PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome to the President’s Corner.

I want to start this writing with a BIG THANK-YOU to Kirk Sullens, Jordan Thomas, and David Reddy for their insights to the future of the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association with the lesson plans that were developed and used at the 2013 Annual Conference along with the ten ABANA Hammer’s Blow, Fundamentals of Forging lessons that have been published in the Clinker Breaker.

As I look to our future, I see a lot of activity, a lot of desire to improve our skills and bring on the next generation of blacksmiths, but no long term focus or goals to provide direction. I want to encourage every blacksmith in FABA to pursue a goal that is not short term, but demands time and commitment. That time and commitment will challenge each of us to be involved and engaged as we travel the path of becoming “Journeyman Blacksmiths.” This is not to say that everyone will reach for the goal, but the more the merrier. Your skill level will increase proportionally to the distance you work outside your comfort zone.

The U.S. Department of Labor has established the required skill standards to become a Journeyman Blacksmith, which will serve as our guideline to reach our goal. A copy of these requirements is included on pages 10-11 in this edition of the Florida Clinker Breaker. As you read these requirements, be honest and assess your skills to identify the areas you want to develop. Once your self assessment is complete, connect with your blacksmith friends or develop a plan with your Regional Coordinator and start working on the skills you want to improve. In addition, plan to attend the Annual Conference and the Regional Statewide Meetings for higher level training. I will be working with the Program Chairman and Regional Coordinators to insure that training is available to those who seek it.

Over time I will also work to have proctors trained to conduct testing for those who want to hold the title of “Journeyman Blacksmith.” We are an educational organization and this is an excellent focus on educational/training efforts.

We have five new members to the FABA organization. Welcome to Kenneth and Yvette Davis of Glen St. Mary, Levi Monroe of St. Augustine, and Frank and Midori Lowry of Alachua. When you see these new members at our meetings, extend a warm welcome and invite them to your forge.

Be Safe and Happy Hammering,
John Boy Watson

STATEWIDE REGIONAL MEETINGS

April 12th – NW Region Statewide Meeting
Panhandle Pioneer Settlement at Sam Atkins Park in Blountstown. Eddie Rainey of Gallop Forge, Milner, GA will demonstrate hammer making. See Pg. 2.

May 17th - 18th SE Region Statewide Meeting
Tanah Keeta Boy Scout Camp. Kirk Sullens will demonstrate tong making and the SE Region Striking Team will be a big hit. See Pg. 6.
“Since 1983 I have been dedicated to the exploration of forged metal. Working mainly in steel, stainless steel, copper, and aluminum, to create organic forms used in lighting, furniture, sculpture and architectural metal work. Creating decorative ironwork from raw rigid steel has been a most rewarding challenge. I borrow from nature what our creator has created, and express my own creativity through rendering images of our external world.

It is a humbling thought to think of the history of the craft of blacksmithing and to know that you are among those who are committed to preserving it by doing it. Fashioning by forging. How I live reflects how I create and this is what I want to convey to all who view my work.”

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA) is a not-for-profit organization chartered with the State of Florida and is dedicated to promoting and expanding the horizons of architectural, artistic and practical blacksmithing while preserving the rich heritage of this craft. FABA Officers and members assume no responsibility or liability for injuries or damage caused as a result of the use of any information, materials, design, techniques, etc. contained in this newsletter, our website, http://www.blacksmithing.org, our Facebook Page or provided at meetings or demonstrations.

Contributions to FABA are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. FABA publishes the Florida Clinker Breaker monthly and FABA membership includes a subscription. We solicit correspondence and unpaid articles on any subjects related to FABA’s purposes. Send to: editor@blacksmithing.org Materials submitted must be your own work and citations of others must be clearly identified. By submitting material, you are allowing FABA to edit, print and post them to FABA’s website. ABANA Chapter newsletters may reprint non-copyrighted material if it is credited to the author and this newsletter. You need the publisher’s permission to reprint copyrighted material unless otherwise noted.

