

November 2020

# CLINKER



# BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Ocala Conference has arrived!

Welcome, Blacksmiths! Seems a little crazy this year is approaching its end, but I think most of us will welcome in another year hoping it is not as crazy as 2020.

By the time this Clinker Breaker comes out in our e-version, our conference will be about to commence.

I am very much looking forward to this conference, especially since I missed last year's. But also because this will bring a little bit of normalcy back to those of us able to attend.

We have many people to thank for putting this conference together. Our Vice President, Lisa Anne Conner, has done an unbelievable job, along with our Treasurer, Doug Hayes, in doing the major work in coordinating this event. Kirk Sullens has also lent his experience, and manpower to assist where needed.

It takes a lot of work to pull everyone together to put on this event during the course of a year. They have done all of this in a matter of a few months. Considering we didn't even know if we were going to attempt to put on this conference until June, it has come together nicely.

Our new Webmaster, Jessica Sandlin, has done a great job bringing our conference site up with registration able to be done online again this year. She had little time to accomplish this being new to the position.

If you are on the fence about attending, we will have a couple of sanitizing stations throughout the grounds, you can take precautions yourself by practicing social distancing as we are accustomed to by now.

Christopher Sandlin, of the Far West Region and

our scholarship winner, is going to build a bloomery where the iron will be forged into workable billets.

We are offering many classes on Blacksmithing in various stages of expertise. We have Jeff and Brooke Mohr holding two classes for broom tying.

For those registered for the class, you have the opportunity to forge your own handle before the broom-tying class or you can use the handle the Mohrs will provide at the beginning of their class.

A couple of other classes available are basket making, and Kumi Himo (Japanese Braiding).

If you are cleaning out your shop or downsizing, the conference is a great opportunity to sell your stuff to someone needing what you are willing to part with. I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone.

We are still in need of a Program Chairperson who can put their stamp on our annual conference. If you might be interested, please let us know. Though you will fill the position, you will not be alone in carrying out its duties.

Once our conference is over, Jessica Sandlin will turn her attentions to re-working our FABA website. Bringing our website up to date with the latest software will enhance its appearance as well as its functionality. I am looking forward to watching the migration take place.

Given this is our country's month of Thanksgiving, I hope you and your families have a great one. Also, with Christmas just around the corner, you should start planning what you can forge for family members and friends as gifts. Nothing like a handmade gift to show your appreciation for family and friends.

As the temperatures start to come down, keep your fires hot, metal glowing, and hammers swinging.

See you at the conference! **Mark Stone**



Mark Stone

# 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, Far West and SW-4th. The actual dates vary, so check the schedule noted in the regional reports.

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	Peter Hill	651-635-6022	blazeblades561@gmail.com
Southwest Region	Antony Fenn	617-320-4781	antony.fenn@gmail.com
Far West Region	Dave Sandlin	850-974-1548	traditionsworkshopinc@gmail.com

## 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.

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### Central NE Region Report

Thank you all for another fun and productive meeting in October. We produced 6 new fire tools to donate to the conferences teaching tents.



One of the coal rakes was even produced by a brand new attendee who got to work in a fire for the very first time in their life. I know my first piece wasn't anywhere near as functional or involved of an item.

Thank you very much to everyone who participated in this effort to improve our organization's tooling. At the moment our region is booming with new members and its getting to be very exciting to observe its transformation.

I encourage everyone to continue to invite your friends and share this amazing thing we do each month with each other. Thanks are due once again to those who filled our iron in the hat table this month. Again our account is flush and ready for Christmas preparations. I wonder what excitement may come together for that month....

### Central NE Region Meeting

There will be no official meeting for the month of November. I know I told some of you that there would be, so please share it around that there won't be one.

There will, however, be an event at the Pioneer Settlement. It will not be the usual expected Jamboree but there is still going to be many activities going on across the property.

I suspect it will be an activity worth our time and attending will be a good way to show support to our home base in these hard times. I will be demonstrating at the event for at least a portion of the time and would happily welcome other members that are interested in joining me.

