Welcome to the President’s Corner.

This has been a very busy month and I would like to catch you up as we get closer to Annual Conference next month. On our way to the SW meeting, Billy and I stopped by Lewis and Diana’s Riggleman’s home and forge. We were so impressed by the activity there that I feel compelled to share with you some of the issues we observed and what is going on.

At the burned shell of their home, a track hoe was parked at the front and dumpsters were placed to the side. The roof had been removed and inside we could see the extent of the fire and smoke damage which gave us pause, and the feeling they were both blessed to make it out of the fire. This was on Friday; the damage we were looking at would be removed on Saturday so new construction could begin. It is by and thru the giving of each of you as well as many others in their community that this is happening for them. Again, a big “Thank-You” to each of you who gave in their time of need.

Lisa Anne did a great job putting the SW meeting together with Steve Estenson demonstrating and a large group of attendees. With the number of activities at the meeting, Billy and I had a great time meeting most of those in attendance and watching the demonstration.

This the last year for Lisa Anne as the SW Trustee and Regional Coordinator and she is commended for all the time and effort she has put forth for the furtherance of FABA. When you see her tell her thank-you as I do.

I look forward to the conference, remember the Journeyman Program is alive and well and, if you see a new member, continue to open yourself up and assist in bringing their skill level up.

Be safe and Happy Hammering,
John Boy Watson
Notes From the Editor.

Lots going on at the Annual Meeting in Ocala:
- Demonstrator Hank Knickmeyer has had a medical problem and had to bow out of the meeting. Hank recommended Blacksmith Liam Hoffman to replace him. Read his biographical statement on Page 7.

- Hungarian Master Blacksmith Zsolt Keki is being brought to the Annual Meeting by Shaun Williams. Read Shaun’s description of his visit to Zsolt’s shop in Hungary on Page 8. Zsolt will also demonstrate at Shaun’s Dark Angel Armory on October 17, the Saturday after the Annual Meeting. Shaun is spending a lot of money to bring Zsolt to Florida, if you can help, please make a contribution to cut his costs. I’m sending 1/10 of Zsolt’s plane fare, $58.20, to: Shaun Williams, 1034 Twin Lakes Drive, Coral Springs, FL 33007

- Panel Discussion–The Business of Blacksmithing -
Wish you had more time and money to spend doing what you love? Join our panel of Florida blacksmiths Leslie Tharp, Will Manning, Shaun Williams, Jeff Mohr, Steve Estenson, Trez Cole and Kirk Sullens (duties permitting) for a discussion, not a lecture, a discussion with you on making blacksmithing pay what you need it to pay. Whether you’re looking for a way to make your living from blacksmithing or just want to make enough to pay for materials, you need to develop strategies to earn what you need to make your work stand out. The panel will meet from 2 to 4 pm on Saturday, in the big tent on the Hilton’s patio.

Are you the greatest bladesmith since sliced bread? According to JS Casting The History Channel’s Forged in Fire “is currently casting nationwide for blademakers, armourers and blacksmiths! This exciting show will highlight world-class weapons experts, enthusiasts and engineers who create some of the most iconic weapons and armour from history. You can showcase your talent for a chance to win a $10,000 prize. To learn more visit www.JSCasting.com.” Now I am a skeptical sort and do not know these people, so buyer beware.

David Reddy

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 Materials submitted must be your own work and citations of others must be clearly identified. By submitting material, 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.

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10 Blacksmithing class gives students blast from the past, WMBB TV.
11 A Water Feature for Indoor or Outdoor, The Upsetter, Sept/Oct 2015. Originally from the Appalachian Blacksmiths Association Newsletter; Dec 2013
12 Membership Form
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 AM to 4 PM 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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Region</td>
<td>Bob Jacoby</td>
<td>904-613-2626</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bobjacoby@bellsouth.net">bobjacoby@bellsouth.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northwest Region</td>
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<td>Southeast Region</td>
<td>Shaun Williams</td>
<td>954-274-4119</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Region</td>
<td>Lisa Anne Conner</td>
<td>813-505-8041</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MelisandeAubrey@hotmail.com">MelisandeAubrey@hotmail.com</a></td>
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</tbody>
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**NE October, No Meeting, See you in Ocala!**

