



March 2010

The Florida Clinker Breaker

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association - Established May 18, 1985

Presidents Message

Jerry Wolfe

As members of FABA you are the "face of FABA" to the public. Several of our members are making good impressions by demonstrating at public venues (see Pg.6); some examples are SE Fair - Nathan Nettles; Manatee Co Fair - Bethany Allen-Ford & Steve Berglund; DeSoto National Memorial - Steve Berglund; Florida FlyWheelers - Harlan Fisher, Mike Berry, Bethany Allen-Ford; Crowley Heritage Festival - Travis Meeks; Ray Nager - Lakeland Heritage Festival. I'm sure there are more that I am not aware; please let me know where you are demonstrating to the public. We have brochures as hand outs for your use, just let me know and I'll send you some.



We are starting to plan our 25th year celebration. Some ideas that have been proposed are commemorative lapel pins or miniature anvil as well as special emphasis at our Barberville Conference in October. WE NEED YOUR IDEAS and COMMENTS, please send them to me or enter them on the feedback tab on the website <http://www.blacksmithing.org/comments/comment.aspx>. Our history show we had 44 charter members in July 1985 and now 10 of those are still members. THANK YOU to those 10 (and many others) for continuing our heritage of promoting the blacksmith skills. I want to hear stories from all those who were there in the beginning - so as you think of significant events, jot me a note.

Scholarship - This is a great opportunity for any of our members to take a class and learn something new. Please apply. Nathan Nettles our 2009 winner is planning to attend a class with Uri Hofi.

Life membership - The proposal of creating a Life member category has had minimal comments, so it may die due to lack of interest. If you are a younger member and have the funds (? \$500 proposed) it would be a great deal - Let me know if you have interest.

I had the opportunity to visit the SE region for their Jan 16th meeting; we had a great time at Ray and Anne Reynolds and I am getting to meet some new members.

I would like to welcome seven new members: Gordon DeVoss; William & Lee Fortenberry; Michael & Andrea Kola; Melanie & Timothy Harding; Rourke & Denise Garrett; Paul (The Czech) & Ruth Muinch; Phillip & Susan Watson. Thanks for joining FABA. (Note to us old members - get acquainted; find someone you do not know by name and get their name and learn something about their skills.

SAFETY TIP: I recently read an article about someone who almost died because they used brake fluid as a solvent, then welded the item. Many of the fluids we have around us are dangerous - BE CAREFUL and READ THE LABEL

A Moment of Culture for Smiths

Juan González de la Torre's *Docientas preguntas con sus respuestas en versos diferentes* (Madrid, 1590)

Trans. by Tyler Fisher

Question:

What men are those who please our ears,
though not by flutes or three-stringed fiddles?
Theirs are not the tunes we hear
from organs, bugles, lutes, or minstrels.
In fire and wind, in sun and rain,
in house and street, in fairs and plazas,
forging art with cadent strains,
they're jolly well a joy to witness.

Answer

The answer is (and I should know)
the hammer-pounders known as blacksmiths,
locksmiths, welders, tinkers — those
who vex the milksops and neurotics.
By night, by day, throughout the year,
they pound their anvils, strike their artwork,
yielding sounds that please the ear,
as shepherds lull their flocks with music.

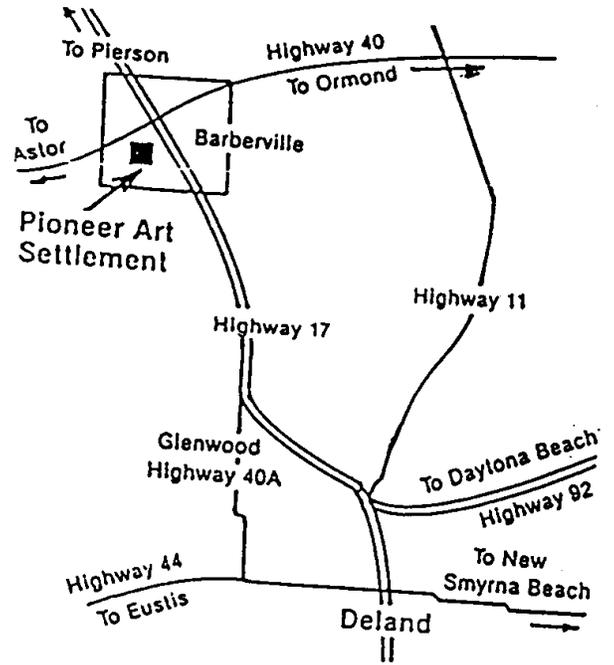
Upcoming Events

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:

