



February 2010

# The Florida Clinker Breaker

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association - Established May 18, 1985

## Presidents Message

*Jerry Wolfe*

My goals for 2010 are relatively simple – Do what the FABA president is supposed to do and encourage participation in all the meetings throughout FL. Several have told me what is expected and I appreciate the wisdom of those who have had this job before giving some guidance.



FABA is only successful with many dozens of volunteers and participants. When you attend meetings, just lend your hand to help with one or more items; whether it be the Iron in the Hat; help with the demonstration, help with food or refreshments, showing someone how to do a particular blacksmithing technique, or just sharing your knowledge - it all counts to making successful meetings

A recent membership listing shows 260 members in FABA. This has decreased in recent years, so one of my goals is to increase the membership by getting those who have been members in the past to “rejoin” and to recruit new members via our regional meetings. Let’s each encourage attendees to the meetings to join FABA. There are many benefits to being a member of FABA.

Our annual meeting was a success in many ways with all the activities to teach blacksmithing and other craft techniques. I really appreciate all the effort by the many volunteers who unselfishly give of their time to plan, organize, setup, tear down, sell tickets, donate items for the iron in the hat and auction and the multiplicity of other activities to make our annual conference a success. A special thank you to Mark Stone for pulling it all together. The final accounting indicated the expenditures were \$937 more than the income. This is a little discouraging since we use our annual meeting to obtain funds for scholarships and other benevolent activities as a nonprofit organization. We will have to determine what we need to do different to make our conference a money making venture.

**Safety Tip for the month** - Acetylene Safety Tip

The best way to transport tanks is vertical / standing up. If you have to transport tanks laying down, then you should never use an acetylene tank that has been transported on its side for at least two hours after it has been set up vertical. Never open it more than 1/2 turn and never set the pressure over 15 psi. All these rules can help save a life

## Walt Anderson Scholarship

This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Walt Anderson, one of our charter members. Its purpose is to further the craft of blacksmithing and is available to any FABA member in good standing. The award is limited to the actual cost or \$1000 whichever is lesser. It may be used for materials, tuition, lodging and transportation (paid at the rate of 43.2 cents per mile or the actual cost of public transportation, whichever is lesser).

A letter of application or a detailed email may be submitted provided the applicant answers the following questions:

1. What is your name, address and phone number?
2. How much experience in blacksmithing do you have?
3. How will this instruction help you with your blacksmithing craft?
4. What is the name of school you wish to attend?
5. What is the name of the course and the name of the instructor teaching the class?
6. What costs will be incurred (tuition, materials, lodging, transportation, etc.)?

Note: By accepting the Walt Anderson Scholarship the applicant agrees to provide a demonstration of skills learned and write a report of the learning experience, including “how-to” for publication in the Clinker Breaker. This next item not required but strongly suggested that an article made by the new knowledge be offered for auction at the Annual meeting.

Completed letters of application or emails should be sent to me: John Butler, Chair, FABA Scholarship Committee, 777 Tyre Road, Havana, FL 32333 or emailed to [jgbutler@sprintmail.com](mailto:jgbutler@sprintmail.com).

Deadline for receipt is June 15, 2010. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board will be final. The successful applicant will be notified.