**NW October, No Meeting, See you in Ocala!**

**SE Oct 17, Special Demonstration by Hungarian Artist Blacksmith Zsolt Keki. Shaun William’s Dark Angel Armory and Forge, 2600 Hammondville Rd. Bay 20, Pompano Beach, 954-274-4119**

**SW Oct 24, Wolfe Forge Show and Tell from the Annual Meeting!**

(Have you even started on your door knocker? That thing’s not going to make itself!)
REGIONAL REPORTS

NW - Update
Hello FABA from the North-West region. Not much to write about as I've already written about the last meeting. August 8th Tallahassee Museum. Our next one is tomorrow, September 12th. It's going to be at my welding shop. I wrote about it in the last Clinker Breaker. A pancake breakfast and smelting of aluminum in a wood fired forge. I've been cleaning up the shop and getting ready for the last few weeks. I'm as ready as I'm going to be. I have a new and improved respect and appreciation for everyone who hosts meetings! Not much for me to say about the conference, except that I'm really looking forward to it. I'm not ready, but I hope to get ready in the few weeks remaining. I haven't made a Door Knocker yet, but I intend to. I haven't worked on my blacksmith challenge project since the June meeting, but I hope to get a box made for it before I put it in the auction. That's all for now.

I hope to see YOU at the Conference,
John Pfund

NE - September Meeting
The NE Regional meeting was held on Saturday September 5th at Barberville. We had a good turnout with many new members attending. Allen Hardwicke brought along his antique truck (Is that a FOR SALE sign Allen?) and there were many other activities going on at the Pioneer Arts Settlement including a Hit or Miss Engine Display. The meeting broke up a little early as many people drifted off to other activities at the settlement. There won't be an October meeting at Barberville because of the October conference. However, we will schedule a work day or two for those who want to help prepare for the conference. I'll send out the work day notice via e-mail to the NE distribution list.

NE Region Schedule - October: No Meeting; November: Barberville; December: SECOND Saturday @ Allen & Chole Hardwicke's home.

See you at the conference,
Bob Jacoby

(Thanks to the New England Blacksmiths, Summer, 2015, Original from Iron Mountain Blacksmithing)
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL STATEWIDE MEETING

The SW Regional Statewide Meeting was held on August 22 in Tampa at Tandova Inc. Lisa Anne Conner outdid herself, bringing Steve Estenson to demonstrate tong making and a host of other craft demonstrators. Attendance was great with about 57 people. FABA President and Vice President John Boy Watson and Billy Christie won the distance pin. $380 were raised for Scholarship Funds from auction and Buck-in-the-bucket. Thanks Steve for donating the tongs you made to the auction and to our secret benefactor who donated $100 to the Buck-in-the-Bucket!

Steve Estenson’s demonstration was great. He produced two sets of tongs, one for the right hand and one for the left hand. As a left hander, I was very interested in the difference. I’d heard some mention that there were handed tongs, but, as with most handed things, I just learned to cope. Steve’s demonstration made the difference clear and easily remedied in the manufacture! In the picture, the near tongs are intended for use in the left hand (by right handed people) and the far tongs are for use in the right. Note that the reins are mirrored. Each allows the top rein to nestle into the hand while the lower rein is free to open by gravity without binding on the palm and fingers - try it out with your favorite tongs.

Steve has some great tips, like setting the final rivet head on a piece of wood so the first rivet head is not flattened and setting the jaws in their “closed” position while the reins are held apart by a piece of stock - earth-shattering? - No, but you’ll really appreciate it if you’ve ever spent a day coping with a poorly thought out and executed pair of tongs.

Jerry Wolfe brought a Joinery display sculpture that illustrated all of the ways a blacksmith has figured out to join two pieces of steel together. Look for it at the annual meeting. Try as I might, I could not get it to fit in my camera.

