



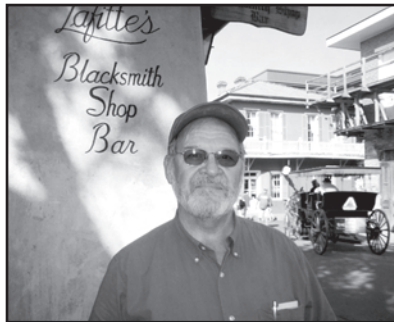
Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE – JULY 2011

*Jerry Wolfe*

Our new members for this month are: Matthew & Heidi Hanskbecht from Green Cove Springs; Garry Beachler from Crawfordville and James Lasley from Gainesville. Welcome to FABA.



The 2011 Madison SBA conference was a successful conference. We had good weather, good attendance, a large variety of tool sales, excellent demonstrators and good fellowship with fellow smiths. A good number of FABA members attended and benefited from the conference. A new FABA member won the “major raffle item” from AFC – The tool box and many tools to start up blacksmithing – Congratulations Matt Hanskbecht. The Gallery displays represented a wider variety of blacksmithing from beginner to extremely professional. The “Petal Project” was a great success – FABA’s contribution was made by Butch Patterson and Jordan Thomas – Thanks.

NOTE: The remaining petals will be used in a project at our annual meeting.

**Elections** – The August issue will have our Election Ballot for 2012 officers – We will be electing a new President, Vice-President, Newsletter Editor, NW Trustee and SW Trustee. If you want to help with the FABA activities, let Secretary Jim Labolito know.

**Training** – Jim Labolito’s has been busy at Fern Forge with training Boy Scouts on the Metal Merit Badge. It’s great to recruit members early, now let keep the excitement going. Thank you also to Jim Croft, Ron Childers, Vince Labolito, Brad Pafford, Drew Bryner, and Lloyd Wheeler for assistance in this training.

I hope you appreciate the membership listing included in this issue to keep track of all our FABA friends, too bad it cannot be a picture gallery. Please do not abuse this privilege by allowing it to be used for commercial purposes.

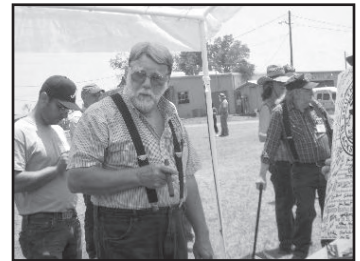
**SAFETY TIP FOR JULY:** Keep the HOT STEEL away from your body, it BURNS quickly

**2010 Financial Audit** – The audit committee of Vi Payton, Skeeter Prather and Keith Ivey have reviewed the financial records and commended Dorothy Butler for her diligence and dedication in conducting the financial transactions for FABA. Using Quick Books allows detailed records and reports which is a great improvement.

I hear there was a little excitement at the NE June meeting. “I saw a blacksmith driving a golf cart with pigs in a cage in the back and Pigs being corralled in the blacksmith shop?” Jordan: Did those “oinkers” ever get to their home pen?

**Tragedy strikes in FARMINGTON, MO at U.S. Championship Anvil shooting competition**

- An anvil shooting’s danger really hit home June 4th when Tim Ryan from North Carolina lit a fuse with a cigar and the powder exploded prematurely. Ryan was standing only a foot or two away from the blast. The explosion blew off his thumb. His clothes caught fire. Fortunately, the anvil landed safely on the outfield grass. A few minutes later, a helicopter landed on the baseball field. Ryan was airlifted to Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. Jud R. Nelson (99) passed away June 6th at the Gordon Health Care Center. Jud was a long-time resident of Gordon County GA, living in Sugar Valley for 75 years. In 1970 he was a founding member of ABANA, the Artists and Blacksmiths Association of North America and hosted several of their meetings at his Sugar Valley home.



*Note - In the June Clinker Breaker the poem Blacksmiths Boot Dance was written by Peter Fels and has been previously published in Clinker Breaker.*

# 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 want to bring a bag lunch if not otherwise noted. If you have any questions about meetings, please contact the Regional Coordinators:

Northeast Region	Butch Patterson	904-964-2499	bpatr@yahoo.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

## FUTURE EVENTS

**NE July 2** Pioneer Arts Settlement, Barberville, FL. Open Forges, Ice Cream Social Bring a brown bag lunch and your churn along with the ingredients for your favorite homemade ice cream! (Or bring cake or cookies to share.) Bowls, spoons & drinks will be provided.