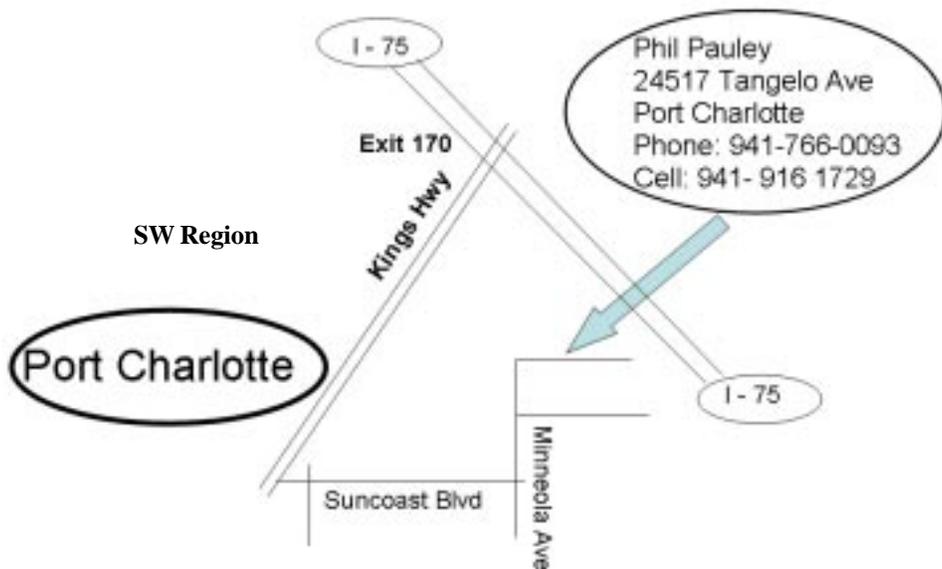
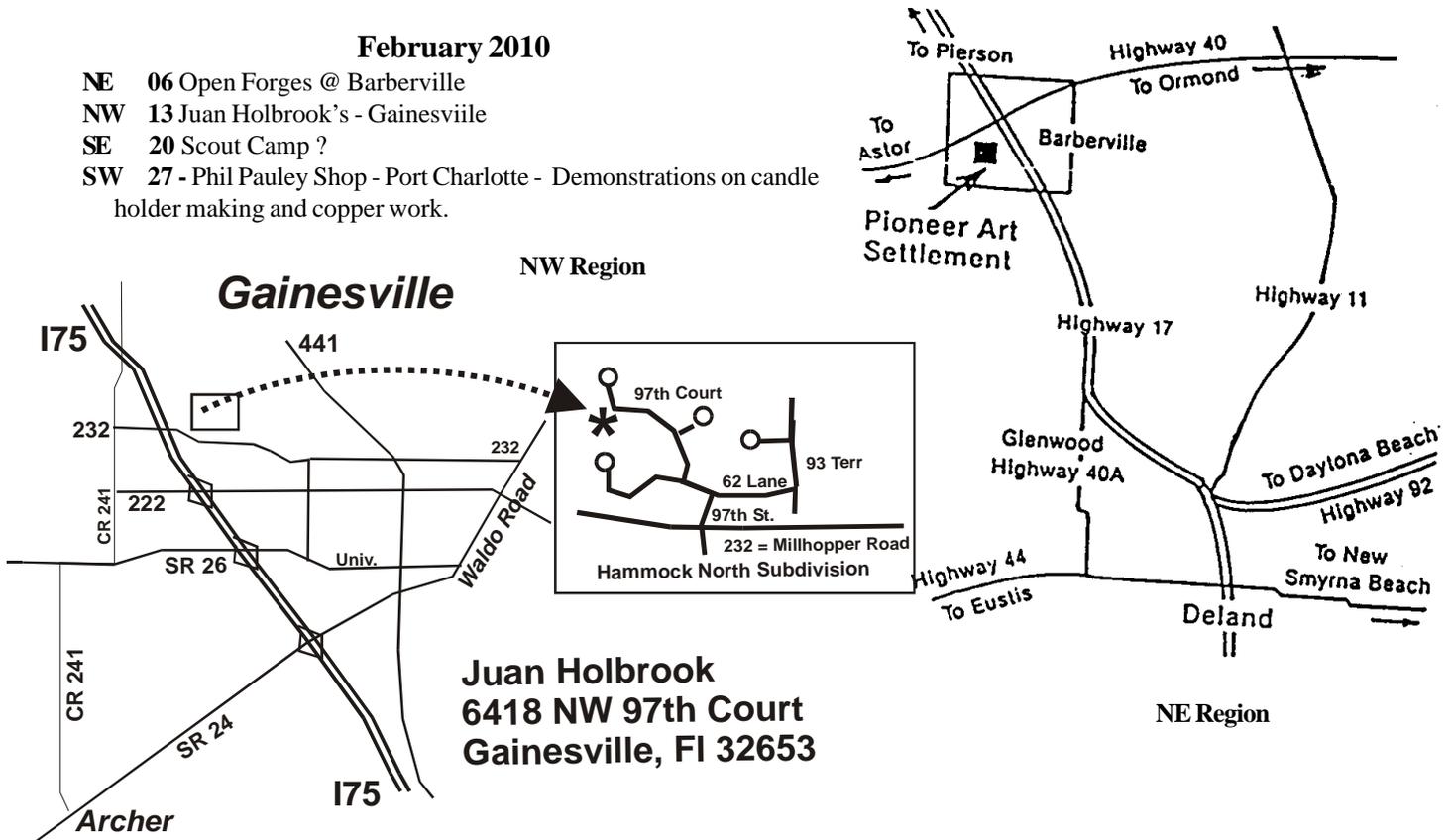
### Upcoming Events