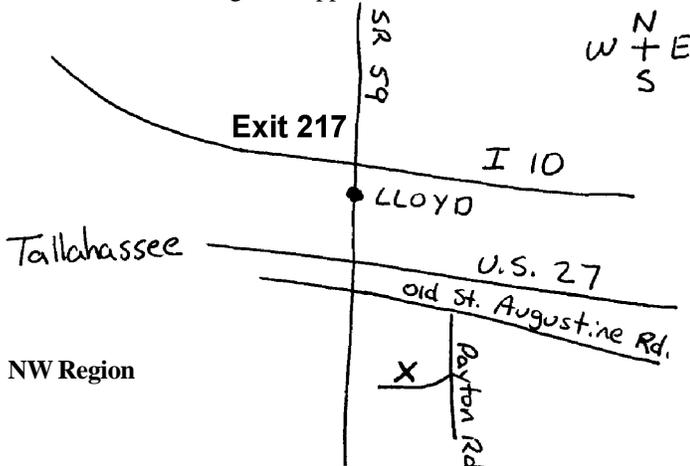
Northeast Region	Mitch Widham	386-673-0174	mwidham@cfl.rr.com
Northwest Region	Billy Christie	850-421-1386	chriswoodforge@embarqmail.com
Southeast Region	--needs a volunteer - what about you?		
Southwest Region	Lisa Ann Connor	813-977-3743	MelisandeAubrey@hotmail.com

March 2010

- NE 06 Open Forges @ Barberville
- NW 13 "Payton Forge" outside of Monticello, FL. see NW report
- SE 20 Pete & Carolyn Yockey, West Palm Beach -see SE report
- SW 27 - Phil Pauley Shop - Port Charlotte - Demonstrations on candle holder making and copper work.

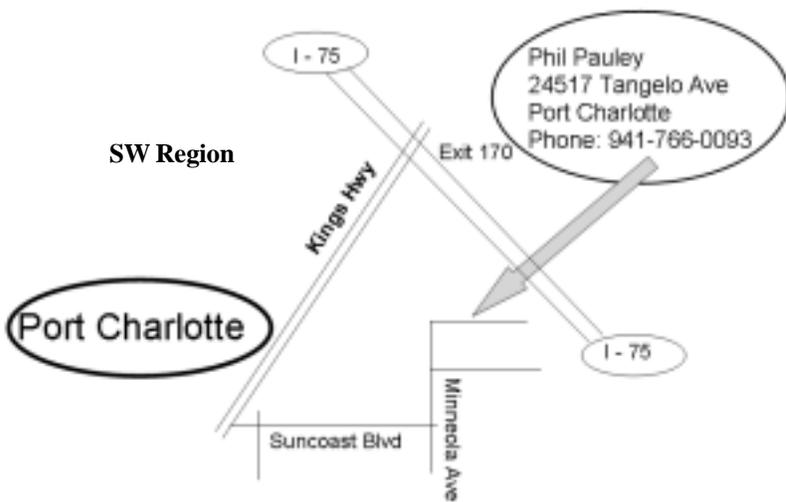


NE Region



NW Region

From I-10, take **Exit 217** (SR59) south past Lloyd and Highway 27. Turn east on Old St. Augustine Rd, the next road south of Highway 27. Go about a mile east, then turn south on Payton Road (unpaved). Head south about a half mile, and watch for the anvil on the right.



