

January 2020

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New Year brings new board to FABA

Happy New Year fellow Blacksmiths and Artisans! I hope everyone had a great Christmas and/or holiday season.

First of all, I would like to thank our past President, John Watson, for his six years of service as our President. He brought about many positive changes and implemented new ideas that will continue to shape our organization for the foreseeable future.

I would like to welcome Lisa Ann Conner as our new Vice President and look forward to working with her and hearing/implementing her thoughts and ideas for our organization. She is a wonderful addition to the Board.

I also want to welcome Doug Hayes, our new Treasurer, and look forward to working with him.

I would like to thank Kirk Sullens and Helen Donnell for their service as Treasurer and Sylvia Andrassy as Program Chairperson. Your contributions to FABA are greatly appreciated.

To the rest of the Board, thank you for your continued service to our membership. I have a lot to learn and look forward to working with all of you in your respective positions.

We have several immediate needs to address, which include filling a few empty positions on our Board. Every position on the Board is as important as the next, and some may require a little more work than others.

We currently need a new Program Chairperson, a Regional Coordinator for the Southeast Region and a new Northeast Trustee. Please step forward and volunteer to fill these very important positions by contacting me at markham62@comcast.net.

You will not be alone in your positions, as assistance is always only a phone call away.



FABA is the lead organization for the 2021 SBA Conference in Madison, Ga., which I believe will be scheduled for May 13 through May 15, 2021. As things progress, we will keep you informed and be asking for volunteers and assistance with various tasks during this conference.

This is a great Southeast Regional conference and each chapter contributes greatly to this biennial event.

I look forward to serving this great organization and learning from the abundant talent we have. I hope each and every one of you and your families have a great and prosperous 2020. Keep your forges glowing, hammers striking and metal moving.

Be Safe,
Mark Stone

Jerry Grice Scholarship deadline

Applications are due Dec. 31, 2019, for the 2019 Jerry Grice scholarship. This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Jerry Grice, one of our charter members. Its purpose is to further the craft of blacksmithing and 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 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:

1. What is your name, address and phone number?
2. How much experience in blacksmithing do you have?
3. How will this instruction help you with your blacksmithing craft?
4. What is the name of the school you wish to attend?
5. What is the name of the course and name of the instructor teaching the class?
6. What costs will be incurred (tuition, lodging, transportation, etc.)?

Note: By accepting the Jerry Grice Scholarship the applicant agrees to provide a demonstration of skills learned and write a report of the experience, including a "how-to" for the Clinker Breaker. Strongly suggested (but not required) is that an item be made using the new knowledge and offered for auction at the Annual meeting.

Completed letters of application or emails should be sent to John Butler, Chair, FABA Scholarship Committee, 777 Tyre Road, Havana, FL 32333 or jgbutler@sprintmail.com. Deadline for receipt is December 31, 2019. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final. The successful applicant will be notified.



Correction

In the last edition of the Clinker Breaker, I wrote of Mike Bettinger winning the People's Choice Award and described his heron as a fish. Who knows what I was thinking? But just to let you know, his beautiful piece of art is a heron. Thank you again Mike for displaying this wonderful piece of art.

— John Boy Watson

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			
Southwest Region	Antony Fenn	617-320-4781	antony.fenn@gmail.com
Far West Region	Dave Sandlin	850-974-1548	traditionsworkshopinc@gmail.com



Central NE Meeting, Jan. 4

In January's meeting we will be introducing a new member of our group as he does the demo for us. Paul Huf, a man who has made his living in a craftsman's world and is a two-term previous board member of Pennsylvania's blacksmith organization, is going to be sharing with us some of his skills and advise in his demonstration.

I can hardly wait to hear and see what new angles Paul may approach his blacksmithing from that differ from my own experience. May we forever and always continue finding new perspectives and methods to grow in our craft.

I'll see you all Jan. 4th at 9 a.m. at the Pioneer Settlement in Barberville.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

Southwest Meeting, Jan. 25

The SW January meeting will be used to work on tasks needed to complete the outfitting of the trailer.