**NW July 9** Meeting to be held at Bennie Prince's, Farmer's Heritage Museum outside of Cairo, Georgia. In Cairo, at intersection of Highway US 84 and 188E at Rite Aid Pharmacy, go East (on 188E) 1 3/10 miles. Turn Left on Woodland Road (at Faith Christian Church), go 2 6/10 miles to second dirt road on right which is Prince Road. Turn right and go 8/10 mile to mail box #392, turn right and go down driveway 1/2 mile to Farmer's Heritage Museum. John Watson will be demonstrating how to make a snake out of a horse-shoe rasp. You will be able to give it a try. Please bring a chair and a covered dish to share.

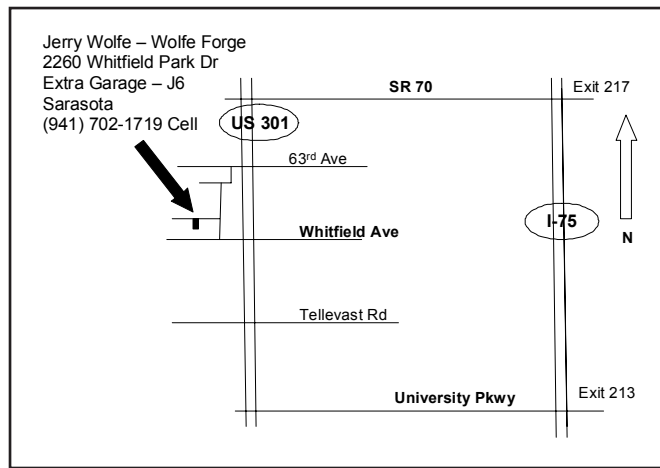
**SE** Meetings will be held on the third Saturday of the month at the Boy Scout camp at Tanah Keeta in Jupiter, Fl unless otherwise noted.

Hello, Happy Hammerers! Please keep hydrated!

So nice to see so many of you in Madison, and thanks for volunteering for both the FABA t-shirt tent and for the SBA Gallery!

Keep the Wolfe Forge address handy, as Jerry has once again volunteered his place for the June 25th meeting. Currently, we plan for a "recap" of the Madison Conference and a look ahead to our Barberville Conference (including some discussion on our Group Project), but if you have a demonstration ready to go, please do let us know!

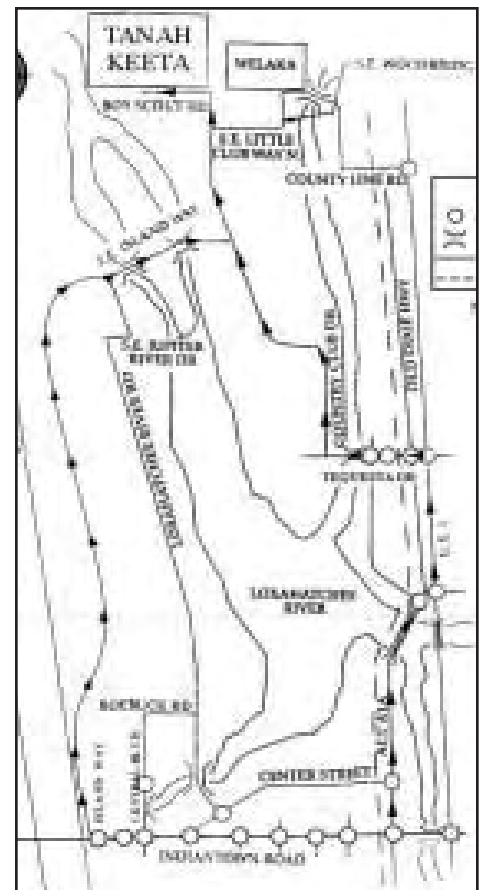
### SW REGION



### NE REGION



### SE REGION



## IN MEMORIAM

Again we are deeply saddened by the death of yet another beloved Blacksmith Brother – (last month it was J. L. Thompson).

Jud Nelson of Sugar Valley Georgia passed away on Tuesday, June 6, 2011. He would have been 100 years old on June 23, 2011!  
His Masonic internment was Thursday, June 9, 2011 in Calhoun, Georgia.