Demonstrations are at their best when done by friends working together and supporting each others efforts. Come on out and try it with me and lets see what we can make of it.

For this activity I will ask that all people wanting to demo be at least 18 years old. I hope to see many of our membership there and to work with those of you that also wish to share the craft.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

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### NW Region Meeting, Nov. 14

Our November meeting for the Northwest Region will be held at Aunt Louise's Farm on November 14th. This will be the last day of their fall season. Aunt Louise's Farm is a petting zoo, tractor ride, corn maze type of place with a fall season of six weekends in October and November. The address is 8101 Waukeelah Hwy, Monticello, Florida 32344.

We set up some equipment in a fenced off area and it stays for the whole six weekends. On their opening day, October 3rd, Roger Bell and I made some nut crackers and talked to the crowd about Blacksmithing and what we do. Over 1,000 people attended that day. For our Nov. 14th meeting, we will do the usual: open forges for members, demonstrate something for the group and the crowd if you want to. We will have someone cook something on the grill and we should bring sides and desserts. Be sure to bring something for the Iron in the Hat raffle as we will likely have nonmembers participating. This is also a good opportunity to offer things we have made for sale to the public. Between now and our meeting, every weekend is a chance to go to ALF and blacksmith, just for fun, practice demonstrating for a crowd, talk to people and offer things for sale. ALF is not asking for any part of sales money and will be open the weekend of our Conference, so anyone who can't make it to Ocala can still have some fun blacksmithing in a public event.

I just spent the weekend at Millstone Plantation. They were having their Farm Tour weekend, and we had our October meeting there. Only 14 signed in, but we had a lot of fun

with charcoal forges powered by people using a hand cranked blower and Double Concertina Bellows. They are my favorite system for providing air to the forge, when I don't have electricity for the blow dryer. All under a big oak tree and when we got hungry, we cooked hotdogs on skewers on the forge!

Yesterday Craig Hines and I went back and gave a lot of really random people a chance to try blacksmithing. It was great! Speaking of Craig Hines, he and Marcia hosted a wonderful meeting for us in September. Craig demonstrated making a herb cutter, pizza cutter combination. He even had a handout with pictures and directions. I always know a demonstration has made an impact when people go home and try it themselves. I know of four people who did this, and I was one of them. It looked easy when Craig was doing it.

I remember hearing someone at the meeting say, "It sure is nice to get together with friends after being cooped up for so long!" Seems like a good time for a yearly conference. And we've got one coming right up. A lot of people are working hard to get us ready. The Far West Region is making charcoal for all the smelting we're going to do, and it's going to take a lot! I am suggesting and requesting that anyone who makes charcoal consider bringing some to the conference.

I will also be bringing equipment and lots of fun project ideas for the Open Forges tent, so likely you'll me hanging out there. Suzy and I are bringing Remy again this year. He's already got his costume for the contest on Saturday night. Is John being serious? You never know for sure! Looking forward to it, friends. I hope to see you there! — **John Pfund**

# Regional Reports

## Southwest Region

There was no Southwest meeting in September. We are hoping to have an online meeting at the end of November.

Please keep an eye on the FABAs SW Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674/)) for the

meeting announcement and Live link. You can also review past virtual meetings by clicking on the Videos link.

There will be no SW meeting for October as it coincides with the conference.

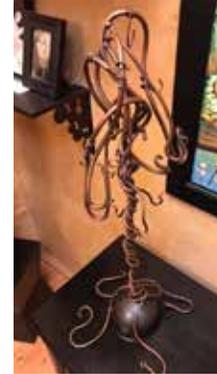
— **Tony Fenn, SW Regional Coordinator**

## Southwest Region Member Projects

SW members have been busy working in their own shops on creative projects this month.



Tony Fenn made a Seahorse using six 14-inch long pieces of 1/4 inch by 1/4 inch. These were forge welded at each end, then heated in the middle and hammered in the vice to open up the body. The head and tail were then forged to complete the piece.



Stephen Kalb had some fun making a rustic drink coozie using a piece of aged pipe with an 1/8 inch sheet metal bottom and then it was traditionally riveted. He has also been creating sculptures of trees and some great dragon pieces.



