



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# North plans Regional Statewide meeting

Seems like yesterday we were celebrating the new year, and here we are already in the second month.

We will be choosing and announcing the winner of the Jerry Grice Scholarship about the time this comes off the presses, so good luck to all who entered. What a great opportunity the scholarships are for some great education in the craft of Blacksmithing.



Mark Stone

If you missed the entry deadline for the Jerry Grice Scholarship, we have another, the Walt Anderson Scholarship, to give out mid-summer so get your application ready as it is due by June 30th.

We have a couple positions on the board that need to be filled.

We currently need a new Program Chairperson, and a Regional Coordinator for the Southeast Region.

Bill Harris has stepped up and volunteered to be the Northeast Trustee, and we look forward to working with him. He will be a great representative for the NE Region. Thanks, Bill!

Please step forward and volunteer to fill these other two very important positions. You

will not be alone in your positions, as assistance is always only a phone call away.

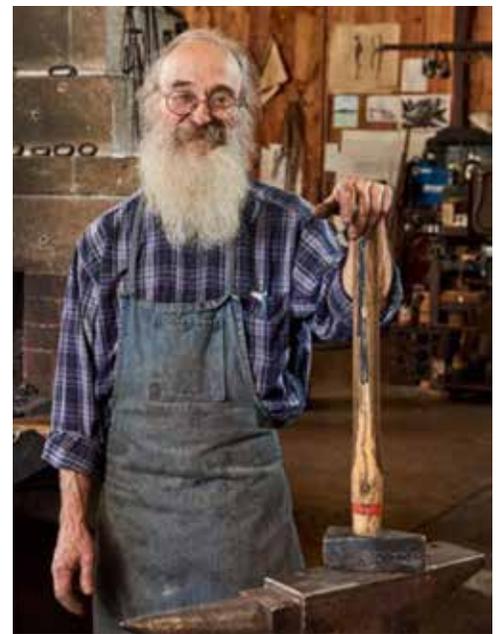
We will be having a joint Regional Statewide meeting between the NE and NW regions that will be held March 21-22 at Leslie Tharp's shop in Gainesville featuring Doug Wilson.

Saturday, March 21, will feature demonstrations and Sunday, March 22, we are working on offering classes instructed by Doug. You can check out Doug's work and credentials at [www.wilsonforge.com](http://www.wilsonforge.com).

Stay tuned for more on this online and in the Clinker Breaker.

There's more inside this edition of the Clinker Breaker. Check out the ad for the 50 lb. Little Giant on page 11, as well as other blacksmithing tools.

Keep your forges glowing, hammers striking and metal moving. Don't forget your eye and ear protection, and stay hydrated.



Be Safe,  
Mark Stone

# Walt Anderson Scholarship 2020

This Florida Artist Blacksmith Association 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 the 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, lodging, transportation, etc.)?

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

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

Deadline for receipt is June 30, 2020. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final. The successful applicant will be notified.

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## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA)

is a not-for-profit organization chartered with the State of Florida and is dedicated to promoting and expanding the horizons of architectural, artistic and practical blacksmithing while preserving the rich heritage of this craft. FABA Officers and members assume no responsibility or liability for injuries or damage caused as a result of the use of any information, materials, design, techniques, etc. contained in this newsletter, our website, <http://www.blacksmithing.org>, our Facebook Page or provided at meetings or demonstrations.

**Contributions to FABA 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. Send to [editor@blacksmithing.org](mailto:editor@blacksmithing.org). Materials submitted must be your own work, and citations of others must be clearly identified. By submitting materials, you are allowing FABA to edit, print and post them to FABA's website. 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.



## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>President's Message</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>FABA Announcements</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Regional Coordinators</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>Calendar of Events</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>ABANA Conference Info</b>
<b>6-7</b>	<b>North FL Statewide Conference</b>
<b>8-9</b>	<b>FABA Gallery Report</b>
<b>10-11</b>	<b>Regional Reports</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>FABA Announcements</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>FABA Officers/ Membership Application</b>

## Calendar of 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 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and you'll want to bring a bag lunch if not otherwise noted. If you have any questions about meetings or events, please contact the Regional Coordinators:

Central Northeast Region	Heinrich Hole	386-848-6982	heinrich.faba@gmail.com
North Northeast Region	Ben Thompson	617-388-5695	thompsoncrafted@gmail.com
Northwest Region	John Pfund	850-528-3280	johnwpfund@aol.com
Southeast Region			
Southwest Region	Antony Fenn	617-320-4781	antony.fenn@gmail.com
Far West Region	Dave Sandlin	850-974-1548	traditionsworkshopinc@gmail.com

### Central NE Meeting, Feb. 1

The next Central Northeast is scheduled for Feb. 1 at 9 a.m. at the Pioneer Settlement in Barberville. We will be having another special guest demonstrator from out of state, Bob Tuftee from Wisconsin. Bob will be demonstrating a wrapped axe head with a welded bit for the cutting edge. This is not a skill that has shown up in our region very often, so don't miss your chance to see it up close in person. I know I am excited for the opportunity. I'd also like to hold a casual planning meeting during lunch to get a general idea of where our group is at and where we'd like to go. I want to hear it from you guys directly. Last year we had this type of regional planning discussion, and I think it produced a few good results. This year we will do



even better. Let's make this happen! I'll see you all there. — **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

### Southwest Meeting, Feb. 29

The SW meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb 29, at Crowley Museum and Nature Center just east of Sarasota. We will gather to support and take part in the heritage festival.

We have plans to split into two teams. One team of more experienced smiths will work with Trez Cole on an alligator sculpture. A team of beginner smiths will be guided through making items such as S hooks as giveaways to the public.

Please come at 10 a.m. and be ready to join in and help swing a hammer with Trez Cole and Tony Fenn. We will be bringing the SW trailer and have forges and anvils available. You may also be able to work in the museum's forge.

Instead of Iron in the Hat, and bringing food to share, we are asking you to support the museum and pay the entrance fee. (We think \$10 this year). There will also be vendors for lunch and drinks.

If you want to know how people lived in Florida long ago, Crowley Museum and Nature Center is for you. There are several historic buildings, "cracker" cattle, a blacksmith shop and a museum filled with artifacts explaining what Florida

was like in pioneer times. If you want to know what the land in Florida was like in the days before development, Crowley is also for you. There are trails you can walk on to see unspoiled nature. There's even a boardwalk through a beautiful and mysterious swamp.

We will have a great time demoing as part of the festival, talking to the visitors and catching up with old friends. It will be worth the trip.

#### **Crowley Museum and Nature Center, crowleyfl.org**

Address: 16405 Myakka Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

Telephone: 941-322-1000

#### **DIRECTIONS**

From the south or west: Take Fruitville Road (exit #210 off I75) and drive 10 miles to the dead end. Turn right on Myakka road. Go 3 miles, Crowley is on your left. If you travel over the bridge to the north entrance of Myakka State Park, you missed us by a mile.

From the north: Take I75 to route #70, exit #217B, travel to Verna Road. Turn right and travel south for approximately 6 miles to the Crowley entrance on your left.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Coordinator**

## Northwest Meeting, Feb. 8

The February meeting of the Northwest region will be held at the residence of Juan Holbrook on Feb. 8th. The address is 6418 NW 97th Court in Gainesville, FL 32653.

The meeting starts at 9 a.m. Juan and Nicole will give us a demonstration until we stop at 11:45 a.m. for the Iron in the Hat raffle and lunch. A main dish will be provided and we should bring sides and desserts.

Don't forget to bring something for the Iron in the Hat raffle! I'm still giving free tickets for hand-made donations. This is our farthest distance from Tallahassee meeting, but always worth the drive and a good chance to carpool with friends.

Because this is our most east and south location, we're encouraging people who don't normally make it to our meetings because of distance, to give us a try!