Crafters who demonstrated and talked about their skills included Leatherworking, Sue Brown; Celtic Knotwork, Wood-burning and Knitted Shawlettes, Kathy Lynn Wilson; Coin engraving and stamping, George Hernandez; Kumi himo (Japanese Cord Braiding), Marjorie Kuczwara; and Zentangle, Linda Carey.

(Kennedy Cole takes his first blacksmith lesson from his dad.)
SW - Meeting Schedule

See Page 6 for a report on our August Regional Statewide Meeting. Our October Gathering will be on the 24th at Wolfe Forge in Sarasota; We’ll have a “Show and Tell” led by Jerry Wolfe, with members reviewing the things they learned/liked at the FABA Conference. Bring something for the Buck in the Bucket and a potluck dish to share. Our November and December meetings will be combined on the 5th of December at Steve Berglund’s shop in Winter Haven.

SE - August Meeting

Hello again everyone and welcome back to another monthly regional report. Well the dog days of summer are finally coming to a close and we can start looking forward to some slightly cooler temperatures. I’m sure I’m not the only one who can attest that it is no fun forging in an un-air conditioned shop when the heat index is over 100 degrees. Our August Southeast Region monthly meeting was held at my shop, Dark Angel Armory and Forge in Pompano Beach, Florida. It was a quiet day as the attendance was only myself, Sylvia Andrassy, Ralph Nettles and Nathan Nettles. We spent the day discussing and planning upcoming events for the Southeast Region and Nathan Nettles presented a beautiful candelabra piece that he had made as part of his certification as a journeyman blacksmith.

Just a reminder, I am administering a Facebook page for the Southeast Region. I try to post helpful tutorials, vendor information and other valuable blacksmithing resources. Look us up and request an invite at Florida Artist Blacksmith Association Southeast Region. I look forward to hearing from all of you.

Southeast region will not be holding a regional meeting in October due to the FABA statewide conference in Ocala. We will however, be hosting master Hungarian blacksmith Zsolt Keki at my shop on Saturday, October 17th. Our November regional meeting is preempted by our annual efforts to support the Boy Scouts of America. We will be teaching the metal working merit badge for Scout Advancement Weekend at Tanah Keeta Boy Scout Reservation, Saturday November 21st.

Shaun Williams

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Jerry Grice Scholarship 2015

This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Jerry Grice, 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 Jerry Grice Scholarship the applicant agrees to provide a demonstration of skills learned and write a report of the learning experience, including “how-to” for publication in the Clinker Breaker. The next item is not required but strongly suggested that an article made by 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 jbutler@sprintmail.com.
Deadline for receipt is December 31, 2015. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final. The successful applicant will be notified.
Hank Knickmeyer is unable to demonstrate due to health issues. He recommended Liam Hoffman.

Liam Hoffman

I began blacksmithing in the fall of 2008 at the age of thirteen, starting out with nothing but a pit fire and a trailer hitch for an anvil. Over the last few years I’ve worked my way up by purchasing new equipment one machine at a time and learning about the craft and science of moving steel. My parents have been extremely supportive in helping me pursue my passion. They gave me a push start by building a small brake drum forge for my fourteenth birthday. My dad took on the project of building my 200 square foot shop over a two-year period. Once this foundation was established, I had my business well under way before graduating from high school.

Growing up in the rural Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina I was accustomed to playing outside in the woods and creeks, opening up my mind to creativity. I have always been very hands-on and creative. I would make paper dye with wild violets and mold bowls from clay dug out of the creek banks. Later on I taught myself how to macramé and learned the art of Bonsai. My mother and her family are very artistic and creative with design. My father is a hard working farmer. I believe I have both these attributes, and that when these traits are combined they fit perfectly the description of a blacksmith: hard work mixed with creative spirit.

I always get asked how and why I got started in blacksmithing at the age I did. One might think that I saw a blacksmith at a local fair or read about it in school and ran home to try it out. There was no conscious reason why I started, it’s just called being a 13 year old boy. There is nothing else to it: It feels innate to me, like I was born to do it. Once I started heating up and hammering on steel, I knew it felt right. Only afterward did I discover what I was doing was called blacksmithing. Today I’m nineteen years old and an accomplished blacksmith with six years of experience. My work has sold to buyers and collectors internationally.