The calendar includes events of interest to the blacksmithing community. The regions have no boundaries - everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can. We hold regular meetings in each region on the following Saturdays of each month: NE-1st, NW-2nd, SE-3rd, SW-4th except for quarterly Statewide meetings. The actual dates vary so check the schedule below. Our meetings are informal gatherings around the forge. Prospective members are always welcome. Come for all or any part of a meeting, bring your tools or just watch. Most meetings run from 9AM to 4PM and you'll need to bring lunch if not otherwise noted. If you have any questions about meetings, please contact the Regional Coordinators:

Northeast Region	Mitch Widham	386-673-0174	mwidham@cfl.rr.com
Northwest Region	Billy Christie	850-421-1386	chriswoodforge@embarqmail.com
Southeast Region	--needs a volunteer - what about you?		
Southwest Region	Lisa Ann Connor	813-977-3743	MelisandeAubrey@hotmail.com

### February 2010

- NE 06 Open Forges @ Barberville
- NW 13 Juan Holbrook's - Gainesville
- SE 20 Scout Camp ?
- SW 27 - Phil Pauley Shop - Port Charlotte - Demonstrations on candle holder making and copper work.



Boy Scout Camp: from I-95 exit go east onto Indiantown Rd, go north (left) onto Island Way (1st traffic light). Stay on it until it ends at Country Club Dr. Go left—it ends at the entrance to Boy Scout Camp.

## Future Events

NW Mar 13 "Payton Forge" outside of Monticello, FL.

Trenton Tye from Albany, GA demonstrating

NW Apr 10 Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in

Blountstown, FL. John Watson & Danny Willis

Demonstrating, Think Fire!

NE May 1 Steve Bloom's shop - near Archer, FL

NW May 8, 2010 Rex & Mary Ellen Anderson's Shop  
outside Monticello, FL

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### Report from the Northeast

*Mitch Widham*

29 folks attended the Jan 2nd meeting at Barberville to bring in the New Year. Many different items were being made out of old railroad spikes, such as a Left handed stake turner, tomahawks and a Bull snake. Buck in the Bucket raised \$110.00 for FABA, and the book exchange was semi successful with 6 folks bringing in books to exchange, those that participate really enjoyed it, but some folks did not want to part with their books. We are going to give it another go at the Feb meeting, so if you're willing, bring in a book to exchange. It does not have to be a \$100.00 hardback, just something metalworking or blacksmith related that other members might find useful or draw knowledge from. The next meeting will be Feb 6th at Barberville.

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### Report from the Northwest

*Billy Christie*

December 12, 2009 was a cold, wet meeting at Bill Adams "Blind Hog Forge" outside of Havana, FL. Bill & John Butler had a great program all worked out, but with all the nasty weather & limited outside covered space to operate the four forges, we went with plan B, which was one open forge. Ron Childers was the forge master of a vertical propane forge and they kept it going late into the afternoon. There were all types of projects taking place from Jerri's dinner bell to a railroad spike knife. John Butler & John Watson made a handle for a tomahawk out of a chunk of hickory. All you have to do is remove everything that doesn't look like a handle, and it turned out great. Everyone had plenty of time to check out all of the great tools and things in Bill's impressive shop. There was also lots of information being exchanged; some of it was even useful.

Due to the weather, we had to have the "Iron In The Hat" drawing in two different areas. We had some nice hand forged items plus other interesting objects. The drawing brought in a total of \$208.00. Lloyd Wheeler helped out by drawing the winning tickets.

We had a delicious lunch with plenty to go around. Twenty

nine people signed in and enjoyed the hospitality. A BIG thanks to everyone who helped make this another fun & educational meeting.

Best wishes for a Happy Hammering New Year! PLEASE remember to bring a covered dish to share at the meetings, and your Iron In The Hat items. Thanks!

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### Report from the Southwest

*Jerry Wolfe*

Our SW region meeting on Dec 12 was attended by 26 folks at Trez Cole's shop in the woods. We had a great time making candle holders and letter openers. Trez Cole made a candle holder from a "blue bottle" and a section of 1/4" diameter rod. Quite unique, particularly the way he "broke the bottom out of the bottle". A HOT ring and a careful technique with just the right "ting" and it just separated. Real nice job Trez.



Jerry Wolfe made a candle holder using the clevis and wedge technique learned from Daniel Miller at the Barberville Conference. Square holes thru the arms holding the candles and a clevis

thru the holes held with a curved wedge makes for an interesting design.