SW Region



SE REGION
 & Carolyn Yockey
 25 Monica Drive
 Palm Beach, FL 33406
 (407) 968-1661

SE Region

Future Events

- 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

L

Report from the Northeast

Mitch Widham

Our group gathered once again in the old Smithy at the Pioneer Arts Settlement in Barberville, FL on Saturday the 6th of Feb. We had quite a turnout with over 40 folks signing the roster; I think all our Snowbird Smiths are back in town. We are fortunate to have a good mix of young and old in our group, also several new members came out, and were able to get on the forge with the tutelage of senior members. The weather held out and we had several coal fires throughout the shop and the old, Little Giant Power hammer banging away. You got to love the smells and sounds of an active shop. Everyone is to be commended for bring quality "Junk" to the Buck in the Bucket, much better stuff, and we raised over \$110 for FABA, also another \$90 was raised to aid one of our members that is off to John C Campbell Folk School. Additionally, Our Trustee, Kathy Thomas, sold \$50 worth of FABA T-shirts. Your generosity is much appreciated, especially in these trying times, Thank You all.

The food was wonderful again with many specialty dishes brought to share, I noticed not many leftovers going home this month. I haven't been to a lot of the other regions meeting, but I would have to think we have some of the best cooks, please remember to tell your cook how much we enjoy her dishes. Well I am finally starting to receive some positive suggestions and feedback. One member suggested that for a fundraiser for FABA that we compile a cookbook of favorite recipes that we bring to meetings. Another member suggested that our group make a complete set of camping ironware for the action at the conference. We have also been tasked to make 3 sets of strap hinges for the new storage room at the Settlement, so we have our work cut out for us. Hoping to see you all in good health, next month Saturday March 6th at Barberville.

L

Report from the Northwest

Billy Christie

The Northwest Region of FABA had the January 9, 2010 meeting at Jeff & Brook Mohr's Mockingbird Forge in Crawfordville, Florida. We had 38 blacksmiths brave the cold, windy weather. With the forge going, a fire in the fire pit, two propane heaters (thanks Mike Bettinger), the big smoker (thanks John Watson), and numerous trips back and forth to the house, and it was still cold.

Our feature demonstrator was Jeff Mohr and the project for the day was how to make a three dimensional fish. This can

be used on many different projects, like a centerpiece in a lamp, gate or trellis. He started by cutting two identical silhouettes of the desired type of fish; he then hammered in the scales, using a "C" shaped chisel. Next he heated them up to a good red (one at a time), then hammering the center of the body & head down into a dished out depression (Jeff used an Oak stump). Before it cools, you need to keep the outside edge of the body & fins flat (so the two halves can be welded together later). When heating up the second half make sure that you dish it in the correct direction, so you have two opposite halves. After you are satisfied with both sides, weld them together, now hammer out the fins. As usual it turned out great and Jeff made it look easy. Thanks Jeff!

There were some great hand forged items in the "Iron in the Hat" along with other neat objects. A BIG thank you to Sally Watson for helping out by drawing the winning tickets which brought in a total of \$167.00.

A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all, thanks to Brooke and her helpers. A special thanks to John Watson for bringing his custom smoker.

As always it was a very educational and entertaining day.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL MEETING

Clyde Payton

The MARCH NORTHWEST REGIONAL MEETING will be held at Clyde and Vi Payton's shop. This will be on SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2010 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm EST. The PAYTONS are located at 250 Payton Road, Monticello, FL 32344-7002, Telephone 850-997-3627 and 850-210-5177. E-mail at paytonforge@nettally.com (look to this issue for a map). Feel free to call if you have any questions.

We have a very special program lined up for you – we are going to have a "Memorial Demonstration" in memory of Jay Reakirt. You will recall that Jay – who passed away four years ago – was the Resident Blacksmith for old Andersonville, Georgia. Jay also did demonstrations at several Regional FABA meets down through the years.

Jay Reakirt's "Understudy" was Trenton (Trent) Tye of Albany, Georgia. Also studying with Jay and Tye was Aaron Peck of Tallahassee, FL. Trent is going to demonstrate some of the articles that were so popular with Jay and many of these articles will be on display at the "Show and Tell" table. During demonstrations both Trent and Aaron will intersperse with colorful stories and antidotes about Jay. Trent not only is a good blacksmith but a good entertainer as well.