Suzy and I often drive over the night before, to help us make it on time in the morning. I hope to see

you there! — **John Pfund, NW Coordinator**

## New Open Forges in the Northwest Region

The Northwest Region is pleased to announce a third weekly open forge opportunity in the area.

Two open forges have been operating weekly for a long, long time. One is at Jim Labalito's house on the west side of Tallahassee. The forge is open every Monday and is close to get to, easy to find and great for beginners!

The other is Jeff Mhor's Shop in Crawfordville. Jeff's shop is a little farther to get to and harder to find, but it's a fully operating professional Blacksmith Shop! Jeff hosts his open forges on Wednesdays, but it's important to call him first to make sure he hasn't gone to a show.

Now for the new and third weekly open forges in our area, Millstone Plantation on Sunday afternoons. Millstone is located right off Thomasville road in the Killlearn area of Tallahassee.

We've had a couple meetings there. It's a big, open pastoral setting on Lake McBride, complete with goats, sheep and other animals, so we have to keep the gate closed.

We've got a Blacksmith Shop set up in a third of the barn and are about to expand into the second third. Every Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m., we're out there Blacksmithing and making charcoal. This is a good opportunity to Blacksmith, make charcoal and help set up a place where we can hold meetings and teach classes.

Remember, Sundays 12 to 5 p.m. I'll be there! I hope to see you there too!

— **John Pfund, NW Coordinator**

### IF YOU GO

Jim Labalito, 1314 Fernwood Drive, Tallahassee, FL; 850-567-6464

Jeff Mhor, 22 Ironwood Court, Crawfordville, FL; 850-528-7631

Millstone Plantation, 6500 Old Millstone Plantation Road, Tallahassee  
For Millstone, call John Pfund at 850-528-3280.

## Far West Region, Jan. 25 & Feb. 22

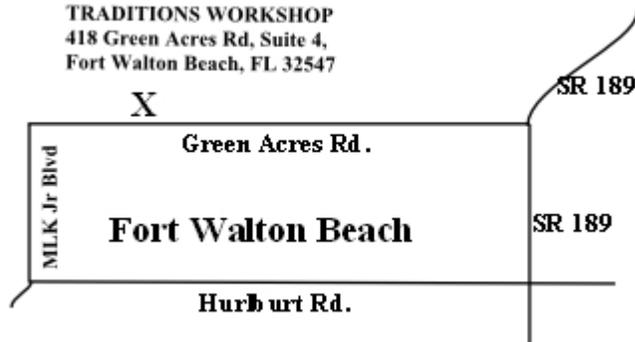
In the Far West, our next three meetings will be focused on the Journeyman handbook.

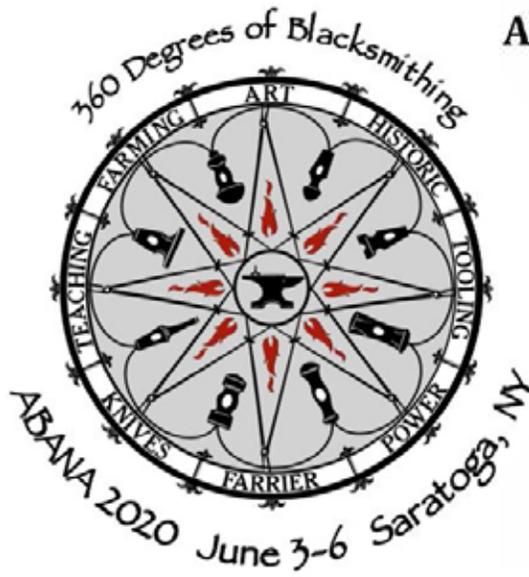
Since many of our local smiths do not have welding equipment, we will be holding the meetings on January 25, February 22 and March 28 at Traditions Workshop, so members can learn about acetylene torch, MIG and Stick welding. The January meeting will focus on acetylene cutting and welding.