Sarah McMurray from the SE region also attended with her

"forge in a truck" to show some of her equipment and techniques. An auction and the Iron in the Hat resulted in \$100 for FABA.



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### Notices, For Sales & Want-Ads

#### BLACKSMITH COAL

\$35 per 100 lb bag (Pickup only) & details - Pioneer Settlement, contact the Settlement at 386-749-2959 or 386-749-2087 or mail your order with payment to PSCA/COAL, P.O. Box 6, Barberville, FL 32105. Accepted forms of payment: cash, money orders, checks, MasterCard and Visa.

## Reminder:

The newsletter can come to you in full color and a few weeks earlier than the BW version plus it saves FABA money -- just let your Editor know and you can receive a electronic version of the *Clinker Breaker* (in the PDF format). Over 50 of our members have signed up for this option!

There is a comment section on the website. We're trying to find out how many of you folks have an option on a lifetime membership option (\$500 for the member who ponies up the bucks) and you can add any other comment you want. Remember - it you don't tell the officers what you want, you can't bitch (too much) when it doesn't happen.

## Book about Smiths

Vince Nakovics (*restoreman123@msn.com*)

I am working on a book about Blacksmiths and if you would be willing to participate, please contact me for the particulars. Attached are the basic questions that I start with so that you can look them over. I know that some of the questions are directed at full time working blacksmiths, but I am looking for input from all blacksmiths, part timers, amateurs, and professionals alike.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
Forge Name & website \_\_\_\_\_

1. What was your very first blacksmithing experience?
2. When did you decide that you wanted to be a Blacksmith?
3. What made you decide to make a living at being a Blacksmith?
4. There is often much discussion about traditional methods versus modern methods and the merits that go with both. How do you, personally define the difference?
5. This is a question with several parts on some of your favorite tools if you have one or several. Which hammer style do you prefer? How much does it weigh? How big is the anvil that you use most? What special tools do you use on a regular basis?
6. Who influenced your work the most? How did they influence the work you do?
7. What was your most challenging project(s) in the recent past, say 5 years?
8. Where do you think the current market situation leaves the Blacksmithing community in your area and at large?
9. What is your advice and recommendations to Smiths thinking about going full time?
10. Has there been a defining moment for you as a Blacksmith?
11. What do you; personally get out of being a Blacksmith?
12. Bonus question: how did you decide on the name of your forge?

## Rifle For Sale

Dennis Stiffer (*stiffsilversmith@aol.com*) has for sale or trade, an essentially unused (20 rounds) Marlin lever action 444ss with a Simions 3.5x10x50 scope. Included are 2 boxes of ammo, a brand-new, never used set of dies, and a hard locking case. Asking price is \$950.

## Knife Tips

*Dennis Stiffer*

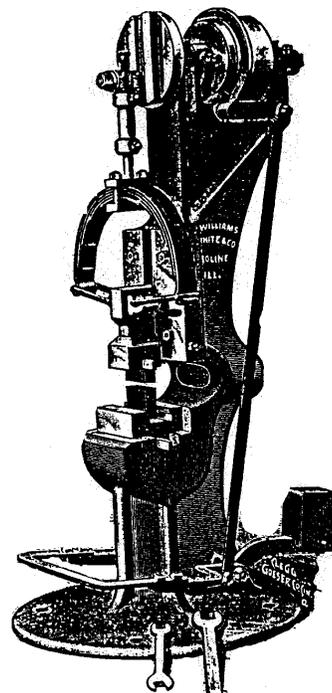
The guy that cleans our pool at the condo has been giving me the 30 gal plastic jugs that hold the chlorine for the pools. The plastic is a thicker than 0.060" but it works real good. I just cut it with the saber saw and heat it with the air drier. I d bend it over a piece of stock and clamp it with the springy clamps. You've got to be quick as the stuff cools down real fast.

I was using brass rod for pins and after hammering, couldn't get little burs off. In the old days, if we wanted to put swirls on a bolt for a rifle, we would use a pencil eraser in a drill press. Be careful and just press down a little. Well the same thing works for the pins.

Tandy Leather sells snap rivets brass nickel or black 10 pack for 120.. a pack and regular rivets.

## Beginning Class & Tools for Sale

Lewis Riggleman is teaching a two-day class for beginning and intermediate smiths (Feb.20-21). Cost is \$200 and the slots are going quick. Lewis has 4 anvils (88 lbs to 228 lbs @ \$2/lb). They have been rebuilt and want a new home. He also has post vises ranging from \$95 to \$250. Call Lewis at 352-521-3515 for details (San Antonio,FL = near Dade City).



