



**ELECTION
BALLOT**
included in this issue!

August 2003

The Florida Clinker Breaker

August 2003 President's Corner by Bob Jacoby

There's so much going on it's hard to keep track of it all!

Treadle Hammer Workshop Coordinator Jim Dunmire reports that Mike Bettinger's shop in Tallahassee has been selected as the location, Eric Cheromcka is busy selecting suppliers and getting quotes, and Jim himself is narrowing down several dates to hold the 2003 Treadle Hammer Workshop!

FABA board elections are this month and based on the slate of candidates, our future is bright! Please review the candidate profiles in last month's Clinker Breaker and don't forget to vote!

FABA Scholarship Committee Chairman Skeeter Prather reports that there was strong interest and a good selection of candidates for the 2003 Walt Anderson Founders Scholarship Award - the recipient announced inside.

Joel Clark continues to generate enthusiasm and make progress toward the completion of the Barberville gate.

The FABA Board of Directors met on July 12th at the 2003 October Conference site – the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown, Florida. The board is actively working to expand regional participation and is considering making some slight changes to the quarterly board meeting locations in order to broaden regional participation– we're probably going to hold one of the 2004 quarterly board meetings in the SW Region.

The Audit Committee under the watchful chair of Vi Payton completed its annual review of FABA finances and presented their findings at the July 2003 board meeting.

Past president Patty Draper and [hopefully] future president Bill Robertson are making a variety of helpful suggestions that will strengthen FABA's presence in the Southeastern United States. There is even talk of hosting a gas forge construction workshop.

The regional coordinators are all busy and I'm hearing good reports regarding the quality of the programming (and the food) at the monthly regional meetings. If you have an open weekend, try to attend a meeting in one of the other regions – we're really fortunate to have a meeting virtually every weekend of the year!

As I re-read what I wrote above I'm struck by how much effort so many people put into our organization! I'm deeply appreciative of everyone's efforts and I hope you all realize the positive impact you're having, not only relative to our mission of promoting the art and craft of blacksmithing, but more importantly, in the communities in which we live.



Last month's suggestion to cold forge copper in the hot summer months was just a weak moment – too much time in the sun. Spark up your coal forge on one of those dog days of August, heat up a big chunk of iron and beat the snot out of it!

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

FABA Officers

President	Bob Jacoby	904-260-9981	jacoby@fdn.com
Vice President	Bill Robertson	850-668-2876	applecrossforge@nettally.com
Treasurer	Juan Holbrook	352-374-8888	juanylindagrace@aol.com
Secretary	Karen Wheeler	352-486-4370	kwheel@svic.net
Program Chairman	Dot Butler	850-539-5742	jgbutler@sprintmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Kim Wendt	561-626-9782	k.wendt@att.net
Past President	Patty Draper	850-668-2876	applecrossforge@nettally.com
Trustee #1	Joel Clark	904-321-2116	jac@net-magic.net
Trustee #2	John Butler	850-539-5742	jgbutler@sprintmail.com
Trustee #3	Jeff Mohr	850-926-4448	mockingbirdforge@peoplepc.com
Trustee #4	Charlie Stemmann	561-964-8834	stemmann@aol.com

The Florida Clinker Breaker

Editor: Kim Wendt

561-626-9782

Email: k.wendt@att.net

Production and Printing:

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Disclaimer:

SMITHING CAN BE DANGEROUS. Protect your eyes, your hearing, your body, your life and your property. Protect others around you. You are responsible for working safely. When in doubt, ask. Learn.

Submissions to *The Florida Clinker Breaker*: Articles of interest to blacksmiths are welcome. Your FABA friends want to read about you! We appreciate your contributions to future newsletters. Although we cannot promise to use every submission, we want to make this your newsletter. Please email or "snail" mail your articles, want ads, sales ads, tips, pictures and funny stories to k.wendt@att.net or to the address printed on the mailing section. If you include photos of yourself or others please provide names for the captions. Also, if you provide the photo, I assume you have the permission of the people in the photo to publish their picture! Photos: high-contrast black-and-white or color prints or digital picture files are acceptable. Text submissions: please send legible handwritten, typewritten, MS Word or Dos text formats.