Regardless of where you want to start in the long life of Jud Nelson, you will face a most impressive point of beginning. But, an humble – yet necessarily an abridged attempt - follows.

Jud began a full time apprentice as a blacksmith when he was fourteen years old and smithed until he was in his late 80's! Jud worked all over the United States as a smith. During W.W. II he worked in the navy shipyards of Jacksonville, Florida. His work can be seen in many places, in particular in Washington D.C. In his later years he operated his own shop in Sugar Valley, Georgia where he did traditional and farm blacksmithing for a broad area of north west Georgia. Jud was one of the principal “kick starters” of ABANA as well as many of the state and regional blacksmith associations.

Jud was inducted into the Brotherhood of Working Farriers Assoc. in 2004. He is featured in “The Foxfire” Book Number 9 (1992) with a chapter on building a horse-drawn wagon. This wagon is on display at the Foxfire Museum along with many iron accoutrements made in Jud's blacksmith shop.

Mastersmith Nelson was in constant demand by all blacksmithing groups – he demonstrated at many of the ABANA conferences. I still have a scovel hoe which Jud “resteeled” for me at the ABANA conference in Ripley, West Virginia.

In July of 1986 Jud, J. L. Thompson, Joe Neely, and the President of ABANA, Stan Strickland demonstrated at a hammer-in at PAYTON FORGE. (See the July 1986 issue of the CLINKER BREAKER).

Also on September 25, 26, 27, 1987 Jud was the principal demonstrator at FABA's very first statewide annual conference (see the September 1987 issue of the CLINKER BREAKER). This conference was held in the parking lot of the Capitol Inn Motel in Tallahassee, Florida. – What a line-up of demonstrators: Jud Nelson, Nol Putnam, Jim Batson, Jerry Grice, John Dittmeier, and Charles Ochs gave non-stop demonstrations for three days!

## REGIONAL REPORTS

### **Northeast Report by Butch Patterson**

It was a typical warm Florida day at the Pioneer Art Settlement in Barberville. On the drive there, Emily & I noticed an abundance of yard sales, a real sign that summer is here.

The demonstrator was Jim Robarr and he wowed the crowd with his knowledge. Jim gave us a well prepared presentation on how to make dies utilizing a die grinder and a few common workshop tools. His die was of a small mouse with some very nice detail. He showed us how to forge the metal into a point prior to using the die. Jim made it look easy to forge a mouse key ring.

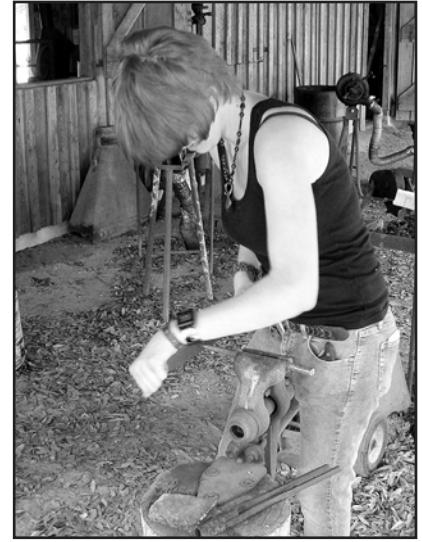
Jim drew a number of questions that lead to some in-depth discussions.

He also brought along an interesting gas forge that uses a single fire brick. This little forge is inexpensive and easy to fabricate. Jim calls it the “One Brick Gas Forge”. One of Jim's suggestions is to substitute two 1” thick bricks for the single 2” thick brick as the two thinner bricks will heat up faster and a broken brick is easier to replace. Due to the change to two bricks, I decided to re-name the forge the “Two Brick One Brick Gas Forge”. No, I did not consult Jim about my new name, but he will know when he reads this!

Many thanks to Jim Robarr for an informative demonstration!

We had four members working at the open forges. Josh Mahn was forged a letter opener and his sister Morgan made a nice door latch. Heather Hole joined FABA in January and she forged a punch. All three were working without a lot of assistance and I see they have talent. As a result of one of the in-depth discussions that I mentioned above, Steve Estenson tried to make a Claydon joinery, it did not take him long to perfect it.





After the Iron in the Hat, Robert (Bob) Brown served up some scrumptious chicken from his smoker. Don't tell anyone but I think Bob's secret is the oak charcoal instead of briquettes. I think everyone left the table full and happy. Bob, you can come back with your smoker anytime. Thank you for the meal.

