

April 2009



*The Florida*

# Clinker Breaker

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association - Established May 18, 1985

## Editorial Musings

*Steve Bloom*

The Bok Tower meeting is now history (lots of pictures scattered throughout this issue), the gas forge workshop is this weekend (coverage on that next issue) and the Madison Conference is coming up fast! The brochure ought to be in your hands by now and is available on the website for downloading. So far, no one has given me any indications of what subject ought to be taught at our conference -- if you're planning on taking a class, get your choices to me and I'll see what I can do.

As you look at the Yellin works, there are a couple of subtle things to note. Yellin believed in working every inch of his pieces - nothing should look like it came out of a rolling mill. The railing on the staircase is a good example - you can feel minor changes in the edge - probably no more than a few thousands of an inch variation, but it is there, nevertheless. Yellin was said to argue that the variation was pleasing to the eye but I suspect that there was another motivation involved. If you have to upset and/or stretch an element to fit, a background of slight variations will make the

adjustment vanish. If the edges were as sharp as they were when they left the mill, the adjustments would stand out.

You should also note the delight in diversity - there are birds on the top of the bridge gate but all are different. There are elements on the risers on the stairwall - again all different. Or there are the pair of candle holders flanking the room - basically the same 'feel' but one has three feet and the other four. The moral, if there is one, is don't get obsessed with uniformity - let the iron live a little.

Enjoy the pictures - many will be on the website and many more will at Jerry Wolfe's site (see his writeup for the URL).



**Jerry Wolfe - the guy to thank!**



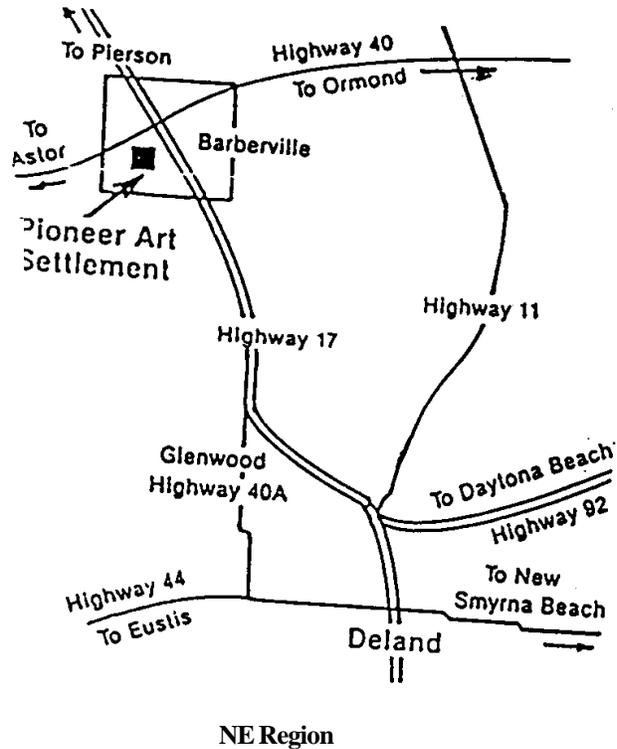
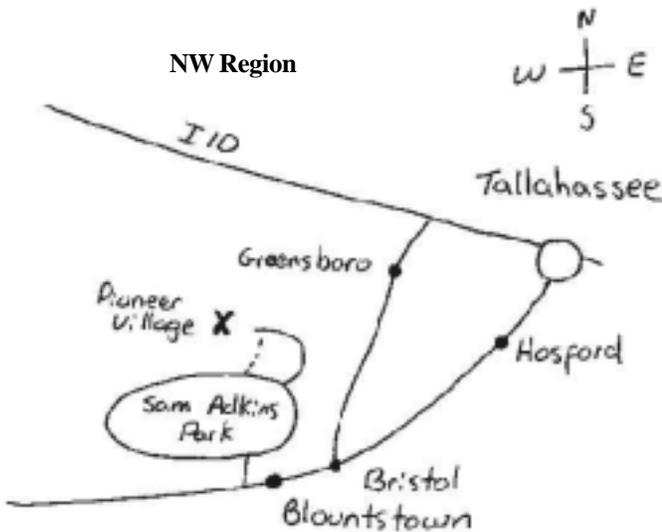
### Upcoming Events