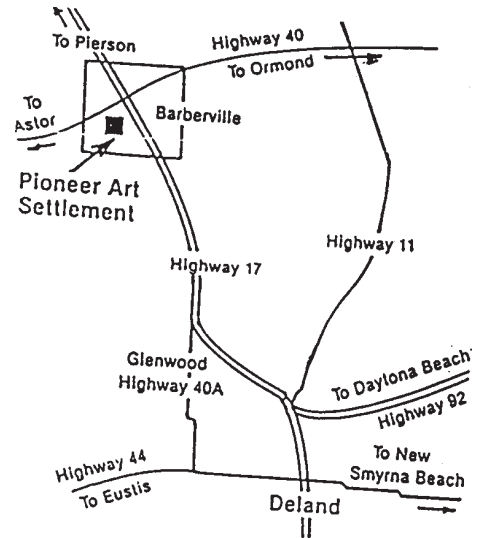
The Florida Clinker Breaker is published monthly and is the official publication of the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA). Membership is available to any individual or organization. Annual dues for regular membership are \$20 and includes a subscription to *The Florida Clinker Breaker* for one year. Periodicals postage paid at Tallahassee FL and additional mailing offices. Matters relating to address changes should be sent to Patty Draper at the phone/email above. As an educational organization, the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association welcomes the use of newsletter material by other organizations. Occasionally *The Florida Clinker Breaker* publishes articles copyrighted by others. Those articles should not be reproduced without the written consent of the copyright holder.

Upcoming Events

The calendar includes events of interest to the blacksmithing community. Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA) sponsored events are highlighted in bold typeface. The regions have no boundaries - everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can. We hold regular monthly meetings in each region (except that we all try to get together at one Statewide Meeting each quarter) on the following Saturdays of each month: NE-1st, NW-2nd, SE-3rd, SW-last. The actual dates may vary from month to month; check the schedule below. **At any time, please see the FABA WEBSITE at www.blacksmithing.org for up-to-date information, maps and meeting listings!**

Our meetings are informal gatherings around the forge. Prospective members are always welcome. Come for all or any part of a meeting, bring your tools, or just watch. Most meetings run from 9AM to 4PM, and you'll need to bring a lunch if you stay all day, unless otherwise noted. If you have any questions about meetings, please contact the Regional Coordinators listed below:

Northeast Region:	Kent & Melanie Owen	352-307-2033	Oak1954@aol.com
Northwest Region:	Billy Christie	850-421-1386	chriswood@talweb.com
	Ed Crane	850-893-3212	NCrane8364@aol.com
Southeast Region:	Lynn Emrich	561-833-0931	lynn@dialup.ws
Southwest Region:	Erik Flett	941-437-3844	-unknown-

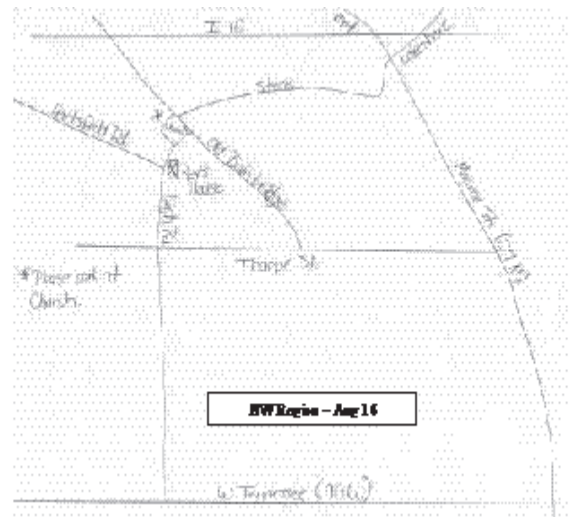


August 2003

NE	Aug 02	Pioneer Art Settlement - Barberville
NW	Aug 09	Rex and Mary Ellen Anderson, Tallahassee
SE	Aug 16	Art Ballard - Art's Work Unlimited, Miami
SW	Aug 23	to be announced

Extended Forecast

NE	Sep 06	Mike Sluss
SE	Sep 20	Ray and Anne Reynolds
NE	Oct 04	Pioneer Art Settlement - Barberville
NE	Oct 10 - 12th	Statewide Conference, Panhandle Pioneer Settlement, Blountstown, FL
NE	Nov 1-2	Jamboree - Barberville
SE	Nov 15	Charlie Stemmann's
NE	Dec 06	Christmas Gathering- Allen and Chloe Hardwick's Shop or Home
SE	Dec 20	Yesteryear Village- Christmas Party
SE	Feb 21	Quarterly Meeting - Yesteryear Village



Directions to NW Meeting at Anderson's shop:

August 9th, 2003 meeting at Rex and Mary Ellen Anderson's shop and home at 2211 High Rd., Tallahassee, FL. The shop is at the intersection of High Rd. and Hartsfields Rd. From I-10, take the US 27 South exit. About 5 blocks south of I-10 is Old Bainbridge Rd. Shop about 1 1/2 blocks further south past Old Bainbridge Rd

Additional parking is across the street in the church parking lot. Lunch is provided but please bring a dessert and your "Iron In The Hat" items. Should be very interesting!!!!

“Coming Up! August 16, 2004”

COMING UP!! All Smiths invited to AUGUST 16, 2003 SE Region Meet

Art's Work Unlimited, Inc.

