



December 2007

Contributors

Ed Aarons	Ken Knight
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Tom Kennedy	

The Florida Clinker Breaker

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association
Established May 18, 1985

President's Corner

Bill Robertson



I think FABA has done a great job of meeting its purpose which is to preserve and develop the art of blacksmithing. However, you may have noticed if you attended our annual conference in October, that there didn't seem to be as many people in attendance as in previous years. Well, you would be right. Our membership has dropped. Our current membership stands at 270, down from a high of 350 a few years ago. This is a trend being seen across the country. When I was at the Quad State conference in Ohio this fall, a few of us were sitting around (while waiting for a new truck full of tools to arrive) noticing how the majority of the people were in their fifties or older. I believe this is true of FABA and for most of the other guilds. The blacksmithing revival started with the generation ten to twenty years my senior in the early 70's. Sadly, we are slowly losing these founding members. A large percentage of that generation still has a tangible connection to blacksmithing. Their fathers or grandfathers had a blacksmith shop, or they remember visiting someone who did. My generation (the baby boomers) grew up with Bonanza and all the other great westerns and we all tended to play outside more, making forts and building things with our hands and so, we have a connection and nostalgia of sorts. The current generation is growing up in front of a computer, talking on cell phones and switching between 500 channels on TV. Maybe the nostalgia towards the older rural way of life is being lost, and with it the attraction to crafts like blacksmithing. It's a little difficult to encourage someone in their 20's to invest a lot of money in tools for a craft that will take years to master and from which they will probably not make much of an

income.

So my final thought is: we can't preserve or continue to develop the craft if there is no one to pass our knowledge on to. I believe we have to begin to make a much greater effort to attract new members than when this resurgence started. It is going to have to happen at the regional level. We will have to make the effort to plan meetings in places that will introduce new members to the craft and then we will need to structure our meetings to nurture them. If we don't, we run the risk of our numbers continuing to decline and FABA ending up as a small social club of old geezers reminiscing about the good old days.

Well, I have said my piece. Patty has told me that I am opinionated, but I would never have guessed that I could fill 48 of these president's messages with them. I think that if I haven't said it by now it probably doesn't need to be said. You will see a new face on the front page of the Clinker Breaker next month when Rex Anderson (rranderson00@comcast.net) takes over as our new President. The other newly elected officers and trustees are Charles, (Hippie) Pate, Vice President; Jim Lobalito (jimjo1611@comcast.net), Secretary; and Tom Kennedy, Program Chair. Jerry Wolfe and Ron Childers are the trustees for the SE and NW regions respectively. I thank them all for stepping up to the plate. I applaud all of the departing officers who helped run the organization these past two years (especially Anne Reynolds who has served longer than I can remember) and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Finally, I am deeply touched and honored by the PhD in Metal Arts that I was awarded at the conference. I hope that my future involvement with FABA will allow me to live up to what it represents.

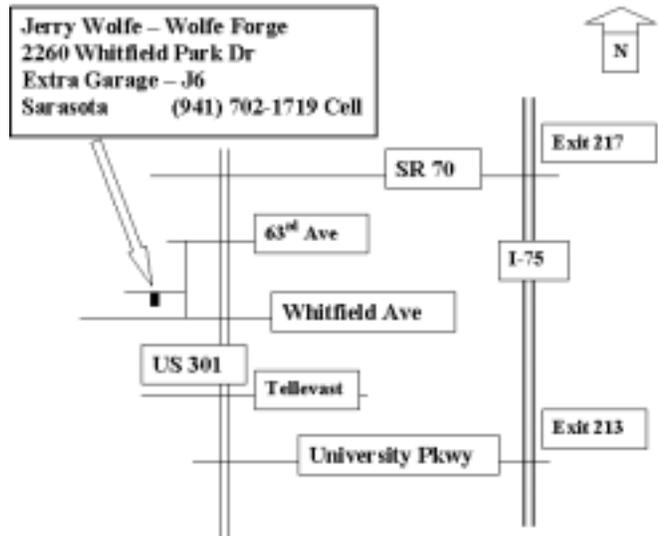
Upcoming Events

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. 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:

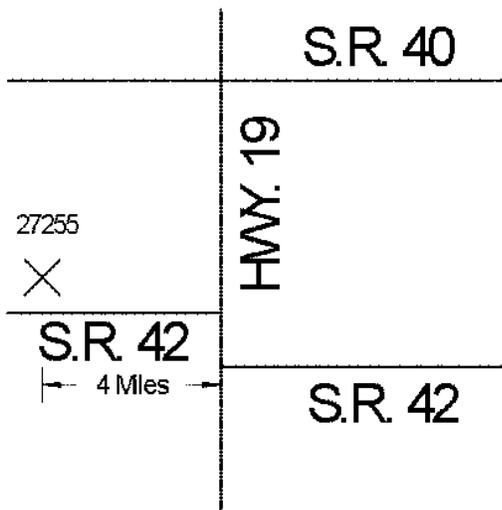
Northeast Region:	Ken Knight	(352)-339-0629	Ironken@aol.com
Northwest Region:	Billy Christie	(850) 421-1386	chriswoodforge@earthlink.net
Southeast Region:	Ed Aaron	(561) 748-9824	EdandMickieAaron@aol.com
Southwest Region:	Jerry Wolfe	(941) 355-5615	wolfeforge@juno.com