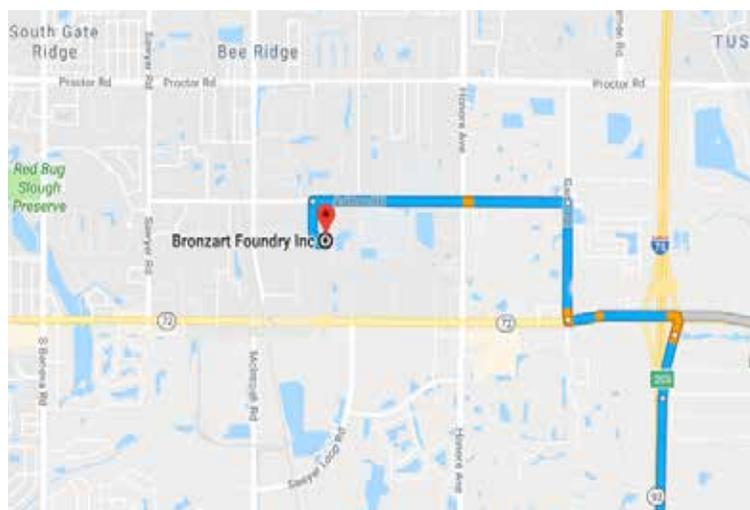
We have a great attendance at our regular meetings with over 20 members. A lot of attendees are new and keen to hit hot metal. BUT please note, this is a working day and there will be no demos or forging at this working meeting.

We need a group of only about 8 to 10 people to help with 3 things such as painting post vice stands and building shelves for the contents of the trailer. So please only come if you intend to help with that work.

We will kick off our regular meetings with a 'big hands on' get together at Crowley Museum in February.

The January meeting/work day will at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25, at our SW Coordinator Tony Fenn's business workshop.

Scale Up Designs is located at 5415 Ashton Court, Sarasota FL 34233. The location is close to I75 at Exit 205, but a little tricky to find. When on Ashton Road, turn on to Ashton Court at the blue Bishops Aluminum building. Go past several auto body shops and then around the bend. Bronzart and



Scale Up Designs are located just behind CBS roofing.

There will be no Iron and Hat at this meeting. Pizza and drinks will be provided for lunch.

Please contact Tony at antony.fenn@gmail.com if you plan to attend and work.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Coordinator**

Northwest Meeting, Jan. 11

Hello everyone from the Northwest region. Our January meeting will be held at the residence of Bob and Ivey Stott, on Saturday the 11th. Their address is 166 Day Drive, Bainbridge, Georgia 39817. The meeting starts at 9 a.m.

Bob is going to give a knife-grinding demonstration and there will be open forges available to use. Bob says we're going to have a knife swap, and there'll be plenty of room for tailgate sales, so bring what you want.

At 11:45 a.m., we will stop for the "Iron in the Hat" raffle and lunch. Bob and Ivey are making chicken and dumplings and Gumbo! We should bring sides and desserts.

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

— **John Pfund, NW Coordinator**

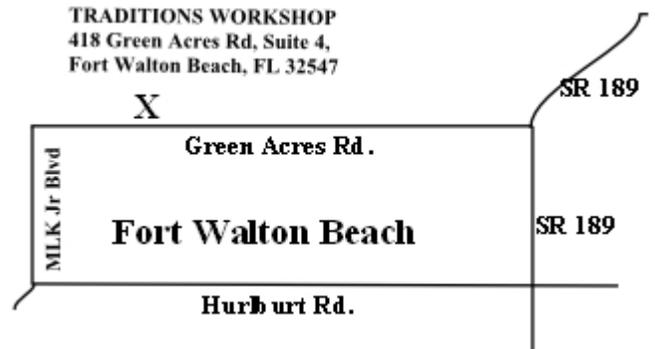


Far West Region, Jan. 25

FABA Far West will start the year by holding our January, February and March meetings at Traditions Workshop. Far West meetings are held on the fourth Saturday each month, starting at 9 a.m. and running to 2 p.m. Lunch is provided if you sign up in advance on the Panhandle Blacksmithing Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/161908771197079/

Our spring sessions will focus on the FABA educational standards necessary to move you up from "apprentice" and earn your FABA journeyman certificate.

— **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



North NE Region, Jan. 18

Join us on Jan. 18 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. for our next North Northeast Regional Meeting.

This meeting has been rescheduled from December, and as such we were planning on doing a pre-holiday activity. We will still be making the same project, as it's a good one and there's a lot of interest in the process. So come have fun with us and get a jump on next December's gift making.