Our Iron in the Hat brought FABA \$62.00. We also passed the hat for the coal we use at the meetings and we came up with \$25.00 for the Pioneer Art Settlement project by itself. Once you have your tools in place then it is time to start. I used a piece of 1 3/4" 4140 4" long it gives you a 2Lb hammer head. The first step is to make a strike on the side of the cylinder to make 2 flat sides. Then you find the center and start your punch. It is important to have two, one will get over heated and start to mushroom. Brian also puts a chisel point on one of his drifts (Mark Aspery uses a bull pin for his drifts it is a good option) as well and keep changing out after each punch. Once you have gone all the way through now it is time to drift the eye some, not all the way. This is when you use the cupping tool to make the rounded face and the flattener on the other face to shape your hammer faces. At this time you use the top and bottom fullers to spread out your cheeks. Heating as you go keep your steel hot. The Bolsters are to help you put the drift back in the eye with out damaging the cheeks. It is time to separate the faces of the hammer from the eye area using the 1/2" bottom and top fuller. Each time you reset the drift, you will drive it in a little more until the eye is the size you want - always drive the drift into the smaller hole making it the larger hole. When you have reached the shape you want your hammer to be let the hammer head cool slowly file and buff the faces. Heat the hammer head up to non-magnetic quench in clean vegetable oil and let cool. Now heat your drifts and place them one at a time in the eye of the hammer until the you start to see a gold change on the face of the hammer and quench again. Now it is ready for a handle and to be put to work. Happy hammering! Brian is a very knowledgeable Blacksmith and for those who got to meet him it is a changing experience.

## **Report from the Northwest by John Boy Watson & Billy Christie**

The NW held its meeting on May 14, at Jim (Preacher) & Nita Labolito's Fern Forge, in Tallahassee. The day began cloudy and then the bottom fell out; but, being the die hards or hard heads that we are, we just went with the flow.

The three demonstrators were Jim Croft, Rob Nichols and Brad Pafford. Jim was the lead and he demonstrated accurately drifting a hole and how to make it line up with another piece of iron. Jim stressed that the mark can grow and sometimes you may have to make a test piece to get it right. Rob Nichols worked on repairing part of his grill and it worked out great. Now he won't have to buy a new grill.

Lunch, as always, was delicious with John Boy working his magic on the BIG custom smoker. With the rain, John was having a hard time keeping the heat going for his specialty, the melt in your mouth brisket. Even though there was rain, thunder, and lightning, he still worked his magic and everything turned out perfectly! The grilled vegetables, corn, potato salads, and desserts were absolutely scrumptious. No one left hungry!

The "Iron in the Hat" had a number of hand forged items along with other interesting items. We raised \$118.00 and thanks to Lloyd Wheeler and Dot Butler for their help with the drawings. We were also joined by Jerry Wolf, President who was on his way to the Southeastern Blacksmith Meeting that was being held in Madison, Georgia. We were glad to see all the FABA members that were able to make the conference.

In conclusion, we thank Jim, his wife Nina, and church family for the warm welcome at his forge and the fine food that was served. We also want to thank Jim, Brad, and Rob for their efforts at the forge, John Boy for his cooking, and all of those who were in attendance for this fun filled, educational meeting. See you at the next time and remember, Happy Hammering!

# REGIONAL REPORTS CONTINUED

## SW Region – May 28th Meeting at Wolfe Forge

Trez Cole gave an extensive evaluation report concerning - Hammers – Myth or Legend. Trez reviewed the various styles of hammers from the traditional blacksmith cross peen to Japanese style, HOFI style and many others. Some have specific purposes and benefits. The “FORCE” to move metal is dependent upon the weight and velocity of the hammer and Trez demonstrated if you use a VERY LARGE hammer, you can do a LOT OF METAL MOVEMENT. (a little exaggeration but the theory is true) The handle material is also very important in relation to vibration conductivity. A fiberglass handle is best to minimize the low frequency vibration that can cause damage to the wrist and arm. Trez gave us an extensive discussion concerning Ergonomics. How you hold the hammer, how you stand, how you swing; all are important to get the job done with minimal affect on your body and muscles. The whole demo was enjoyed by our “crowd of 15”.