December 2007

- NE 01** Hardwicke's Home in Altoona - bring a covered dish
- NW 08** Bill Adams, Havana, FL
- SW 08** Wolfe Forge - Combined November and December meetings - Stay tuned for details. Christmas ornaments?
- SE 16** Boy Scout Camp: info from : from I-95 exit go east onto Indiantown Rd, go north (left) onto Island Way (1st traffic light). Stay on it until it ends at Country Club Dr-go left—It ends at the entrance to Boy Scout Camp.
- SW 08** see above



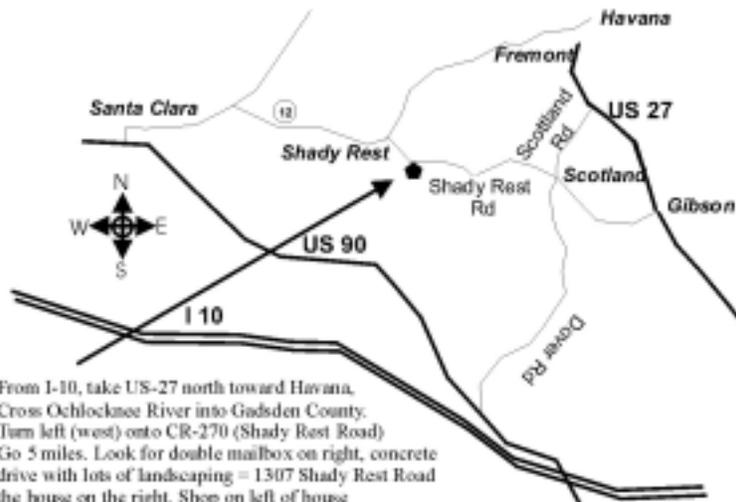
SW Region - Dec 08



NE Region - Dec 01

Allen Hardwicke; 352-669-5644; 352-669-3829

Blind Hog Forge - Bill Adams



From I-10, take US-27 north toward Havana, Cross Ochlocknee River into Gadsden County. Turn left (west) onto CR-270 (Shady Rest Road) Go 5 miles. Look for double mailbox on right, concrete drive with lots of landscaping = 1307 Shady Rest Road the house on the right. Shop on left of house

NW Region - Dec 08

Future Events

- SE** Dec until further notice - Boy Scout camp
- NE** David Ponsler's shop - Ponsler Metal Design, 1041 McDuff Ave, Jax
- NE** Jan 05-Ponsler Metal design, Jax
- NW** Jan 12,2008 Bill and Patty's shop
Applecrossforge; Tallahassee, FL. Susan Dunsmoor an artist blacksmith from Ft. Lauderdale will be demonstrating. See the article under NW news.
- SE** Jan 19 - Quaterly meeting - See notice below
- NW** - Feb 09, Juan & Linda Holbrook; Gainesville, FL
- NW** - Mar 08, Clyde and Vi Payton; Monticello, FL
- NW** - Apr 12, 2008: Panhandle Pioneer Settlement; Blountstown, FL

Report from the Northeast
Ken Knight

On the 6th of October 26 members meet at the Barberville's Settlement. Five new members were taught by some of our seasoned members. Various items were made with all having a great time. I recall how excited I was as one of those newbie's once upon a time. To have someone spend time and expertise showing me the joys of this art, and to be able to leave the meeting with something that I made, was truly memorable. I and many of our members are proud to have the open forge capability that is ours at Barberville. At the same time I realize that many of our other members have become bored with this and would like to have more demonstrators. To resolve this dilemma, starting in January of 2008 we will start having demonstrations along with open forges. Membership input is paramount if this is to work please contact me at Ironken@aol.com or mail to; Ken Knight, 1539 SW 15th Way, Bell Fl 32619 or call 352-339-0629 and leave a message or talk to me at one of the meetings. I must know what the members would like to see demonstrated, your comments will be completely confidential. Anyone wanting to have a meeting at there place please contact me.