This will be a working meeting where we will be making two sizes of "sleigh" bells. Materials (bell blanks) will be provided for a suggested donation. We will have one propane forge, a few coal forges and anvils set.

We will try to bring all of the specialized tools for the bells, but bring your own setup if you feel more comfortable.

St. Augustine area smith and farrier Cameron Fisher will host at his family's property, Stepping Stone Farm. We'll be setting up in an open field adjacent to their horse paddocks.

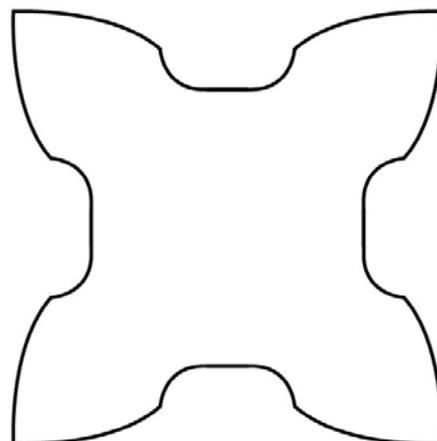
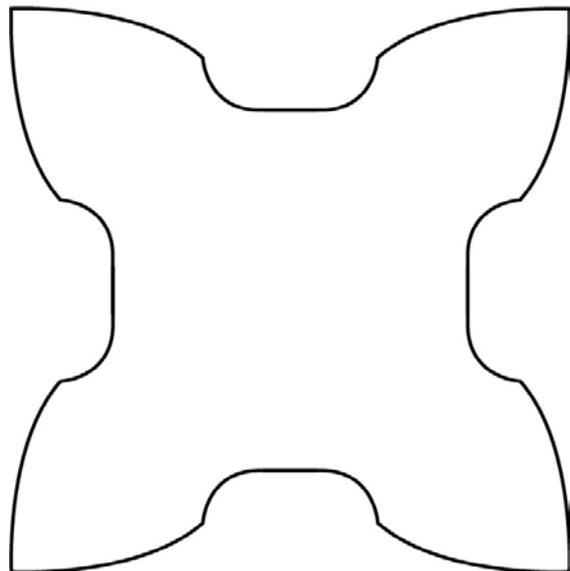
Please bring your own personal protective equipment and lunch.

Please RSVP for this meeting to North NE Coordinator Ben Thompson by email at thompsoncrafted@gmail.com, call 617-388-5695, or mark your attendance on the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/FABA.NE/ by Jan. 10 at the latest so that we will have an accurate count for the event.

LOCATION: Stepping Stone Farms, 3830 County Road 214, St. Augustine, FL 32092

PLAN AHEAD: The North NE Region Meeting dates are as follows: January 18th, March 21st, May 16th, June 27th (June is on 4th weekend due to scheduling conflicts).

— **Ben Thompson, North NE Coordinator**



Salvaging an eBay leg vice



By Nate Moore, Far West Region

I bought this fairly cheap leg vice on eBay. Upon inspection a few days later, I realized that I bought a worn out and beat down piece of junk. I needed a mallet to get the threaded shaft out of the screw box. There was no way the threaded shaft would ever go back into the screw box. It was a big, un-salvageable mess.

I had to build a new screw box and threaded shaft, but how? You can't really order replacement parts, but you can buy a big acme threaded shaft and nut from McMaster-Carr. I ordered the closest size to the old threaded rod—1-1/8" x 12" 5 TPI and couple of nuts—and it was only \$45 including shipping.

It took me a couple of weeks of mulling it over before I rolled up my sleeves and got to work. I needed to protect the threads directly below the jaws and also the threads that extend out the back of the fixed jaw, so I bought a 6" nipple of black steel pipe in 1" and 1-1/4" sizes. The new acme threaded rod fit inside the 1-1/4" pipe just fine, but not the 1" pipe, obviously. The 1-1/4" pipe would not go through the hole in the fixed jaw either, so I couldn't use a single diameter pipe.

I cut the 1" pipe lengthwise, heated it in the forge, and opened it up on the anvil. I welded the pipes on either side of the large nut, then ground it down to look more like an original component. I left one corner on the nut to engage the slot on the back of the fixed jaw so it wouldn't turn when tightening, similar to original.



