

June 2010



*The Florida*

# Clinker Breaker

**Florida Artist Blacksmith Association - Established May 18, 1985**

## **Presidents Message**

*Jerry Wolfe*

Our 25th year is almost half over and we really have not started to celebrate yet. The committee headed by Clyde Payton is diligently evaluating ideas and planning some major activities for our annual conference in October. I'm sure you will not want to miss this 25 year celebration on Oct 8-10.



I would like to welcome our new members: Christa Fairbrother & Daniel Hahn of Gulfport; James Elliott of Pembroke Pines; Richard & Anne Mara of Monticello Jerry & Mary Standifer of Terra Ceia Island

And I'm happy to report our Past President Bill Robertson who moved to Bridgeville PA is still a member of FABA – Thanks Bill.

We are trying to make sure all our membership records are UP TO DATE; so you may be getting a notice of 0 or 1 months till your dues need to be paid. Please pay promptly so those who handle these matters will not be burdened with extra work. If you stop getting the Clinker Breaker; that's a clue, so you won't be reading this either.

I am aware of at least two occasions in the past month where out of state and even out of country visitors come to a meeting based on information on our website. Indiana folks at Steve Blooms – NORWAY blacksmith at Trez Coles. So coordinators, please plan interesting meetings and keep the website up to date with actually what will be happening at the meetings. I'm sure Steve will update the website if we need to change things for unforeseeable conditions.

Demonstrations are always interesting to watch and help each one of us to learn new techniques or things we can try at our own shops. There are many good smiths in FABA, so if you coordinators need someone, let's get the word out and I'm sure we will have many volunteers.

It's not too late to make your plans to attend the 2010 ABANA conference in Memphis TN. ABANA plans lots of very interesting demonstrations and there is always lots of things to see and learn. They only occur every 2 years, so catch it while you can.

**SAFETY MESSAGE:** Ear protection will cut the noise of the anvil's ring to tolerable levels. If you own a power hammer, or any motorized power tool, ear protection will help avoid hearing loss when using these tools as well. Ear plugs and ear muffs are both acceptable.

Let's try something just to see if you read this. Send a note to wolfeforge@hotmail.com and tell me which paragraph had information you did not know. That's not too hard, just do it.

## **Changes in Membership Processing**

*Steve Bloom*

Up to now, a member who did not renew has typically been sent a copy of the newsletter and when they did renew, their payment was depreciated by the time they were in arrears. Unfortunately, this policy meant that we were sending out upwards of 25% of the mailings to folks who either had forgotten to renew or who had decided not to. In some cases, this amounted to over two years of free newsletters. That was hardly fair to the folks who were carrying the load for those who were no longer members.

Henceforth, you mailing labels will note the number of months left on your membership. When there is 1 left, a special notice sticker will appear on your issue, reminding you to renew. When your membership has expired, we'll send you one last copy with another reminder and then, that's all she wrote!

We're exploring using Paypal as an alternative to writing a check. The cost would be \$25.75 (because Paypal charges us 3%) but since you won't be writing a check and using a \$.44 stamp, the cost to you will be virtually unchanged. Please let me know what you think.

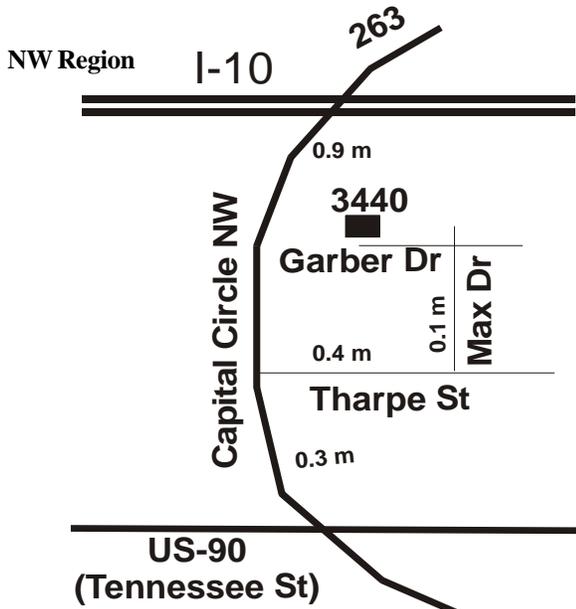
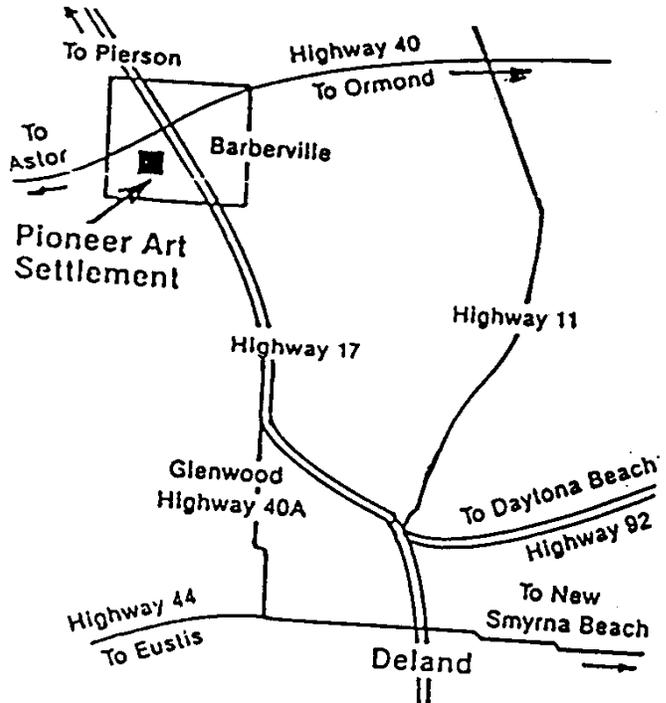
Upcoming Events