22150 S.W. 154 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33176

#(305) 247-9257 or #(305) 970-5624

Email: artswork@bellsouth.net

START TIME: 8:00am

END TIME: 5:00pm

There will be coffee, juice, donuts, etc. in the morning. Cold drinks and water will be provided all day. Lunch served from 12:00pm - 1:00pm

As a shop, we specialize in sculptural metal work, mild steel, aluminum, cooper, bronze and stainless. We fabricate gates, rails, stairs, furniture, light fixtures, sculptures, and almost anything unusual and often one of a kind custom work. We have three propane forges, three power hammers, anvils, etc. In fabrication we often combine welding with traditional joinery, forging of aluminum, steel and bronze. We make parts on our lathe and mill every week.

There will be a quick shop tour and discussion about innovative ideas we find helpful for increased production. We'll discuss the differences between working with the various metals, their advantages and disadvantages. We will talk briefly about finishes, which is one of our specialties, and demonstrate a great antique bronze finish and a great finish on aluminum to look like natural wrought iron.

We will make a bird, palm leaf and other items using repousse tools and the pullmax as a forming tool on sheet metal and light plate. We will also demonstrate some custom dies on the power hammer for forging various shapes on steel as well as aluminum bar stock.

Our goal is to move quickly, have a lot of components partially made so you can see the steps involved, and have audience participation. If anyone wants to demonstrate something special, please give us a call and we'll allow time for this. Also, if there is anything particular you wish to see, let us know.

We look forward to having everyone down! Please RSVP at the number above.

DIRECTIONS:

Head south on the Florida Turnpike.

Exit at #11, Cutler Ridge Boulevard and go west (right).

At the light on U.S. 1 (also known as South Dixie Highway), turn left, heading south.

Turn right at the light at S.W. 216th Street, heading west.

Follow S.W. 216th Street all the way down to S.W. 154 Avenue, and turn left. We are down the street on the right side. Look for the American flag on the mail box.

SMALL LOCAL HOTELS AVAILABLE:

Baymont Inn Miami - Cutler Ridge (305) 278-0001 or (877) BAY-MONT

5.4 miles from Shop \$74.99 + tax.

Howard Johnson - Cutler Ridge (305) 253-9960

5.5 miles from Shop Single: \$79.00 + tax. - Double: \$69.00 + tax.

Grove Inn Country Guesthouse (305) 247-6572

3.4 miles from Shop (Bed & Breakfast: www.groveinn.com)

\$65.00 + tax

FABA Board of Directors Election

All Board positions are elected for a two year period of service, for 2004-2005, and will begin in January of 2004. The one exception to this rule is for positions that are vacated (for various reasons) prior to the two year period of service being concluded. In that event, an election for a special one year period of service may be required to get a position's term back on schedule.

2004-2005 Slate of Candidate for FABA Board of Directors Election:

Bill Robertson, is running for the position of FABA President

Bill Robertson currently serves as Vice President of FABA and chairman of the committee to operationalize the blacksmith shop at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. He is a frequent demonstrator at FABA events, and has studied with Tom Latane, George Dixon, Elmer Roush and Kirsten Skiles. He has been a member of FABA since 1989, serving as editor of *The Florida Clinker Breaker* and regional coordinator of the Northwest region. He enjoys carving and chasing iron, as well as traditional iron pounding. He owns and operates Whitetail Taxidermist in Tallahassee.

Jeff Mohr is running for the position of Vice President

Jeff has held the position of Program Chair for the 2000-2001 term. He is a dedicated blacksmith who teaches the art at several out-of-state Schools. Jeff is a regular demonstrator for a lot of our monthly regional meetings. First Jeff was a broom-maker and then he took up Blacksmithing. He has become a premier smith who is in demand as a demonstrator at many conferences all over the United States.

Anne Reynolds is running for the position of Secretary

Anne Reynolds has been a member of FABA since 1989. She served as Treasurer in 1997-98. Anne and her husband, Ray, a Trustee from 1998-2001; also shared Regional Coordinator duties in the Southeast for many years. Anne is always willing to lend a competent, helping hand to FABA. She works for a Palm Beach County nonprofit group that oversees educational programs from birth to work. Her spare time is spent quilting.

Melanie Owen is running for Secretary for 2004-5

In her own words: "My family has been active member of FABA for four years. I assist my husband Kent Owen as Northeast Regional Coordinator. I was the Secretary for a non-profit health organization for four years, where I was closely involved in the day to day business as well as the monthly board meetings. I was also the newsletter editor, a red cross certified educator and speaker for same organization for three years. I was the newsletter editor for local chapter of a national non-profit car club for one year."

"As many of you know I try to support FABA with volunteering at our local functions. I try to set up projects that can be done at our meetings. I believe this is a family organization, and would like to see more of the spouses, others and children get involved. If we can keep the whole family happily involved, our membership possibilities will be endless. I also am very interested in the direction that we, as an organization, are going. I am proud of the progress that I see FABA has made since it first began. I listen to what our members have to say, so I hear what members feel is working and what is not working, as well as what has been tried before. I also believing in standing up for what I think is the right and best thing to do. I am also very outgoing and if you have been to one of our meetings, I probably came up to you to say hi, or to have you sign the member sheet or hit you up for tickets in the buck-in-the-bucket."