We will also have exhibits of other Arts and Crafts – the main of which will be a demonstration of jewelry making by Marla Peck. Marla will have some of her beautiful jewelry available for sale.

A Show and Tell table will welcome any of your prized show off pieces – so bring them. Also bring something to donate to the Iron-in-the-Hat table.

The TAILGATE SALES area is always a big hit at this Regional Meeting – so bring your craft work, your surplus tools, or whatever to sell.

LUNCH will be served at 12:00 noon – please bring a covered dish to share. And maybe your folding chair.

Call the above numbers if you need directions or have any questions.

Hope to see you on Saturday, March 14th.

Report from the Southwest

Jerry Wolfe

Our SW region meeting on January 23rd at Wolfe Forge was attended by 12 folks. Our Iron in the Hat resulted in \$25 for FABA. The demonstration was table elements. A mortise and tenon joint was made on 1" square stock with a 5/8" bar as a cross piece. A "multiple scroll table leg" was made by several folks who volunteered to help. Well maybe I forced them.

Pictures are of Phil Pauley and Jerry Wolfe making a tenon for a table leg and Raymond Card and Jerry Wolfe riveting a scroll table leg



Report from the Southeast

Ralph Nettles

January was another successful meeting for the Southeast Region, Ray and Ann Reynolds hosted the event, 17 people attended with Ray doing the demo of a vegetable / pizza chopper, 8 people completed the project. Lunch was covered dish with plenty for everyone. I would like to thank everyone for helping with and attending the past two meetings of the Southeast region I feel that the revival of our region is well on its way. Thank You Thank You Thank You

The February meeting will be at the Boy Scout camp with Nathan Nettles presenting the demo on forging knife blades if you're not into knives there will be open forges for heating and beating on your favorite project. Sandwich fixings will be provided for lunch, bring some chips or sides to share.

The March meeting will be at Pete and Carolyn Yockey's house in West Palm Beach we will have two or three belt grinders set up for grinding the knife blades that were forged at the February meeting, time permitting we will cover mounting handles, there will be open forges for those not in to knives.

FABA at the South Florida Fair

The South Florida Fair ran from January 14 through January 31. Part of the Fair is Yesteryear Village with a Blacksmith Shop. FABA was well represented by Nathan Nettles who worked all 17 days with a total of 158 hours, Roxane Nettles with 103 hours and Ralph Nettles with 67 hours. Thanks to Danny Cunniff who worked two nights giving the Nettles family a break. We handed out more than 40 FABA brochures and took the contact information from 10 to 12 people who had more than a passing interest in blacksmithing. Nathan's 25 pound Little Giant was a big hit drawing a big crowd every time it was fired up

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.

Walt Anderson Scholarship

Applications are still being accepted up to June 15, 2010. The critical information was published in the January issue and is posted on the web. If you need a copy and can't access either of these sources, give the Editor a call and I'll mail you one.

For Sale - Power Hammer

50-lb Little Giant power hammer. Combination die set, fairly new motor. In excellent condition--price \$3,500. Contact Patty Draper at 850-668-2876 or applecrossforge@nettally.com.

Needed-Pickets for the Folk School

Due to the newsletter deadlines and the projected deadline for the pickets, there is unlikely to be time to make anything by the time you see this. I've posted the critical info under **Notices** on the website, so if you are inclined to help, check out the spes there.

CUSTOM KNIFE SHOW & SALE

The Panhandle Pioneer Settlement will be having a Custom Knife Show and Sale on Saturday April 24, 2010 at 8 A.M. CST. The Southern Knife makers will be at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement to show and sell one of a kind knives. If you enjoy hand made knives, this is the place to be on Saturday the 24 of April. If you do not see a knife that you want then talk with knife makers and order your own custom made knife.

There will be a knife making demo at the Settlement Blacksmith Shop beginning at 10:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. See the blades hammered out to shape from the Forge to the Anvil.

Bring your family, your father, your brother, your neighbor; enjoy this 2nd Annual event at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown, Florida. There is a \$5.00 admission fee (kids under 12 are free).