The calender 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:

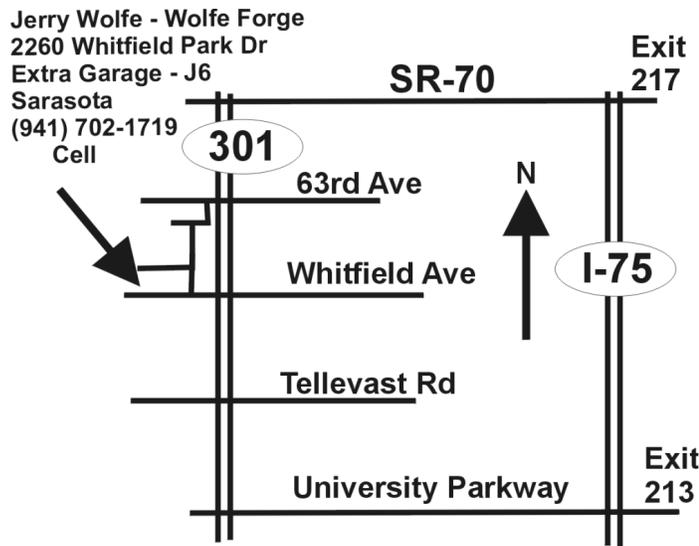
Northeast Region	Mitch Widham	386-673-0174	mwidham@cfl.rr.com
Northwest Region	Billy Christie	850-421-1386	chriswoodforge@embarqmail.com
Southeast Region	Ralph Nettles	561-747-5489	ralphnettles@msn.com
Southwest Region	Lisa Ann Connor	813-977-3743	MelisandeAubrey@hotmail.com

June 2010

- NE 05 Barberville - open forges \*
  - NW 12 Mike Bettinger's Welding 3440 Garber Road, Tallahassee, FL. John Butler demonstrating
  - SE 19 contact Ralph
  - SW 26 Wolfe Forge-Jerry doing cable Damascus
- \* nothing came in by the deadline. Contact the coordinator and/or keep an eye on the website



Mike Bettinger Welding  
3440 Garbpr Dr, Tallahassee



SE Region  
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.

SW Region

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### Future Events

NW July 10-- The Tallahassee Museum of History & Natural Science Mike Murphy & Scott Purvis of Possum Forge, demonstrating

SW Aug 28 -- Quarterly meeting Lisa Ann Conner's birthday - details to follow

NW Aug 14-- Bill Adams's Blind Hog Forge Havana, FL.

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### Report from the Northeast

*Steve Bloom*

Mitch hasn't sent me the stats and I was way too busy to get them myself - comes from being demonstrator and host simultaneously, I guess. So I don't have a clue about money raised and the actual head count.

We had lots of folks appear - including some local glassworkers- I must get over to their shop! The usual "treasures" appeared for Buck-in-the-Bucket (and Allen Hardwicke's contribution of a sweeper left over from his meeting is now left over from mine...anyone else get the smell of a pink elephant migrating around Florida?)

There was and has been a disappointing response to the idea of a group project to finish the chest (see last month's issue), so that idea is kaput.