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

Northeast Region Bob Jacoby 904-613-2626 bobjacoby@bellsouth.net
Northwest Region Roger Bell 850-566-4629 bellrgr@yahoo.com
Southeast Region Ed Aaron 561-748-9824 edaaron9824@bellsouth.net
Southwest Region Lisa Anne Conner 813-977-3743 MelisandeAubrey@hotmail.com

NE Apr. 5, Pioneer Settlement for the Creative Arts, Barberville

NW Apr. 12, Panhandle Pioneer Settlement, Sam Atkins Park, Blountstown

SE Apr. 19, Tanah Keeta Boy Scout Camp

SW Apr. 26, Jerry and Mary Standifer's, Palmetto Christoff Fredrick's Cross Demonstration

Jerry and Mary Standifer's
1808 8th St. W., Palmetto
941-729-6219 - Potluck
REGIONAL REPORTS

NW - February Meeting

The NW February 8th meeting was at Juan Holbrook’s shop in Gainesville. Juan was a great host and also was the demonstrator with the able assistance of Lisa Smith.

Juan demonstrated several steps involved in making a table. He is famous for these great works of art which consistently win the “People’s Choice” award at the conference. He demonstrated upsetting, scrolling, and making the mortice and tenon to connect parts together. Not everyone is up to the challenge of such an ambitious undertaking as a table, but the skills learned are transferable to many more bite-sized projects such as fitting together a trivet, making tongs or punching a piece of metal for a handle, etc.

Following the demonstration, Roger conducted the Iron in the Hat drawing with Lloyd Wheeler drawing and calling out the numbers. It produced $81 and an auction following added another $50 for a total of $131.

Lisa, also cooked the chili we had for lunch. She is truly a multi-talented young lady; the food was excellent.

After lunch it was back to the forge. John Boy beat out a railroad spike oyster knife with a twist and a bottle opener in 3 heats. He was followed by Kirk Sullens who made a German rose out of one piece of metal rod, a talent for which he is famous as he made a number of them for members of a wedding party at the conference.

We had 25 in attendance that signed the roster and a number of people who didn’t get around to it.

Roger Bell

SE - February Meeting

We met February 15th to start the move to our new DIGS but the Rotary Club was there working for the Boy Scouts. We didn't have room or a trailer to start our move. We went out and surveyed the area again, discussing what we would like to do. We'll be there Sat. to try again.

Demonstrating at the Fairgrounds is great to expose the public to FABA. I personally try to stay away but Shaun wrote on FB: "Thanks to Ralph Nettles for inviting us. Nicole Alcaro and I had a great time doing blacksmithing demonstrations on Sunday with William Kahl."

Ed Aaron

SW February Meeting

A nice group of 17 met for our February 22nd SW meeting at Wolfe Forge in Sarasota. John Fee, a snowbird from Corning, NY, fellow blacksmith, and a recently elected ABANA trustee, gave an excellent demo of making barbeque tools from RR spikes.

An interesting tool that John used may be helpful to others who utilize RR spikes for making things. A pair of BESCO tongs for “battery terminals” makes perfect tongs for holding the RR spike.

John also makes critters from “tableware” and showed us how to make miniature cowboy hats. Had a great day with lots of participation and exchange of ideas.

Jerry Wolfe

A full house at Wolfe Forge.
REGIONAL REPORTS

NE - March Meeting

The March 1st NE regional meeting was held at the Pioneer Arts Settlement in Barberville. The day started out a little cold and cloudy (perfect coal forge weather), but warmed up by lunch and turned into a very nice day.

Steve Estenson and Allen Hardwicke forged a nail header which was tested immediately and produced some very nice looking hand-wrought nails! And, the nail header was generously donated to the buck-in-the-bucket.

Bob Brown forged a woodworker’s holdfast that was inspired by Peter Ross (who worked as the Colonial Williamsburg master blacksmith for 22 years).

Ben Rogers reminded us all that we should make sure to share our craft as he mentored a younger member – Ben is a very skilled smith and a great teacher. Steve Estenson then showed the young smith how to make tongs.

Melanie & Tim Harding joined us as they have moved back from the Keys and now live in the Tampa area – hopefully we’ll get to see a lot more of them! Naturally, we ate well – too much good food to list, but suffice to say no one left hungry!