We conduct our presentations from 9 to 10 a.m., then light the fires to allow members to work on their own projects or continue to explore the information they have learned during the presentation. Let us know if you plan to attend by signing up for our event on Facebook @ "FABA Far West - the Panhandle Blacksmiths."

— **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**

TRADITIONS WORKSHOP  
418 Green Acres Rd, Suite 4,  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547



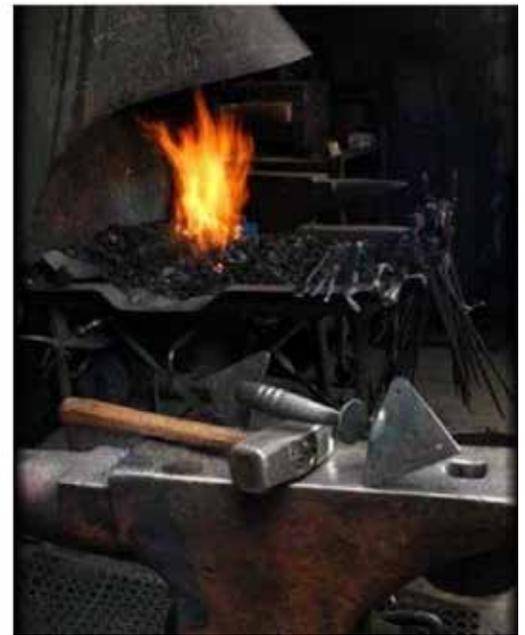


## ABANA 2020 Conference

Washington County Fairgrounds  
392 Old Schuylerville Rd.  
Greenwich, NY

### Information Available at

[www.abana2020.com](http://www.abana2020.com)  
abana2020 on facebook  
[abana.org](http://abana.org)  
ABANA Central Office  
423-913-1022



We will be featuring 8 disciplines of Smithing with at least three talented Smiths in each.

**ART:** with Daniel Miller, Zeevick Gotleib, & Ellen Durkan

**Historic:** with Peter Ross, Dick Sargent, & Bob Valentine

**TOOLS:** with Patrick Quinn, Jeffery Funk, & Eric Schatzel

**KNIVES:** with Matt Parkinson, Lin Rhea, & Jeff Helm

**POWER:** with Bruce Jarrell, Steve Parker, & Randy McDaniel

**FARRIERS:** with Dave Farley, Roy Bloom, Tom Willoughby

**TEACHING:** with Mark Aspery, Gerald Boggs, & Randy Augsburger

**FARM:** with Joel Tripp, Judson Yaggy, Derick Glaser, & Lucian Avery

**The Patient Order of Meticulous Metalsmiths** with Tom Latane, Peter Renzetti, Carl Close & other exceptional craftsmen.

The lecture series will be featuring such notables such as Albert Paley, Howard Schechter, Doug Wilson, Bill Hochella, Leigh Morrell & members of the demonstrator staff.

There will be a youth teaching venue and family programs for the non blacksmiths.

The raffle will include a BAM box donated by Pat McCarty and a Big Blue power hammer.

The Iron in the Hat is pleased to announce the return of Len Ledet with his special blend of entertainment and wackiness.

The Saturday evening banquet is back with a New England style BBQ.

We will have a beer tent serving a local micro brew and a local distiller will be pouring our own signature Slack Tub bourbon. Collectable laser inscribed 2 liter wood casks can be purchased filled with our special label. See the website for information on the cask which can only be pre ordered and can only be picked up at the conference.

# Doug Wilson to headline North Florida Regional Statewide Conference in March

Mark your calendars for March 21st!

Doug Wilson will be our featured demonstrator at the NORTH FL Regional Statewide Conference meeting, hosted at Leslie Tharp's teaching workshop, [Fe]ver Metal Art Center in Gainesville, FL. We encourage all members to attend this special event!

Doug Wilson is a well-known blacksmith located in the remote area of Little Deer Isle, Maine. Doug is both a gifted smith as well as an instructor, and he regularly teaches at craft schools throughout the U.S.