Report from the Southeast
Ed Aarons

(Ed is probably still recovering from loading /hauling to the conference / unloading at the conference / reloading/ driving home / unloading the SE setups - so no report, but a big thanks to Ed for coordination in the SE and pitching in! - Editor)

Quarterly Meeting - Eric Velleca's Shop

Southeast Quarterly Meeting will be held at Velleca Metal Design Inc. as a three day event on January 18 - 20. Friday night will be open forges. Saturday will be a demonstration

by Toby Hickman starting at 9:30 AM. He will show his technique for drawing long tapers of various cross sections efficiently, as well as upsetting, spreading and hand held top tool work. Saturday late afternoon will be open



Candle Sconce, Le Bistro El Dorado Casino Reno, NV



Sermon to the Birds Hinge

forges. Sunday with crowd size permitting, Toby will teach the motor skills he taught his employees, and possibly showing how to forge wrought frames for the lighting industry and give a demo on coloring and highlighting techniques. A Google search will turn up many great things on Toby Hickman. He is well respected for his tooling skills and powerhammer workshops. An opportunity to see him in such an intimate environment for over three days for free is a must see! Camping is welcome. Bonfire pit on site.

Toby Hickman owned and operated Waylan Smithy from 1973 till 2002 when he sold it to T.J. Marrone, he now operates Lost Coast Forge on the Mendocino coast in California. Toby set up his first Nazel 2b pneumatic hammer in 1981 by the time he sold his first shop he had 2 2b Nazles and an 88 pound Chinese hammer. He learned many of his power hammer licks from Don Hawley, an industrial smith, and Art Jones blacksmith and superintendent of the forge shop at Mare Island Navel Ship Yard. Waylan Smithy was and still is at least 50% a production shop, this means that the forging styles developed by Toby for his shop were aggressive and direct. It also means that accuracy and repeatability were essential. In his "retirement" Toby takes a little more relaxed attitude but he still has no patience for inefficient technique when using the hammer.

Report from the Southwest
Jerry Wolfe

The October 20th meeting was held at the Myakka State Park with Boy Scout Troop 142. We had 8 members bringing equipment and their "expertise"



to teach the Metal Working Merit Badge to 30 scouts. Henry Kaczwara was our "expert" who had done this many times and taught the basic requirements in a group setting; while the rest of us aided each scout to make a "steak turner" that incorporated the basic forging elements - tapering, making a circular bend, making a square corner and twisting steel. Thanks to all who helped with this project: Henry Kaczwara, Lisa Anne Conner, Trez Cole, Scott Brown, Mike Barry, Phil Pauley, Travis Meeks, Bud Grieshop and Ray Card. The scout troop were very grateful for the assistance in the achievement for the Metal merit badge.



DEC 8 Meeting at Wolfe Forge : The December meeting will be Dec 8 and the project will be making Christmas items. Bring your ideas and we will make several types of candle holders, Christmas Ornaments or "ART". Lisa has some "glass" so we can combine glass and steel. Come see the possibilities. Bring an IRON in the HAT item and a lunch item.

Report from the Northwest
Billy Christie

Skeeter and Lou Prather were the our hosts for the September 8th meeting at Skeeter Built Forge in Tallahassee. It was a beautiful, sunny day with 27 people signing in. Our guest demonstrator was Jerry Wolf (and wife Irene) from Sarasota, FL. Jerry is a metallurgist who is retired from the Timken

Company. Jerry gave a very interesting, educational talk and demonstration about practicable metallurgy for the backyard blacksmith. He had charts, graphs and a chalkboard as a visual to help explain the different internal changes that different types of metals can go through at different temperatures and how the amount of time effect the desired or undesired results. He also demonstrated how to properly perform a fracture test on different types of unknown steel (to see how much force it takes to break it). He also made a chisel out of mild steel, then using Robb Gunter's "Super Quench" to harden it to about a 43 on the Rockwell scale. He then tested the chisel to see the results. There was a LOT of technical information given out, I hope you were there to absorb some of it. Thanks, Jerry.

The "Iron In The Hat" brought in \$ 80.00, thanks to all the neat stuff and the help from Linda Holbrook & Mark Stone. (Five free tickets for any hand forged item) The covered dishes and desserts were delicious. A BIG thank you to Lou and her helpers. After lunch we had an open forge with Ron Childers helping Robert Harrell make a tomahawk, using the chisel that Jerry made to cut out the center.



The NW meeting in January will be at Applecross Forge with Susan Dunsmoor demonstrating. One of her creations is shown here..

Notices, For Sales & Want-Ads

BLACKSMITH COAL NOW AVAILABLE!
\$22 per 100 lb bag (Pickup only) - Pioneer Settlement, Barberville, FL - Call for details: 386-749-2959 - www.PioneerSettlement.org

For Sale: Vises. Patty says I have too many so I am keeping whiskey & gambling and selling some of my post vises. Several to choose from. Call Bill at 850-668-2876 or email applecrossforge@nettally.com

Really Important Stuff - you really ought to read this (hint, hint)

From the new VP

Dear F.A.B.A. members,

I Thank You All for voting for me as Vice President. I did not know ya'll loved me that much! And thanks for all the HELP making the conference happen! My thanks to Billy Christie and Jeff Wilson for their help in getting the heart project together and completed; and thanks to Jeff Mohr for giving me a kick-start Saturday morning (I was moving "sloooow"). Thank you.