The calendar includes events of interest to the blacksmithing community. The regions have no boundaries - everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can. We hold regular meetings in each region on the following Saturdays of each month: NE-1st, NW-2nd, SE-3rd, SW-4th except for quarterly Statewide meetings. The actual dates vary so check the schedule below. Our meetings are informal gatherings around the forge. Prospective members are always welcome. Come for all or any part of a meeting, bring your tools or just watch. Most meetings run from 9AM to 4PM and you'll need to bring lunch if not otherwise noted. If you have any questions about meetings, please contact the Regional Coordinators:

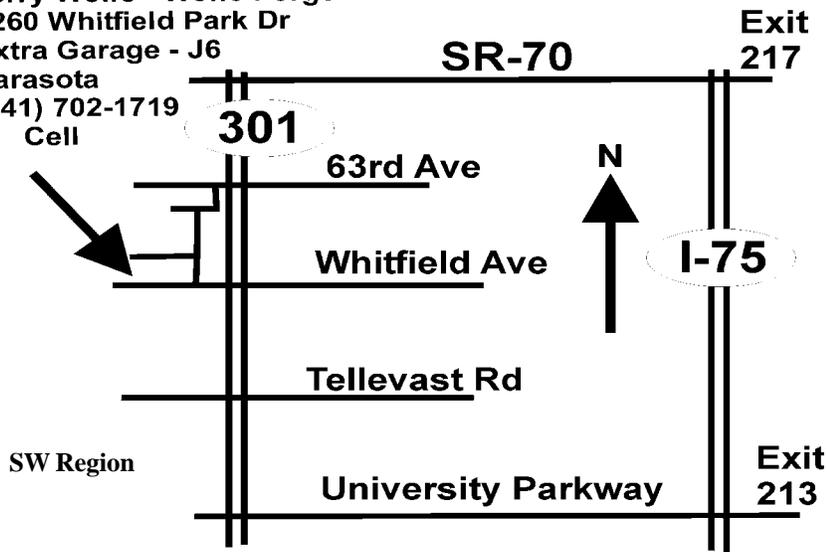
Northeast Region Mitch Widham	386-673-0174	<a href="mailto:mwidham@cfl.rr.com">mwidham@cfl.rr.com</a>
Northwest Region Billy Christie	850-421-1386	<a href="mailto:chriswoodforge@embarqmail.com">chriswoodforge@embarqmail.com</a>
Southeast Region Ed Aaron	561-748-9824	<a href="mailto:edaaron9824@bellsouth.net">edaaron9824@bellsouth.net</a>
Southwest Region Jerry Wolfe	941-355-5615	<a href="mailto:wolfeforge@hotmail.com">wolfeforge@hotmail.com</a>

### April 2009

- NE 04 Barberville
- NW 11 Panhandle Pioneer Settlement, Blountstown; Elmer Roush will be demonstrating
- SE 18 Until further notice-Tanah Keeta
- SW 25 Wolfe Forge - see Current Events. Pg.2.



Jerry Wolfe - Wolfe Forge  
 2260 Whitfield Park Dr  
 Extra Garage - J6  
 Sarasota  
 (941) 702-1719  
 Cell



### SE Region

Boy Scout Camp: 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.

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## Current Events

SW Apr 25 Wolfe Forge-Demos per request - WHAT do you want to see - Finish Table for FABA Auction Demonstration starts at 10AM, come for informal hammering starting at 9AM. We will have our normal Iron in the Hat and a pot luck dinner - Bring a dish to share.