The Panhandle Pioneer Settlement is a living museum documenting rural life in NW Florida since the early 1800's. It is located in Sam Atkins Park, about 1 mile west of the intersection of Hwy 71 and Hwy20. Follow HWY 20 West out of Blountstown. Look for signs for Sam Atkins Park. Turn North at Lindy's Fried Chicken (Silas Green St.). Follow the signs.

For more information, contact the Settlement at 674-2777 or go to: www.ppmuseum.org
For further directions and information on the historic buildings at the Settlement



Harlan Fisher and Mike Berry demonstrating at the Florida Flywheelers near Avon Park



Travis Meeks with "apprentice Lisa" demonstrating at Crowley Museum (I hear wedding bells are going to ring in May)



Bethany Allen-Ford demonstrating at the Manatee County Fair



Ray Nager (one of our charter members) demonstrating at the Lakeland Historical Festival

Friction Folders

Steve Bloom

As promised last month, what follows is a description of my approach to friction folders. If you're interested in these and other 'primitive' folders, you ought to be aware of Gene Chapman's books (see references).

I start with selecting an antler tip - what I look for is one that is as close as possible to round in cross section, with a decent curve (which defines the blade plane) and that is symmetrical as possible on either side of the curve. The thickness of the tip and the projected blade length controls where to cut it (see Fig.1). The cut mark is about 4" from the end.



Figure 1: Antler tip

The next stage is to saw the antler along the blade plane. It isn't easy to hold the piece rock steady when sawing, so (of course), I built a jig (Fig.2). It consists of a wood base, two edge blocks with long bolts that press on the two sliding clamps. Those clamps are held down by two bolts that slide along slots cut in the base. The blade plane is marked and the side clamps adjusted until the tip is held in the correct orientation.



Figure 2: Sawing jig

Sawing is done on a wood cutting bandsaw. Since the tip is being compressed by the clamps, it's only a short matter of time before the blade binds. To prevent that, as soon as the blade is fully inside the tip, a small wooden wedge is inserted into the slit (Fig.3) to keep it from closing and to maintain the clamp force which keeps the tip from creating more excitement than you really want. I typically saw until there is approximately 0.75" left unsawn. This is a definite judgement call - leave too much and the blade will be shorter, saw too deep and the tip might fail. Let the dimension of the tip and the quality of the material dictate the decision. My band saw has about a 0.04" kerf and the usual blade material is close to 0.125", so I usually make three passes. To maintain the setup, the saw is turned off, the blade is moved back until it's



Figure 3: Wedge in use

back edge is about to touch the tip of the wedge. A second wedge is tapped into the slit in front of the blade and the first wedge is removed. The 2nd (and eventually, the 3rd) cut is started and the process described above is repeated.

Unless you are far better at sawing than me, the slit is anything but smooth, especially after multiple passes. While you can either use a file or sandpaper stretched over some scrap sheet steel to sand the walls of the slit, I've found that slipping it over the belt on my Bader (Fig.4) and rubbing it back and forth works. Since the Bader turns over at 2800 SFPM (31 MPH), this is done with the motor OFF. Because I get real lazy at times, I did try it on my variable speed 2x72 grinder at dead slow and was able to (1) sand the slit and (2) kept all my finger tips. If you want to try this with a motor running, first envision what will happen when the tip slips out of your fingers and goes for a ride.



Figure 4: Smoothing the slit

Since the blade has to pivot in the slip, it is critical that the hole that the pivot pin rides in has to be perpendicular to the slit. Given the irregularity of the usual antler tip, this is NOT easy to do so free handed. Yup -- another jig is coming.

I made a drill plate from pieces of scrap 16 gauge steel about 3" square and drilled a 1/2" hole on the center line, close to one edge (Fig.5). Slip as many plates needed to approximate the thickness of the blade (probably 2)



Figure 5: Drill jigs

into the slit and positioned the tip over the hole. On a drill press, clamp the assembly in a cross-slide vise with the plate resting on a set of parallels. This gets you close to making the hole in the correct orientation. Unfortunately, there is a flaw....when the drill bit hits the other side of the tip below the sheet, the other side of the tip will be pushed away. To stop that from happening and to lock the tip in the correct orientation on the drill plate, I fabricated a small clamp from some scrap angle iron and a couple of bolts (Fig. 5 - the blue object). The clamp has two drill ports to allow drilling through the clamp, top and bottom.

