this review up on the 401K board in the lunch room. If you have questions on the plan, please ask Tim Brown or Jeff Hall. The entry dates for the plan are 6/30 and 12/31 each year. If you are not presently contributing to the plan and are eligible you are missing out on the company's match of \$.50 for every dollar you put in up to 5% of your pay. Thus, you are missing out on 50% free money. The sooner you start saving for retirement the sooner you can retire. Also consider putting 1%/year of raises into the plan to increase your contribution.

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>01/01/2011</b>	\$6,762,253.00
<b>Contributions</b>		
Yours		\$402,055.00
Benton Foundry's		\$128,743.00
<b>Withdrawals</b>		-\$918,841.00
<b>Expense</b>		-\$7,846.00
<b>Gain on Investments</b>		\$847,013.00
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>12/31/2010</b>	<b>\$7,213,377.00</b>

There were 144 participants who had an average balance of \$50,093.00.

The following shows you the dollar value by investment at the beginning of the year and end of the year. The weighted average return on investments appear to be approximately + 12% for the year.

DESCRIPTION	MARKET VALUE		UNITS	
	<u>12/31/2010</u>	<u>12/31/2009</u>	<u>12/31/2010</u>	<u>12/31/2009</u>
American Funds New Perspective A	\$394,977.25	\$441,249.00	13800	17209
American Funds Growth Fnd of Amer A	555,872.86	509,191.00	18261	18631
American Funds Fundamental Invest A	774,053.74	701,493.00	21091	21433
American Funds American Mutual Fd A	492,950.23	413,056.00	19469	17835
American Funds Amer Balanced Fund A	496,999.85	406,172.00	27719	25057
American Funds Bond Fund of Amer A	160,093.17	142,193.00	13133	12050
American Funds SMALLCAP World Fund A	147,102.10	174,278.00	3785	5527
American Funds New World Fund A	168,430.24	212,945.00	3086	4511
American Funds Cap Income Builder A	80,011.61	86,747.00	1603	1811
American Funds Cap Wld Growth Inc A	217,566.83	217,156.00	6091	6372
American Funds Investment Co Amer A	47,853.79	70,840.00	1699	2730
RS Global Natural Resources	376,741.64	297,219.00	10025	9927
RS Value Fund	50,829.29	35,291.00	1962	1709
Oppen Gold & Spc Mineral Fund N	1,003,107.02	632,661.00	20721	18045
American Funds Money Market A	2,246,757.75	2,421,762.00	2246758	2421762
<b>TOTAL ASSETS AS OF 12/31/2010</b>	<b>\$7,213,347.37</b>	<b>\$6,762,253.00</b>		

## Christmas Bears



**Fritz Hall** is shown looking over a Christmas gift with some of his staff assisting. Pictured behind Fritz (from the Left) are: Brenda Fritz, Lynn Miller, Sherry Steele, Michelle Williams, Gloria Kocher and Donna Remley.

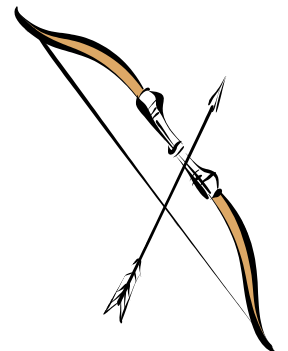


## Archery News

A proud **Tim Speary** shot this 300 pound bear in his back yard during the latest Pennsylvania archery season. He said he was in his back yard at the end of the day when he saw the animal. He shot it with one arrow and it then ran



off into the woods. He started to track it, but darkness came too quickly. He continued look for the bear the next morning. It took him about one hour to locate it. Tim, who works in our first shift grinding room, brought it down to the Foundry after he found it.



## Bisphenol A (in plastic containers) - from Sierra November/December 2010

There have been concerns raised about the chemical bisphenol A in plastic containers, making their use problematic. Scientists have uncovered possible links between BPA and an increased risk of breast & prostate cancer, genital abnormalities, diabetes, attention deficit disorder & harm to wildlife.

Some scientists believe BPA can disrupt biological development, so they warn that children and pregnant women should avoid exposure.

BPA can be commonly found in plastic baby bottles, other plastic containers and some food and beverages. Predictably, the chemical & food industries counter with studies showing that BPA is harmless. Opponents reply that the 200-plus research papers implicating the substance are more reliable, since the industry largely funded its own studies.

As for containers, if they're opaque, they're probably OK. The clear shatterproof kind and those with the number 7 recycling label on the bottom are most suspect.

## Additional Quality Certification

Benton Foundry, Inc. recently achieved Pressure Equipment Directive Certification issued by SRI that satisfies the material manufacture requirements of the European Union Pressure Equipment Directive.

### CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE



#### Steel Related Industries Quality System Registrar

Seven Fields, Pennsylvania, USA  
Alexandra House, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland EU

A legal entity within the United States and European Union with competence demonstrated via ANAB and RvA accreditation as an ISO 9001 certification body with a scope of accreditation for the assessment of quality management systems of organizations which include the manufacture of materials and in the technology of the materials concerned, as specified in the scope below

-CERTIFIES-

## Benton Foundry, Inc.

at its location:

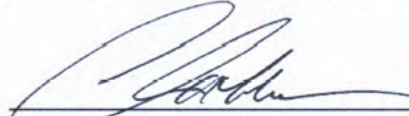
**5297 State Route 487  
Benton, Pennsylvania, USA**

has implemented, operates and maintains a  
Management System in accordance with the requirements of

### Pressure Equipment Directive (PED) 97/23/EC 7/2, Annex I, Paragraph 4.3

**Scope of PED compliance:** "Manufacture and supply of gray and ductile iron castings."

Signed for SRI:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher H. Lake, President & COO

Date: September 27, 2010  
Registration Number: 1762-01

Steel Related Industries Quality System Registrar, LTD is a registered, duly licensed, operating "legal entity" in the European Union, and as such, is fully responsible for Management System Certificates bearing its U.S. and Ireland address for the purpose of satisfying the material manufacture requirements of the European Union Pressure Equipment Directive. This certificate is valid and will remain in effect when accompanied by a valid ISO 9001:2008 registration certificate that bears SRI's Ireland address, as noted above.

# NEED \$150.00?

## Company Referral Plan

Refer a Potential Employee to Lou  
(Before They Come In)

If Hired, After  
6 Months of Employment  
You Get \$150.00

### Did You Know ??? From Sierra Nov/Dec 2010

- Global warming is blamed for a 40 percent decline over the last century in phytoplankton, the microscopic plants upon which all oceanic life depends.
- A Scottish biofuel derived from whisky proves 30 percent more powerful than ethanol.
- The U.S. birthrate in 2009 - 13.5 per 1,000 inhabitants - is the lowest in a century.
- According to the Highway Loss Data Institute, Priuses are almost never stolen.

### Winter 2011 Birthdays

### Job Well Done

- The Iron Casting Research Institute did its Interlaboratory Spectrometer Proficiency study in October of 2010. This is the 27th round of the testing and this round had 32 foundries represented. In this round of testing 10 of the 32 foundries had zero occurrences of significant variance. Benton was again one the 10. In a further look of the last three rounds of testing - there were only 3 foundries of the 32 that had zero occurrences in all three rounds. Benton Foundry, again was one of the three. This is a testament to **Keith Provine, Deb Martz, Jeanette Felix, Sean Mohr, Deb Fagan, Chris Lorson & Caroline Mengine**. Congratulations on a job well done.
- The plant has been working through a 5S program over the past year. The cleanliness and organization of plant are visible every day, even to a newcomer or visitor to the Foundry. Congratulations to all the core assembly people, welding people and cleaner operators for achieving and maintaining scores consistently above the 90% percentile in their work areas.

January	February	March
Felix, J.	Downes, S.	Green, R.
Earnest, A.	Hess, B.	Gough, E.
Sult, K.	Vandine, S.	Dinehart, D.
Osorio, J.	Kocher, G.	Schumacher,AW
Hamilton, J.	Toporcer, T.	Garay, J.
Wolfe Jr., I.	Frey, S.	Wolfe, S.
Karcher, J.	Hittle, F.	Sheatler, L.
Magorga, M.	Lobos, M.	Carrico, S.
Shepherd, A.	Ryman, E.	Williams, M.
Chapin, J.	O'Brecht, K.	Timko, J.
Strauch, A.	Speary, T.	Norton, T.
Bennett, P.	Roberts, A.	Foust, N.
Miller, T.	Eighmey, B.	Shiffer, J.
Strait, N.	Puderbaugh,C.	Cashner, C.
Gower, Barb	Spence, J.	Andrews, J.
Wilt, J.	Hails, M.	McBride, M.
Schumacher,K.	Doty, B.	Roberts, L.
Grigas Jr., T.	Wertz, A.	Quick, N.
Burman, P.		Stonier, S.
Page, M.		Foust, T.
		Vandine, G.
		Straub Sr., D.
		Bopp, T.
		Porter, R.
		Gower Jr., E.
		Gowin Jr., P.
		Golder, S.

### Obituary

**Alois "Al" Friede**, 76, of Great Bend, passed away Oct. 14, 2010. Al originally worked with Fritz at Hallstead Foundry & continued his career at Benton retiring in April, 1997.