Doug's ability to demystify complicated techniques and re-frame them as attainable goals for even the newest student is one of his many talents as an instructor.

His astute approach to both function and form is apparent throughout his work, which ranges widely from sculptural to architectural ironwork. You may be familiar with his wrapped stone pieces, or have seen his cleanly executed joinery projects. If you are able to attend this educational demonstration, you will be in for a treat.

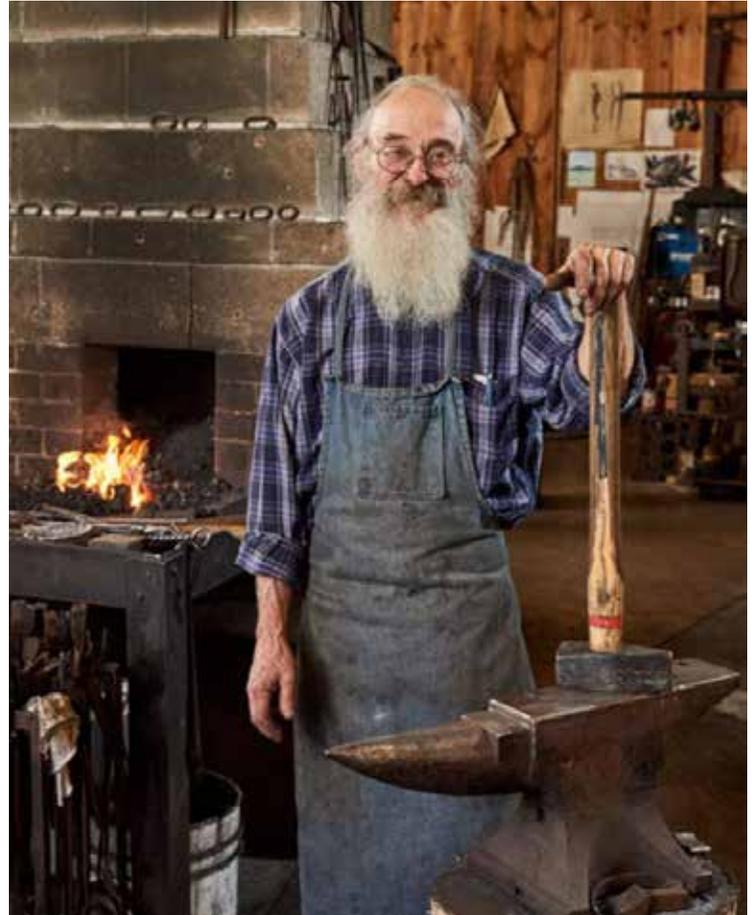
Doug describes his inspiration as follows:

"Inspiration comes to me from many sources. Careful observation and study of the natural environment informs me. The nature of the materials, hot iron and steel, and their responses to being worked certainly are manifest. What are the characteristics of a project and of both the built and the natural environments where a project will reside? Often, coming to know my clients and how they will live with the work I make becomes significant in my designing. I believe that these objects I have made help illuminate the narrative of who we are, where we come from, what we believe in and what is unique or special about the places we call home."

There will be an opportunity for members to register for a workshop the following day with Doug, and FABA members will receive a discount for early registration.

This meeting will feature an expanded "Iron in the Hat" so please make sure you bring an item. Member-made, hand-forged items are encouraged!

More information will be published in the March Clinker Breaker, at [www.FeverMetalArtCenter.com](http://www.FeverMetalArtCenter.com) and on the Northeast FB page: [facebook.com/groups/FABA.NE](https://facebook.com/groups/FABA.NE) so stay tuned.



For more information on Doug's work please visit [www.wilsonforge.com](http://www.wilsonforge.com).

If you have any questions please contact, North NE coordinator Ben Thompson by email at [thompsoncrafted@gmail.com](mailto:thompsoncrafted@gmail.com), or call 617-388-5695.