Once the tip is locked to the plate and the plate is locked in the drill-press vise, the pivot hole can be drilled accurately. Because of the dimensions of the pivot tube to be used, the hole is drilled with a #22 bit (0.157").



Figure 6: Drill jigs in use

If you don't want to fabricate the clamp, you might want to pick up a 6" hardwood handscrew clamp (Harbor Freight; 6986-1VGA; ~\$6) which ought to work with a bit of modification.

Since I want to use a 6x32 stainless button head cap screw, I also need to drill a recess for the screw head. It turns out that the head is just about 0.25" in diameter, so a 0.25" two-flute center-cutting end mill will do the trick. After drilling the hole and before moving the assembly, I swap the end mill for the drill bit and make the recess (about 0.125" deep). I then flop the whole assembly over, replace the drill bit and use the cross slide to reposition the assembly so that the drill bit will



Figure 7: Blade tip pocket

slide into the pivot hole. The vise is locked and the end mill employed again to make the second recess.

The last step on the actual tip is to create a blade tip pocket (Fig.7). Eventually, the blade must store in the tip without exposing the edge. An easy way to achieve this is to grind a slope at the end of the slit with a micro die grinder. I use a 1/8" carbide bit (because I have it, that's why!) and try for about a 45 degree slope.

The next item is the pivot tube. I could have used a rivet rather than the semi-elaborate scheme I'm about to describe, but what fun is that? Besides, the pivot tube allows the user to adjust the level of friction to whatever they prefer.

The pivot tube starts as a 5/32 brass tube (OD=0.156", ID=0.128", K&S Stock#128 - at many ACE Hardware stores) A #6-32 screw has a major and minor diameter of 0.1380 and 0.1312" respectively, so there is enough room to tap threads in the tube (0.104 is a 75% thread, so 0.125 is a bit loose). The

trick to tapping a fragile, small tube is the same one used for cutting mosaic pins. Get a small block of hardwood - say 3/4" x 1" x 2" (oak is fine). Drill an undersized hole (in this case, a #23 bit) through the 3/4" side about 1/2" in from one end and on the center line. Bandsaw a cut through the hole and out the other side (leaving 3/4" uncut). You can now slip the tube into the hole and clamp the block in a vise. The tube won't crush and won't move -- well -- at least for me (Fig.8).

I measure the width of the tip at the pivot hole with something close to the blade thickness in the slot. I subtract the depth of the recesses and cut the tube to that length less a midge (that's a metric midge, of course) using a micro-tube cutter. The cutter deforms the tubing inward but the tap doesn't seem to care. I use a neat tool available from MSC (shown in Fig.8) to do the



Figure 8: Tapping tools

tapping. It consists of a tap holder which sleeves into a stabilization sheath. You hold the sheath with one hand while turning the holder with the other. It pays for itself by dramatically decreasing the number of broken taps. I run a 6x32 tap through the tube, clean up the ends if needed and the pivot tube is done.

To make the action a bit smoother, I use a pair of copper washers on either side of the blade. The washers are made with a precision punch set (basically two blocks of plexiglass with specific aligned holes and corresponding polished punches (Fig.9). I use a 5/8" strip of thin copper (0.010") and punch a 3/16" . I then use the alignment tool shown in Fig. 9 to center that hole in the 1/2" well. The actual 1/2" punch is then inserted, driven home and another washer is born.



Figure 9: Washer creation

The last major step is the design of the blade. Since every

The last major step is the design of the blade. Since every

antler tip is likely to be unique, so will every blade. I start by punching a hole in an index card and drawing a circle centered on the hole. The diameter of the circle is just a bit smaller than the height

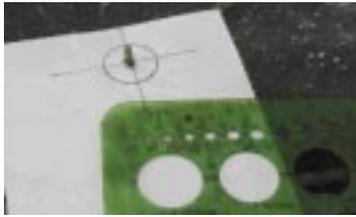


Figure 10: Initial layout

of the tip at the pivot point. I find that an old plastic template is a nice tool for this but a compass would work just as well.