The mokume gana from quarters went well - especially when I finally realized that heating up a couple of slabs of steel and then sandwiching the stack between them when compacting the stack is the way to go - no more central quarters spreading more than the terminal ones. Several people made their own stacks, to we may see more moko showing up. What we really need is a rolling mill! Considering that I have (1) copper; (2) nickel foil; (3) torsion plates; (4) stainless steel foil; and (5) a digitally controlled Paragon oven, maybe it's time to try some solid-diffusion mokume.

The chili disappeared as the usual rate and everyone seemed to have a good time (with the last person pulling out at approximately 4:00 PM, much to the disappointment of the dogs who had been waiting since 8:00 AM to jump up on and slobber over all the new people).

Back in 1991, I purchased a rebuilt 50 lb Little Giant from Fred Caylor and it has been used reasonably hard in making beaucoup billets of Damascus. The poor beast was beginning to limp, so I finally broke down and bought the Little Giant Rebuilding DVD and clutch lining material from Sid Suedmeier (<http://www.littlegianthammer.com>). After resurfacing the clutch (and having hands that looked like I had been doing internal surgery on the Tar Baby), I reassembled the hammer as well as implementing some tips provided by Sid. I had forgotten just what a beast a 50lb'er is when it has a fresh clutch! If you have a Little Giant, you will want that DVD!

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### Report from the Northwest

*Billy Christie*

The April 10, 2010 NW meeting was hosted by Willard & Linda Smith at the beautiful Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown, Florida. We would like to thank the settlement and all the personnel who welcomed us.

The demonstration was conducted by Danny Willis and John Watson. As was noted the headline was "Think Fire". Danny, a living historian and Surgeon for General Jackson, gave a history of fire along with flint and steel. John was on the forge and demonstrated why high carbon steel is required to make a spark in the first step of fire making.

A number of strikers were made in various shapes which were an oval, a "C", a "J", a heart, and a snake. Once a striker was made a fire was soon to follow. In addition to the striker, Danny explained the need for flint, char cloth, and nesting material as items required to make a real fire.

They continued through the demonstration in a well versed form starting fires, talking about safety, & answering questions; all the while providing humor & entertainment for the 25 that signed in plus all the visitors who passed through the blacksmith area. John concluded with the making of a Miners Knife, which has a small blade with a twisted handle and a loop at the end to hold a candle.

The "Iron in the Hat" had a number of nice hand forged items along with other treasures. This generated ninety eight dollars. Thanks to Ester Gurr for drawing the winning tickets.

We would like to thank the great cooks at the settlement for providing a delicious lunch, Willard & Linda for inviting us, and John Watson & Danny Willis for the very interesting & educational demonstration.

PS. I would like to let everyone know that the Mission San Luis at 2100 W. Tennessee Street, Tallahassee, FL. has their new (1656-1704) Blacksmith Shop up & forging. (Thanks to Skeeter Prather & volunteers from our club) They also have just completed a beautiful visitor's center, with a museum, theater, gift shop & banquet hall. Plus a new fort, huge council house, church and other interesting things to see.

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### Report from the Southwest

*Jerry Wolfe*

Our SW region meeting on April 24th was at Trez Cole's Nokomis Forge. Trez demonstrated how to make reposesee tools from a coil spring. Cut the loops to get a length of steel (hold in your hand comfortably), determine the shapes desired such as round, square, curved chisel, eye punch; then forge

as required to get the rough shapes. Then you can grind to get the specific shape or use rivet to make an eye punch (heat steel and drive down on rounded rivet head). After the rough shapes are acceptable, then heat treatment is required; heat to "non magnetic" and water quench; then temper to a straw color. Finally grind to the final shape and polish to a FINE finish. Trez recommended CHICAGO 4" angle grinder polishing disks from Harbor Freight; they come in many grit sizes.



**Punch Set**



**Trez Cole and horse head**

Trez also made a horse head that can be used for the handle on a utensil or tool and demonstrated how to make a VINE for attaching leaves.

We had the surprise visit of a "blacksmith from Norway" who



**Norway Couple - Terje & Karen Stamases with son**

was stranded by the Iceland volcanic ash storm. He searched for "something to do" and found a FABAs meeting. It was a real pleasure to get to meet Terje Stamases. He demonstrated making a leaf.

Thank you to all who came; learned something, shared their knowledge and enjoyed a great lunch together. Thanks to Trez for a great meeting.



**Making an ICON from Lithuania**



J. Kent would like to know the purpose of this knife?

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### **Notices, For Sales & Want-Ads**

#### **FABA Board Meeting**

The next meeting will be a teleconference on July 15th at 6:00 PM - contact Jerry if you want to listen in.

#### **Walt Anderson Scholarship**

The deadline is on us - June 15. Check out past issues or the website for details.