## SW Region Report by Lisa Anne Conner

Bethany and Patrick have volunteered their place in Myakka for July 23rd. Their address is 5352 Wauchula Road, Myakka, FL 34251. And, for August 27th, plan your diets accordingly, as it will be the Second Annual Hammer-In and Pig Roast at Tandova, Inc. I am looking for folks to teach “Family Programs” as well as do a demo or two. So far, I have a boyer and a fletcher, a Norse-style chain & braid maker, and a fiber-spinner. We also plan to have open forges all afternoon so we can share and teach, and maybe work on our group project for Barberville (yep, it is that time again! Be thinking of a project!!!). (This is a full-day event.)

Again, if you have a project to demonstrate for June, July, or August, please do let me know!

## RINGING ENDORSEMENTS

My grandfather William Siebler Received this 1919 from the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) of Aurora, Nebraska. He was a blacksmith from the old country, and the letter was an invitation to conduct an anvil salute.

In that era, it was a custom on the Forth of July for a blacksmith to fire off a salute in honor of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Black powder was placed between two anvils, one of which flew off when the powder was lighted. This was done for many years, and I would think it is still performed in some locations. You can be assured that it made a loud, ringing noise. The letter follows:

“Dear Sir. By authority of action of the Committee I am instructed to extend to you an invitation to give 48 anvil salutes, one for each state, at six o’clock in the morning of the coming 4th of July.

It is a matter of history that on that great immortal day, that your craft fired anvils to let the people know that the Declaration of Independence had been adopted. It seems most fitting that you should officiate not only because of your craft, but for a greater reason, although born a German you became a true loyal citizen of America....

For safety first, leave the rings off of the anvil. Present the bill to me for the powder. A little attention to the 37th salute, for that is Nebraska’s star on Old Glory” – James Koopman

If anyone is interested in have Jim Robarr teach a workshop on building your own “One Brick Gas Forge” aka “Two Brick One Brick Gas Forge” contact Butch Patterson at [bpattr@yahoo.com](mailto:bpattr@yahoo.com) or 904-964-2499.



# UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Dear FABAs Members,

It is the time for Elections in 5 of our offices. These offices are as follows:

President \_\_\_\_\_

Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Northwest Trustee \_\_\_\_\_

Southwest Trustee \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to be a candidate in the upcoming election, please do one of the following:

#1. Send this back to me with your name written on the line next to the office which you wish to be considered as a candidate.

Jim Labolito, FABAs Secretary  
1314 Fernwood Road  
Tallahassee FL 32304

#2. Email me with your intention to run and the office for which you wish to be considered as a candidate. fernforge@comcast.net

#3. Call me at 850-567-6464 and notify me of the office you would like to be considered for as a candidate.

As you will receive your July Clinker Breaker about the middle of June, and to give us adequate of time to create ballots and get them sent out we ask that you notify us of your intent to run for an office by July 5, 2011. Ballots will be mailed out in the August 2011 copy of the Clinker Breaker.

## FABA QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2011 - Teleconference Call

**Board members in attendance:** Jerry Wolfe, Jim Labolito, Ron Childers, Mark Stone, Lisa Anne Conner, Dorothy Butler, Jordan Thomas, Kim Wendt.

**Board members absent:** Charles Pate, Ralph Nettles, Rex Anderson.

**Guests:** John Butler.

**I. President Jerry Wolfe called meeting to order at 6:20 PM.**

**II. Call made for additional agenda items: None offered.**

Dot Butler to bring up Walt Anderson Scholarship.

Kim Wendt announcement.

**III. Call to approve Minutes of 1-20-2011 meeting.**

Motion Made by: Ron Childers

Seconded – Lisa Anne Conner

Passed – Unanimously by those in attendance

**IV. Old Business:** President Wolfe makes a call for volunteers for the SBA Conference for a 2 hour shift.

SBA “Petal Project” check on progress from the different regions.

Membership listing published in the Clinker Breaker – Dot Butler updated as to several folks having desires not to have personal addresses published.

NW Statewide meeting expenses – Kirk Sullens paid a fee of \$250.

Dot made a motion to pay Kirk Sullens \$250.

Seconded by: Ron Childers

Passed – Unanimously by those in attendance

**V. 2011 Conference** – Mark Stone reported that Jordan Thomas is doing a class. Lisa Anne Conner to do family class along with others. Is checking on Kirk Sullens to do a teaching class with 6 students (much discussion on this to be finalized by next meeting). John White, from West Florida, a knife, maker @www.johnwhite.com. Still looking for a traditional blacksmith.