Project Report

I cut the pipes to length such that the inner pipe would cover the threads when the jaws were within 3/4" of being closed, and the rear pipe would cover the threads when fully closed. I was going to forge a finial out of a cast iron pipe cap, and weld it to the back of the rear pipe, but I don't have the right tongs yet. Maybe one day I'll add that decorative detail.

I cut the old, damaged threaded shaft off the spindle and ground a deep bevel on it and the new acme threaded shaft at the weld point. I tack-welded them together in one spot, then assembled the vice to see if it needed adjustment. It was good, so I finished the weld. It took two passes and my little Lincoln Electric wire-fed welder was working hard, but the result was strong. I'm I self-taught welder, but I know what splatter guard is.



I had to repair some stress cracks around the rivets in the pivot brackets. I V-grooved the cracks and welded them with my wire fed welder on the highest setting using 0.035" flux core wire. After several passes, I ground them flat and sanded them to make them pretty.

Next came lots of sanding with a 120 grit flat wheel and wire wheel to get rid of the old paint and rust, and lots of grinding with a grinding disc to clean up the jaws and make them parallel and flush at the top. You can see I gave up on completely renewing the faces, but they're close enough for my purposes.



spring, a u-bolt, and mounting plate, and straightening the sliding handle, the last step was to paint it. I wanted Wilton metallic blue-green, but couldn't find anything close, so I chose a sky blue because it fits with the poolside shop atmosphere. I blued and waxed all the unpainted metal. It is mounted on a wooden pillar made from two 6"x6"x96" pressure treated timbers that are lag screwed together.

Functionally, it works fine considering what I started with. I had to raise the spring higher to keep the screw box from dropping down when opening the jaws wide. I may try to make a bushing out of epoxy putty to keep the screw box centered, but that is unnecessary. It operates smoothly, easily, and locks down tightly.

No one is allowed to use it, though. It's too pretty. :-)

Happy Hammering,
Nate Moore



Far West Region Report

The FABA Far West November “Hammer in” was held at Traditions Workshop on Nov. 23rd from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Over the course of the day, we had 15 people in attendance, and several visitors are now prospective FABA members.

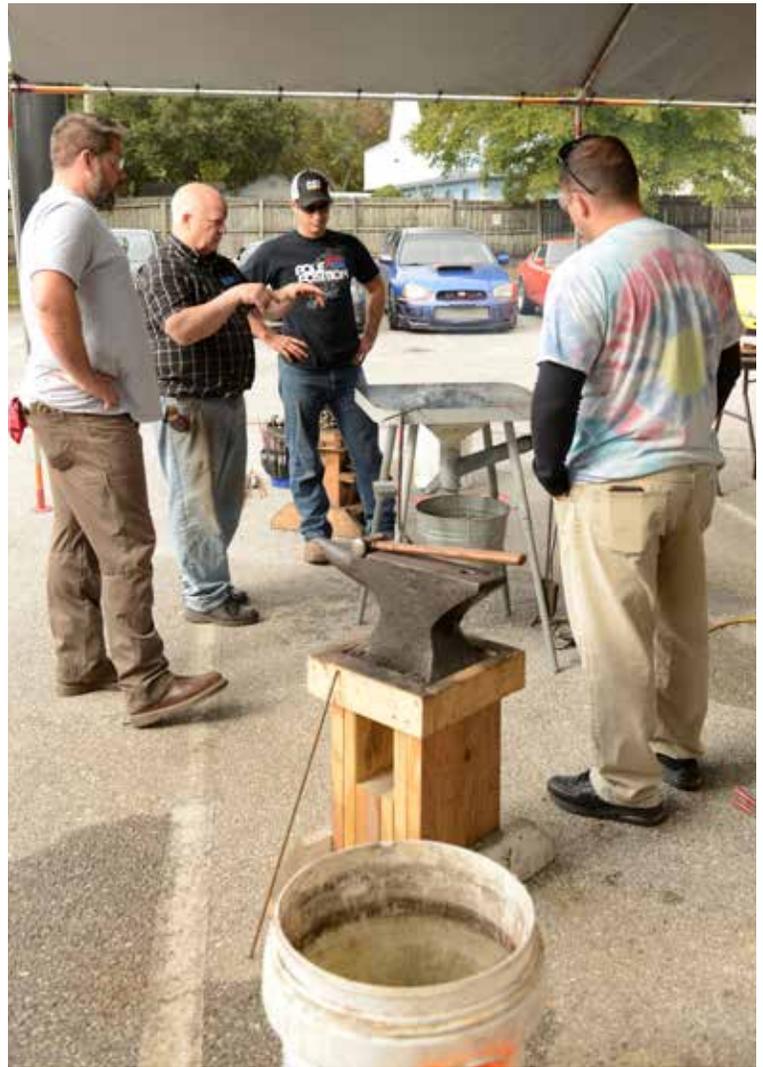
Nate Moore gave us an excellent presentation on a DIY Pneumatic power hammer design by Joshua De Lisle; a.k.a. “The Pocket Power Hammer.” This small footprint (20” square) hammer packs a 1,500-pound punch using a 40 gallon, 3hp air compressor that can deliver 14CFM. To see it in action watch the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfjFDZTZTqc&feature=youtu.be