Sincerely, Charles P. Pate (Hippie)

Words from the Program Chair

Hello everyone, I would like to start off my job as Program Chair by saying thanks to several people. The first one has got to be Clyde Payton, without whose dedication this conference would not have happened. For those of you who do not know, Clyde had to step aside and miss the conference because he needed to get a pacemaker installed. Despite this he was still able to keep the wheels moving and ensure that our conference was a good one. On top of that I would like all of you to thank the individuals whose names appear on the front of our conference brochure. These are the people who stepped up and helped Clyde to make all of his planning a reality. I would like to shine a spotlight on Greg Cuumba who again, selflessly watched over all the items in the gallery so that the rest of us could enjoy the demonstrations without worrying about our display items. And finally, I would like to thank all of our members who showed up early and stayed afterwards to set up and put away all the stuff needed for the many elements of the conference. Many helping hands make for light work and more fun.

I would like to propose a few ideas and goals for the coming years. The most important one has to do with communication. Many of you may have spoken with myself, or Steve Bloom at regional meetings or at the conference. These discussions are key to making not only our conference, but also FABA as a whole, better than ever.

It is important to point out that your regional coordinators and trustees are another conduit for your ideas, and suggestions. The hardest thing to provide in a conference is the one that is never suggested or asked for. I do not pretend to be able to make everyone happy, but the more feedback we get on what people want to see, the better decisions we can make and hopefully get more bang for the buck. Not having is no excuse for not getting.

I am still compiling a list of demonstrators not only for 2008 but also beyond, and I hope to have a list for 2008 finalized

before the end of this year. One of the disadvantages of not having the Program Chair filled the years before Clyde took over was a lack of continuity in picking our demonstrators and programs. Clyde picked up on that and has gone a long way toward getting us back on track. I welcome suggestions on individual demonstrators, types of crafts for demonstration, number and scale of demos as well as family programs, and classes you would like to see. I would like to work closely with our regional coordinators to get feedback for some of these ideas. You can of course contact Steve, or myself but we also recommend having discussions at your monthly meetings and collecting ideas with the regional coordinators so we can get a broader consensus without getting overwhelmed with emails and phone calls.

More financial transparency is also another area that was brought up. Juan does a great job of keeping our organization's money not only safe, but growing. However, a majority of the membership does not seem to know just where the money goes when we put on a conference. We will be trying to better illustrate this in the newsletter in the coming months. Bear in mind that while it may seem that there is a lot of money just sitting there, we need to keep a certain amount as a contingency in case we have another bad year of hurricanes, etc. I think if you look at websites for other groups you will see that conference costs are about the same as ours. The main difference I see, when it comes to the activities provided, is the number of people attending. Events like Quad State in Ohio, BAM's conference in Missouri, and our own bi-annual event at Madison attract bigger crowds and thus can provide bigger and more numerous demonstrators. Just as an example, Quad State attendance topped 900 people this year, ours was less than 150. Multiply the \$55 dollar admission fees and you get an idea of the financial clout that bigger attendance figures provide. I would like us to achieve the level of those conferences, but I also want to keep the idea that this is Florida's conference. And due to the size and distances of our state I think it is essential to keep it accessible by continuing to hold it in a central location like Barberville.

It is interesting to note that despite being as far south as we are, we had a retired couple drive down here all the way from Pennsylvania with a huge trailer full of tools for sale. This couple made the trip merely because some our members attending the Quad State event the month before invited them to come down. Perhaps we would benefit from getting the word out about our conference at others. How big would our tailgate area grow if we did the same at all the other events we go to? Remember, if we don't ask, we don't get....

The next idea is to improve our tooling for the conference. After talking with many of you it seems clear that we need a better way to gather the materials needed each year for our conference. Steve and I have been trading emails and phone calls over the past few weeks and would like to try something. We would like to create regional trailers that would hold

roughly four forging stations and a tent, along with the tools needed to conduct a basic forging class. An additional one might be solely for tooling used by main demonstrators. A majority of the details still need to be worked out, but here are the broad strokes that Steve came up with. Each trailer is small enough to be towed by most average-sized vehicles. Each region (eventually, we may start off with only two as a test) would have a trailer for use in their area. This would allow for regional meetings to be set up with a minimum of fuss. When conference time arrives it would be a much simpler matter to "hitch and go", all of the materials arriving in a neat package ready to be set up for classes and demos.