#### **Annual Conference 2010**

*Mark Stone*

The 2010 Conference is shaping up and we are excited about celebrating our 25th Anniversary. Our two demonstrators we have lined up are Clay Spencer as our Traditional demonstrator and Ken Durham will be our Bladesmith. We are planning a 25th Anniversary tribute to our Founding Fathers and Charter Members for Friday Evening.

We have a couple of changes we are implementing this year

and need a few volunteers. We are making the **Beginner and Intermediate class instructors volunteer positions**. We need instructors for both classes for Friday thru Sunday morning. The Friday and Saturday afternoon classes run from 2:00 – 5:00 and the Saturday and Sunday morning classes run from 9:00 – 12:00. Volunteering to instruct a class will be a tremendous help to our conference to reduce cost. You would still have plenty of time to catch the demos and other activities scheduled. If you are interested, contact me via e-mail at markham62@comcast.net. The conference is scheduled for October 8 – 10, so mark your calendars and plan to attend what will be a great 25th Anniversary conference. More information will be posted in future *Clinker Breakers* so stay tuned and keep hammering.

**Mea culpa**

It's JordAn Thomas, not "Jordon". My bad -- but at least I'm consistent since I've made that same error a couple of times - and I can't use the excuse about a typo since there are about 7 to 8 keys apart! Sorry 'bout that!

**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.

**Wrought Iron For Sale**

Bill in Ft. Lauderdale? has wrought iron, some old some from around the world & misc.regular iron. Call 954-297-5554

**Gas Forge For Sale**

NEW GAS FORGE, HEAT TO 2190 DEGREES, \$195, THE VILLAGES (Gainesville,Fl) PHONE 352 2995242



**Clamping Holddown**

**Steve Bloom**

The hold down pictured here was made with an old clamp and scrap steel. The wedge is sized to fit through the hardy hole and is chained so I don't lose it. In use, the clamp is adjusted to the correct gap (the thickness of the work) between the face of the anvil and end of the screw. A slap of the hand clamps the work to the anvil and the smith is free to use both hands and to move around while abusing the work.



$$W = D \sqrt{\pi}/2 = 0.866 D$$

**Width = 0.866 Diameter; Diameter = 1.155 Width**

Square Width	Round Diameter	Round Diameter	Square Width
0.125	0.144	0.125	0.108
0.250	0.289	0.250	0.217
0.375	0.433	0.375	0.325
0.500	0.577	0.500	0.433
0.625	0.722	0.625	0.541
0.750	0.866	0.750	0.650
0.875	1.010	0.875	0.758
1.000	1.155	1.000	0.866
1.125	1.299	1.125	0.974
1.250	1.443	1.250	1.083
1.375	1.588	1.375	1.191
1.500	1.732	1.500	1.299
1.625	1.876	1.625	1.407
1.750	2.021	1.750	1.516
1.875	2.165	1.875	1.624
2.000	2.309	2.000	1.732

## BOOK REVIEW

*Clyde Payton*

TITLE: BLACKSMITHING BASICS FOR THE HOMESTEADER

AUTHOR: Joe DeLaRonde

PUBLISHER: GIBBS SMITH, Layton Utah, 2008  
COST: \$14.99

One of our newest FABA members, Mr. Martin Scheese, was showing me a new book on blacksmithing which he had just purchased at a local bookstore. I sat reading it while he did a splendid welding job for me at his home shop near Monticello, Florida.

I was favorably impressed with this new book and straightaway bought my own copy. It's 136 pages. DeLaRonde's intent is to offer the basics to the beginner in a straight forth and SAFE manner. He has achieved this quite well for a book of such few pages. You will appreciate his approach by reading a paragraph from his introduction (page 11):

'Keep in mind that everything covered here will be done in a traditional manner – by eye. Forget pyrometers, degrees, centigrade or Fahrenheit, Rockwell testing, fancy alloy steels, arc welders and the like. You are about to enter the world of the nineteenth-century blacksmith, where skill and dedication to the craft predate mass production, assembly lines, and the computer age.'

DeLaRonde starts his book with pertinent tidbits on the History of Blacksmithing – tells you how to set up your shop – shop safety – basic techniques – how to build and maintain the fire – and the basic blacksmith tools you will need to get started.

He concludes his book by advancing from beginner needs to challenging projects for the intermediate smith – to wit – kitchen tools, tool making, forge welding, tempering, and finishes.

The book is shortcoming somewhat because of scant information on how to actually set up, mount, repair, and use the basic tools of the trade. For example, putting a handle in a hammer and the proper way to set up the leg vise is also basic and vital. But, I too, will have to remember that his book is only 136 pages long!