Bob Jacoby

Joint Meeting with FABA and the Florida State University Master Craftsman Studio

On May 10th there will be a joint meeting of the Florida Artist Blacksmith Assn and the FSU Master Craftsman Studio. There will be glass blowing demonstrations as well as forging demos. This is a “get to know each other” meeting between our two organizations, so it will not be advertised to the public. This will take place at the Master Craftsman Studio on Gaines Street in Tallahassee. More information will be provided in the future, when the details have been worked out.

John Butler

FOR SALE:

Bud Grieshop is selling a rivet forge $35; 2 post drills $75 each; post vise (cut off leg) $75; metal saw - needs work; 2 old outboard motors; 2 old McCulloch chain saws; small air compressor; 3 barber chairs. Call 352 588 3328.

Pioneer Settlement in Barberville has coal available at $35 per 100 lb bag. Pick-up only. Call ahead with your order and we’ll have it ready. Cash, check, Mastercard, VISA and Discover accepted. Mon-Sat, 9 am - 4 pm. Gudren Benson, Pioneer Settlement, 386-749-2959.

Blacksmith Speak:

“In process design change.”

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association
Southeast Regional Statewide Conference
May 17, 2014

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association, Southeast Region cordially invites you to join us at our regional blacksmithing conference on May 17, 2014. There will be demonstrators, open forges and good food, fellowship and learning.

Location: The conference will be held at the Tanah Keeta Boy Scout Reservation, located at 8501 Southeast Boy Scout Road, Jupiter, Florida 33469. From I-95 in Jupiter, Florida, exit Indiantown Road and head east to Island Way. Turn left on Island Way and follow the road 4.3 miles to Southeast Country Club Drive. Turn left on Southeast Country Club Drive and continue .6 of a mile to Southeast Boy Scout Road. Turn left on Southeast Boy Scout Road and then follow the signs to our meeting area.

Accommodations: Free on location tent and RV camping is available at Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation. RV parking is allowed only in the designated parking lot area and there are no RV utility hook ups. Cabins are available at Tanah Keeta. Eight person cabins with bathroom facilities nearby are $80.00 (1-8 people) for the weekend. Two person dorm rooms that share a bathroom with another two person dorm are $40.00 (1-2 people) for the weekend.


Hotel accommodations:

Comfort Inn & Suites
6752 West Indiantown Road, Jupiter, FL, US, 33458-3978
Phone: (561)745-7997
Fax: (561) 768-0022

Fairfield Inn & Suites West Palm Beach Jupiter
6748 Indiantown Road Jupiter Florida 33458 USA
Phone: 1-561-748-5252

Friday evening welcome campfire social with hot chocolate, smores, cracker and cheese.

Kirk Sullens: the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association, statewide Program Chairperson will be teaching a tong and tool making class from 9 am to 12 noon on Saturday. If enough people are interested in staying over Saturday night, Kirk will demonstrate heat treating of tools on Sunday morning 9 am and the making of one of his amazing octopus sculptures. [Kirk Sullens biography is on the following page]

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association, Southeast Region Striking Team of Shaun Williams, Nathan Nettles and Morgan Williams will be demonstrating team striking techniques related to tool making, helping draw out tong reigns and demonstrating hardy tool making.

Open forges will be available all day.

continued
Florida Artist Blacksmith Association  
Southeast Regional Statewide Conference  
May 17, 2014

**Trade Item:** continuing the tradition started at the 2013 FABA conference, Southeast Region will also conduct a trade item exchange. The Trade Item will be a key chain. Anyone interested in entering the trade exchange, can make the item. Participants will bring their item to the conference where they will be on display all day Saturday. Saturday afternoon, after all demonstrations are completed, the names of participants will be placed in a hat and each will draw a name. Each participant will get to take home the item made by the person whose name they drew.

**Iron in the Hat:** Southeast Region will also be hosting an Iron in the Hat drawing. Participants are asked to bring an item they would like to donate to the drawing. Tickets to the drawing will be sold throughout the day on Saturday and the Iron in the Hat drawing will be conducted Saturday afternoon after demonstrations are concluded.

**Tailgate Sale:** All attendees of the conference are welcome to bring items for sale in our Tailgate Sale area.

**Food and refreshments:** A delicious Southern style lunch will be available on Saturday at $5.00 per plate with a choice of one entrée, pulled pork, grilled chicken breast, hamburger or hot dog and two sides, including baked beans, collard greens, corn, chips, potato salad, and one drink, soda or water. Soda and water will also be available for sale all day.

