

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Panhandle Pioneer's Rebuilding

This month I am just amazed with the rebirth of the Blacksmith Shop in the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown, Fla. This is such a rebirth that it makes me think of the phoenix rising out of the flames as the settlement has raised itself out the destruction of Hurricane Michael last

John Boy Watson

As the buildings are resurrected, destruction still surrounds the main portion of the settlement, as well as Blountstown itself. Trees were broken about 15 feet above the soil line or pushed over completely, pulling the tree roots from the ground. Many objects are still in this mass treefall, such as metal and shingles from roofs, along with other objects that were picked up

and moved by this powerful storm. The trees that remain are all leaning 10-15 degrees to the west.

The 30th of March was the 30th anniversary of the Settlement, and its rebuilding from Hurricane Michael is well underway thanks to the efforts of Willard Smith, founder and COO of the Settlement, and his team. With their efforts, the walls of the blacksmith shop have been reset and a new roof is now protecting the shop's contents, along with the space reserved for the blacksmith museum that is planned at this facility.

The rebuilding shows that when things really go bad, it brings out the good in men and the greatness of individuals who have been given the abilities of inspiring leadership. With their guidance, the Settlement team achieved the results we are able enjoy at this time.

The Panhandle Pioneer Settlement is not out of the woods yet, and funds are still needed as they continue in this rebuild process. If you are able to give, their address is: Panhandle Pioneer Settlement, P.O. Box 215, Blountstown, Fla. 32424.

On March 30, we were able to have our first basic blacksmith class at the Settlement's blacksmith shop since its destruction by the hurricane. I led the class with oversight by Willard Smith and assistance provided by FABA Vice



President Mark Stone, former Vice President Billy Christie and member Daniel Clawson.

We also had our newest Regional Coordinator from the Far



West, David Sandlin, who came to observe and start making contacts for networking in this wonderful organization. We had a wonderful and safe day full of coal smoke and fellowship.

I thank each of you for your giving spirit and the encouragement you provide to bring out the best in others. It is your actions, because actions are stronger than words, which makes FABA the best statewide blacksmith organization in this wonderful country.

> Think Safe and Be Safe, John Boy Watson

## Walt Anderson Scholarship 2019

This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Walt Anderson, one of our charter members. Its purpose is to further the craft of blacksmithing, and the scholarship is available to any FABA member in good standing.

The award is limited to the actual cost or \$1,000, whichever is lesser. It may be used for materials, tuition, lodging and transportation (paid at the rate of 43.2 cents per mile or the actual cost of public transportation, whichever is lesser).

A letter of application or a detailed email may be submitted provided the applicant answers the following questions:

What is your name, address and phone number?

How much experience in blacksmithing do you have?

How will this instruction help you with your blacksmithing craft?

What is the name of the school you wish to attend?

What is the name of the course and the name of the instructor teaching the class? What costs will be incurred (tuition, lodging, transportation, etc.)?

Note: By accepting the Walt Anderson Scholarship, the applicant agrees to provide a

demonstration of skills learned at a regular FABA meeting and write an article concerning the learning experience, including a "how-to" article for publication in the Clinker Breaker. Not required but strongly suggested: An item made with the new knowledge should be offered for auction at the Annual meeting.

Completed applications should be sent to John Butler, Chair, FABA Scholarship Committee, 777 Tyre Road, Havana, FL 32333 or jgbutler@sprintmail.com.

Deadline for receipt is June 15, 2019. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final. The successful applicant will be notified.



The Florida Artist Blacksmith Association is looking for someone to step up and become Treasurer for our group. Kirk Sullens will continue as interim treasurer for the short term.

If you feel you can help FABA in this role, please contact Kirk at 352-357-7221. Please leave a coherent message if the answering machine picks up.

Thank you for your service!

