

May 2021

# CLINKER



# BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Flowers and foliage make great May projects

May is here and we're already halfway through Spring and approaching the Summer season. April showers bring May flowers, so hopefully you're not too soggy, and flowers are blooming plentifully around you, giving you inspiration.

Flowers and foliage are a great way to spruce up a garden gate, railing, or fence. You could even forge a bouquet of roses or flowers for your Mother's Day present.

For new Blacksmiths, leaves are a great way to learn and/or hone your skills using many different techniques used in blacksmithing. Drawing out, upsetting, fullering, spreading, texturing, folding, patinas, etc., are some of the many different techniques you can use to create the thousands of different types of foliage for a project.

When we get back to working on the SBA Conference project for 2023, we will be incorporating leaves and other items of nature into the rockers and tables.

The FABA website is still under construction with progress being made. Some areas are pretty much done, while others are still a work in progress.

We can still renew our memberships online, so if you experience any issues with that, let us know and we will take care of it. Mine is due, so I will be renewing online, too.

We are switching from Paypal to Square for security reasons so please read the message Treasurer, Doug Hayes, has composed on the following page about AUTOMATIC / RECURRING payment plan.

Jessica Sandlin is making progress and working hard for us, and I am excited and looking forward to seeing the changes and new look for our site.

I have received a few touchmarks, but nowhere near the number of members we have in this great organization.

I have posted the few on FABA's Facebook page under Photos->Albums->FABA Touchmarks and have also sent them



Mark Stone



Trez Cole



Tony Fenn



Chris Cauthen

to Jessica Sandlin to place on our website for easy access to identify forged items acquired through purchase, trade, Iron in the Hat, auction, etc.

This has been brought up in the past a couple times and with the revamping of our website, it is a great time to get this going. Jessica is adding a page on our new website to display the touchmarks and who they belong to so at any time, you can look up who made what you have.

Please take pictures of your touchmark(s) and send them to me at [president@blacksmithing.org](mailto:president@blacksmithing.org) or if you would like to send me a sample stamped in a small piece steel sheet, e-mail me at the aforementioned address and I will send you my mailing address.

In the near future, I will be creating laminated name tags for our members. I have asked our Regional Coordinators for names or scanned sign-in sheets of regular attendees so I can create name tags for them. I would like to eventually create them for the entire membership, but will start with the regular attendees first. I will create them then send them to the Coordinators for distribution.

I hope everyone has a great month of May and to all the Mothers out there, Happy Mother's Day!

Stay well, stay safe and keep your forges glowing and your hammers pounding. Always remember safety glasses and stay hydrated!

Mark Stone

# FABA Payment System Alert



FABA Members,

As we move forward with unsnarling the issues with our past amalgam of online platforms, we have switched our primary payment to Square payments via the FABA website. Unfortunately, most new membership programs do not coordinate Square and PayPal, and as Square is much more secure and better supported, we need to continue to switch from PayPal to Square (and possibly can add another payment option in the near future).

FABA Treasurer Doug Hayes asks ALL PAYPAL subscribers who are still using PayPal with an AUTOMATIC / RECURRING payment plan to stop the autopay/recurring payment function. If PayPal is the only way you can pay online, Doug can work with you to set that up, but PLEASE stop the recurring payments.

Although PayPal has been a mainstay of online payments for many of us, it has some serious security issues (ask any working CPA or bookkeeping service), and as a result, many of the newer, more secure online commerce platforms are not supporting it as much as it was supported 10 years ago.

Thanks for your patience and understanding.

## 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](mailto: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.

## Table of Contents

- 1 President's Message**
- 2 FABA Announcement**
- 3 Calendar of Events**
- 3 Regional Coordinators**
- 3-8 Regional Reports**
- 9 Summer Job Opportunity**
- 10 Tips, Tools & Techniques**
- 11 FABA Member Spotlight**
- 12 FABA Officers/  
Membership Application**

# 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, Far West and SW-4th. The actual dates vary, so check the schedule noted in the regional reports.

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	vacant	for questions, please email	djhayes29@hotmail.com
Northwest Region	John Pfund	850-528-3280	johnwpfund@aol.com
Southeast Region	Peter Hill	651-635-6022	blazeblades561@gmail.com
Southwest Region	Antony Fenn	617-320-4781	antony.fenn@gmail.com
Far West Region	Dave Sandlin	850-974-1548	traditionsworkshopinc@gmail.com

## Regional Reports

### SW Region Meeting, April 24

At long last there is a meeting of FABA SW at the end of April! (Please keep an eye on the [FABA SW Facebook page](#) for the MAY meeting announcement and to find recorded video from past meetings. You can [click here](#) or find the page on Facebook by searching for FABA SW).

As a way of easing back into live meetings of FABA SW, Trez Cole is inviting our members to help in the restoration of the blacksmith shop at [Crowley Museum and Nature Center, 16405 Myakka Road, Sarasota, FL 34240](#). This will benefit FABA as a place where we can hold future meetings and demos in the beautiful setting of the museum grounds. At the same time we are keeping the pioneer history of blacksmithing going as part of the museum.

**Meeting date:** Saturday, April 24, starting at 10 a.m.

This is a working day where we will:

- replace the forge hood
- clear out the shop and dispose of trash
- rake and level the floor
- assess which tools are usable and which need repair or replacing
- decide if we need racks and wall hangings so the shop can be set up in an authentic manner.