**For Sale**

**Blacksmithing/ Knifemaking/ Forging POWER HAMMER - 50# Little Giant**

Little Giant 50#, manufactured in 1947, modern style (clutch at rear) excellent condition, Plug and pound! Has drawing dies, 2hp original motor, single phase; runs like a sewing machine can forge up to 2" solid metal. \$3800.00 919 / 444-1665

**Ray Clontz Tire Hammer Plans by Clay Spencer**

Ray Clontz Tire Hammer Plans, \$30, including postage to US and Canadian addresses. Send check or money order, e-mail me for cost to other countries

Tire Hammers for sale; 50 lb. hammer head, approx. 250 blows per minute, 1 hp motor, 6" diameter anvil, 700 lbs., 2 ft. square base; Contact me for price/availability. Reasonable delivery if I am headed to your area..

Beverly Shear blades sharpened, \$35 + postage. Blades must be removed from shear, extra cost for deep nicks or blades previously sharpened at angle.

Clay Spencer, 73 Penniston Private Drive, Somerville, AL 35670, 256-498-1498, cell 256-558-3658, clay@tirehammer.com

**For Sale**

125 pound bullhammer air hammer, in excellent shape and hardly used. Two dies go with it. Need to sell it soon, and would like \$5000 for it. I live in south Asheville. Phone is 828-215-6003. Bill Drake

**Portable Blacksmithing**

*Tom Kennedy*

Tom found these pictures -- hmmm, I've got an old garden tractor...