FABA Board of Directors Election

Dot Butler is running for the position of Program Chair (special one year election to align election rotation)

Dot Butler of Havana, Florida, has served as FABA's Program Chairman for the past two years. Dot has been a member of FABA since 1985 and, contrary to public knowledge, can build a fire, forge and even forge weld! Dot works in the printing industry. She has many years of experience in advertising, printing, public relations and organizing conferences. To help get the election rotation back on schedule, she is willing to serve another year.

Clyde Payton is running for the position of Trustee

Clyde has served the FABA organization since it's earliest days in several positions on the Board. He started off as the Program Chair for the first three years, while also serving as Trustee for the first 13 years of the group's existence. He then served as the President of FABA for two years and Past President for two years.

Jerry Grice is running for the position of Trustee

Jerry is one of the founding members of FABA. He is also the past President of NOMMA. He has served on the FABA board in the past, two years as Vice President, two years as Editor, and most recently five years as Trustee. Jerry is an active demonstrator for several conferences. He started in welding and has been producing ornamental iron work for over 30 years.

Steve Kalb is running for the position of Trustee

In his own words: "Well, I have been involved with FABA for ten years. Fred Caylor was my first instructor, and my first class was on Walt Anderson's property with him. I cherish those memories... I would like to help out FABA, more so the Southwest region, become a more active and self sustaining entity. There is a lot of talent on our coast, and I think it needs just a bit of coaxing and planning to bring it to fruition to the masses. I have been to John C. Campbell Folk School, and Peters Valley, in New Jersey. I intend to go to Penland in the near future. The positions I have held in FABA were Program Chairman, serving under Lewis Riggleman, and recently for over a year and a half Regional Coordinator for the SW region serving under Patty Draper. FABA has given me the ability to go after my dream of smithing, and I simply want to give back something to the group. Regardless of position, I will be doing my best to help out and serve the group".

Tom Kennedy is running for the position of Trustee

In his own words: "I have been a FABA member since 1996, my first real meeting was at the conference that year and I've been hooked ever since! I work at Walt Disney World as a stage technician working in areas such as rigging, staging, props, lighting and pyrotechnics. I got into blacksmithing because I wanted something outside of Disney and to honor the memory of my late grandfather who at one time owned a foundry up in Michigan. I believe in FABA, its members and the educational and fellowship goals. I have volunteered on several past conferences and would encourage all members, especially newer ones, to jump into the mix and do the same".

Bill Adams is running for the position of Trustee

Bill is a member of the Northwest region and has been a member of FABA for seven years. He graduated from Georgia Tech, is an engineer by vocation and a knife maker by avocation. We appreciate his technical advice (how to make a wheel work) and his dedication to FABA.

Charlie Stemmann is running for the position of Trustee (special one year election to align election rotation)

Charlie has served as Trustee # 4 for the last two years and has agreed to run/serve for another year as necessary. In addition to being a regular intermediate blacksmithing class instructor at our conferences, Charlie also demonstrates at other area events. He has also taught at John C. Campbell Folk School. A master machinist by trade, Charlie also oversees the Blacksmith Shop in Yesteryear Village at the South Florida Fairgrounds.

FABA Election Ballot for term 2004-2005

**The following FABA Board Offices are up for Election at this time:
President, Vice President, Secretary, Program Chair, and Trustee positions #1 #3 #4**

NOTE: The positions of Program Chair and Trustee #4 are a special election for **1 Year only** to get these positions back on track with their normal election times.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please clearly check the box beside the name of your chosen. If you wish to vote for someone not formally on this list, clearly check the box next to the blank line and legibly print the 'write-in-candidate's' name on the line. Please remember that there are three possible votes for Trustee. You do not have to sign the form. Please send all ballots in a stamped envelope to:

**Karen Wheeler
10250 NE 50th St.
Bronson, FL 32621**

President: vote for 1

- Bill Robertson
- _____

Program Chair: [one year only] vote for 1

- Dot Butler
- _____

Vice President: vote for 1

- Jeff Mohr
- _____

Trustees #1 #3 #4

[remember that #4 is for one year only]

******Please vote for Three People******

- Bill Adams
- Jerry Grice
- Steve Kalb
- Tom Kennedy
- Clyde Payton
- Charlie Stemmann
- _____

Secretary: vote for 1

- Melanie Owen
- Anne Reynolds
- _____

All voting needs to be done before the **30th of September of 2003** to be counted in the totals. Those ballots received later than this date will not be counted.

Your vote will be removed from the envelope and put in a file to be counted by three FABA members and totaled *after* the September 30th date. No one will know how you voted despite a return address on the envelope. You may leave the return address off of the envelope and it will reach me anyhow.