#### 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 materials, 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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### **Calendar of 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 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and you'll want to bring a bag lunch if not otherwise noted. If you have any questions about meetings or events, please contact the Regional Coordinators:

Central Northeast Region	Heinrich Hole	386-848-6982	heinrich.faba@gmail.com
North Northeast Region	Ben Thompson	617-388-5695	thompsoncrafted@gmail.com
Northwest Region	John Pfund	850-528-3280	johnwpfund@aol.com
Southeast Region	Shaun Williams	954-274-4119	chevaliervaliant@yahoo.com
Southwest Region	Antony Fenn	617-320-4781	antony.fenn@gmail.com
Far West Region	Dave Sandlin	850-974-1548	traditionsworkshopinc@gmail.com

## **University of Florida Students Win TMS Bladesmithing Competition**

A student team from the University of Florida (UF) won the 2019 TMS Bladesmithing Competition with its sword "Decapigator" with the help of a FABA member.

The biennial Bladesmithing Competition, sponsored by the Minerals, Metals and Materials Society (TMS) as part of the society's international meeting, was first held in 2015 to engage engineering students in the practical application of metallurgical and material science.

Thirty-three teams from nine countries competed in 2019, including teams from UC Berkeley, Virginia Tech and the 2017 first-

prize winner, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

In addition to its finished, forged blade, each team was judged on its 10-page technical report, presentation poster and a five-minute video describing the blade design and forging procedures. J. Alex Ruiz, Forged in Fire champion for Season 5 Episode 13, was the guest judge.

Competition rules allow one non-student artisan member per team, typically an established, expert bladesmith. In 2015, longtime FABA member Steve Bloom of Ironflower Forge — a former Clinker Breaker editor and Blacksmith Ph.D. — fulfilled that role for the UF team, and UF took second place for their "skinner knife."

The hammer passed to FABA member Jordan Borstelmann of Crooked Path Forge as the UF team's artisan member for the 2017 competition. Jordan again served as artisan for the winning 2019 UF team.

All past and current video submissions for these competitions can be viewed on YouTube; look for the "Bladesmithing Competition" lists under the playlists tab in the "ChannelTMS" YouTube channel.







Jordan Borstelmann, the UF team's artisan member

#### Rick Smith

## **Regional Reports**

## **Far West Region Report**

The March meeting of the Far West was held at John Bultler's Farm in Pea Ridge, and it is an excellent venue, plus we had excellent weather. We found that by parking the FABA trailer up next to the road, we were able to create a billboard that brought in a number of interested visitors that might become future FABA members. All told, between members and visitors, we had 33 people at our event. Lunch for members was hosted by John Butler.

We started the meeting with a discussion on making tongs. Of course, pointers for "no tong, tongs" were offered but two other styles of simple-to-make tongs were also discussed. The scissors style is where two pieces of flat bar are riveted together. The version depicted below is used to hold punches and other top tools, but the jaws can easily be formed for other purposes.



These flat bar tongs may be quick to make but have the disadvantage that they have very little spring, so you tend to wear your hands out over a day's work. Perhaps by drawing out the reins instead of making them like scissors handles this problem could be eliminated.

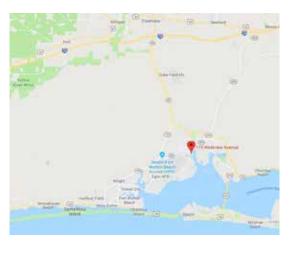
Finally we discussed the "original" style of tongs that look something like a spring swage with a "V" jaw. These are fairly easy to make but do require more material — between 36 to 48 inches of ½-inch stock. Similar to the scissors tongs, these are hard on the hands. However, if made out of round stock

a flip ring or catch like a screen door hook can be used to hold the jaw closed on the stock. If using square stock, like the example shown at right, then a large ring works better to keep the jaws closed. Note: These example spring tongs are a bit short, made with only 30" of ½-inch stock.

Following our discussions, members worked on their own projects and made extensive use of the power hammer.