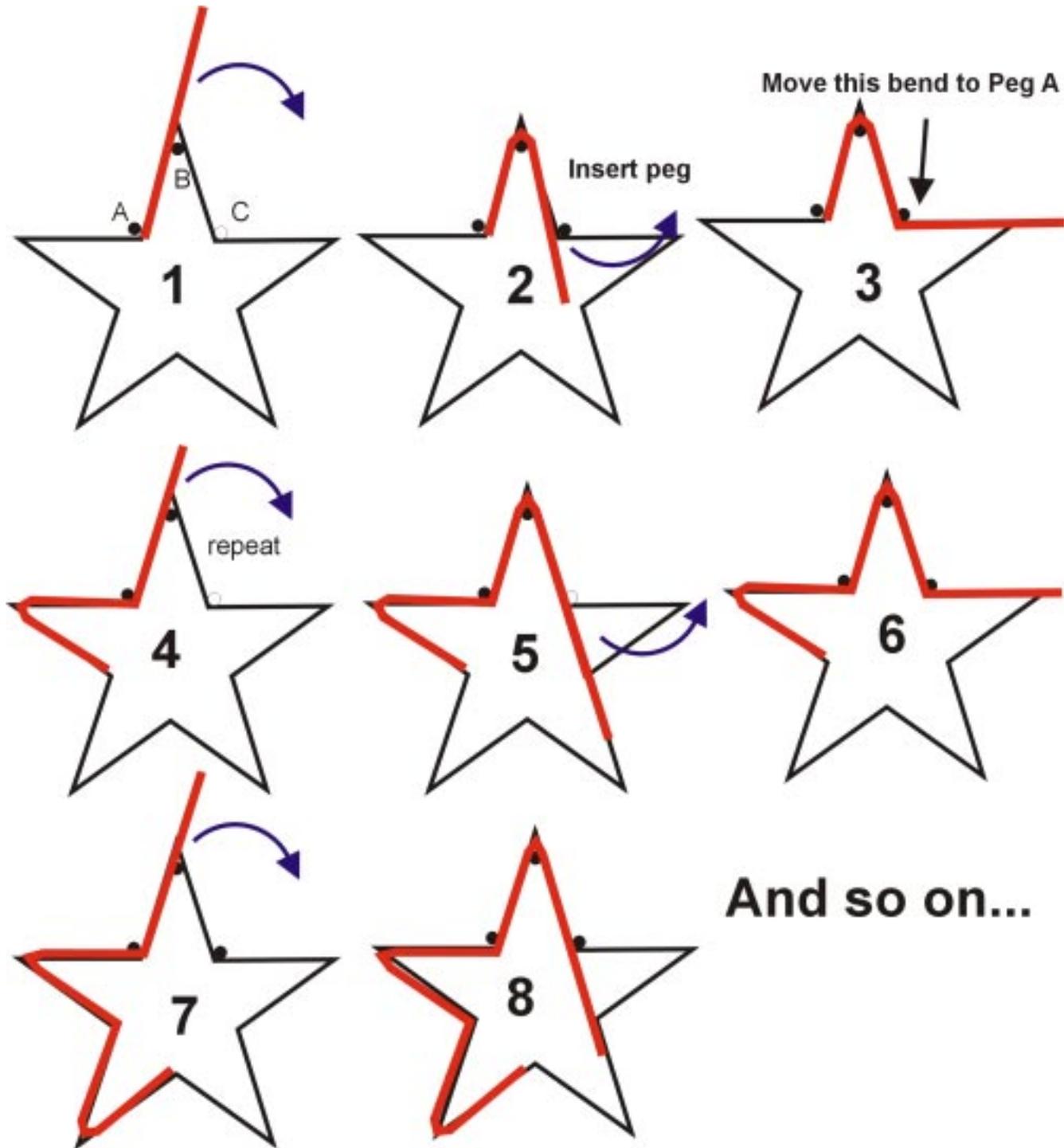


### Christmas Star (revisited)

Steve Bloom

Gary Kemp asked me to clarify the angle mentioned in the article from the last issue. It turns out that a mathematical proof can be created that concludes that the angle is a simple function of the ratio of the base of a peak of the star to the height of the peak. If you are interested, drop me an e-mail and I'll send you the proof but the bottom line is go with looks good to your eye when you sketch it out and then just measure the angle.

The original article was based on welding the stars together from a bunch of small segments. When I was working on the proof, it occurred to me that a simple jig with one removable peg could be used to fabricate the star from a single piece of material. I suspect that a torch would be the way to go and be real careful with that moving peg -- they pick up heat in a heart beat and are more than generous enough to share it with your fingers.



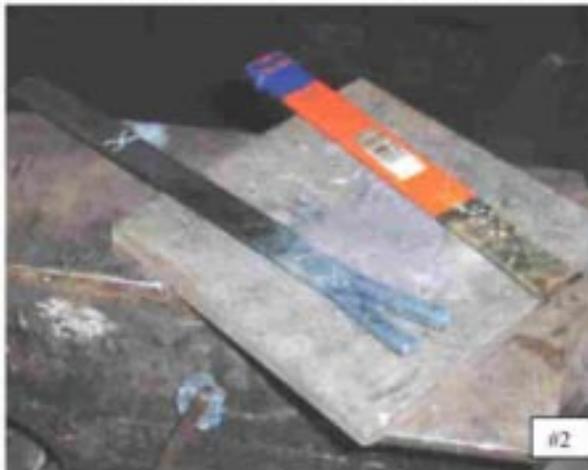
# Grill Fork

By Master Blacksmith Dale Morse

(Owner of the Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing and ODBSA Vice President of Education.)

I started this project with a 12" long piece of 1/4" X 3/4" stock. I laid out the bar by marking my cut, which is down the center of the bar and two inches in length. I also marked and center punched 2 1/2" down and 8 1/2" down from the end to be cut.

See picture #1. A piece of mild steel plate works for this, though aluminum such as that shown in picture #2 is better. This protects the chisel and anvil from damage. When this is done, push it perpendicular and bring the first one back in line with the parent bar.



Once split, push one of the tines perpendicular to the parent stock to get it out of the way. Draw the one that is in line with the parent bar to a nice point. Forge a point on this one as well. It is a good idea to make a chalk mark on the anvil or somewhere to indicate the length that you wish to forge each tine to so they come out the same at the end. You can see the forged tines in picture #3.



Fuller at the center punch mark just below the tines. This is the mark that you put 2 1/2" from the end of the bar in the

beginning. Since there is heat in the bar, go ahead and forge down to the fuller to start the handle. See picture #4.



Once done, put the fork in the vise vertically, tines up, grabbing it right at the fuller point. Forge the tines down flat and perpendicular to the original bar so that it makes a T shape. On the far edge of the anvil, step the tines over the edge and forge into the end at the edge of the anvil. You are trying to eliminate all traces of the base of your chisel cut and establish a transition from the tines to the handle. Once done to your liking, forge the tines over the horn and shape into a typical fork end.