I recommend this book to all beginners and intermediates.

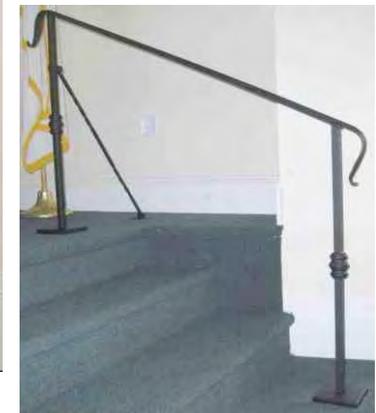
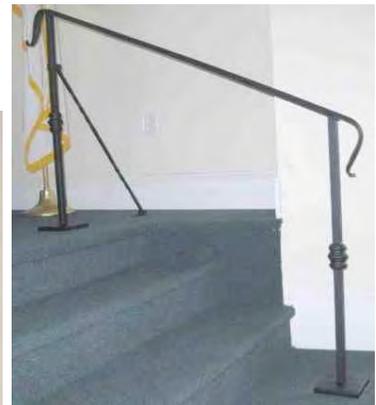
HAPPYHAMMERING,

## Handrails by Clyde Payton

*Paulette Hatfield*

First Baptist Church of Lloyd was blessed recently by the donation of handrails for our Sanctuary platform. These handrails were lovingly designed and crafted by our own blacksmith, Clyde Payton.

Our Sanctuary platform has several steps and it was necessary that assistance be given when the choir or speakers accessed the platform. Clyde saw the need for handrails and graciously volunteered his time and talent. They are a beautiful addition to our new Sanctuary.

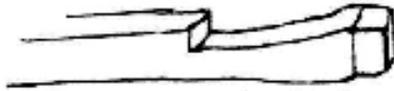
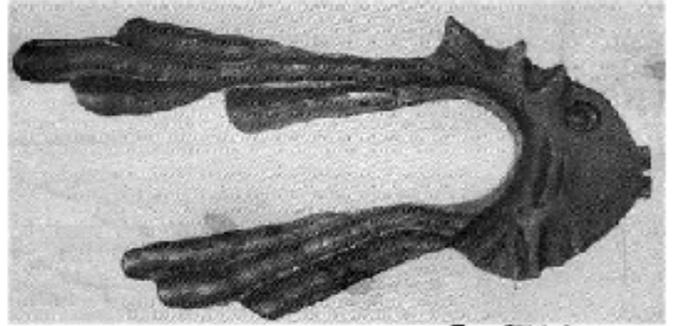


## Chain Saw in Buck-in-the-Bucket



**Joe Davis Fish Demo** by Rob Ehrenberger, Blacksmiths Association of Missouri

Joe used 7-1/2" of 1/2" x 1-1/4" flat bar and divided the bar into 3 equal parts. Why not try it with lighter material as Joe used a power hammer & fly press for this demo. Maybe we can get Ralph Sproul to make a big fish, Nazel style!



The first step is to butcher off material for the first fin.



Draw it out starting at the body and flair the end. Thin to about 1/4"

Forge a recess into the end.



Use a fuller to texture the tail fin. 3 or 4 rows

Butcher the start of the second tail fin.



Half strike blows create these "steps"

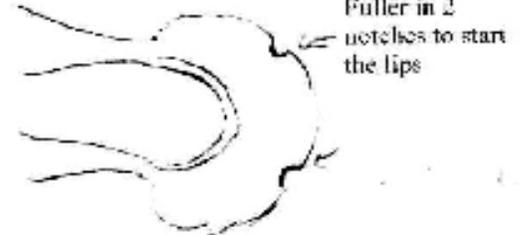


Use a fuller to create a ridge at each of the steps.



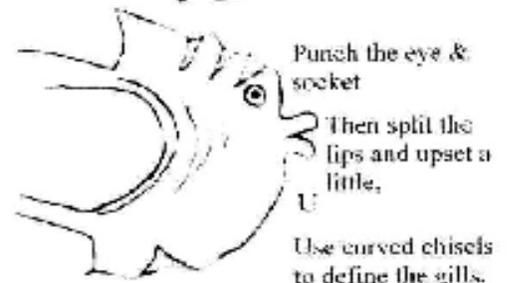
Bend into a "U" shape, the hard way.

Draw out the center section which is the body.



Fuller in 2 notches to start the lips

Then "pinch these together, "upset" to form the lips.



Punch the eye & socket

Then split the lips and upset a little,

Use curved chisels to define the gills.