Garrett Carper has been working on knives and he also made a beautiful copper rose.



Jake Rehacek has been working on expanding his forge by 244 sq. ft. He built a tool dolly and swage block holder (with the help of Kirk Sullens). He also added a new forge hood.

Marcus Wise shared a picture of one of his awesome forged shoes from a contest in Pensacola FL.



### NE MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Kirk Sullens was one of the featured demonstrators at the 35th Annual AFC Blacksmithing Conference September 10-13, 2020, at Tannehill State Park.

## North NE Region Report

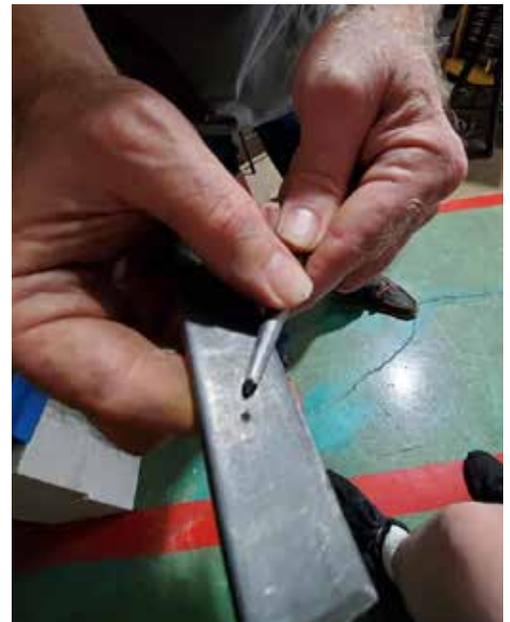
The FABAs NNE Regional meeting was hosted on September 19th by Doug Hayes of Iron Osprey Forge in St. Augustine (@IronOspreyForge). It was a hybrid virtual and in person event with about 25 attendees (14 through FB Live / 11 in person).

Doug demonstrated a few ways to make stump anvils, reviewed heat treating of tools, then provided open forge time in the afternoon. Doug graciously provided lunch and as always, the jokes were free.

Thanks to our host, to all who attended virtually and in person. Trenton Tye gets the award for “traveling” the greatest distance to attend, joining the meeting from Southwest Georgia.

We are still working out final details on our November meeting following the conference. Please monitor the NE Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FABA.NE/> for the most up-to-date meeting information.

— Ben Thompson, North NE Coordinator



# Join us in Ocala!

October 30 - November 1, 2020

Hello from your Vice President and Interim Program Chair! As with the rest of our World these days, our mantra in planning for your Annual FABA Conference has become, “Be Flexible; be Grateful.”

Thank you to each and every one of you who has already volunteered, donated, registered, or even just been in touch to offer encouragement! Plans change almost daily, so please keep checking the website at <https://blacksmithing.org/> for the latest information, as we continue to add more exciting learning experiences to the conference schedule.

Please consider linking our event through your social media to help us spread the word as we celebrate 35 Years of Friends and Family: Forged Together.

There are several Volunteer Opportunities if you want to participate, but want a flexible schedule to be able to take a class, or to utilize an Open Forge.

Our Gallery Director, Greg Cumbaa, will need assistance throughout the weekend: please consider spending some time helping out in the Gallery. (This is also a great chance to get in a little air conditioning.)

We are still looking for help with the Saturday evening Silent Auction set up, too. This would involve transporting items from inside the Gallery out to the Pavilion tent by the

pool, arranging the displays, and monitoring the bid sheets.

Do you, or perhaps your region, have an Incredible Challenge in mind for the Friday evening Forging Competition? Let me know! We are looking for someone to run this portion of the event.

And, as always, we are hoping that many of you will consider coming to the Hilton on Thursday afternoon to help us unload the trailers, and to set up the conference site. Kirk Sullens will be in charge of this part of the process, as well as the strike and load out on Sunday afternoon. Many hands make light work, as the saying goes!