See picture #5. Note the step from the tines to the handle on the bottom side of the fork (shown on top in the picture). Let cool and flip the whole piece around so that you are holding onto the tines. Heat and fuller at the second center punch mark that was originally at 8 1/2" down from the top end of the piece. For my handle, I also fullered near the end and gave the resulting piece between the fullers a bit of a taper as pre shaping the end of the handle. See picture #6. Taper down the bit at the end to a nice long flat taper and scroll it into a hook end to your liking. Flatten and bevel the rectangular block left between the fuller and the hook. Finish rounding out the center portion of the handle to make it smooth and give the whole piece a slight arc. Clean and wax and use it the next time you grill out.

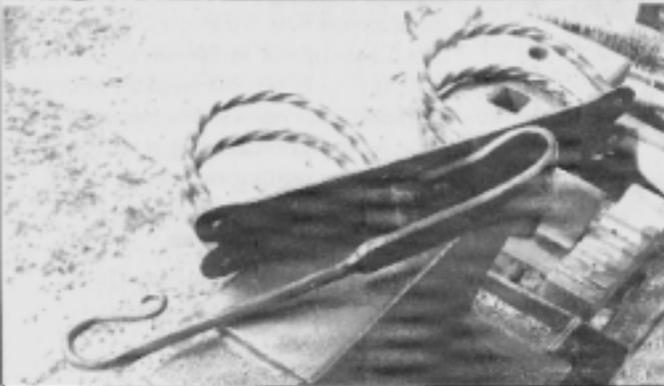
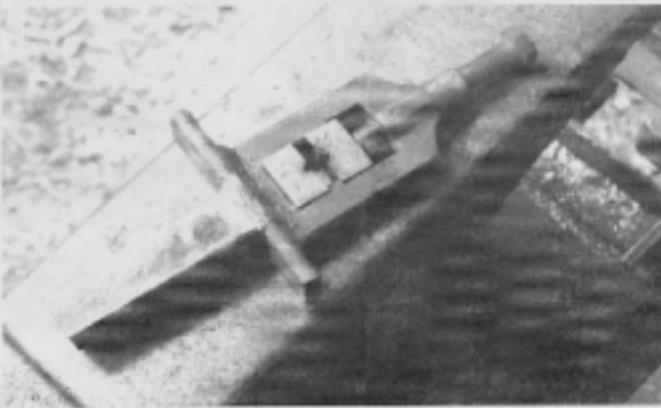


## Tool for Small Tenons

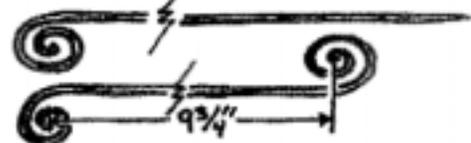
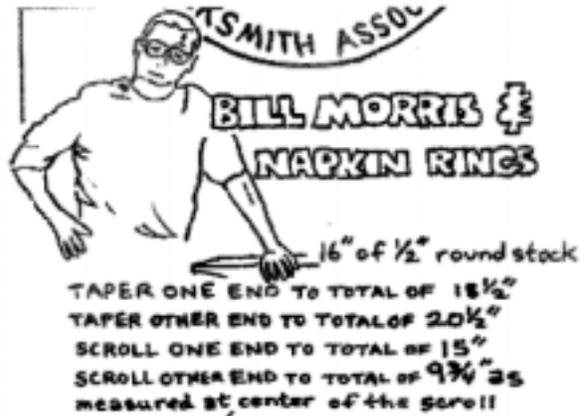
By Jim Cokewell, a MABA member

Jim Cokewell had this small tenoning tool at Hartwick Pines. He used an old tap wrench (look for this style of wrench at garage sales) and cut the stationary handle off. In its place, Jim welded a plate and a hardie post onto the cut end. He then removed the threaded handle and replaced it with a bolt that would slide freely in the hole. Nothing needed to be done to the two blocks that clamp onto the tap.

Jim used the tool to make the tenons on the four toaster hoops, then secured them to the rotating plate by peening them from the bottom.



This article reprinted from The Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association- The Anvil's Horn September 08



### NAPKIN RING TOOLING



Illustrations by Alan Hardy  
photos & computer by B. Milk Hardy



## Friction Folders

Steve Bloom

Next issue will be a step by step description of how I make friction folders - like the one to the left. Start saving those antler tips!

# ABANA Conference News

December 2009 - Vol. 1 Issue 4

Mark Aspery, Darryl Nelson and Gerald Boggs will be facilitating these Workshops at the "Green Coal" teaching stations during the 2010 Conference in Memphis.