Last year was the first time I did the ballots this way and it was the first time I didn't get unreadable or damaged votes. We also had a great turnout for voting and I hope we will even top that this year. If you have any questions you may call or email me. My phone is 352-486-4370. My email is kwheel@svic.net

Respectfully,

Karen Wheeler, FABA Secretary

FABA CONFERENCE 2003

October 10,11 & 12

Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown, Florida

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Karen Wheeler:

Karen handles our registration for conference. This is a great responsibility to take in monies, place people in the classes they want, make name badges and keeps everyone happy.

Jim Carty:

Jim is handling tailgate tool sales, which is an important access to those who need tools, supplies or equipment.

Skeeter Prather and Jeff Mohr and Jerry Grice and Bill Adams and John Butler:

These fellows are doing the site preparation coordination and security. They come early and get things ready such as tent setups and demonstrators stations.

Mary Ellen Anderson:

Mary Ellen will be selling the Iron-in-the-Hat tickets. This is a fun fund-raiser that kids of all ages enjoys.

Vi Payton:

Vi checks in our auction donations. She tags, numbers and identifies the items and also fills out receipts. She works during the auction filling out sheets and processing the receipt and money raised. This important job is part of our largest fundraiser.

Willard and Linda Smith:

Thank you, to these two gracious people, who are providing our site this year. As members that are always ready to volunteer, their energy seems endless and they are always in the middle of the action. The Panhandle Pioneer Settlement is just one of the many projects dear to them.

Kim Wendt:

As editor of the Clinker Breaker she gets my articles in and helps spread conference info.

Steve Bloom:

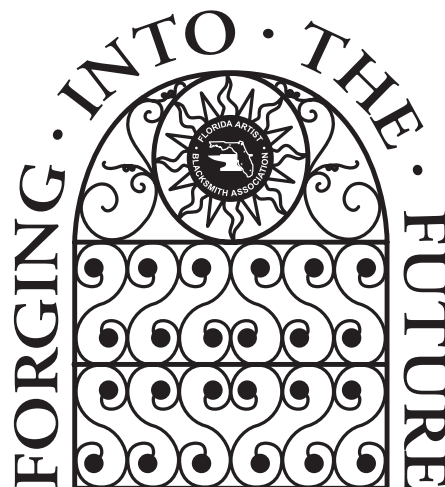
Our web master for FABA places the info I drop on him, plus he got up pictures of last years conference. Go to www.blacksmithing.org and look under conference.

Bill Adams:

Bill is the chef of our good ole Southern chicken pilau dinner on Saturday night before the Auction (dinner tickets included in your registration packet).

John Butler:

John keeps things running smoothly. He handles technical advice and the conference would not happen without his help..



SPECIAL EVENTS

- General Membership Meeting
- Anvil Shoot
- People's Choice Award
- Iron in the Hat
- Auction
- Show & Tell

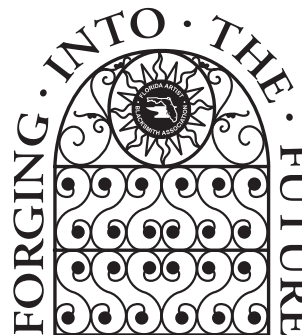
**Conference Registration Brochures will mail in August;
classes have limited space and are first come first served.**

Blacksmithing Classes

- Beginning
- Intermediate
- Bladesmithing
- Forge welding

Family Program Classes

- Copper Flowers
- Broom Tying
- Stained glass
- Tooth brush hook rugs
- Wood bowl carving demonstration



Demonstrators

David Ponsler — Scott Thompson — Robert Johnson

Steve Bloom • Allan Kress • Don Hanson

**COAL
WILL BE
AVAILABLE!**

ANNUAL AUCTION

This is our major fundraising event of the year. Tim Ryan will conduct the auction on Saturday night at 7:00pm. Please bring something to donate. Pieces of your own work are treasured. Blacksmithing tools are always sought after as well.

**MAKE YOUR HOTEL
RESERVATIONS NOW**

Microtel Inn (850)526-5005

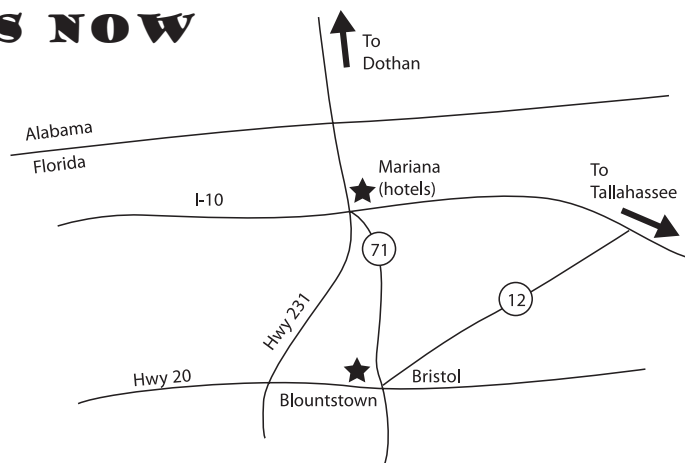
(Our demonstrators will be staying here.)