## Future Events

NE- May 2 - Steve Bloom's, near Archer, Fl  
NW- May 9 - Rex & Mary Ellen Anderson, Monticello, FL  
Butch Patterson will be demonstrating 'critters.'  
All May 14-16 Madison Conference

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## Report from the Northwest

*Billy Christie & Mark Stone*

It was a cool, wet February day at Juan & Linda Holbrook's Talca Forge. Bill Robertson was our featured demonstrator with Patty Draper assisting. His first project was a candle holder made from 1 1/2 x 3/8" flat stock. One end was tapered to a round point. The other end was hammered out to widen to approximately 2 1/2" wide like a fish-tail. Two holes were punched for passing through the tapered end to form a figure '8' shape laying on its side. The tapered end stuck straight up. He then bent the tapered end in a circle to support the drip cup and passing through the cup to stick into the bottom of the candle. Turned out great!

Just before the Iron In The Hat drawing, Bill forged a "Clay Spencer" type wizard head out of 5/8" square stock. He tapered the end to form the tall, tapered wizard hat with a bend near the top. He formed the face by punching the eyes, nose, etc. He finished the 'wizard' by forming a nice, long, tapered beard.

Iron In The Hat was a success! It brought in \$133.00 with a nice variety of hand forged items and an assortment of other interesting items being won. Thank you Mary Ellen Anderson for drawing the winning tickets.

After the drawing, we proceeded to Juan's kitchen where we enjoyed a tasty lunch of Lasagna, Quiche, salad, and many yummy desserts. A BIG thank you to everyone who participated in providing food for this event, the feast was enjoyed by all!

After lunch, Bill demonstrated making a bear head bottle opener. After the bear head was forged, he demonstrated an eagle's head which is worked in a similar fashion. In addition to this demonstration, Bill briefly discussed making punches and chisels. He uses S7 tool steel about 4" long for use with his treadle hammer. He has made a wide assortment for various uses for carving and moving steel. Bill's collection continues to grow.

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## Report from the Northeast

*Ken Knight*

Our meetings have been going great at Barberville even though I have not been writing the articles. I apologize for not keeping up with the articles as part of my duties of Coordinator of our region. Much has happened in my life recently both professionally and personally, some bad some great. I have become distracted to say the least from many things I am supposed to be doing. To this end I have found a sucker (Oh,,, I meant to say a volunteer!!!) to take my place. Mitch Widham will be assuming the responsibilities of Southeast Region Coordinator, he can be reached at 386-673-0174 or [mwidham@cfl.r.com](mailto:mwidham@cfl.r.com).

Our April meeting will be at Barberville, the May meeting will be at Steve Bloom's shop. I want to thank everyone for their support and help, I will be working with Mitch to make this a smooth transition.

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## Report from the Southwest

*Jerry Wolfe*

The SW Region hosted Boy Scout Troup 142 and taught the Merit Metal Badge on March 7th. Over 30 scouts were involved in forging steak turners to get all the functional elements accomplished. Thanks to Travis Meeks, David Reedy, Lisa Anne Conner, Hank Kuczvara, Jerry Wolfe and Trez Cole for working with the scouts. (editor: you'll have to ask Jerry, Eric or Jordon about the clothes pin!)

The BOK Tower meeting on Feb 28th was an excellent meeting with over 130 members attending. Our main demonstrator, George Dixon cancelled due to illness; but Steve Bloom, Eric Velleca and Jordan Thomas stepped in and gave excellent demonstrations that impressed those attending. The items forged were auctioned for a great benefit to FABA. The Iron in the Hat



was a great success with over \$300 income with Josiah Thomas pulling the winning tickets. Thanks to Clyde as our auctioneer and ticket sales and Billy for all the work to generate this.

The tour of the tower and the iron work of Samuel Yellin was the highlight of the meeting and everyone was very impressed with the detailed work of Yellin and his associates. A public website has been set up to show all the photos of the meeting <http://picasaweb.google.com/WolfeForge/BOKTowerGardens#>. Please send me any pictures you wish to share - wolfeforge@hotmail.com.