Steve and I propose to have several "tool-up" workshops over the next several months, very likely starting with a forge building workshop after the first of the year. Steve will have more details on this soon and the workshops would allow members to make tooling for themselves as well as the conference trailers. Other workshops might include:

- adjustable-height anvil stands
- collapsible post vise stands
- metal tables (collapsible and uniform size so they could be combined to make a larger one for use on a group project)
- slack tubs
- propane forges for knife demos
- larger, dedicated forges for use by demonstrators
- treadle hammers
- power hammers
- belt grinders

Some items may be easier to purchase rather than make like fire pots, blowers, and tents. I am not saying that we are going to go out and blow a bunch of money on new stuff, we will be still using as much donated stuff as we can. Our goal is to raise the level of quality and availability of our equipment. That said, I encourage all of you to beat the bushes and check the scrap piles in the shop and see what might be available for donation. Remember we have the great advantage of being a 501c non-profit, so anything thrown into the kitty is a tax deduction for the donor. We are looking for the best quality stuff we can find, not just "good enough". A more specific list will be forthcoming. Things we are looking for initially are:

- Trailer parts, or whole trailers for retrofit (trailers would be roughly 4'x8')
- firepots
- equipment like post vises, anvils, swage blocks etc.
- Steel of all kinds, primarily stock sizes like flat, angle and tubing as well as plate.
- Stainless beer kegs (full or empty....) for making slack tubs

I do not ignore the sticking points involved in this undertaking. "Little" things like storage, inventory, accountability and insurance will need to be addressed. Steve and I are just

trying to get some momentum going.

All said and done Steve and I are working to make the conference less like work and more like fun for everyone that shows up to help. We would like these workshops to be an opportunity for socializing as well as fabricating. The southeast region has already shown what is possible with some planning and prep work, as evidenced by their report in the last Clinker Breaker. The smithing magicians and bending jigs that they made, put tools in the hands of new members and items into the conference auction helping the group as a whole. I would like to see the annual conference as a culmination of several social gatherings over the course of the year rather than a single opportunity for us to get together as a group.

I hope everyone that attended the conference had as much fun as I did, and is excited about making the next one even better. Tap into your regional coordinators and trustees to get your opinions and requests heard or contact Steve and myself. Even if we can't make it work for this conference it's never too early to start the ball rolling on the next one. And better yet, write up an article on your favorite demonstrator or craft and send it to Steve for the Clinker Breaker. The more you share what interests you with your fellow members the more you may find people have a common interest.

Happy Hammering! Tom Kennedy, Program Chairman,FABA

Conference Musings, Paths to be Taken, and Anyone Out There Listening?

Steve Bloom

Believe it or not folks, your Board does listen and can respond to new ideas - we just need to hear them! During some discussions at/during the Conference (and yes, alcohol was involved in at least some of the BS - er - discussion sessions), a number of ideas surfaced, What follows is my take on currents and counter currents, not Board policy, so errors, misunderstandings, etc. are my sole responsibility.

I. Finances: FABA currently has approximately \$33,000 in assets. Sounds like a lot until you realize that our annual conference is budgeted at \$11,000. The newsletter eats \$6000-\$7000 and Board expenses (travel, telephone conference calls, ballots, etc.) easily runs the total up into the \$20,000 range. We face the possibility of being totally wiped out on a conference (like a hurricane hitting after we've paid demonstrators to come but before anyone else can come to the conference) and our dues roll in once a year. To be fiscally sound (and that is the first duty of the Board members), we have to maintain at least \$20,000 in assets. The bottom line is that we can expend maybe \$13,000 on projects, quarterly meetings, scholarships, etc. and that represents all the surplus we've accumulated over the years. We've got money but we're

not rolling in dough.

II. Central Site for Conferences: One of the hard truths about Florida is that it is BIG. A conference in the Panhandle effectively eliminates many folks from the SE and SW. One in West Palm works against the NE and especially the NW. If we want to get together as an organization at least once a year, a central location is the way to go - though it doesn't have to be Barberville, it just needs to be central (say somewhere between Gainesville and Orlando). Whatever the site is, it does have to offer the appropriate facilities - like 220V power, an auction and Gallery hall(s), a tolerance for blacksmithing, etc. The more facilities a site lacks, the more we have to provide and the more work falls on the membership to haul, setup and tear down. By using some of our available funds, we can start making this effort possible (see the comments on workshops below). We do not have the ability to buy a central site but if anyone out there is knowledgeable about how Florida parks work with regard to "leasing" sites (like the BAM central site in an Alabama State Park), please share the knowledge. As matters stand, while Barberville may not be optimal in all regards, it is available, affordable, convenient and thus acceptable. What we can do is to start acquiring the tools, setups, trailers, canopies, etc. that will make Barberville even better and will support a less well equipped site in the future if FABA elects to move the conference again.

III. Annual Conference Improvements and Directions:

There are a number of items that cropped up and those of us on the firing line really need the input from the rest of you to improve the conference and make it more valuable to you (okay, and us, too).