Christopher Sandlin is looking for some assistance for his Viking Smelt Demonstration; he will need help starting on Thursday afternoon with construction, and then throughout the entire process.

We are Celebrating our 35th year of FABA! Dearest Friends and Family, I look forward to seeing each of you soon: if not in Ocala, perhaps at SBA. Until we can be together, please Stay Safe & Stay Sane—Lisa Anne!

To reach Lisa Anne Conner, call or text 813-505-8041, or email [GryfnSCA@gmail.com](mailto:GryfnSCA@gmail.com) or [MelisandeAubrey@hotmail.com](mailto:MelisandeAubrey@hotmail.com).

## FABA Announcement

### FABA Blacksmithing Museum seeks donations

At long last, the FABA Blacksmithing Museum has been rebuilt after its destruction during Hurricane Michael, and it is ready to receive artifacts. The Blacksmithing Museum – a living history of west Florida in the late 1800s and early 1900s – shares a wall with the FABA Shop at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown.

FABA is seeking original blacksmith pieces, such as tools and other useful things, for the museum. “Tongs that were made in the 1800s, there are a bunch of those around. I personally have some,” said FABA founding member Skeeter Prather.

Pieces don’t have to be 100 years old, but they should be before World War II.

Prather said FABA is getting a set of handmade sweeps from a mule-drawn plow from the 1900s. These plow sweeps from pre-tractor days would cut grass between the rows at the roots. “All of those were made by the blacksmith and resharpened by the blacksmith,” Prather said. “I sharpened hundreds of them for a nickel apiece while I was in high school. A farmer would come in, and they’d tell him, ‘Put them in the Skeeter pile.’ That’s what I did every Saturday, I sharpened the sweeps. We could sharpen them with our hammer and not lose any steel.”

If you have original pieces to donate (no reproductions, please) to the Blacksmithing Museum, please bring them to the October Conference in Ocala and deliver them to John Pfund, the Northwest Region Coordinator.

You can also mail or hand-deliver them directly to the Blacksmithing Museum or hand them to any FABA NW Region member. The value of your donation to FABA is tax-deductible.



# FABA 2020 Conference Details

## Dates: October 30 - November 1, 2020

Load-in and set-up starts at noon on Thursday, October 29, 2020, with classes, family programs, etc. beginning at 8 a.m. Friday, October 30. As always, more hands make light work: If you can possibly be there for the massive undertaking of unloading trailers, sorting the inventory, and setting up the grounds, your presence would be greatly appreciated. Kirk Sullens will be assisting me/us with the set-up and tear-down processes. His familiarity with the inventory and the process will help immensely.

## Location: Hilton Ocala, 3600 SW 36th Ave., Ocala FL 34474

The hotel is not serving any food or beverages on the so-called Executive Floors (8 & 9); the only perk therein is that those floors are keyed if you would like the extra security. The hotel restaurant is open for breakfast from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. daily, and both the bar and restaurant are open for dinner/food service from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The hotel is well aware that we host our own Hospitality Tent, and they are fine with that. The room rates are \$107 for single or double occupancy and \$125 for the Executive Floors. We will have a link to the hotel reservation system through the conference website.

Please note: If any attendees choose to register on their own or through their points/awards system, please have them mention the FABA Conference so that we get credit for those rooms in our contracted room-nights total.

**Gallery:** Greg Cumbaa has most graciously agreed to run the Gallery and handle all aspects of that venue. So please bring or send along items to display. Many thanks to Heinrich Hole for all of his assistance in rounding up teachers and demonstrators!

We will be doing our meetings over the electronic means as well as in person; more information on that will be provided as we work through it. At the moment, the Board Meeting is planned 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Friday evening, and the Membership Meeting and Memorial will be 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Saturday.

**Auction:** As mentioned, the live auction will not be taking place. We are working on an on-site Silent Auction of smaller items. I would encourage our artists to save their big pieces for either the SBA Conference, or for next year's FABA Conference. We will have Iron in the Hat on Saturday



at noon. Again, any and all extra hands to sell tickets would be welcome!