The next step is to trace the outline of the tip on the card (making

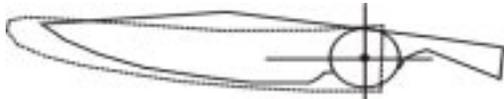


Figure 11: Completed layout

sure the hole in the card corresponds to the pivot hole, then sketch in a edge inside the outline of the tip (see Fig.11). Sketch in a tip that will fit in the blade pocket mentioned above. Pick a spot outside of the tip and about midway between the pivot and the tip. Connect the tip to that point and draw a line from that point to beyond the circle. Add a fat tail and the layout is completed. Cut out the blade and slip in into position. I use an 'L' shaped 1/8" diameter wire as a stand in for the pivot tube. What results is shown in Fig.12.

Move the blade until it makes a pleasing angle to the handle, then mark the paper along the upper edge of the handle. That process defines the shape of the tail. The final result is shown in



Figure 12: Paper blade in place

Fig.13 - the model to be used for cutting out the blade.

I used 624 layer random-pattern Damascus for my blades. The material was forged down to approximately 1/8" x 1" and annealed. The blade profile was scribed onto the bar and the was cut out using a vertical/horizontal bandsaw (a Harbor



Figure 13: Final blade profile

Freight cheapie with a decent bimetal blade). I used my precision surface grinder to take the material down to approximately 0.11" (translation - I keep grinding until the hammer marks were gone on both sides). The bevels were then ground taking care not to mess up the pivot area (the circle mentioned above). This process is greatly enhanced by making a blade holder (Fig.14). The holder is a strip of 3/

16" x 2" aluminum about 8" long with a 1.5" piece drilled and tapped as shown. The pivot area is clamped (and is thus safe) and the blade can be ground by hand. The holder can also be used for sharpening after heat treating and etching. If you are not using Damascus, just buy some precision ground



Figure 14: Blade holder

tool steel and saw away.

Heat treat the blade appropriately. Of course, it's not a bad idea to trial fit before heat treating - just in case the tip needs adjustment. You also need to decide what type of 'bob' you want on the tail of the blade. You can simple roll up the end (probably using a torch for heat - and remember to normalize!) . You can also solder on a couple pieces of mokume or nickel silver or just use a copper rivet. If you plan on doing this, be sure to drill the appropriate hole in the tail before the heat treat.

All that is left is to assemble the knife. Run a cap screw into one end of the pivot tube, slide it in just enough to catch a washer, the a touch more to catch the blade, then a tad more to catch the other washer and push it home. A tiny wood wedge to spread the sides and a thin push stick helps a lot here. Screw in the remaining cap screw and adjust the tension and you are done.



References

- Chapman, Gene (1993). Penny Knife - A Colonial Style Folding Knife. 19 pgs.
- Chapman, Gene (1994). Little Ugliers - Blacksmith Folding Knives. 12 pgs.
- Chapman, Gene (1995). Antler & Iron II - Building a Mountain Man Folding Knife. 40 pgs.
- Chapman, Gene (1996). Country Knives. 26 pgs.

One source is <http://www.oakandiron.com/>

Shop Safety Tips-Hazards of Iron Dust

John Zile

When we do something not knowing any better, it's a mistake. When we do it again, it's stupid. I was stupid again last week, so you listen up, and don't be stupid. Heed my warning.

A few years ago I was using a die grinder to enlarge a hole in a cast iron forge to accept a new fire pot. I was inside my shop with all the doors shut grinding away, not feeling the affects of the fine partials of cast iron dust building up in my lungs. I finished up and started for the house and about didn't make it. I couldn't breath. I got worse by the next day because the iron partials were rusting in my lungs. When they rust the partials get larger, making it worse. First you think your going to die, then you get worse and hope you can die. I am not kidding about this either, it's that bad. Take my word for it. DON'T BE Stupid. Last week I was helping a man, in my shop, to build a rebar cage for a concrete base for a sign. Rebar is to hard to cut with a saw, and you can burn yourself up cutting it with a torch. We used a chop saw with an abrasive blade, with vacuumed on the blade, and an overhead air filter running, but with all the doors and windows shut. After about 4 cuts I could taste the iron and told him to stop .I got the torch and finished the job. The next day I had a sharp ,continual pain in my back below my shoulder blade on the right side. I went to the doctor and I have an infection in my right lung. I am having to take steroids, antibiotics and a pill to counter the steroids .I have reactions to steroids that almost killed me the last time I took them, hence the counter pill. If you have to use a chop saw, use it outside, preferably in a tornado, but always look for a better way. I thought I learned the hard way, but I didn't learn because I did it again. I WAS STUPID. Please heed my warning and don't be stupid. This is suppose to be fun. It is not fun when you are in a