**KIRK SULLENS**  
**SE DEMONSTRATOR**

Kirk Sullens has been blacksmithing since he picked up Alex Weyger’s *The Modern Blacksmith* in 1988, and was instantly spellbound. His first professional metalworking job was 2 years later, and started him in full time work in a fabrication shop for five years, where he learned production methods.

At the 1994 ABANA conference he met the manager of the Bass Pro Shops/Outdoor World metal shop, where he then went to work. Bass Pro gave him a 15 year patronage that allowed him to produce wildlife art as decor for their stores.

During his tenure at Bass Pro, he also was active in BAM, ultimately serving one term as president, and co-chairing the 2008 BAM conference with Tom Clark.

He has demonstrated for BAM, IVBA/UMBA, NWBA, and FABA at their annual conferences, as well as teaching and holding workshops.

After moving to central Florida in 2009, he became active in FABA, demonstrating for regional groups here, and chairing the 2013 conference.

Kirk feels modern blacksmithing is driven by two things: the desire to preserve and maintain the tradition of blacksmithing, and the cutting edge creativity of modern architectural and artist blacksmiths. Each is indispensable to the real goal of teaching the next generation of smiths that they are bound only by their imaginations.

His artist's statement is simple and succinct: "I like to make stuff."
For Bill Roberts, the best part of blacksmithing comes when the metal glows red hot and is pliable, like clay. "I enjoy being able to push it around and give it shape," said Roberts, who works in Ocala at his Custom Design Metal Arts business and is one of the featured artists in a show of forged and fabricated metal art scheduled for October at the Brick City Center for the Arts.

On Friday, several members of the Florida Artist Blacksmiths Association also will participate in the First Friday Artwalk with a blacksmithing demonstration from 6-9 p.m. at the Brick City Center at 23 SW Broadway St.

The show and demonstration are tied to the FABA annual conference set for Oct. 11-13 in Ocala. More than 200 metalsmiths from around the state and the region are expected to attend the conference, which holds workshops and meetings. "This is the first show of this scale which will run for this amount of time in Central Florida," said Roberts, who started out as a jewelry maker in the 1980s and then expanded to other forms of metal.

He makes sculptures and decorative pieces from copper, aluminum, iron and steel, and he still does jewelry.

In his workshop on Thursday, Roberts heated a piece of steel until it was red hot. He quickly moved it to one of three anvils in his shop and proceeded to bang the daylights out of it with a Hofi Hammer, a specialized blacksmith hammer. In mere moments, he had banged out a crude but recognizable horse's head. Reheated and shaped with other tools, the form became cleaner and detailed, with mane and eye and ear. "I just love how quickly the form comes out of it. It takes longer to explain than to do it," Roberts said.

The show was organized by Kirk Sullens of Mount Dora, who paid for most of the rent of the gallery himself. Sullens also organized the FABA conference. "The whole reason for our (FABA) existence is to teach people about blacksmithing and what it has evolved into. Since it is no longer the utilitarian activity that it once served, we show that it has now moved into the artistic arena, but the basic processes haven't changed in years," Sullens said.

Sullens said blacksmithing and the metallurgic arts have seen a resurgence. "The craft is alive and far away from dead, but that wasn't the case 30 years ago," he said.
Ray Nager, who will be downtown on Friday demonstrating his talent, started shoeing horses while still in high school in the late 1950s.

After a three-year apprenticeship, he became a racetrack farrier and eventually moved to the decorative side of the business.

"We develop a camaraderie. We're like a specialized society that uses the basic concepts of working with metal to make varied things like knives, sculptures, utilitarian or decorative items," Nager said. "It's great to meet the younger generation and share ideas and techniques."

Nager is also among the artists included in the show and, along with Roberts, is excited about the idea.

"We have shows at the conferences, but that is just showing our stuff among ourselves. This is a great opportunity not only to expose it to a general audience, but it's a chance for the (Brick City) center to show something they have never shown before," Roberts said.
Journeyman Blacksmithing Skill Standards

These Blacksmithing Skill standards were developed by the Appalachian Blacksmiths Association, an ABANA chapter and registered with the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, United States Department of Labor. Before someone is accepted as a journeyman blacksmith, they need to be able to perform the following productively, quickly and accurately. It is a good self check list on the skills you need to develop in your craft.