Do heavy fullering top and bottom.

# 2-Candle Hanging Candle Holder

Demonstrated by Owen Creteau at the Manchester Historical Society Blacksmith Shop.

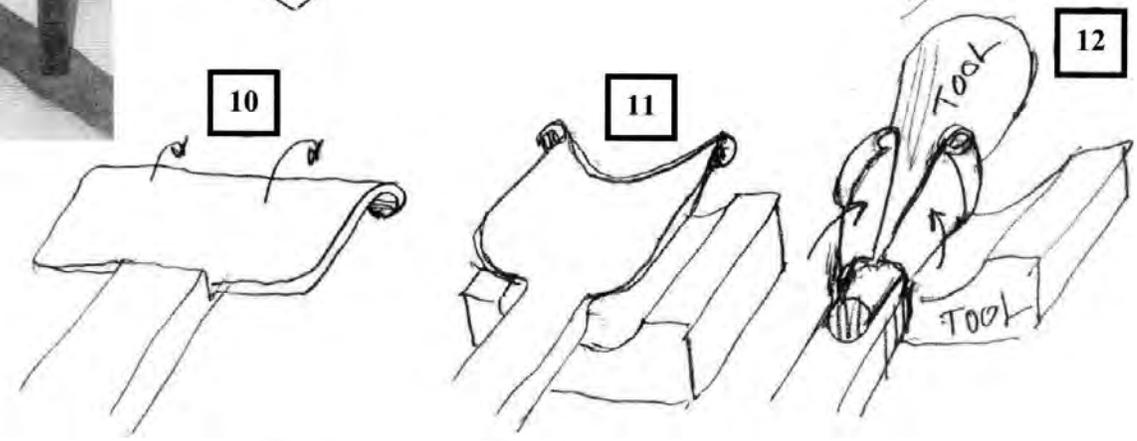
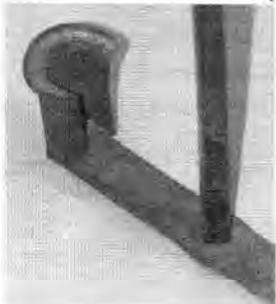
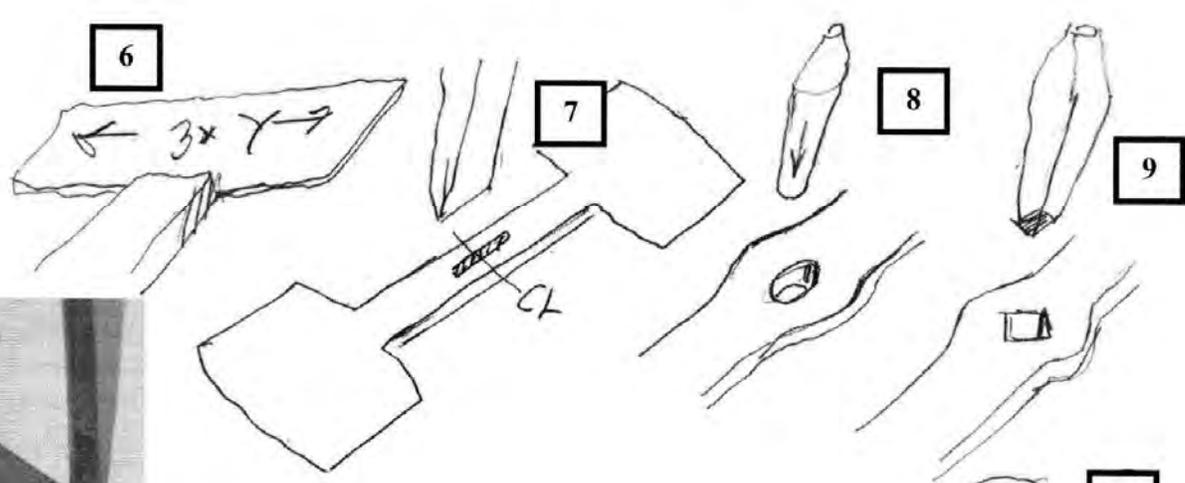
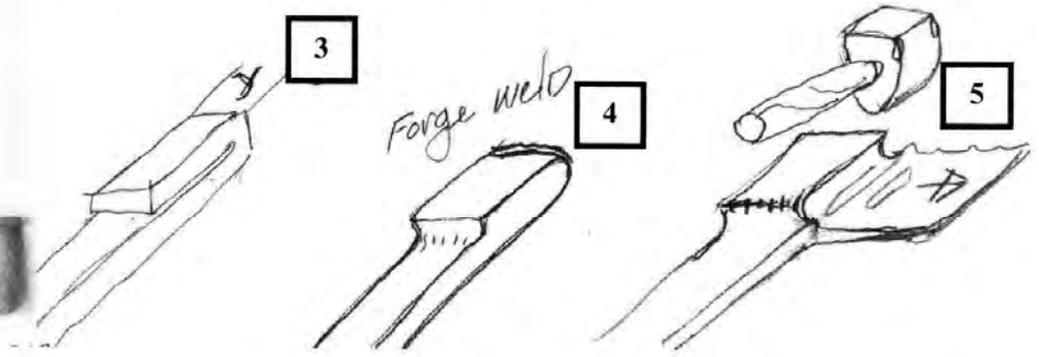
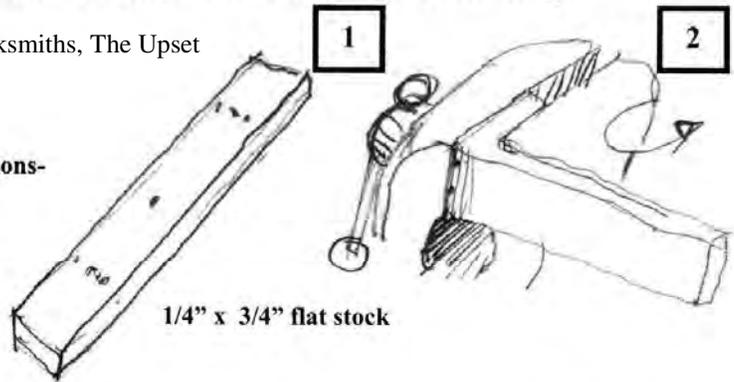
November 11, 2006