**Trade Item:** The Trade Item this year is "Garden Tools." We will display the items, and then draw names to trade during the Saturday evening Meeting & Memorial.

**Tailgate Sales/Iron In The Hat:** I am hoping to have a robust tailgate sales area and a huge pile of goodies for the Iron in the Hat Raffle! If you are aware of any other vendors who are planning to attend, please let us know so that we can link them into the conference website.

**Program Info:** Christopher Sandlin is our most recent scholarship award recipient, and he will be presenting a smelting demonstration all weekend. There will be several Family Programs offered; keep an eye on the website for the latest info.

In addition to the Teaching Tents, we will have an Open Forges Tent, a UFO Tent (which stands for Unfinished Objects, or Unidentified Ferrous Objects), and an SBA Fabrication Tent where we hope to get a head start on the FABA projects for May's SBA Conference 2021.

# Traditional Smelting Studies

**By Christopher Sandlin**

Through the generosity of my FABA scholarship, I was able to spend four days last month at North House Folk School in Minnesota learning how to manage three types of smelters; a Japanese Tatara, a Viking short stack and an Aristotle.

During the class we actually build two of the smelters; a hybrid Tatara Japanese smelter, and a hybrid Viking short stack. Hybrid in this sense refers to the fact that we were not totally historical and did not exclusively use clay with straw in construction but also used fire bricks, a steel flue and fire wool. The advantage of using a hybrid designs is they are easier and faster to build, take less raw material to construct and can be disassembled easily when removing the iron bloom.

In this article, I will focus on the Viking style iron smelter first, since it will be demonstrated at this year's conference.

Preparation of materials was fairly time consuming, taking most of the first day to prepare the lump (cowboy style) charcoal, cutting it up so that it was no smaller than half an inch and no bigger than two inches, any smaller and it would compact in the foundry and not burn potentially blocking the twyer and any bigger and it might not totally burn and end up in the center of the bloom. In total we processed about 500 pounds of charcoal. At the end of the day some larger chunks of charcoal were saved to plug the slag hole after draining the slag since slag has the potential to make it messy for the clay plug to fit back into the door.

The ore we used was magnetite, ground to the consistency of coarse sand. This type of iron ore is too pure to form a proper slag so in preparation we added a pound of clean sand for every four pounds of ore.

The short stack was a 22 inch tall clay and brick construction with a clay door in the front. The door is (hopefully) used to pull the bloom out but also has a slag drain hole in the center. This part of the construction requires around 24 bricks. Another 22 inch tall stack is added to this. At North House we used a 10 inch in diameter sheet steel cylinder lined with fire wool and clay attached to the short

stack with clay. For our FABA conference smelt we will use a piece of fireplace flue for the same purpose. Once the base was built we fired it with a wood fire using natural draft so everything was baked in before we used it the next day. Consequently, with all this preparation this is a two day build. For the conference we will be building the furnace on Thursday so we can produce a bloom on Friday and then rebuilding it on Friday afternoon so we can do a second smelt on Saturday. On Saturday afternoon we will be converting the Viking short stack to an Aristotle furnace for use on Sunday.

Before the smelt we first packed about two inches of charcoal powder into the base. This is another deviation from the traditional design which would have been built into the dirt but since our furnace was built on a concrete slab we had to have an insulator to prevent spalling. For the Conference we will still use a charcoal powder base for our build as it helps add carbon to the iron making our furnace a steel bloomery.

On the next day a fire was light in the bottom and allowed to warm up the forge. Then the forced air was turned on and charcoal was added till we filled the entire stack, including the flue. The next step is critical as it establishes the amount of air flow required. We wait and time how long it takes to burn 4 inches of charcoal. We adjust the air as necessary because we are going for a burn rate of four inches every ten minutes. Once dialed in the burn rate we could then add the first charge of ore.

Starting with one pound of ore and two pounds of charcoal we carefully added the two parts; the ore gets poured into the side of the stack opposite of the twyer and the charcoal is added until you refill the flue. From this point forward operation of the smelter is straight forward, every ten minutes add more ore in increasing amounts and top off with charcoal for the duration of the desired run time.