— Ben Thompson, North NE Coordinator

**North Florida Regional Statewide Conference**



# Artists showcase work at FAB A Gallery

By Greg Cumbaa

The annual FAB A Conference Gallery showcased over 50 great items of our members artistry and craftsmanship in Ocala, FL, this past October.

The gallery included some items made for auction, 10 kitchen items in the Exchange, and David Ponsler's beautiful bronze full-size sculpture, "Marina," in the Demonstrator category.

The purpose of the Gallery is to exhibit examples of your best work, regardless of skill level within our organization, and to serve as a learning tool to the public and generate ideas by example of what the hand of the artist can do with metals.

While the FAB A Gallery does not handle sales, you are always welcome to put a price tag on your items and leave business cards.

The Gallery also is a place for paying respect to FAB A members who have passed away. A memorial table with photos and perhaps some of their work is a recent addition.

The operation of the Gallery has expanded to Auction item intake, and some of these are shown in the Gallery. A total of 94 lots were logged in; many of them multiple items thanks to the very generous donation from the estate of Dr. Joel Clark.

The Gallery depends on volunteers to keep the exhibits organized, secure and presented well. I cannot thank Mary Standifer enough for her years of excellent wit, work and keeping me on track!

Ben Thompson's help and skills have been a great addition the past two years. I also want to thank our volunteer movers who get the auction items from the Gallery to the tent quickly and safely!



Bearded Brotherhood  
of Blacksmiths

Dragon Boat



Jordan Thomas

An Outstretched Balance

# 2019 FABA Conference: Gallery Report



Dr. Joel Clark



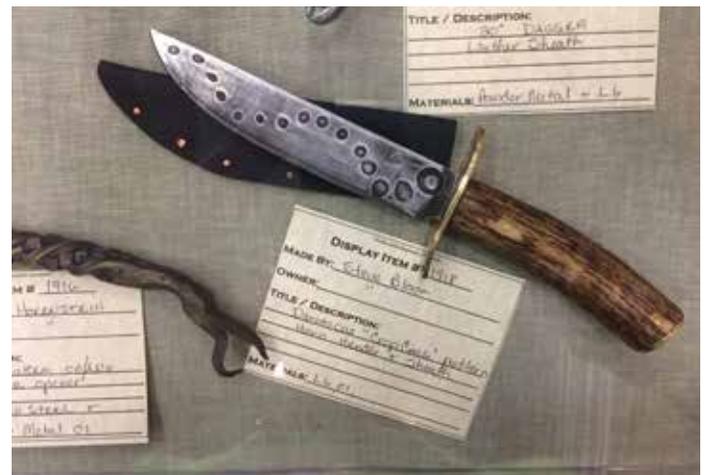
Daniel Schul



Florida Artist Blacksmith Association  
**People's Choice Award 2019**  
 Mike Bettinger  
 Heron  
 aluminum and bronze



2019  
 Rose  
 Copper Rose  
 Herb and Ruston



TITLE / DESCRIPTION:  
 30" Dagger  
 Ludwig Schaff  
 MATERIAL: Harder Steel - 1.6

DISPLAY ITEM #1114  
 MADE BY: Steve Glass  
 OWNER:  
 TITLE / DESCRIPTION:  
 "Carpenter" Dagger  
 Harder Steel - 1.6  
 MATE: 1.6 (1)

### Central NE Region Report

Thank you, Paul Huf, for your demonstration at the January meeting in Barberville. We had over 20 members come out for some good ole blacksmithing education and entertainment. It was a pleasure to get to know a new member in the region by watching their demo and to have them share a portfolio of previous work. If any more members would like to step up and show us how you do what you do, then feel free to message me anytime. Thanks again

— **Heinrich Hole,**  
**Central NE Coordinator**

### Northwest Region Report

The January 2020 meeting for the NW region was held at Bob Stott's house in Bainbridge.

The demonstrator was James Peterman, who made a knife and showed the features of the plunge cut and the value of tapering the tang to lighten the handle for a better balance of the knife.