Mark Aspery works with both Darryl Nelson and Gerald Boggs on a regular basis, teaching twice a year at Darryl's school in Washington State and teaching with Gerald at some of the craft schools in the Eastern States on a somewhat regular basis.

Gerald will be handling the fundamentals classes and Darryl will be running the advanced classes. Mark Aspery will be manning the intermediate section with a basic forge welding class and a tool-making class.

Gerald's class will explore the basic tenets of blacksmithing using leaf-making as a vehicle. Hammers, hammer swings and types of blow along with tapers and spreading will get you well on your way as a beginning smith. Gerald's attention to detail and a seemingly unending supply of patience and a healthy sense of humor will be a boon to the new smith in this class.

Darryl will focus on two-dimensional animal heads and the related tooling for his classes. The steps used to complete an animal head in 2D are very similar to Darryl's 3D heads but are a little easier to complete given the time frame that we will be operating within. Darryl will be showing the larger three-dimensional heads during his demonstration at the conference.

Mark Aspery will be looking at forge-welding in the gas forge making a flux spoon and a BBQ fork for his first class and tool making for his second class. The tool-making class will focus on a section of his tool-making demonstration given during the conference. This will give some smiths a chance to try their hand at some of the things they may have seen at the demo.

If we have time, Mark might try to fit in an evening talk about basic heat treatment and offer a practical demonstration for those interested.

ABANA has arranged to borrow 'BAM's' well-provisioned equipment trailer to make up a section of the teaching station, along with the existing ABANA equipment the teaching area will be much larger than any past conference.

Many thanks to the BAM Board of Directors! We should have a mix of gas and coal forges and upwards of a dozen anvils at the teaching station.

Don't forget to bring your personal safety equipment if you would like to participate in the classes. We are planning to have some seating available at the teaching station for those that prefer to watch but not participate.

Gallery Open to Public  
"Green Coal" Forges  
Memphis Style Banquet  
Top Demonstrators  
Tailgate Heaven  
Vendors for the Craft  
Lectures & Workshops

"We will preserve a meaningful bond with the past. We will serve the needs of the present, and we will forge a bridge to the future. Function and creativity is our purpose. Our task is great and so is our joy."

Dimitri Gerakaris, 1973



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Agricenter  
International  
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Memphis  
Tennessee  
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June 2-5 2010  
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Log on [ABANA.org](http://ABANA.org) website and sign-up for Constant Contact emails, email address in the box at the bottom of the home page, click on "Get ABANA Email". You will receive periodic ABANA 2010 Conference News.

The ABANA 2010 Conference will be held at the Agricenter International in Memphis, TN. Located at 7777 Walnut Grove Road, from I-240, on the east side of Memphis, take Exit 13 and drive east on Walnut Grove Road approximately 4.2 miles to Farm Road and turn south, go .1 mile.

The Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization whose purposes are to teach, promote, and preserve the art of blacksmithing. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. FABA publishes the Florida Clinker Breaker monthly, and FABA membership includes a subscription. We solicit correspondence and unpaid articles on any subjects related to FABA's purposes. ABANA chapter newsletters may reprint non-copyrighted material if it is credited to the author and this newsletter. You need the publisher's permission to reprint copyrighted material unless otherwise noted.

### FABA Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Jerry Wolfe</b>	<b>941-355-5615</b>	<b>wolfeforge@hotmail.com</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Charles (Hippie) Pate</b>	<b>850-997-6986</b>	<b>-unknown-</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Juan Holbrook</b>	<b>352-374-8888</b>	<b>talcaforge@craigfitz.net</b>
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<b>Trustee SW</b>	<b>Lisa Ann Connor</b>	<b>813-977-3743</b>	<b>melisandeaubrey@hotmail.com</b>

Steve Bloom, Editor; P.O. Box 760; Archer, FL 32618; (352) 528-6508 or [smith@blacksmithing.org](mailto:smith@blacksmithing.org); <http://www.blacksmithing.org>

### FABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association, Inc.  
 Founding member Southern Blacksmith Association.  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ New      Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City                      State              Zip  
 Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Send application & a membership fee of \$25.00 to

Juan Holbrook, FABA Treasurer  
 6418 NW 97 Court  
 Gainesville, FL 32653

Make check out to FABA. Your FABA membership begins when we receive your payment and lasts one year. Membership is for a family.

Don't list me in the directory [  ]



February 2010

*The Florida Clinker Breaker*  
 FLORIDA ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION  
 Juan Holbrook, Membership Records  
 6418 NW 97 Court  
 Gainesville, FL 32653