



March 2011

The Florida **Clinker Breaker**

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association - *Established May 18, 1985*

President's Message - March 2011

Jerry Wolfe

As the snow flies in many parts of the country; most of Florida enjoys relatively mild weather and most Hammer-In's can be conducted without risk of heat stroke. When in Ohio I always had a Hammer-In during February so it was always cold and I needed propane heaters to heat the shop. Sure am grateful to be in Florida.

I hope each of you is enjoying the many Hammer-In's being planned and conducted in our regions around the state. I appreciate the hard work of the coordinators in organizing these events each month. Sometimes it is a "thank less" job; so please give your coordinator the support deserved for these events.

Our new members for this month are: Gibson & Patty Willis of Tallahassee; Dylan Jones of Tallahassee; David & Lynne Mahn of Montverde; Paul Russo & Melissa Hooke of Crawfordville; Robert & Kathryn Barley of DeFuniak Springs and Jim Dresser of High Springs. We welcome our new members.

The FABA Board is continuing to plan how to "formalize our training efforts" to teach the multitude of blacksmith skills that we desire to perpetuate thru future generations. I recently had the opportunity to work together with a young man from NY state who wanted to make "pattern steel" for knives. Michael Willman also assisted with his knowledge of knife making.

We each learned things from each other. I'm sure many of you have stories about how you are passing along the skills learned – I'd like to hear those stories. Our "green coal" sessions at the meetings are perfect opportunities to pass along skills and new techniques; so take a new person and teach them something.

I would like to thank Mitch Widham for his years of service as NE Coordinator. Mitch has resigned due to personal reasons so we will miss Mitch's special coordination of the NE region. If you would like to "step up to the challenge" or know someone who might be able to handle this; please let me know.

I would encourage as many as possible to come to Sarasota on March 26th for the SW regional meeting hosting Brian Brazael. This would be a great opportunity for some of you to visit the Gulf Coast and see what Sarasota has to boast about.

The Madison SBA conference "group project" this year is a flower with each club making a petal for the flower. Each petal is 9" x 10" with our club LOGO emboldened on the petal via repousse or other engraving techniques. If you would like to assist with this project please let me know. FABA is also responsible for organizing the gallery, so if you can volunteer a few hours, please let me know.

BE SAFE with your heating and hammering.

Jerry Wolfe

Future Events

- SE** Meetings held at Tanah Keeta Boy Scout Camp in Jupiter, FL unless otherwise noted.
- NW 4/9** Statewide Meeting at Panhandle Pioneer Settlement, Blountstown, FL; Kirk Sullens demonstrating
- NW 5/14** Jim and Nita Labolito's Fernwood Forge, 1314 Fernwood Drive, Tallahassee, FL
- GA-SBA** May 19th-21st Southern Blacksmithing Assoc. Conference in Madison, GA.
- NW 6/11** Ken and Louise Burns, Kelley Rd, Tallahassee, FL. Rob Nichols will demonstrate.

Report from the Southeast

Ralph Nettles

In January FABA was well represented at the South Florida Fair by several blacksmiths. Nathan Nettles, Danny Cunniff, Peter Hill, Ralph & Roxane Nettles worked over 350 hours in the blacksmith shop at Yesteryear Village making s hooks, steak turners, arrow heads, camp fire cooking setups and of course knife blades.



Many thanks to Danny for doing the grade school tours in the mornings before the Fair opened, the most popular questions were "is that hot" and "do you ever get burned" over 4000 kids went on the tours over the two weeks the fair was open. Ed Arron held down the fort at the Boy Scout camp for our January meeting. Our March 19th meeting at the scout camp.

Report from the Northwest *Billy Christie*

On January 8, 2011 we had a cold start to another beautiful day of blacksmithing. The meeting was held at Jeff & Brooke Mohr's Mockingbird Forge located outside of Crawfordville, FL. Forty-nine people signed in.

Jeff was our feature demonstrator and he started by working on the back, center piece of a 5 foot custom garden bench. This consisted of a main oak looking branch, which forked into two smaller branches. Using his acorn dies, he forged out several acorns. Next, Jeff worked on the oak leaves, which were cut out using the plasma cutter and textured with a hammer. As the pieces went together, it was looking great.

Jeff also split and drifted a 5/8 "hole in a piece of 1/2 "square stock. Let's see an engineer do that! Jeff also forged out a coal rake with a leaf handle, which Clyde Payton auctioned off for \$40.