If buying all-new materials for the build, Nate expects the cost to run around \$1,000 plus a couple of weekends worth of work. Currently Nate is looking for three other people to commit with him for this build.

If you are interested in participating, contact him at natemooore1986@gmail.com.

David and Christopher also presented their lessons learned from the FABA annual conference along with showing off the results from the classes they attended. Following the presentations, members went on to work on their individual projects using our open forge time. David conducted a hands-on demonstration on leaf making that was attempted by several members.

— **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**





Southwest Region Report

We had a great day at Robert Graber's shop in Zephyrhills. We had 22 region members attend on a beautiful winter morning.

Trez Cole explained various ways of laying out scrolls and described different scroll types. He then gave us a demo of making a hardy hole tool to aid in starting scrolls. Trez then showed how to make a button scroll using the tool.

Two of the region's coal forges were set up so that members could practice scroll work.

As always, we had a great spread for a pot-luck lunch. Thank you all for bringing the food and Robert and his wife for providing the bagels and coffee.

After lunch we discussed the journeyman booklet that the SW has written to help members track their progress toward a certificate.

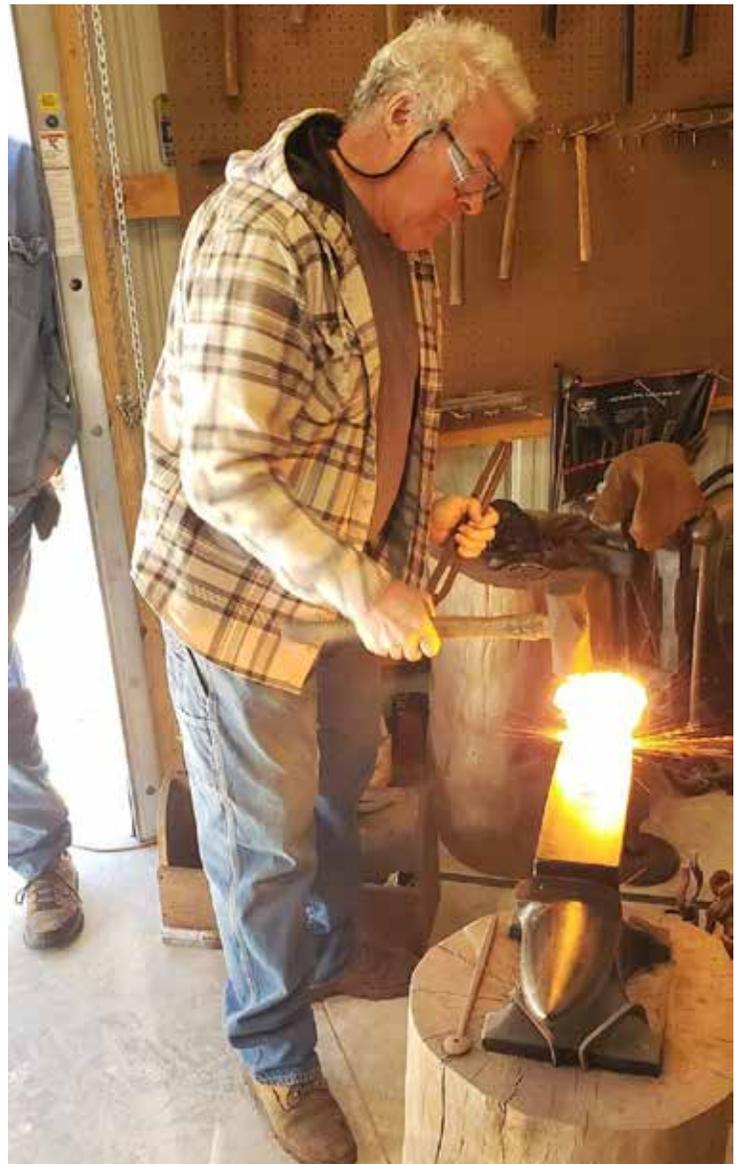
We also discussed the upcoming meetings and decided that the January meeting would be used to work on tasks for the trailer such as painting stands.