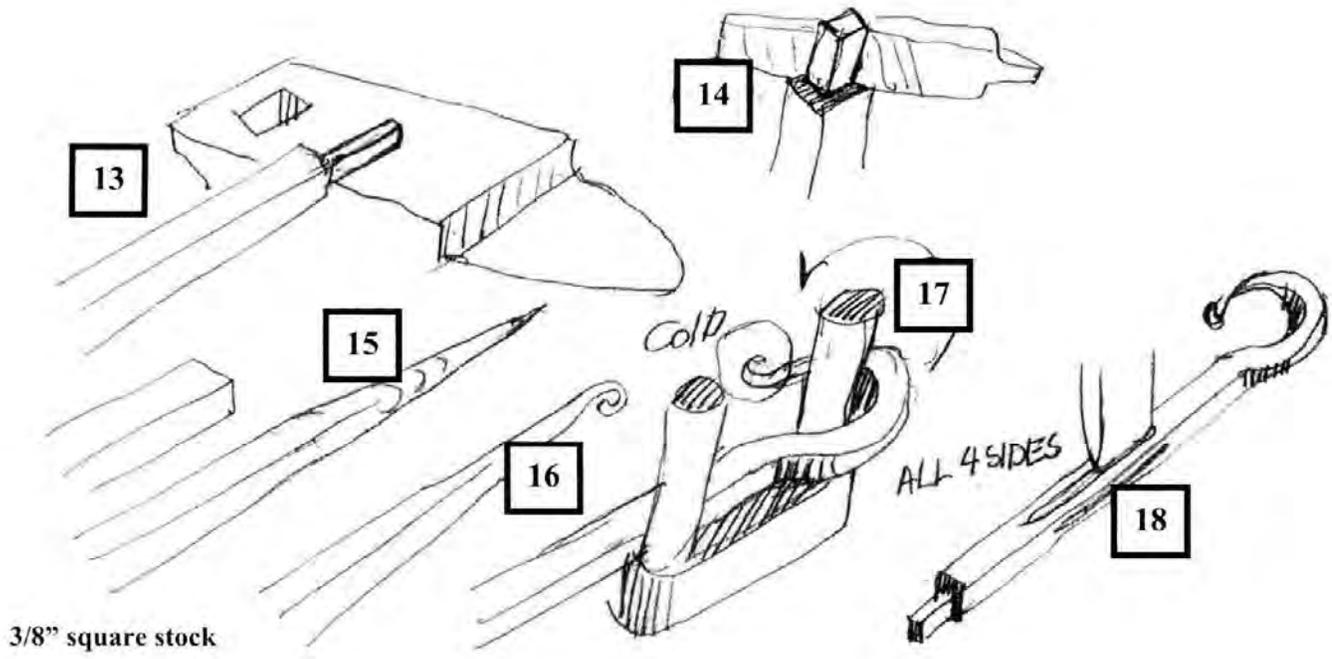
Drawings by Steve Alling Michigan Artist Blacksmiths, The Upset