The "Iron in the Hat" drawing had a lot of hand forged items along with a nice variety of other objects. Thank you, Sally Watson, for drawing and calling the winning numbers. We raised a total of \$ 248.00. Way to go.

John Watson was a busy man! He brought his big custom smoker, which is mounted on a trailer, along with his antique Farmall tractor with a homemade smoker mounted on the rear. John had both of these going strong. He cooked sausage for breakfast and three nice briskets for lunch. It was delicious! Thanks, John and helpers. Between the briskets, covered dishes, and desserts, no one went away hungry.

After lunch we had several people working in the open forge.

Thanks to Brooke, Jeff, John, and everyone that helped make this another educational & interesting meeting. This was a great way to start off the New Year!!

Southern Bladesmith Association Meeting

at Bill Adams - Blind Hog Forge, Sat, 2/5/11

You will recognize many of our FABA members in these photos and wanted to share. John White from Valparaiso, FL demonstrated heat treating and formation of hamon lines on different steels. There was also teaching set ups for the new knife makers to try out. *Reported by Dot Butler.*



Our FABA Secretary Jim Labolito listens to John White explain technique



Here is John White showing finished blade



First we draw it on the board



I have to try this!



Looks pretty straight to me

NORTHWEST REGIONAL MEETING - March 12, 2011

By Clyde Payton

The March Northwest Regional meeting will be held at the shop of Clyde and Vi Payton. This meeting will be on SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm EST.

The PAYTONS are located at 250 Payton Road, Monticello FL 32344-7002. Telephone 850-997-3627 and cell phone 850-210-5177. E-mail at paytonforge@nettally.com. (Look to this issue for a map.) Feel free to call if you have any questions or need further directions.

Again, we have an excellent program scheduled for you. By popular demand we will have a sequel to last year's program – Trent Tye of Albany Georgia will be demonstrating. You will recall that Trent not only is an excellent blacksmith but he is a superb demonstrator as well! And, added to this (rare) combination of talents is his humor and wit that flavors his demos.

Other arts and crafts have been invited to demonstrate and sell their wares – so if you wish to do likewise, please bring your “kit” and set up and have fun too.

A Show-And-Tell Table will be available for your favorite show pieces – please bring them to share with us.

Proceeds from the IRON-IN-THE-HAT table will help pay for the demonstrator's traveling gas – so please bring item(s) to donate to this raffle.

TAILGATE SALES at this regional meeting is always BIG – EXCITING – FUN – and loaded with BARGAINS. Bring anything you wish to sale or swap. This is a golden opportunity for you to clear out your shop!

Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon – please bring a covered dish to share and your folding chair if you have one.

Bring the whole family, a friend, prospective member, and Grandma too – and let's have FUN AND FELLOWSHIP.

NEWS FLASH! If you plan to come to the Regional Meet at Vi and Clyde Payton's shop on Saturday March 12, 2011 – AND YOU WILL NEED TO STAY OVER – I HAVE GRAND NEWS FOR YOU!

The QUALITY INN AND SUITES located at I-10 Exit #217 at Lloyd FL is only 5 miles north of the Payton's. To those attending this blacksmithing meeting they are offering the special rate of \$49.95/day, plus tax for a room with 2 queen size beds or 1 king size, refrigerator, microwave, and complimentary full breakfast! Just tell the desk that you are attending the PAYTON'S BLACKSMITH MEETING and say, “Dorothy” authorized this special rate.

Their phone # is 850-997-0020
Fax: 850-997-1568
E-mail: gm.fla21@choicehotels.com

If you have any questions or need more info call Vi or Clyde Payton at 850-997-3627 or e-mail at paytonforge@nettally.com

**LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR LITTLE
GIANT POWER HAMMER WORK
HARDER THAN EVER!**

Please join us March 18-20, 2011 for our annual Little Giant Rebuilding Seminar!

This class was first taught by our good friend Fred Caylor of Zionsville, Indiana. We carry on his tradition of teaching how to make Little Giants run well and hit hard.

This 2 ½ day class is a hands-on format. You will help transform a 25 LB Little Giant hammer from functional but sloppy condition into a well tuned, quiet, hard working hammer. Sid Suedmeier, owner of Little Giant, will share all his knowledge and experience gained from working with Fred and from 20 years of repairing and rebuilding Little Giants.