1. Drawing Out: Draw a bar to a point or dress an edge or point a tool.
2. Upsetting: Upset to at least 1 ½ times the diameter or width of a bar on the end and in the middle.
3. Bending: Make a ring out of bar stock or flat stock; forge a square corner right angle bend in square stock.
4. Punching, slitting and decorative punch work: Show an example of decorative punch work; punch a hole in a bar the same size as the width of the bar.
5. Drifting: Make a drift and use it to smooth, shape or enlarge a hole.
6. Mortise and Tenon: Make an assembly from at least two separate pieces using this technique.
7. Collaring: Make an assembly from at least two separate pieces using this technique.
8. Scroll Work: Make two different types of scrolls.
9. Splitting: Split a bar with a hot cut in the middle or at the end of the bar.
10. Fullering, grooving, veining, set hammering: Show examples of each or, if used as an intermediate technique, describe how and why the techniques are used.
11. Riveting: Make two assemblies from at least two separate pieces for each assembly using hot riveting and cold riveting (pop riveting is not acceptable).
12. Forge Welding: Show at least three different techniques.
13. Arc Welding, brazing, soldering, oxyacetylene torch welding: Show an example of each.
14. Hot Rasping, filing: Hot rasp the torch cut end of a bar to reasonable straightness and evenness, show a work-piece which has been filed to a smooth, flat surface, describe the types, care and use of files.
15. Sinking, raising, metal spinning: Make or show a hemispherical or hollow object made from flat sheet using any one technique.
16. Grinding: Know how to use a body grinder (portable grinder), pedestal grinder, belt grinder, sharpening stones and abrasive papers; know the types of abrasives and how they are graded and classified, show an edge tool that you have sharpened.
17. Drilling, tapping, die work and threads: Drill and tap a hole, thread the end of a bar with a die, know the common thread classifications, know the common drill size classifications, and the care and use of twist drills.

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Journeyman Blacksmithing Skill Standards Continued

18. Heat treating, hardening, tempering, annealing, case hardening: Know how to properly anneal, harden and temper carbon tool steel, know how to use and case harden mild steel, know the colors for tempering, make or show a tool you have made that has been heat treated and will cut or forge mild steel without breaking or suffer deformation on the working end.

19. Heading: Head two bolts, one square headed, and one hex headed; head a nail, head a rivet.

20. Cutting and shearing: Know how to use the hot cut, cold cut, hack saw, tin snips, bench or floor shear, know how to use the oxyacetylene torch for cutting and demonstrate each technique.

21. Swaging: Swage a tenon or make the end of a square bar round using a swage.

22. Twisting: Show two different twists in a square bar.

23. Shop safety: Know first aid techniques for cuts, burns, abrasions and other shop related injuries; describe methods of hearing, sight and body protection and why they are necessary; know power tool and machinery safety including welding equipment safety.

24. Basic metallurgy: Know the properties and use of wrought iron, mild steel, carbon and tool steels and their classification, cast iron, brass, copper, aluminum; know sheet and plate gauging for ferrous and non-ferrous metals.

25. Fire and Fuel: Know the constituents of good shop coal; know the different types of coal fires and fire maintenance.

26. Jigs and dies: Make both a jig and a die for doing repetitive production work and show examples of work produced with them.

Member Corner

Thanks to FABA’s Jerry Grice Scholarship, I was able to take the blacksmithing course _Hammer Useful Heirlooms_ with Jack Wheeler at John C Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC. I haven’t worked so physically hard in a decade or two! We worked from 9 am to 10 pm and beyond each night, then got up and did it again. There were six people in the class, two of whom had taken it last year. Jack is a great instructor. He went over a job, then demonstrated the process, then let you work your way through it. Facilities in the Clay Spencer Blacksmith Shop are wonderful. There are three of everything you need and three of a lot of things you didn’t even know you needed. I learned a lot and had a wonderful time.

Thanks to FABA and everyone who made it possible!

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