(1) *The number of demonstrators:* We pay a modest stipend, travel expenses, and hotel costs for our demonstrators - all of which averages out to \$1000 or so (think about the impact of \$3.00/gallon gas on this figure). In many cases, paying airplane fares is in the same ballpark as having someone drive in from north Georgia. They aren't cheap but if they draw a bigger crowd, the net effect is positive (think about the crowd for Peter Ross). If a name draws 20 more folks, that will cover the costs. Do you want two or three demonstrators? In a flippant sense, the choice is not having anything to watch or not being able to get to everything you want to see. What's your pleasure?

(2) *Micro-demonstrations:* For some time, I've been playing with the idea (translation - I haven't gotten off my duff to do anything about this). We set up a 'fourth' demo site and schedule time during the conference to each of the regions. Each region lines up volunteers to demo something (think 60 minutes or so per person). Maybe it's forging a bird head, showing off a neat jig or tool, pontificating on heat-treating, etc. The concept is that we have perhaps 12 to 16 show-and-tells. The logistics would be minimal, the costs trivial (these

guys are volunteers, after all), and the information exchange might be valuable - and it gives us all a place to go after our fifth pass through the tool sales. The basic question - Do you want to see this happen? Will you volunteer? Will you come by? Remember, if no one responds, we can only conclude there is no interest.

(3) *One-day admissions:* There have been suggestions that we ought to allow for one day admissions (probably at 50% to 60% of the full admission). Logistics aren't too bad (different color wrist bands, for instance). Do you think this is of interest to you? We're probably going to try this but your input is needed.

(4) *Family program:* What do you and your family want to have available? As a crude estimate, for every \$5 we spend on the demonstrator, we spend \$3 for the family program and \$2 for the smithing classes. Given the investment, the classes ought to be what you want and/or need. Do you want sheath making, stainless steel flower creation, fabrication of non-ferric spoons and ladles, embroidery, soldering, pewter casting,... Do you want extended workshops/classes. If you don't tell us, we can't give you what you want.

(5) *Social activities:* Jam session on Friday nights? Would you come, would you play, would you sing?

(6) *Demonstrator selection:* If you think about our current system, you might clue into a major problem. Someone (like Tom) steps forward and volunteers to be Program Chair (for a two year stint). Big name demonstrators normally have to be booked better than a year in advance, so the new Chair is already behind the eight-ball before he even gets started. Somehow, demonstrators are found for his 1st conference. If he's on the ball, he'll also be lining up demonstrators for his 2nd conference even before the 1st conference. He gets through that 2nd conference, hopefully gets someone to agree to replace him, and the cycle begins again. I think we need either to elect Chairs for three year periods, the first year being served as an apprentice to the previous Chair during the previous Chair's 2nd year or we need a standing committee to line up demonstrators well in advance. What do you think? Would you be willing to serve? If you see a great demonstrator somewhere else, will you write a brief recommendation and give it to our Program Chair? I've been the Chair, and I can assure you, any help is greatly appreciated!

IV. Teaching and Demonstrating Gear: Tom Kennedy (Program Chair) and myself (self-appointed know-it-all) have been discussing how to upgrade our gear, Tom is oriented towards setups for demonstrators and I'm pushing for better teaching gear - and both goals overlap and are not mutually exclusive.

(1) *Teaching Gear:* To make what I'm about to say clear, a little background information will be helpful. I built three brakedrum forges, Skeeter donated electric blowers, Clyde

spearheaded the creation of anvil stands, coal bins, and slack tubs. FABAs purchased 110lb anvils and a 10x20 canopy. I retrofitted an open trailer with two post vises, dumped all the gear into it and hauled it to the 2006 conference. At the end of the conference, lots of folks helped break the gear down and put it in the trailer. I hauled it home and parked it under a shed. There is sat - out of the weather and secure until a day before the 2007 conference. I hitched it up and hauled it back. THAT was EASY! - especially compared to loading all of it in a truck, driving to the conference, unloading, reloading, getting home, unloading, storing...oh, my aching back!

If we want teaching gear and want someone to haul it to conferences, quarterly meetings, Boy Scout classes, whatever, we must make it easy as possible on the poor soul who agreed to carry the load. To that end, I am proposing the creation of teaching trailers - emphasis on keeping the weight down so that any light truck or minivan (3500 lb capacity) can haul the trailer. The gear should be of reasonable quality - a brake drum forge works but a decent firepot is a whole lot better to use! The first step will be a prototype unit (and I'll spearhead the R&D) and the first step towards the prototype is the creation of coal forges, sooooo.....

Coal Forge Workshop: I envision a weekend workshop where interested individuals will gather at a designated shop and will build coal forges. A prototype will be created well in advance and be used to debug the process, to act as the information source for the assembly instructions and to be the mule for the creation of appropriate templates, jigs, etc. FABAs will 'sponsor' three units (built by volunteers), and the other participants will pony up the bucks for the materials and associated costs. We'll wrap the package up with a BBQ/cookout on the Friday and Saturday nights and hopefully get to know one another a bit better. We're thinking March or April as the most likely occurrence. This workshop itself will be the prototype for other workshops down the road - like a gas forge workshop, treadle hammers, power hammers, or a knife grinder workshop or....you get the idea.