continual state of healing, and know that you have damage that will likely be permanent. Forge hard ,but forge smart. Don't be stupid like me.

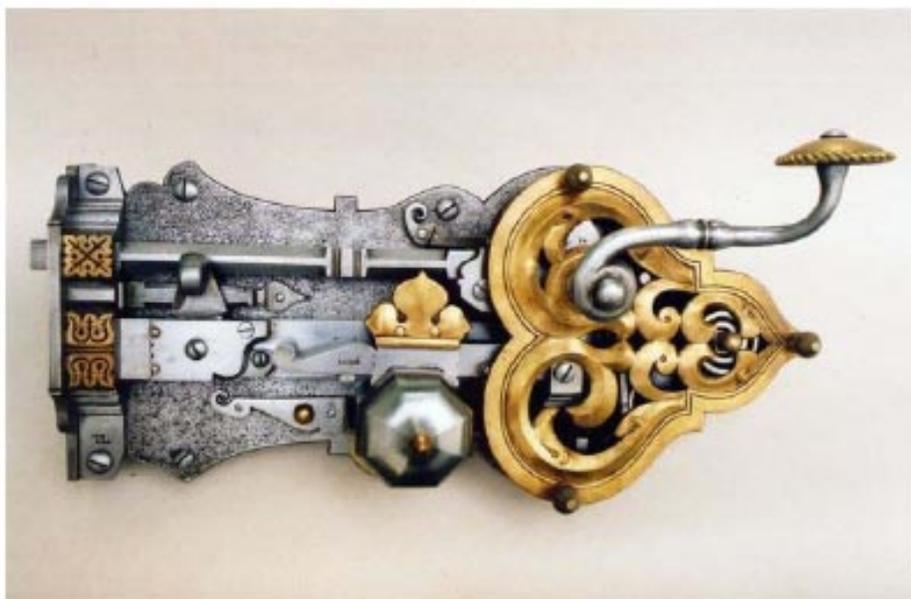
Acetylene Safety Tip

Ted Stout

Please pass this on to anyone you know who use oxy-acetylene. Also, add to this that we 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. Free acetylene is a white goey liquid that when exposed to air is highly explosive.

Editors note: the photo at right is the remnant of a plumbers van that contained a leaking acetylene tank.

Articles from: Indiana Blacksmithing Association - The Forge Fire Newsletter - Jan 2010



Lock made by Tom Latané

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

President	Jerry Wolfe	941-355-5615	wolfeforge@hotmail.com
Vice President	Charles (Hippie) Pate	850-997-6986	-unknown-
Treasurer	Juan Holbrook	352-374-8888	talcaforge@craigfitz.net
Secretary	Jim Labolito	850-567-6464	fernforge@comcast.net
Program Chairman	Mark Stone	850-668-9527	markham62@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor	Steve Bloom	352-528-6508	sabloom@ironflower.com
Past President	Rex Anderson	850.997-2748	rexaanderson@embarqmail.com
Trustee NE	Kathy Thomas	386-985-4756	ramsheadstudios@bellsouth.net
Trustee NW	Ron Childers	850-878-8537	Ron@munlaw.net
Trustee SE	Ralph Nettles	561-747-5489	ralphnettles@msn.com
Trustee SW	Lisa Ann Connor	813-977-3743	melisandeaubrey@hotmail.com

Steve Bloom, Editor; P.O. Box 760; Archer, FL 32618; (352) 528-6508 or 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 []



March 2010

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