For April, the Far West Chapter will meet at the Heritage Museum

of Northwest Florida, supporting their "Saturday in the Park" on April 27. We will have a cadre of demonstrators/ re-enactors at this event. To sign up, please use our Facebook event



page: www.facebook.com/events/2301622083417317/

Comment on the event or contact David@Traditions-Workshop.com for a time slot when you will be on one of the two front anvils using our Viking fire table with its sliding bellows forge to demonstrate simple projects like making nails or leaves while talking to the crowd, promoting FABA and blacksmithing. The back anvils and the rest of our trailer supplies will be available for our usual FABA activities. Hope to see you on April 27 at the Heritage Museum, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL 32580.

Finally, for those who keep a long range calendar these are the planned events for the Far West chapter:

In May, June and July we will return to Butlers Countryside Farm (located at 4112 Bell Lane, Pea Ridge, FL 32571). The theme for these months is TBD, so if you have a particular project you want us to work on, please call David at 850-974-1548 or email David@TraditionsWorkshop.com.

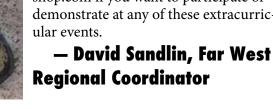
In August, we are planning a field trip with the trailer to the Baker Block Museum. We will set up to do some demonstrations, but our main teaching point for the field trip will be area history and visiting the museum blacksmith shop.

September we plan to return to Traditions Workshop so we can get our trailer ready to make the trip to Ocala in October for the annual FABA three-day conference.

In November and December, we typically don't have a

fourth Saturday meeting here in the far west due to holiday conflicts. However there are several blacksmithing demonstration opportunities on Saturdays: Farm Day on Nov. 2, Pioneer Day on Nov. 9, and Yule of Yesteryear on Dec. 14 at the Heritage Museum in Valparaiso.

Contact David@TraditionsWorkshop.com if you want to participate or demonstrate at any of these extracurric-





## North NE Region Report

As I announced in the last Clinker Breaker, our April meeting is on Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jordan Borstelmann will demonstrate hand forging a pattern welded billet of 1095 / 15n20. The meeting will be hosted and sponsored by Metal Supermarket Jacksonville. Please join us!

The North NE region will not have a May meeting, but will be meeting on June 15. I'm still making final arrangements on our location, announcements will be made on the Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/FABA.NE/ or you can contact me directly by email at thompsoncrafted@gmail.



Visit crookedpathforge.org for more information on Jordan and his work.

I'm always happy to hear feedback on meeting content and we're looking for hosts for the fall, so if you'd like to host a meeting please feel free to reach out! — **Ben Thompson, North NE Coordinator** 

## Central NE Region Report

Guys, when I asked for help from the Central NE Region for a shop maintenance day, I had two possible lists in mind of what could get done. There was the reasonable list that got the essentials taken care of. There was also my dream list of what I thought was the high end of what could be accomplished in one day.

Well, I tell you now, there was a third list I had no clue about — the "beyond my wildest

dreams" list, and that is the one that took place. We had no less than 15 members and other various shop guys out to play in our shop. All six of the forges are fully operational again, with proper airflow restored. All the blowers got opened up, cleaned and freshly lubricated. Four new hood extensions were made from the doors of an old pizza oven I was given.

Timmy Boyle went truly above and beyond that day with his contributions of equipment, time, materials and general knowledge. I want to personally thank him for his most generous attitude and obvious love for FABA. Also to John Hare, thank you so much for covering my, ahem, with that amazing bacon-chicken-smoked-wonder of a meal you made.

Last meeting, we had ourselves a good ole time at Kirk's



house learning about how to make a frog hood ornament. Some of the metal moving techniques turned out to be a lil' harder than they appear, as was proven when I tried to copy Kirk's demo frog after he finished. Thank you to everyone who took the time to stay after the meeting to help get our FABA equipment in order. All the help provided by our membership is greatly appreciated.

Our next meeting will be back at the settlement starting at 9 a.m. on May 4. This is going to be another meeting with heavy focus on getting people in the forges and having fun. So bring your projects or anything you feel like working on and share it with the group. Cya there!

#### — Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator

## Jerry Grice Scholarship Report

By Kieran Fry

I moved from Boston, Mass, to Tallahassee, Fla., in 2011, leaving behind my job in Boston as a finish carpenter to take on my new role as a stay-at-home dad to my twins, Rosie and Evan, who were born shortly after our move here.

Once the kids reached school age, I finally found I had a little spare time and slowly turned the muchin-need-of-fixing-up "guest house" into my workshop. I began making furniture from reclaimed wood, using my knowledge from my days of carpentry in Boston.

Like any other craftsman, I wanted to make everything from scratch; nothing storebought would make please me. I pulled square nails from

a reclaimed piece of heart pine one day and thought, "Why can't I make these myself?"

While chatting with my neighbor Betty about my latest project, I told her how I wanted to start blacksmithing. Little did I know, her friend Patty Draper was a blacksmith and past president of FABA. Patty gave me a bunch of information, and two weeks later I found myself at my first FABA meeting at Preachers Forge (Fern Forge in Tallahassee). Roger Bell was demonstrating on how to make a railroad-spike knife, and Ron Childers demonstrated heart- making. I spent a huge proportion of the morning chatting with Billy Christie, who introduced me to John Pfund, and I became a member that very same day!

Monthly meetings became my new favorite thing to do, and John Boy Watson gave me the makings of my first forge, sending me home with all kinds of things, and it all went up in smoke from there. I learned a lot working with everyone I met at the North Florida Association, and I am forever grateful for their hospitality, expertise and encouragement.

In 2016, I read about the Jerry Grice Scholarship in the Clinker Breaker and said to myself, "I'm going to give this one a shot." I never imagined I would be considered, let alone be offered, this golden opportunity by FABA. I searched many opportunities online, all of which involved traveling either out of town or out of state, which was something I just couldn't commit to because I picked my kiddos up from school every day.



I'd been introduced to Jeff Mohr at the Mockingbird Forge in Crawfordville, and with the help of John Boy, I was able to arrange a training opportunity with Jeff. A single Wednesday night meeting set out my goals for this training, which included learning traditional blacksmithing techniques to the journeyman requirements.

During the first few days of my training, we formulated a plan to incorporate a variety of techniques ranging from splitting, drifting, collaring, twisting, forge welding, square corners, riveting and various types of joinery (and of course, lots of hook-making).

Jeff and I discussed ways for me to learn techniques that I could incorporate with my woodworking projects, and so we decided on making a number of pieces that included table bases and table legs, as well as lamp stands and a fireplace set. These pieces not only taught me traditional techniques, but also satisfied many journeyman requirements.

Initially, I practiced hooks. I made hooks, and more hooks and finally a few more hooks. That was my morning work, to warm both me and the fire up; I would make five hooks and Jeff would make 50. We moved on from there to tapering, leading into scroll work, which I quickly realized wasn't my strong point. Jeff taught me that the better and finer the taper, the better the scroll. Proficiency in scroll-making was important to me as I incorporate scrolls in many of my table pieces.

Next, we worked on traditional mortise and tenon joinery.

I designed a 4-legged table base. Using ¾-inch square stock, I started making the legs, first upsetting the feet. I then moved on to the cross braces. I needed to punch a hole for the mortise, and using ½-inch mild steel, super quenched, I made a punch to make the mortise hole.

Next up were the tenons. Jeff showed me a number of different ways to make tenons, from using the power hammer to using a monkey tool and drawing them out by hand. While the power hammer was less labor-intensive and "slightly" more efficient, I appreciated learning the traditional method. I always remember a former boss telling me if I couldn't do it by hand, I had no business using a power tool.

Jeff is an amazingly talented blacksmith, and I learned so much in my time with him; I still do just by conversations alone. We both participate in arts and crafts shows, and Jeff has shared a story or two about shows he and Brooke have attended. We have had many lengthy chats about fussy customers, and I enjoyed swapping stories with Brooke about Christmas family traditions.

I completed my Jerry Grice Scholarship-funded training program on Oct. 10, 2018, and demonstrated at the April 2019 Northwest FABA meeting at my home forge.