He demonstrated both freehand hollow grinding and flat grinding. It was a very enlightening demonstration.

We also had an open forge area, with John Watson coordinating this event. We had 48 signed in but had at least a dozen more in attendance. Iron in the Hat brought \$241 for the association.

Bob provided Venison Chili and Stew and, along with the many covered dishes, it was a great meal.

— **Ron Childers and Roger Bell, Northwest Region**

### Far West Region Report

The Far West region did not have a meeting in December but the chapter has been actively promoting blacksmithing in the community.

We forged iron during demonstrations for Farm Day (5,000 visitors), Baker Heritage Day (1,000 visitors), Pioneer Day (500 visitors) and the Pensacola Maker's Faire (3,000 visitors).

It is our hope with all this exposure to the west Florida public that the Far West region will garner some more regular attendance.

Although we average 13 members/visitors per month our meeting attendance varies widely from month to month.

— **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



David and Christopher Sandlin wear traditional garb while demonstrating blacksmithing at the Pensacola Maker Faire.

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## Regional Reports

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### Southwest Region Report

There is no new SW report this month as we skipped a meeting for the Christmas holiday break. Here is a reminder of the upcoming SW January Meeting, as announced in the last Clinker Breaker.

As we all discussed and agreed at our last meeting, the SW January meeting will be used to work on tasks needed to complete the outfitting of the trailer.

We have a great attendance at our regular meetings with over 20 members; a lot of attendees are new and keen to hit hot metal. BUT please note this is a working day and there will be no demos or forging at the January work day.

We need a group of only about 8 to 10 people to help

with things such as painting post vice stands and building shelves for the contents of the trailer.

The January meeting will at 9am on Saturday, Jan. 25, at our SW Coordinator, Tony Fenn's business workshop.

Scale Up Designs is located at 5415 Ashton Ct. Sarasota FL 34233. The location is close to I75 at Exit 205, but a little tricky to find. When on Ashton Rd, turn on to Ashton Ct. at the blue Bishops Aluminum building. Go past several auto body shops and then around the bend. Bronzart and Scale Up Designs are located just behind CBS roofing.

There will be no Iron and Hat at this meeting. Pizza and drinks will be provided for lunch.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Coordinator**

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## FABA News & Announcements

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**FOR SALE:** Nice old (1903) 50 pound Little Giant power hammer for sale. It is more hammer than I need and I need to sell to buy other equipment more suited for pocket knives. It is located in Hawthorne, just east of Gainesville. It's a bit of a job to move it but I have equipment and could even palletize and ship via Fed Ex Freight. It's priced at \$4,500. I have receipts for much of what was put into it. If interested, please contact Dick Kearley via e-mail at [dick@robrick.com](mailto:dick@robrick.com) or via text at 352-494-0970.



Blacksmith's Treadle Hammer, no markings.

Also known as an Oliver Hammer,  
purchased  
by my father in 1983 from Bill Gichner for  
\$2200.00  
Make an offer by e-mail to  
[jkclk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkclk@sbcglobal.net).



Bender Potts & Co.,  
Manuf'tr, Lanc' PA, Pat' Jan. 20, 1874  
Pat' Nov. 29, 1881, J.F. Bender

Forge Blower

Purchased by my father in  
1981 for \$435.00. Make offer  
by e-mail to  
[jkclk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkclk@sbcglobal.net).

# THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Doug Hayes, Treasurer  
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St. Augustine, FL 32086

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## FEBRUARY 2020

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**FABA Membership Application:** Membership begins when your application and \$30 membership fee is received. Membership is per family and lasts one year. Use your credit card to join or renew your FABA Membership via Paypal by going to **blacksmithing.org/membership/join** and clicking through the Paypal button. You do not need to have a Paypal account to use this feature. OR send the below application and your check to "FABA" for \$30 to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ I want B&W Newsletter by mail \_\_\_\_\_ OR Color Newsletter by Email \_\_\_\_\_

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