Days Inn (850)526-2900

Best Western (850)526-5666

Hampton (850)526-1006

The youth camp onsite is available for \$1 per night per person. You must provide your own linens and showers are available.



NOTE:

The drawing for the special scholarship will be held prior to the auction at 7pm on Saturday, October 11, 2004. Look for the application within this issue — apply now!

“Other News and Goings On”

Annual Blade Show Report (American Bladesmith Society)

John and I have just returned from the Annual Blade Show, which hosts the ABS (American Bladesmith Society) annual meeting and knife auction. This is a three-day show packed with events and unfortunately we only able to attend on Saturday June 14. There are a gajillion attendees, exhibitors, suppliers, knife makers and demonstrations happening simultaneously.



John Butler and Jerry Grice

Determination of journeyman and masters is conducted at this time and this year was the first ABS World Championship Cutting competition. How to forge knives, as well as how to throw knives and tomahawks and even how to buy and sell knives on the Internet was a small selection of the total program classes to attend. The 2003 Blade Magazine Knife of the Year Awards and the Blade Show custom knife awards are conducted at this show.



Jerry Grice

Held at the Cobb Galleria Center in Atlanta, this international seminar attracts the cutting edge. When the weather was a bit warm for the out door demonstrations we nipped back inside to see the exhibitors. On the show floor, there were twenty- eight rows of twenty tables to display custom knives, factory knives and suppliers. If you are looking, this is the place to see new equipment, accessories, steel and supplies.

We ran into several of our FABA friends and family (Florida has a large number of bladesmiths), including our friend Jerry Grice. He was doing so well that he has to go home and make more knives for another upcoming show. Charles Ox was there and for you knife guys he now has a cd out on knife making, check out www.oxforge.com to order online. I cannot even mention everyone we saw but FABA was well represented by exhibitors and attendees.

If you are interested in Bladesmithing this is the seminar to attend. There are plenty of suppliers with that hard to find material. THE CRAFTMANSHIP OF THE BLADES IS EXTRORDNARY!!!!

-Dot and John Butler

“For Sale”

FOR SALE: From Faba Member, Bill Robertson

Several post vices, #150 lb Wilkinson anvil, large post drill, Champion forge, Step- vise, and other misc. items. Call Bill Robertson (W) 850-681-0881 or (H) 850-668-2876

Rocky Comfort Forge Free Catalog:

Rocky Comfort Forge offers a free catalog of Video/DVD offerings from 21 Master Blacksmiths demonstrating at Blacksmith Annual Conferences throughout the Southeastern United States. To get your FEREE catalog, send your name and address to Rocky Comfort Forge, 6323 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy, FL 32351 or email your request to: rockycomfortforge@gdsys.net

“Other News and Goings On”

NE REGION: HAPPY 4TH ON THE 5TH

At our last meeting, we had hotdogs, brauts, ham, hot wings, taboulli, beans, chips, slaw, dump cake, pie and lots more just a regular down home picnic. If you were't there you really missed out on lots of good food, family and fun. We had about 40 people present.

We had open forges with lots of different things being done, including lots of backseat forging. We raised \$55 in the buck-in-the-bucket. Everyone needs to bring some stuff to donate to the buck-in-the-bucket. You never know what you will find, we had some forklift wheels this month. So go ahead and bring your stuff, especially pieces of metal and finished products.

There were three new members there. One of the new members spent four months at the John C. Campbell School on a work study program. Lucky Girl! Yes, I said “girl”, not all of our members are guys.

We have members of all ages too. We are looking to start a JR FABA group in the Northeast Region, for 10 and up. This will be held during our regular meetings and give the kids a chance to learn the basics of Blacksmithing with other kids their own age. The spouses also want to start a group, they want to do other things that are interesting. This will allow the family members to become more involved in what is going on in the world of blacksmithing.

August will be in Barberville. Lester Hollenbeck will be demonstrating how to make slingshots out of railroad spikes. Thurmond Chaffin will be demonstrating a swan out of round stock. As usual we will be having open forges for everyone to enjoy.

September will be at Mike Sluss's in Deland. Let's make this a covered dish. Bring the whole family. In addition to all the good food provided, Melinda Sluss will be demonstrating her bread making in the kitchen (**Whole Wheat Bread Demo**), while the guys bang around the forge.

Bread topics to be covered are:

Health and Nutrition Info.

Wheat Varieties

Milling of Flour

Kneading options, Hand vs. Machine

Baking of Bread (Eating the Examples!)

This will be a Demonstration as opposed to a hands on class, there will be no fee to attend.