Overall finished Dimensions-

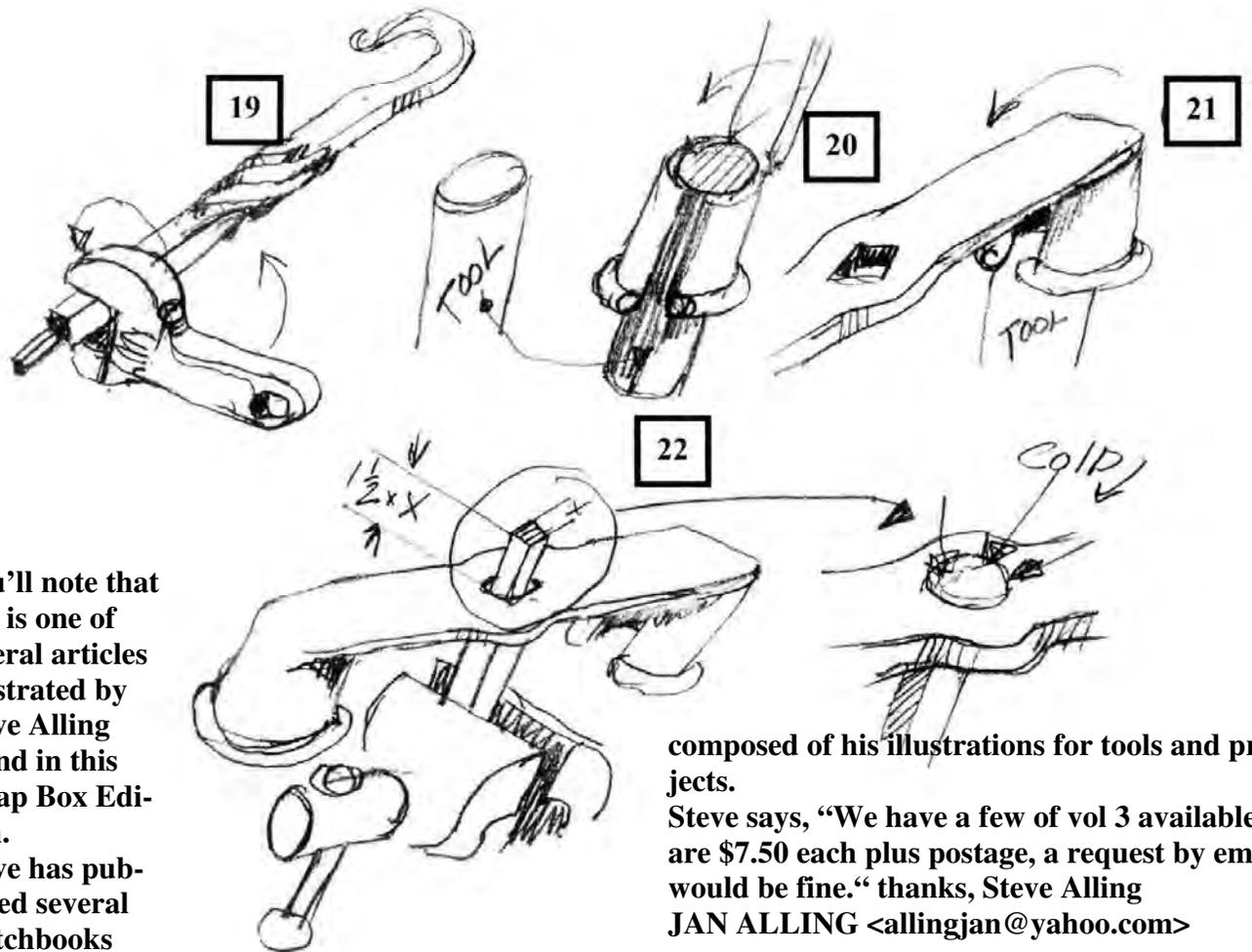
Hanger:  
15" tall and 5-1/2" wide

Candle cup:  
3/4" dia. and 2" tall





3/8" square stock



You'll note that this is one of several articles illustrated by Steve Alling found in this Scrap Box Edition. Steve has published several sketchbooks

composed of his illustrations for tools and projects.

Steve says, "We have a few of vol 3 available, they are \$7.50 each plus postage, a request by email would be fine." thanks, Steve Alling  
 JAN ALLING <allingjan@yahoo.com>

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>
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### 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 [  ]



June 2010

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