BUT before anything happens, we need to know if any of you want to participate. If you are interested, TALK TO ME! - see the form below. If no one responds, then don't complain when nothing happens. A number of members have indicated their support but we need to know if we're collectively barking up the wrong tree.

(2) Demonstrator Equipment: Tom would like FABAs to make available some professional quality gear (decent coal forges, sweet running gas forges, etc.) to support our demonstrators without being forced to ask a member to gut his shop to provide the necessary stuff. This material need not be anywhere near as light (or uniform) as the teaching gear and could be staged near the conference site. As an example, Tico has volunteered shed space, so if we had a trailer with

the gear, it could be parked within a few miles of Barberville. A volunteer (with a heavy hauler) could then drag it the few miles rather than hundreds of miles - a whole lot more palatable situation. To work on this area, we could use donations - know someone needing a tax deduction and upgrading equipment? - welders, torches, trailers, steel, whatever - we're not proud and we can use functional gear. I am donating a shop forge with cast-iron pot but we could use a set of steel wheels to make it portable. Do you work for someone (or yourself) and there is a boat trailer rusting away in the weeds? If so, talk to Tom.

V. Classes other than at the Conference: There is nothing to prevent FABAs or its members from holding classes at other times and locations than the conference other than lack of interest. Because of equipment requirements, I would envision such classes as being small, weekend-long affairs with a modest tuition/lab fee required. What would you be interested in? Knife forging, Damascus production? Silver casting of knife fittings? Traditional joinery and grill creations? What do you want? Would you be willing to participate?

Would you be interested in Master Classes? FABAs hires a major figure to run a small class, students pony up tuition, and the rest of us stand back and watch what happens. Eric Velleca's meetings can be regarded as prototypes for this type of activity - bring someone in, build a meeting around that person, and have him teach a limited number of students in an associated class. FABAs can facilitate this type of activity but only if we know there is sufficient interest to justify spending your money on it.

VI. Alterations in the newsletter: Our emphasis on the Clinker Breaker has been to get the schedule into your hands when it will still do some good. This is why we have a monthly publication that goes out 1st class. The pattern was set before the Internet was a significant factor. Could you live with just consulting the website for meeting information? Would you like a thicker (20 pages or so) publication that comes out every other month? As it stands, I pull the beast together on or about the 10th of a month, get it back from the printer around the 20th and into your hands by the 24th or so. If we went to bulk mail, add a month. If we went to 6 issues (or 4) a year, add another month or so - translation: deadline for the March issue would be in November. I suspect that this wouldn't serve the membership as well as the current scheme but I want to know what you think!

Wrap up and final appeal: Hokay, the soap box (and my knees) are creaking. If you don't talk to me/us, how can we know what you want to do with your organization? We only got about a 25% return on last election, so it doesn't look good! Send me an e-mail, a post card, talk to your coordinator, whatever it takes, but communicate!

fill out this form/write a card/e-mail whatever - addresses on the last page, so there is no excuse:

I want (___) two (___) three demonstrators at the next conference

I'll (___) volunteer and/or (___) watch micro demonstrations at the next conference

I think a one-day admission is (___) ok or are you folks insane (___)?

I'm interested in the family program having classes for: _____

I'll (___) hang around or (___) blow off for a jam session on Friday night.

I'm willing to donate or can arrange donations of the following stuff: _____

I'll like to see _____ demonstrated.

I'm (___) interested in the coal forge workshop.

I would like to see workshops for building _____

I would like to participate in classes on _____
Master classes seem like a (___) good (___) really weird idea.

Leave the newsletter like it is (___) or make the following changes _____.

I think you folks need to think about _____.

Conference Pics - what you missed if you stayed home!



Hit the registration table and buy a T-shirt



Hit the tool sales



Check out the Auction items

Chew some fat...



Check out the Gallery





Look over the NW's group effort



or what the SW made!



Hit the Gallery and the Buck - in - the - Bucket table and the Tool Sales one more timet



Or take a class and make a 'hawk



or take a class in wire or beading and make a 'purty'



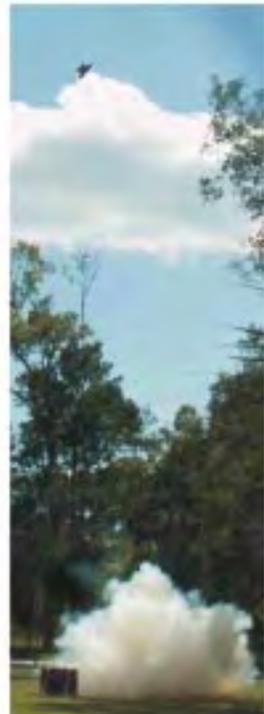
and maybe get a bite to eat



Check out the demonstrators and learn something new



Watch Tim Ryan shoot the anvil (and watch the faces of those who are seeing this for the first time)



and buy something at the auction

or just hang with friends, make new ones, enjoy the smell of coal smoke, and have a good time - See you next year!