I am so grateful to FABA and the Mohrs for this opportunity. Jeff and Brooke went so far above and beyond expectations for this experience. Rosie and Evan spent quality time with Brooke, their grandkids and still talk about the time they drove Jeff's golf cart.

This was hands-down one of the most rewarding opportunities I have been fortunate to experience. Thank you, FABA and Mockingbird Forge!

P.S. Jeff and Brooke, I cannot thank you enough for such an amazing experience, and for welcoming me and my family into your home. I went into this experience wanting to fulfill the requirements for my journeyman, and I left with that and much more. Thank you both!





#### ABANA 2020 Conference

Washington County Fairgrounds 392 Old Schuylerville Rd. Greenwich, NY

#### Information Available at

www.abana2020.com abana2020 on facebook abana.org ABANA Central Office 423-913-1022



## **Southeast Region Report**

Hello everyone, and welcome to another wonderful edition of the Clinker Breaker Southeast Region report.

Another Florida Artist Blacksmith Association Southeast Region Statewide Meeting has come and gone, and the event was an outstanding success. As expected, Sylvia Andrassy, the FABA Statewide Program coordinator, with the help of a talented cast of volunteers, did an amazing job of organizing and pulling off this event.

Over 50 people attended the event, featuring demonstrations by our guest blacksmith, Mark Emig from New York state, and our very own bladesmith, Tommy Burgs, as well as a series of exciting and informative classes. In addition to blacksmithing and bladesmithing demonstrations, this year's event also featured demonstrations of metal casting, leather working and glass torchwork.

The event and auction raised more than \$1,500 for the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association. Special thanks to Brian Spillane for being our auctioneer and doing a great job helping us raise money for this cause.

We also want to send a special thanks to FABA President John Watson, FABA Treasurer Kirk Sullens, Regional Coordinator Heinrich Hole, John Hare and all other FABA members from around the state for travelling such a long distance to come and help make this event such an outstanding success.

We would also like to thank all our local Southeast Region members, including Ralph Nettles, Tia Kitchen, Steve Silvers, Sarah Walker, Cameron Baird, Clay Shock and Mike Bozich and everyone who donated items for sale in the auction.

## — Shaun Williams, Southeast Coordinator











## Southeast Meeting, May 19

Due to Sylvia and Shaun attending the Southern Blacksmith Association Conference, the Southeast Region's May meeting will be on a Sunday instead of Saturday. The meeting will be hosted at The Guild, Urban Craft and Folk Art School/Dark Angel Armory and Forge at 205 NW 16th St. in Pompano Beach, Fla., on Sunday, May 19, noon to 5 p.m. Learn more and check out the guild's full offerings at www.guildfl.com.

Just a reminder, I am administering a Facebook page for the Southeast Region. I try to post helpful tutorials, vendor information and other valuable blacksmithing resources. Look us up and request an invite at Florida Artist Blacksmith Association Southeast Region. I look forward to hearing from all of you.

#### - Shaun Williams, Southeast Coordinator











## **Southwest Region Report**

The Southwest Region met at Tony Fenn's workshop and business, Scale Up Designs, in Sarasota in March. Yet again, we had a great turnout with more than 20 region members attending.

The meeting was a little different from our typical blacksmith meeting as I started by explaining what we do. Scale Up Designs specializes in the fabrication of foam marquettes by 3D scanning fine art objects and then machining with precision CNC routing. Our company is dedicated to delivering stunning 3D projects ready for molding on any desired scale. We provide a "one stop shopping" approach for

artists who want to bring their sculptures through the complete process of modeling, scaling, and final bronze casting all at one location.

I explained how we built our own huge CNC router last summer. We call her Frida Karla as she makes beautiful art. I then demoed how to 3D scan an anvil and then we cut a smaller replica anvil in foam using Frida.

We then went next door to the bronze foundry, where the

Bronzart production manager, Steve, walked us through their operations. He explained how they take a piece like our foam anvil, cover it with finishing clay, make a mold and then pour a wax replica ready for the lost wax casting process. Then we took a tour of the silica shell dipping room, the wax melt-out and molten pouring area, and finally the welding chasing and patina areas.