I believe that high school hindered me in a way, since I discovered my vocation at such a young age. Getting an education is imperative, but at the same time it felt nearly obsolete for me to take honors classes. I was already working 35 hours a week after school and on weekends, making both school and work life challenging. Add to that several years in Boy Scouts, achieving Eagle Scout at seventeen. I truly believe in hard work for building character and maturity. The secret to success is passion, of which I’m fortunate to have plenty for blacksmithing. Work hard and love what you do, and it will all seem like play!

Liam will be assisted in his demonstration by David Burtt. Those of you interested in team striking will want to catch them in action.
A Visit to Master Hungarian Blacksmith
Zsolt Keki
By
Shaun Williams

If you've been following my reports, you know that last month I told you all about my visit with master Italian blacksmith Claudio Bottero while I was in Europe in June. Continuing with my report from last month, I'd like to introduce you to master Hungarian blacksmith Zsolt Keki. If the day I had spent with Claudio Bottero set the bar of my expectations high for my visit with Zsolt, far be it for him to have disappointed us. Zsolt, who is one of the most distinguished and decorated blacksmiths in Hungary, and his family were equally warm and welcoming to us.

We arrived in Zsolt’s village of Hajdunanas, Hungary late in the evening on 13th of June and I was immediately impressed by Zsolt's incredible level of energy and enthusiasm. After joining Zsolt and his family for dinner at about ten in the evening, in typical blacksmith style with a challenging wink in his eye, Zsolt asked if we were too tired to go to his shop right then and there. After traveling thousands of miles to Europe and driving hundreds of miles to his village, there was no chance I was going to pass up this opportunity. It was the wee hours of the morning before we left Zsolt’s shop and headed off to a brief sleep before starting again the next day.

Zsolt picked us up early in the morning. After breakfast we headed back to his shop, where Zsolt proceeded to provide in-depth demonstrations of his particular blacksmithing style. Zsolt demonstrated upset ninety degree corners in square and round stock, various tool making techniques, and his particular traditional style of team striking. After enjoying a delicious traditional Hungarian meal prepared by Zsolt's wife, Andrea, we drove to a nearby city to see first hand some of the best examples of Zsolt’s architectural metal work. Our day with Zsolt and his family was a great exposure to eastern European traditions and blacksmithing techniques. It was a memorable way to spend our last day in Eastern Europe.

As some of you may know, Sylvia and I were determined to bring Zsolt to Florida for the FABA conference and we have succeeded. Zsolt will be arriving in time to join us for the FABA conference and will be staying through the following weekend, allowing him enough time to see some of Florida's sights and to do a demonstration at my shop the weekend after the conference. We hope all who are in attendance at the conference and at my shop the following weekend will have the opportunity to share in Zsolt's knowledge and experience of blacksmithing.
Paul Raber’s Wheel Works
Montgomery, IN

By John Boy Watson

Sally and I took a road trip and stopped at Raber’s Wheel Works in Montgomery, IN. I met with Paul Raber, the owner, unannounced. He was kind enough to stop what he was doing and proceeded to give me a complete tour. I found that he has expanded his business to include the making of buggy’s and carriages.

In his wheel works, Paul not only makes wheels for vehicles, he also makes wheels for cannons and brought out a set for a large cannon which I took a photograph of. (He had one other set he had just completed that was left in his shipping area.) There are a large number of steps in the making of an iron tired wheel with wood spokes and steel hub, it requires a crew of highly skilled workers.

Paul took me through his buggy and carriage shop areas, which included both steel and wood fabrication. In addition to building these from the ground up, he does restoration work on any horse drawn device; that includes chuck wagons, sleighs, and stagecoaches. He had some of these he had just completed and I took and have included a photograph of it. He also does folding carriage tops and specializes in the manufacturing of these.

If any of you ever have a need for any of these specialty items he can be contacted at Raber’s Wheel Works by telephone number 812-486-2786 or by mail at 7226 E. 300N, Montgomery In. 47558.