October will be in Barberville. We will be getting ready for **Jamboree days on November 1 & 2**, also we will have broom making, showing and learning. This is a group of us trying to help others learn. We're not professionals, but we have fun. We will have broom sets with corn, string and needle for sale. Kids are allowed to come and learn too, but they must be accompanied by an adult.

If you are interested in being a part of it, whether you want to learn or want to help others learn email me at mellowen1@aol.com. Make sure you put FABA or broommaking in the tag line.

We will be thinking of Bob Mancuso as he gets ready to have surgery on his hand. We hope it heals fast, and look forward to have him back banging soon.

Happy retirement to Ronnie Fowler (finally). He'll be training his son to take over for him. This leaves him lots of time to do some more honey-dos and bladesmithing.

Kent & Melanie Owen
Northeast Regional Coordinators

“Bits and Pieces”

FABA Conference Story (a.k.a. one editor’s viewpoint) **and Road Trip Information:**

Every year, the FABA Annual Conference is a highlight of for blacksmiths and family throughout Florida. Even though I’ve smithed on and off for several years, last year was my first annual conference trip. It was great! I signed up for some classes, watched demonstrations, browsed the toolgate sales and enjoyed myself to the hilt. My husband, Mark, also came and signed up for a class to learn blacksmithing.

There is also a real family atmosphere at conference. I discovered the comraderie of fellow FABA members, laughing at all the jokes (even the bad ones!), meeting new ‘faces’ but not new people. This year, I can’t wait to meet up with my FABA friends. I’ve even promised to bring my guitar and some bluegrass, folk, and ‘old-time’ gospel music. So FABA musicians: Listen up! Bring your guitars, your ‘gut-buckets’, washboards, banjos and spoons! Let’s have us a Jamboree!

Now many of us (at least in the SE) have noticed that Blountstown is a fair distance from home. That’s okay, it makes for a fun road trip so long as there’s someone to share the driving. Several of us plan to ‘truck pool’ together. Probably many of us from all over the state could benefit from a ‘truck pool’ and from help with accommodations once we get there. So if you’re going, or want to go, to the annual conference:

- Do you have room in your vehicle for extra persons/gear?
- Do you want or need a ride to Blountstown with another smith?
- Do you live in the Blountstown area, and have a spare bedroom, couch or space for fellow FABA ‘boarders’?
- Do you need a place to stay while up at conference?
- Do you have gear, equipment that needs transport
- Do you know of area motels/hotels that will give discounted rates?

First, check with your area coordinators and friends to see if they also have or need rides/accomodations. Second, call or email me (use FABA in the subject line) to give me your information. Next month, I hope to print a listing of discounted hotels/motels,’truck pool’ options and lodging possibilities. Thanks for the help! - *Kim Wendt*

“Bits and Pieces - Blacksmiths Needed”

Blacksmiths Needed!

The Pioneer Florida Museum and Village in Dade City (www.PioneerFloridaMuseum.org), Florida needs blacksmiths to demonstrate during their 27th Annual Florida Pioneer Festival held on Labor Day weekend (August 30th - September 1st). Demonstrators are welcome to sell their wares during this well attended event, but they will have to provide their own portable forge as the permanent blacksmith shop has not been built.

Please contact Donna Swartz at (352) 567-0262 for details and scheduling - feel free to commit to one day only if that’s all the time you can spare. This is a great way to promote our craft to the public and the opportunity to sell items should make the weekend worth your while.

If anyone has any comments or suggestions, or edits on this topic, please share them directly with Kim and cc me. I just met Donna Swartz on the telephone yesterday, but I bet some of you know more about this organization - Lewis Riggleman used to demonstrate here, but apparently he will be in Vermont over Labor Day. - *Bob Jacoby*

FABA COMMORATIVE GATE PROJECT - PROGRESS REPORT

Although we are making progress, the response to our request for the FABA members to make decorative disks for the gate has been less vigorous than we had hoped. We have some completed disks in hand, and more are promised soon. The problem we are facing is that of time.

It is our desire and plan to display the finished gate at the annual FABA conference in October. In order for that to be possible, we need to receive the individual disks from the members in time to get them welded to the gate, and then have it sandblasted and painted before transporting it to the conference.

We urge our members to contribute one or more completed disks to this project as soon as possible in order that we may have this project comfortably finished before October.

Let me again remind our contributors that the design is left up to the individual smith, and that we prefer that it be constructed all of iron (steel) since most other materials will require much time consuming masking for the sandblasting and painting. More details of the history of the gate, photos and disk dimensions can be found in my previous Clinker Breaker article. Finished disks can be given to your section coordinators, or sent to me or any FABA officer. Please contribute a little time and effort if you have not already done so. -*Joel Clark*

THE FABA GATE PROJECT

Project: construction of a decorative gate to be displayed at the October Conference and then installed at the Pioneer Art Settlement in Barberville.