### What a FANTASTIC MEETING!!

*Clyde Payton*

We sure owe Jerry Wolfe a GREAT BIG THANK YOU for the excellent job he did with the FABA meeting and demonstrations which he was responsible for at BOK Tower in Lake Wales, FL. on Saturday, February 28th. Jerry couldn't have picked a more perfect place or a more beautiful place to have a blacksmith meeting. We saw some of the finest metal work by Samuel Yellin in the Tower. Then a tour and walk through of the most beautiful grounds and gardens you have ever seen!

What surprised me the most was the attendance – at the peek of attendance we had more people than we have had lately at the Barberville Annual Conference!! We had many non-FABA members to attend but most were FABA members who came from all over Florida.

We had demonstrators in the morning and afternoon – Jerry Wolfe was first followed by Steve Bloom. In the afternoon Eric Velleca and Jordon Thomas also gave excellent demos. Eric used the most unusual twisting jigs that I have ever seen to twist a 1"x1" square bar!! - you must get him to duplicate this technique the next time you see him.

We had a most successful Iron-in-the-hat raffle and an equally successful auction of all those forged items made by our able demonstrators.

Again, Jerry, our Hats are off to you, you did a fantastic job, and we appreciate you – please do it again soon.

(Editor - see the last few pages of this issue for a collection of pictures from the Bok Tower)

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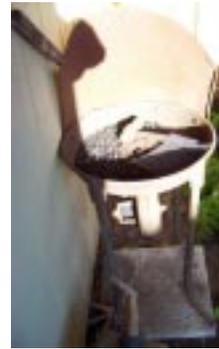
### Notices, For Sales & Want-Ads

#### BLACKSMITH COAL

\$35 per 100 lb bag (Pickup only) & details - Pioneer Settlement, contact the Settlement at 386-749-3353 (direct line to Gudrun in bookkeeping) or mail your order with payment to PSCA/COAL, P.O. Box 6, Barberville, FL 32105. Accepted forms of payment: cash, money orders, checks, MasterCard and Visa

### Anvil & Forge For Sale

.Wilbur Ahart" <wahrt@cfl.rr.com> 352-552-3810 has a small collection of tools for sale. There is a small-hand pumbed forge , a 180 lb Fisher anvil with hardy tools and some miscellaneous hammers and tongs. Wilbur would like them to go to someone who will use them. Pictures are to the right.



### Shop Hints Hand Cleaners

Butch Patterson(Starke, FL) writes: This a good blacksmithing tip that I discovered:

I have noticed that many blacksmiths buy expensive soaps to use for removing coal dust from their hands, arms, and the rest of their bodies (let's not go there). Well, I have a simple and cheap solution to the problem.



In the 80's I lived in West Virginia and sold truck scales to coal mines and processing plants. Often I would see cases of dish detergent in the storerooms. Eventually my curiosity got the best of me so I asked why they washed so many dishes.

Well as you may have guessed by now, but the coal miners showered and washed their hands with it every day. One miner told me "Joy is the only stuff that will clean the coal out of your pores".

So, forget expensive soaps and buy regular (not concentrated) Joy. Not just any dish detergent though, Joy has something in it that releases the coal dust.

### Source for Ferric Chloride Etchant

"Wayne Goddard" <wgoddard44@comcast.net> write to [knife-list@kepler-eng.com](mailto:knife-list@kepler-eng.com)

Sometime last year a Radio Shack manager in Eugene verified that they no longer listed the printed-circuit board etchant as a stock item. Recently someone told me they had a new etchant in a new package and a higher price. I checked a close by Radio Shack store and sure enough found the new product. It's not the same old stuff which had only ferric chloride in it. It's got a string of warnings on it and the ingredients list ferric chloride, ferrous chloride and hydrochloric acid. Their original etchant had only ferric chloride in it and wasn't full strength. The ten-dollar bottle says "Full Strength" on it. As for me it's going to sit there and wait for someone else to try it out. I've got a source for the crystal form, you mix your own and it's very economical. My source is Jarrett, at this address <http://>

[www.ironwoodknives.com/](http://www.ironwoodknives.com/)

It's kinda hard to find from the home page, this link goes direct to the FeCl product.