This is another example of the constant sharing between blacksmiths and I say “Thank-You” to Paul Raber for the giving of his time.

Editor’s Note:

John Boy reports that this 700 pound anvil was “saved from the scrap man” and can still be used. I guess so! No more information at press time. Ask John Boy for the rest of the story.
Blacksmithing class gives students blast from the past

Panhandle Pioneer Settlement blacksmithing class

By Tiffany Jackson | tjackson@wmbb.com
Published 08/15 2015 11:28PM
Updated 08/16 2015 08:30PM

If you're looking for a blast from the past - maybe pre-Industrial Revolution - then look no further than the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement.

Just 14 seconds to craft a piece of steel. Then, back into the fire until a masterpiece is forged. "We are artists and it is our medium," said John Watson. - A medium of steel, hammers and 2,000 degrees. "You have to learn how to sweat," said Watson.

John Watson jokes now, but blacksmithing was once a dying art during the Industrial Revolution. In the late 1970s it was revived by the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America. Today, that organization is working to preserve what was once considered just hard labor. "It really takes you back to a time that we don't know or think about anymore," said Steve McCool.

At the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown, blacksmithing is an art form. Newcomers are able to learn the basics of the craft hands-on. "What I really wanted was just to get my hands on it and see what it's like, how they did it," said Steve McCool. McCool, a student from Marianna, added his own touch to his creation, but said they didn't turn out exactly right. "You can have every plan, every design, everything worked out and when you're done, you're close, but it's always different," said Watson. That's the beauty of this art.

With the weather expected to get cooler in the coming moths, the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement is hoping to host blacksmithing classes at least once a month. For more information on the classes, visit: http://www.panhandlepioneer.org/classes.htm

Text from a News Video shot by WMBB TV at Panhandle Pioneer Settlement, Blountstown.
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A water feature for indoor or outdoor

By Dave Allen

I saw this waterfall, or water feature, at the center of a very large gazebo. A welder crafted it, and he used the round disks from a farmer’s disk to make the “cups.”

The farm disks, given their high-quality steel, provide the listener with beautiful, bell-like tones as water drips from cup to cup.

Vary the flow of water, and you get different tones.
Raise or lower the cups, and you get different tones.
And finally, adjust the depth of water in each cup, and you will get different tones.

Think of the music that this waterfall can make. It is like having 100 different wind chimes.

The secret to making this waterfall work is in the fabrication of the cups. To get the cups to drip water in drops, you will need to cut a short, narrow vee-notch in the edge of the disk. The lily pad photo below shows the type of vee-notch, although you don’t need cut the vee any deeper than one inch.

Then you can put a thin, short twig in the vee-notch. This causes the water to drip off the end of the twig rather than run in a stream.

The stand can be as tall as you want. The stand does need to be hollow to hide the water pipe.

As for placement of the cups, you can vary them wildly. For example, one cup can dribble water into one,

two, or even three cups below by notching the top cup correctly and spacing the receiving cups correctly.

The drawing shows a cup dripping to the one below it. Also, you can see two (or more) cups of different heights dripping into one cup below. Or you can see a cup dripping into the catch basin.

The combinations are limitless. The more cups you place, the more tones you create.

And by using a combination of metals for the cups, you can create even more tones. As well, the diameter and depth of the cup affect the tones of dripping water.

The catch basin needs to be big enough to contain the splash. You’ll need to consider if you want to supply the catch basin automatically with a float valve set up, or intermittently with a standard faucet or a water pail.

It does not take a lot of water to run this apparatus. You can find the pipe and pump at a place that sells water features.

As for electric power for your pump system or background (grotto) lights, BE SURE TO USE A GROUND FAULT BREAKER CIRCUIT.

You are free to forge any kind of supporting arms for the cups.

As for finishes, you’ll probably want to paint or lacquer an indoor waterfall. But for outdoors, rusty metal looks alright.

Water pumps:
Foster & Smith — www.drsfostersmith.com
Webb’s Water Gardens — www.webbsonline.com
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:

Cassandra Garcia, FABA Treasurer
216 NE 3rd St., Apt. #3
Gainesville, FL 32601

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