After two hour of running we checked for slag by running a rod inside the door to open a path for the molten glass like slag to flow out, it should flow like water. If it doesn't flow then we pulled the slag out like caramel candy on a stick. We continued to check the slag flow every twenty minutes for the rest of the run. Slag is essential to the process as it captures the iron bloom but cannot be allowed to build so high that





it blocks the twyer.

The most important part of the process is timing and consistency; wait too long and you might plug the twyer and the smelter loses heat, jump the gun and you may add too much for the smelter to handle resulting in raw ore and slag getting trapped in the bloom.

After six hours the last charge of ore was added and we began the burn down, which lasted about an hour. Once the charcoal had burned down below the twyer it was time to pull the bloom, the front of the smelter is opened to pull the bloom but in our case Murphy was in business and the bloom got stuck to the side so we disassembled the entire foundry and the bloom was then pulled out (another reason to use bricks in construction).

Once we had the bloom out we had to work quickly since it is difficult to heat a bloom back up to a working temperature without burning it. First it was placed on a stump and lightly struck with a large wooden mallet to consolidate it then we used a maul and some sledge hammers to cut the bloom into manageable pieces. Never use a hand grinder/cut-off wheel on the bloom! Many bad things can happen, most of which will hurt you or destroy your tool. Once sliced up and cooled off the ore is spark tested and divided into categories of low, medium and high carbon. We plan to do the spark test around 4:30 on Friday and Saturday afternoons.

A few notes on the Tatara (Japanese foundry). The Tatara is very compact being only two bricks wide, two and a half bricks deep, and 13 bricks tall. The front has stacked bricks so they can be pulled away to get the bloom out. The Tatara also has six inches of packed powdered charcoal at the bottom instead of two. There is still a slag vent hole on the side like



the Viking foundry. Also like the Viking foundry the ore is added just opposite the center line away from the twyer with a minor difference in that the majority of the ore is placed toward the center and allowed to taper out to the sides, otherwise everything else was run the same as the short stack.

As side project at North House, I assisted the instructor in making an Aristotle smelter. This is a tiny foundry used to consolidate all of the small pieces of ore iron and steel that fall off of the bloom or pieces that never got into the bloom because they fell into the corner of a smelter. We will make one of these foundries on Saturday night for use on Sunday morning. We only

need 12 bricks to build this tool. Because it is so small you need smaller volumes of coal and iron bits. The concepts of airflow, burn rate and fuel feed are the same as the larger foundries; just remember you are doing this on a smaller volume scale, timing is consistent. One disadvantage of the Aristotle smelter is you cannot use it to add carbon to your iron so what you put in is what you get out.

I'm looking forward to conducting these demonstrations for your education at the Ocala Conference on Oct. 30 through Nov. 1. Please stop by!

If you volunteer to help (the ideal team size is three people and a timer) you will receive an appropriate fraction of the iron we produce on Saturday or Sunday. If you want to watch and still get some of our iron the Friday bloom is going to be divided into "currency bars" that you can bid for during the silent auction or try to win during the Saturday "Iron in the Hat."

## Far West Region Report

On September 26th, the faithful members of the Far West joined forces to prepare our trailer for the journey to the annual conference. The mission was daunting, there were 10 tasks on the board and only six members to accomplish the work.

After a quick orientation in the breakroom at Traditions Workshop, fueled by doughnuts, the members knuckled down and got to work! Billy Hay serviced the FABAs generator and then went to work on the generator's storage space in the trailer.

Christopher Mallet got the fire extinguishers mounted and then started work on some shelves in the forward "V" so we would have a place to store the two gas forges and the 2x72 belt sander/grinder when we make the trip. Using tape and/or spray paint, Jen Hay marked all the FABAs equipment with the Far West color – safety orange – and some of the Traditions Workshop equipment that is making the trip on loan was also marked with orange tape. (The Workshop's color is red but so is the Southwest region so she put orange tape on those items to help us keep track).