[http://ironwoodknives.com/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_reviews\\_info&products\\_id=36&reviews\\_id=2](http://ironwoodknives.com/index.php?main_page=product_reviews_info&products_id=36&reviews_id=2)

and then Michael Krall <mkrall\_wyo@yahoo.com> wrote:  
Here's an outfit in the middle of the country with liquid FeCl<sub>3</sub> at 42 Baume (same stuff as Radio Shack used to have). It's product #13660 "copper etchant" most of the way down the page. The Photo Grade is supposed to etch cleaner and last longer in storage. This is a nice outfit to deal with.

<http://www.graphicchemical.com/shopdisplayproducts.asp?id=43&cat=Acids+%26+Mordants>

### **Gleamings from The Forge Rusting Steel**

*Question:* Anyone know a safer fairly quick way to rust steel other than using muriatic acid? Too toxic for me I fear. Salt?

*Answer 1:* I rust hundreds of sculptures every year. The best and fastest I have found is a mixture of 3 pints peroxide, cup of salt, and 2 1/2 cups vinegar. Get the iron clean by blasting, tumbling, etc. and spray on. The iron starts rusting

immediately. If you warm the iron it works faster. I like to rinse it off an hour after spraying. If is raining it goes faster. By the next morning it should have a nice rust which will mature quickly over the next few days. It is pretty safe even to drink but works best with ice cream in it.

*Answer 2:* check out [http://magichammer.freesevers.com/creating\\_\\_rust.htm](http://magichammer.freesevers.com/creating__rust.htm)

### **MIG spray**

*Question:* Peter Fels & Phoebe Palmer wrote:" Been trying to figure out MIG spray deposition now that i have the power to do it."

*Answer 1:* Bare wire Mig is DC reverse polarity (positive electrode), flux core is strait polarity. 75/25 mix is ideal, all positions. Some good info here:  
<http://www.welding-advisers.com/Mig-welding-tips.html>

### **Chapter Website**

Chuck Robinson announced the new Gulf Coast Blacksmith's site including links to videos

<http://www.gulfcoastblacksmith.com>

### **Japanese Bladesmiths**

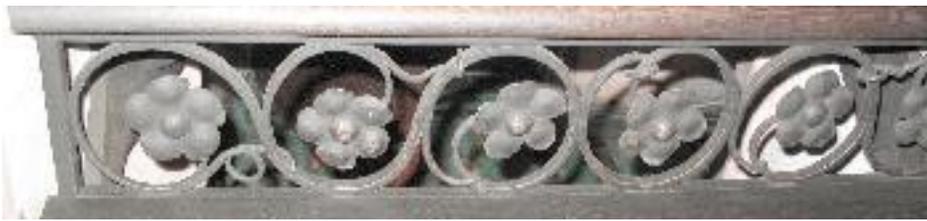
kitchen knives =[fxcuisine.com/default.asp?language=2&Display=241&resolution=low](http://fxcuisine.com/default.asp?language=2&Display=241&resolution=low)











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.

### FABA Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Rex Anderson</b>	<b>850-997-2748</b>	<b>rexaanderson@embarqmail.com</b>
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<b>Trustee SE</b>	<b>Ralph Nettles</b>	<b>561-747-5489</b>	<b>-unknown-</b>
<b>Trustee SW</b>	<b>Jerry Wolfe</b>	<b>941-355-5615</b>	<b>wolfforge@hotmail.com</b>

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### FABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association, Inc.  
 Founding member Southern Blacksmith Association.  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ New      Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City                      State              Zip  
 Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Send application & a membership fee of \$25.00 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.

Don't list me in the directory [\_\_\_\_]



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