President Wolfe engages leadership in a dialogue about “Training and Organization” – In an attempt not to make mandatory rules that could prohibit individual efforts, President Wolfe laid out an idea of an informal reporting system to encourage other regions to follow those regions which already have plans in place. This will be left in the capable hands of our regional Trustees to make a quarterly report at the meetings on what each region is doing toward training new blacksmiths.

Audit Committee – As of the time of this meeting, Vi Payton, Charlton Prather and Keith Ivey appear to be working toward completion of this project.

Resignation of Clinker Breaker Editor – We are saddened by, but understand, that due to time constraints, brought on by family illness, Kim Wendt has had to resign from her position.

Motion Made by: Dot Butler

Seconded – Lisa Anne Conner

Passed – Unanimously by those in attendance

**VI. President’s Report:** President’s challenge is to retain our old members and keep working on bringing in new blood!

President tells us there are no problems that he needs to report and is happy about that.

**VII. Treasurer’s Report:** Dot’s reports were submitted, by President Wolfe, in advance of this meeting via email, to the Board Members:

a. Balance Sheet as of Jan. 2011 - March 2011

b. Profit & Loss Detail for Jan. 2011 – March 2011

Motion to accept made by: Ron Childers

Seconded – Jordan Thomas

Passed – Unanimously by those in attendance

A motion is brought to charge fees for bounced checks or credit card problems on a \$1 for \$1 basis on any and all charges incurred by FABA. Will appear as an item in Clinker Breaker and on all registration forms in future.

Motion to accept made by: Dot Butler

Seconded – Ron Childers

Passed – Unanimously by those in attendance

**VIII. Trustee Reports:**

NE – Jordan Thomas – Average attendance of 33. Buck in the Bucket averaging <\$100. Inquired about offering extra tickets for bringing a handmade item for B in B table. Decided on a \$15 donation to Barberville each time the NE met there help with electricity and coal.

NW – Ron Childers mentioned our new members of late. Spoke about several good meetings in recent months with good demonstrators.

SE – No one present.

SW – Lisa Anne Conner gave a report on upcoming meeting at President Wolfe’s forge. Mentioned Shirt sales. Membership has grown some with the influx of some new members and rekindling the interest in some past members. Good idea!

**IX. New Business:**

Motion to make available \$200 for refreshments to pass out at FABA hospitality tent at the Madison Conference.

Motion to accept made by: Dot Butler

Seconded – Mark Stone

Passed – Unanimously by those in attendance

John Butler informs board that there has been only 1 application for the Walt Anderson Scholarship so far. Deadline is June 15.

Beginning preparation for the 2011 elections. Ballots need to go out by August 15 and will be sent out in the Clinker Breaker. Clyde Payton to be asked about help in lining up candidates.

President

Vice President

Secretary

NW Trustee

SW Trustee

One Day Conference registration – Motion is made to allow general public, non-members of FABA a Saturday access, for \$25 to the conference.

Motion to accept made by: Mark Stone

Seconded – Ron Childers

Passed – Unanimously by those in attendance

Date and place of next quarterly meeting: Conference Call, Thursday, July 21, 2011 @ 6:15 PM.

President calls for vote to adjourn meeting at 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by Jim Labolito - State Secretary, FABA



# THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Dorothy H. Butler, Membership Records  
777 Tyre Road  
Havana, FL 32333

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## JULY 2011

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 noncopyrighted 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	Dorothy H. Butler	850-539-5742	Treasurer@blacksmithing.org
Secretary	Jim Labolito	850-567-6464	fernforge@comcast.net
Program Chairman	Mark Stone	850-668-9527	markham62@comcast.net
Past President	Rex Anderson	850-997-2748	rexaanderson@embarqmail.com
Trustee NE	Jordan Thomas	352-473-5228	firebrandforge@hotmail.com
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
Editor			editor@blacksmithing.org

### FABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association, Inc.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouses Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check here to receive newsletter by PDF \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Visa \_\_ MC \_\_ Discover \_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_

V code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Your FABA membership begins when your application and membership fee is received. Membership is per family and lasts one year. Send \$25.00 fee and application to:

Dorothy Butler, FABA Treasurer  
777 Tyre Road  
Havana, FL 32333

Any fees incurred by returned checks will be passed back to the member.