Over an awesome potluck lunch spread, a few of us discussed the idea of a casting class, which we could do with Steve's help in the future.

Thank you on behalf of FABA to all who attended, as our large number again raised a good amount of money from Iron in Hat.

We finished up the last hour by firing up my two portable BBQ coal forges, as it couldn't be a FABA meeting without some smoke and the sound of hammers falling.

Marcus Wise gave a vigorous demo of forge welding, and Jerry Wolfe instructed one of our new members on some basic techniques while forging a knife blank from a railroad spike.

I received a lot of positive feedback after the meeting, so I'm happy to report that a good time was had by all.

See you at the April 20 meeting at Marcus Wise's farrier shop in Lithia. It should be a great meeting, as Marcus is happy to demo everything from horseshoes to forge weld-





ing, knives, damascus, tongs and tools. There is very little he doesn't make. Marcus is currently working on his teaching endorsement with his Farriers Association, so teaching comes easy for him.

Marcus is located at 11439 Holstein Road, Lithia, FL 33547. He can be contacted at 813-732-8765 and wisefarrier92@gmail.com.

### — Tony Fenn, Southwest Coordinator

## Southwest Meeting, May 25

The SW May meeting will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 25, at our past FABA president Jerry Wolfe's workshop. Jerry will be attending the 2019 Southern Blacksmith Association Conference earlier in the month and intends to bring back his experiences for us and give a "Best of Madison" demo based on what he learns. It should be a "not to miss" meeting!

Jerry's workshop is just north of Sarasota airport at 2260 Whitfield Park Drive in Sarasota. Jerry can be contacted at 941-702-1719.

## Northwest Meeting, May 11

The May meeting for the Northwest Region will be held May 11 at the residence of Mike and Marilyn Luck, 15 Jefferson Heights Road in Monticello. It's a couple miles north of Monticello on U.S. 19 and pretty easy to find. Anyone needing help with directions can call John Pfund at 850-528-3280 or Mike at 850-274-7574.

This year, we're going to set up for the meeting in the shady area behind Mike's shop to avoid the sun "cooking us" while we're having our lunch and running us off right after. I'll be bringing lots of forges and anvils, and the project for the meeting will be to make trivets (mortice and tenon con-

nections) using hand tools instead of jigs. Please come ready to give it a try and bring your hammers,tongs and personal safety equipment, if you can.

John Boy will be cooking chicken on the grill. Please bring sides and desserts and your own chair if you want to be sure to have one. I'll have tea and plenty of water on hand.

Don't forget to bring something for the Iron in the Hat raffle. I'm still giving generous bounties for handmade items, donations, and pictures and articles that make it into the Clinker Breaker. I hope to see you there!

#### — John Pfund, Northwest coordinator



THE 19<sup>TH</sup> BI-ANNUAL (1983 -2019)

#### SBA CONFERENCE



MAY 16 -18, 2019

A celebration and forum of all things about blacksmithing

LIONS CLUB FAIR GROUNDS 1190 LIONS CLUB ROAD Madison, Georgia 30650

#### SBACONFERENCE.ORG/REGISTRATION/

MAIN DEMONSTRATORS: MARK ASPERY & STEVE PARKER

VENDOR DAY • IRON IN THE HAT AND TAILGATE SALES • TOOL BOX RAFFLE • MEMBER GALLERY • THURSDAY NIGHT MEET AND GREET FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER BANQUET • FRIDAY NIGHT AUCTION • FRIDAY NIGHT FORGING CONTEST SATURDAY MEMORIAL CELEBRATION

## THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

#### Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Kirk Sullens, Membership 18848 US Hwy 441 #180 Mount Dora, FL 32757

**MAY 2019** 

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to have a Paypal acco	ount to use this	s feature. OR send	I the below application and your check to	"FABA" for \$30 to:	Kirk Sullens
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