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

Last, I also want to give a special thanks to Frank Teele who again 'gets the longest drive prize' as he and his nephew drove all the way from Okeechobee.

See you at the next meeting.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Coordinator**



Central NE Region Report

Can I just say I love you guys? Another year of FABA meetings have come and gone along with yet another amazing conference.

What will this next year bring us? I don't know for sure yet, but if it's anything like my first year as the Central Northeast Coordinator, then I'm super excited to see what the future holds.

December's meeting was as good as I could have asked for. Our group never fails to show me just how tight and supportive we are as a family of Smiths. A couple new members showed up and were immediately accepted into the family and included in the activities.

To my great pleasure, quite a few of you took advantage of the open forges to make gifts. The sound of anvils ringing for Christmas was as heartwarming of music as we could have wanted.

Thank you all for yet another great meeting.

Also, the food was awesome. I'd like to give special thanks to the people who made that possible.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

Northwest Region Report

The northwest region held its December meeting at Rex Anderson's shop. Rex passed away this year; however, his wife, Mary Ellen, was gracious enough to hold our annual December meeting there.

We had a group of youth from the Calvary Baptist Church learning basic blacksmithing. John Pfund brought his new four-burner coal forge for the meeting. The forge was ample enough to accommodate eight people with iron in the fire at the same time.

We had several experienced volunteers assisting the youth.

It appears all had a good time and the youngsters learned a lot about our art and took home an S-hook. We had 60 people signed in with Iron in the Hat, bringing in \$251. We had venison Chili and pulled pork along with many covered dishes of salad, vegetables, and desserts.

— **Ron Childers and Roger Bell, Northwest Region**

North NE Region Report

Since the October conference, North Northeast regional activity has focused on post-conference organizational activities and planning. We have dedicated time to consolidating and inventorying tools and materials.

During the coming months, we will be working on publicizing the spring / summer meeting schedule, organizing and outfitting the regional trailer, and planning the completion of the equipment builds that began in the lead-up to the conference.

Join our FB group for information:
www.facebook.com/groups/FABA.NE/

— **Ben Thompson, North NE Coordinator**



Panhandle Pioneer Settlement Museum completed

By John Boy Watson, past president of FABA

The construction for the museum at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown, Fla., is now complete.

All the wood that was used on the interior of the structure was milled on site from the trees that fell with Hurricane Michael.

This phase of the interior construction was headed up by Dr. Skeeter Prather with a crew consisting of Billy Christie, Mark Stone, John Pfund, Chris Cauthen, and Mike McGinnis.

This group finished their work and the cell, on the south side of the blacksmith shop, is now ready for display items to be placed within it. This process will take some time so that a system for identification and description, as well as use information, will be available for each displayed item.

I would like to thank every person who aided in this project, from those who donated items to be raffled, those who sold tickets and those who bought tickets to all the construction workers and all those who have donated items well in advance of this project being developed and then constructed.

At this time there are two items in the museum. The first is a blast protection device that was in use by FABA, made by Dr. Skeeter Prather and donated by Kirk Sullens. The second is a large picture by Paul Detlefsen entitled "Horse and Buggy Days" donated by my wife Sally and me.



THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

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JANUARY 2020

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FABA Membership Application: Membership begins when your application and \$30 membership fee is received. Membership is per family and lasts one year. Use your credit card to join or renew your FABA Membership via Paypal by going to **blacksmithing.org/membership/join** and clicking through the Paypal button. You do not need to have a Paypal account to use this feature. OR send the below application and your check to "FABA" for \$30 to:

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