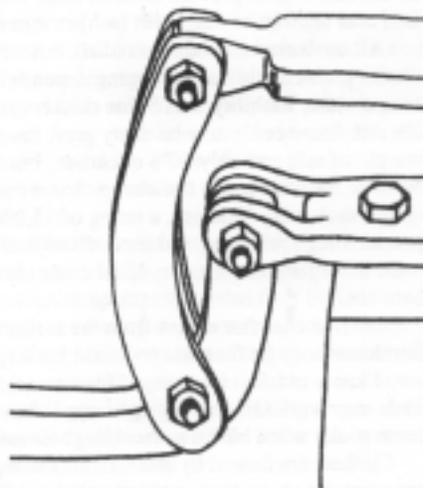
Black Walnut Cracker

By Herb Nehring

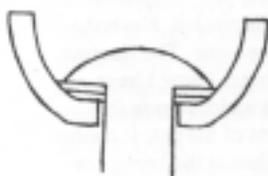


This nut cracker was inspired by a photograph in Household Tools and Tasks, by Elmer L. Smith

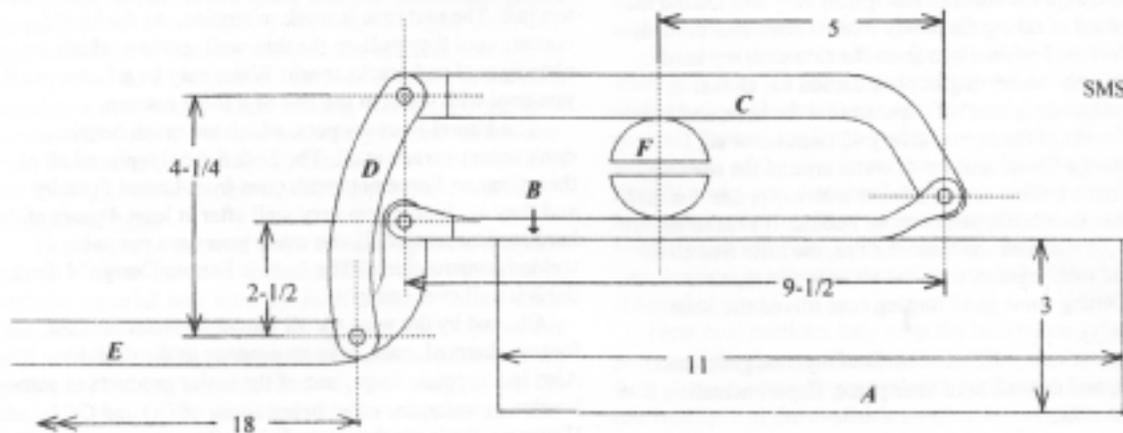
Label	Quantity	Stock	Description
A	1	3 x 3 x 11	wood block
B	1	3/8 x 1-1/4 x 10	lower body
C	1	3/4 x 3/4 x 11	upper body
D	2	1/8 x 3/4 x 5-1/4	linkage
E	1	1/4 x 3/4 x 20	handle
F	2	1-1/4 black pipe	cups
	4	1/4 - 20 hex head	joint bolts
	2	3/8 - 16 carriage bolt	cup bolts
		3/8 plain washers	spacers



Detail of linkage and joints.



- Depending on the size of the nut, the space between the cups should be 1/4" to 3/8", with the nut in place. The washers under the bolt head control this space.
- Bolt, washers and cup should be brazed together.
- Cups are mounted with 3/8" carriage bolts.
- The bottom cup is a slip fit into the lower body "B". This allows for easy removal to empty the cup.



(editor's note: a cardboard mock-up can be made to check pivot locations, swing and linkage proximity. Once the mechanism operates as you want, use the individual pieces to check your forged pieces against.

The Florida Clinker Breaker

FLORIDA ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION
Juan Holbrook, Membership Records
6418 NW 97 Court
Gainesville, FL 32653

December 2007

1st Class
Postage



The Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization whose purposes are to teach, promote, and preserve the art of blacksmithing. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. FABA publishes the Florida Clinker Breaker monthly, and FABA membership includes a subscription. We solicit correspondence and unpaid articles on any subjects related to FABA's purposes. ABANA chapter newsletters may reprint 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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FABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association, Inc.
Chapter of ABANA, Inc.

to

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

Date _____ New Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Work: _____

E-Mail _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Make check out to FABA. Your FABA membership begins when we receive your payment and lasts 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.

please check the box to the right

If you do not wish to be listed in the printed FABA directory,

Send this application and a membership fee of \$25.00