John Butler made it his job to put "Far West" stickers on the trailer and then he and John Pfund worked on mounting the e-track system. Using the workshop's shaving horse, David trimmed some handles and repaired a few tools that are going to be used during the conference in support of the smelt, and Christopher Sandlin was still making the return trip from North House in Minnesota where he was studying smelting techniques. Lunch was hosted by Traditions Workshop but cooked by John Pfund, thanks John!

After lunch we were joined by Cory Pasour who brought a couple of bull whips to keep the team moving along. Actually he makes bull whips and is an excellent demonstrator in the use of the whip. Under the tutelage of Chris Mallet, Cory forged a hook out of a railroad spike, and then we took time to demonstrate how to punch holes so he could nail up his spike hook.

At the end of the day, when we packed up the FABAs tent we could all look with satisfaction at the work that we had accomplished. Seven of the 10 desired tasks were finished! David and Christopher completed the remaining tasks over the following two weeks, and FABAs Far West is now ready to roll for the conference.

## Far West Region Events

In November, we are planning a special meeting for the Far West chapter. We will take our "show" on the road, up to the Timber Creek Distillery <http://timbercreekdistillery.com/> on the east side of Crestview. Set your GPS to Timber Creek Distillery, 6451 Lake Ella Rd, Crestview, FL, and be prepared to drive on some dirt roads. Our plan is to set up for our usual meeting at 9am and to fire the forges at 10am, not planning to shut down until 4pm.

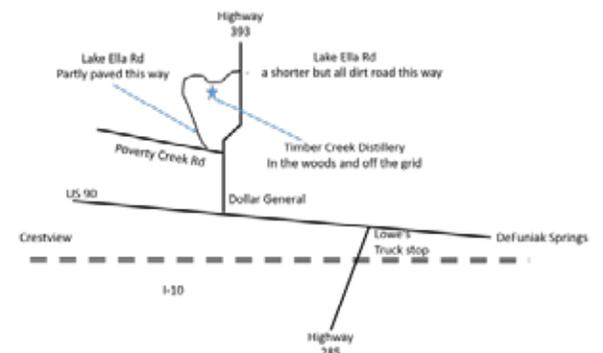
Smiths are encouraged to bring their wares for sale since Timber Creek is also sponsoring a farmer's holiday market that day. Finally all smiths need to be ready to compete in our forging competition, making a holder for a brandy snifter. More information at <https://fb.me/e/1PXFwP4XX>



Floor and wall anchor systems in place, overhead storage of the tent poles, shelving with moveable legs to hold tents, tools and gas forges.



FAR West letters were only part of the marking accomplished this day.



## Regional Reports



One of the big tasks we accomplished over the last two weeks was making over 100 gallons of charcoal to be used for the smelt, we used John Pfund's charcoal making tool to accomplish this job. John will have the junior version of this on display at the conference near the Viking Smelt.

Please let us know if you plan to attend by signing up for our event on Facebook @ "FABA Far West - the Panhandle Blacksmiths."

Timber Creek not only offers exceptional spirits (with free samples) they also have a wood fired stone pizza oven so you can purchase lunch. Travel experts from FloridaRentals.com rounded up their picks for the Florida's Top Distilleries and Timber Creek Distillery was featured 1st in their article about Florida's Top 11 Distilleries! If you and to know more about their unique operation, visit <http://timbercreekdistillery.com/> or come join the FABA Far West blacksmiths for our November Hammer In.

Far West plans to skip our meeting in December since it would be in conflict with Christmas. The January and February meetings will focus on the Journeyman standards and will be held at Traditions Workshop so we have shelter from the cold if necessary. Our March meeting will be held at Butler's Family Farm and is intended to be a fund raiser; a "make and take" class on medieval knife making that will be open to the public.



An example of our challenge project, what will yours look like?

— **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



John Butler getting instruction from Cory Pasour on how to crack the whip

# THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Doug Hayes, Treasurer  
4255 US-1 S. Suite 18 #329  
St. Augustine, FL 32086

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## November 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:

#### FABA

Doug Hayes, Treasurer  
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St. Augustine, FL 32086

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