An old style 25 LB Little Giant will be rebuilt during the class, and a new style machine will be on hand to demonstrate proper assembly and adjustment of both styles.

The class is held in our shop in historical Nebraska City, Nebraska. The city has a wide variety of cafes, outlets (including Pendleton Woolen Mills), antique and gift shops, orchards, wineries and museums.

**IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE GIANT, THIS
CLASS IS FOR YOU!**

No experience is required to attend this class. Past students have ranged from age 15 to 90, and from all walks of life. Anyone who wants to learn will benefit from this class. We approach the rebuilding process using tools that can be found in the average home workshop.

If you are in the market to buy a power hammer, this class will make you an educated shopper. If you already own a Little Giant, or any other brand of power hammer, this class will teach you how to get the best performance possible.

The class costs \$95, refundable up to 7 days prior to the class; advance registration is required. We limit the class to 25 participants. The class starts at 9 AM sharp on Friday, and

usually ends by Saturday evening. The schedule runs Sunday until noon in case we encounter any exceptional problems in rebuilding, and to answer remaining questions.

When we receive your registration, we will send you a city map, along with travel and hotel information. Airports are located in Omaha (45 miles north), Lincoln (50 miles west) and Kansas City (125 miles south).

2011 REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Business name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

PAYMENT

- Check enclosed
- Visa
- MasterCard
- Discover
- American Express
- Number: _____
- Expiration Date: _____

POWER HAMMER INFO

Brand: _____

Size: _____

Serial Number: _____

Please call or email if you have any questions, or prefer to register by phone. You can reach us at 402.873.6603 or Sid@LittleGiantHammer.com
Little Giant is located at 420 4th Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

Don't Miss The SW FABAs Quarterly Meeting

March 26

Hammer making demo By Brian Brazeal at nokomisforge in Sarasota FL.

Gates open at 9:00 and demo starts at 10:00

The evening starts with 6:00 pm dinner followed by an 8:00 show. They are showing the hit play Avenue Q (Sesame street for adults). Proper attire please.

Iron in the hat! Food to share! Note: if you have a chair, you might want to bring it.

Here is some travel information for those of you making the long trip to the meeting. There are 2 hotels within five miles of my shop. The first is Hampton Inn Sarasota 5995 Cattleridge Rd Sarasota FL 34232 tel# 941-371-1900.

The second is Country Inn & Suites 5730 Gantt rd Sarasota 34233 tel# 941-925-0631.

There is also a State Park with camping at Myakka River State Park 13208 State Rd 72 Sarasota FL tel# 941-361-6511 WWW.Myakkariver.org They also have cabins available.

I have also made reservations under the name Trez Cole at The Golden Apple Dinner Theatre for the evening of March 26. They have extended special pricing of \$ 35.00 for the dinner and show. If you are interested, please call the box office to make your reservation at 941-366-5454. Please ask for **Kyle Tuoff**.

You can get more information at www.thegoldenapple.com.

Want to know when your membership expires? For those getting the CB via the USPS, look at the address label for your membership expiration date. It is printed just below your name.

NEW Membership Directory

FABA will be publishing a members directory in the near future; but we want to give you the option to OPT-OUT if you do not want your data published in the FABA Directory. Please notify Dot Butler at treasurer@blacksmithing.org if you do not want your name in the directory. We will be publishing name, address, phone number and email address.

Blacksmith Coal

Barberville has COAL. A new shipment of coal has been received, so if you need coal you can make arrangements with Gudrun at the Pioneer Settlement to purchase coal. <http://www.pioneersettlement.org/>

BLACKSMITH COAL

\$35 per 100 lb bag (Cash, Money Orders, Visa and MasterCard accepted. For pickup only). Please call for details. 386-749-2959

Madison SBA Conference – Please reserve May 19th to 21st for the conference in Madison.

The demonstrators this year will be George Dixon and Chuck Patrick – NC Knifemaker.

The Florida Clinker Breaker

FLORIDA ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION

Dorothy H. Butler, Membership Records

777 Tyre Rd

Havana FL 32333

March 2011

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. 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

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FABA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association, Inc.

Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Name _____

Spouses Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail _____

Check here to receive newsletter by PDF _____

Credit Card Visa __ MC __ Discover __

V code _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____

Your FABA membership begins when your application and membership fee is received. Membership is per family and lasts one year. Send \$25.00 fee and application to:

Dorothy Butler, FABA Treasurer

777 Tyre Road

Havana, FL 32333