At the top of the gate is located the FABA "sunburst" logo crafted by Rick Jay's artful hand and his plasma cutter. Toward the center of the gate are the initials "PAS" (Pioneer Art Settlement) which were cut from brass by Bill. The remainder of the gate is adorned with graceful scrolls and collars that were done at a NE regional meeting by various members. Space was reserved on the lower portion for 48 3 1/2" diameter steel disks, each to be decorated with a small forging designed and executed by the FABA member who contributed it.



The blanks should be 3 1/2" in diam. and 3/32 - 1/8" thick - about 12 gauge. The design is left up to the donor. It is suggested that the decorative piece be made from steel since the completed gate will need sand blasting and painting, and other materials would need to be masked and carefully protected. The range of possible designs is limited only by the constraints of the smith's imagination. Some of the submitted items have included such things as a miniature anvil, tiny tongs, an array of decorative twists in small bars, a wizard head, and an assortment of abstract designs.

Make a piece of FABA history!



“Scholarship News”

Great News! At the July 12th Board meeting in Blountstown, the 2003 Walt Anderson Founders Scholarship was awarded to Mr. Lloyd Wheeler of Tallahassee; \$750 toward his attendance at a class at the John C. Campbell School. Congratulations Lloyd!

New Scholarship Opportunity

The Board voted to inaugurate a second scholarship -- good for up to \$750!-- for the full cost of class or \$750, whichever is less. Depending upon the availability of dollars, it will be awarded annually at the FABBA Annual Conference. The first “winner” will be selected this October at the meeting in Blountstown.

The procedure is simple - a raffle. Simply complete the Entrance Form below, (or a reasonable facsimile), containing signature, name, address and phone number on paper, not card stock. At the Annual Conference, one entry from the entry box will be drawn. the name thereon is the winner!! You do not have to be present to win.

Signed: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Phone: _____

The Signature is required to certify that the applicant understands the requirements of winning:

1. The award may be used only for attendance at a full time blacksmith school (however, the Board will consider a variance upon good justification);
2. Within six months of completion of schooling, winner to submit a “how-to” article for publication in the Clinker Breaker;
3. Present a demonstration of “how to” at a regional meeting;
4. Provide a forged item for the annual conference auction.

Please send your entries (only one per member) to:

Skeeter Prather, Chair
Scholarship Committee
Florida Artist Blacksmith Association
2816 Terry Road
Tallahassee, FL 32312

I'll happily respond to any questions: (850) 386-9246

-Skeeter Prather

Welcome New Members!

Stacey & Trent Wolf
1209 Spottswood Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308
850-877-8180

Bill Zimmerman
2912 Pound Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32312
850-580-5897
dilbertxxl@yahoo.com

Terry & Lynn Schuyler
21915 Newburn
Astor, FL 32102
352-759-3822
t486837@netscape.net

Roy & Gwen Bearden
5605 Hill Road
Albany, GA 31705
229-432-9015
we_r_homewardbound@msn.com

Tom & Joy Raber
2190 Sebastian Court
Alva, FL 33920
239-728-5527

John & Regina Taylor
1062 Rosedale Drive
Montgomery, AL 36107
334-263-3311(h)
334-467-6355 (w)
jwtaylor@knology.net

Jordan Thomas
2640-204 Blanding Blvd. #104
Middleburg, FL 32068
352-473-5228

Michael Hardy
301 Penman Road
Neptune Beach, FL 32266
904-247-0276

“Tools and Tips”

TIPS FROM APPLECROSS FORGE

Tweaking and Adjusting:

How many times have you finished a project, put the finish on, and then realized that it really needs one more hammer blow or kink taken out? Hitting it with a hammer might scratch it or mar the finish though. Sometimes you can accomplish a final adjustment with a wooden hammer but this is usually not very effective on heavy stock. I have found that keeping scraps of leather handy will help. Leather will protect the finish from being scratched from hammer blows. Usually a piece of thick leather is only good for one or two blows however so be careful. Leather is also effective as a cushion when clamping your work in a vise. *-Bill Robertson-*

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. Other not-for-profit blacksmith organization 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.

SPECIAL EDITION!!

**Election ballot inside this issue —
tear it out and vote today!**

FABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association, Inc.

Date _____ New [___] Renewal [___]

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Work: _____

E-Mail _____

Spouse's Name: _____

If you do not wish to be listed in the printed FABA directory, please check the box to the right [___]
Send this application and membership fee of \$20.00 to:

Juan Holbrook, FABA Treasurer
6418 NW 97 Court
Gainesville, FL 32653

Make check out to FABA. Your FABA membership begins when we receive your payment and lasts one year. Membership is for a family. You don't have to be an ABANA member to join FABA, but many FABA members are, and we encourage membership in both organizations.

August 2003

Check your membership
expiration date, get your
dues in on time please!

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Kim Wendt, editor
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561-626-9782 or k.wendt@att.net
<http://www.blacksmithing.org>