If you plan to attend, please bring your own lunch and drinks, as we do not want to share food items. There will be no Iron in The Hat, or demos at this meeting.

Please keep safety in mind and assess your attendance with respect to Covid-19.

We are looking forward to catching up with everyone and planning for future meetings.

**— Tony Fenn, SW Regional Coordinator**

#### **DIRECTIONS: Interstate I-75**

Take exit #210 Fruitville Road and drive EAST 10 miles to the dead end. Turn RIGHT on Myakka road. Go 3 miles, Crowley is on your LEFT shown by a large wooden sign. If you travel over the bridge to the north entrance of Myakka State Park, you missed by a mile :).

#### **DIRECTIONS: Route #70**

**WEST:** Take route #70, exit #217B, travel to Verna Road. Turn RIGHT and travel SOUTH for approximately 6 miles to the Crowley entrance on your left.

**EAST:** Take Hwy #70 to Verna Road. Turn LEFT. Travel approximately 6 miles to Crowley entrance on your LEFT.

Learn more at <https://crowleyfl.org>.

## Central NE Region Report

The March and April meetings have been just plain phenomenal. We had 36 people signed into March's meeting and 29 in April – and that was Easter weekend! The forges were not only all lit again, but they had more than one person per forge working on our tong project. We've put in 2 of 3 month's worth of work to build these tongs for FABA so far, and it's been a great learning experience for everyone involved.

Speaking of working in the forges, at the end of March we had an awesome team of volunteers show up for the FABA shop maintenance day. Many of the forge trays and fire pots needed extensive repair work, and boy did they get it.

A HUGE thanks goes out to Jesse Allen for bringing out his personal equipment and supplies to do some serious fabrication work with John Hare at his side helping to weld the whole time.

We also had a treat as Lisa Ann and Kirk Sullens brought their experience with forge hoods and did a wonderful repair job on the wheelwright shops forge hood. Sadly it had reached an unusable condition, but it's all good now and ready for work thanks to those two.

We also had Lewis Riggleman, Bob Brown, and Doug Hayes give the FABA medallion gate a full rework, bringing it back to its former beauty.

It makes me proud to think about our group and what we get accomplished together. To the others who showed up for the work day, I give you big sanitary air hugs and many, many thanks. Our region couldn't exist without all the many individual contributions being made by each and every one of you.

Contributions to the Iron in the Hat table have been through the roof, as well. The region's ability to support itself and grow is being greatly increased by the incredible donations being brought in by you guys to share with the group. I've never been more proud to be a member of the C.NE region.

**– Heinrich Hole,  
Central NE Coordinator**





### Central NE Region Meeting, May 1

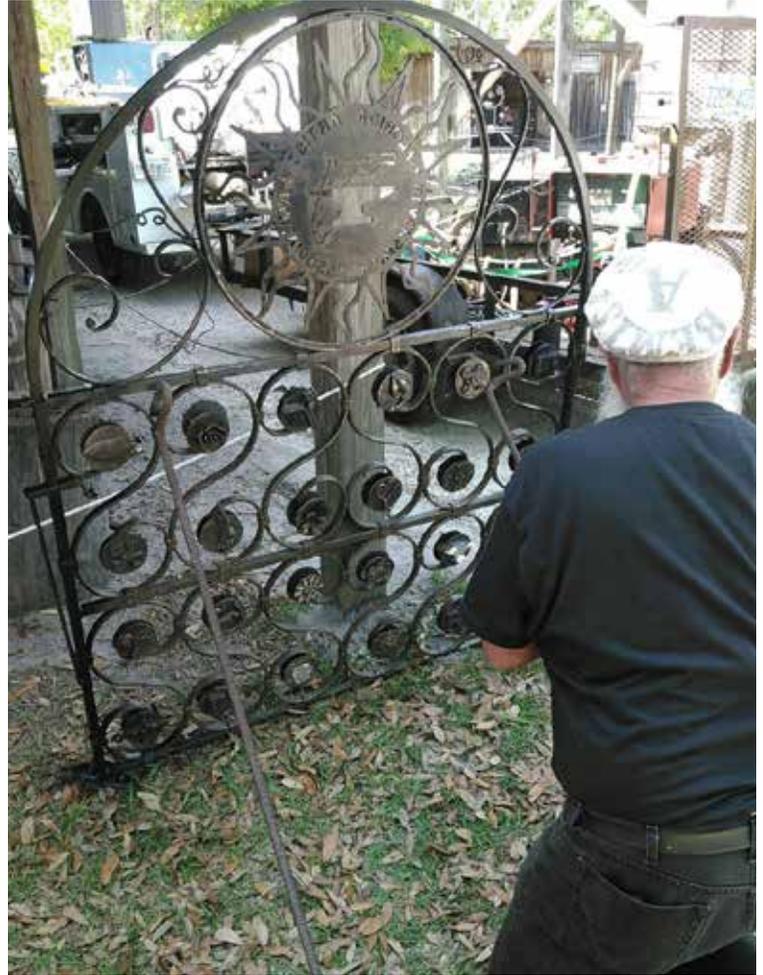
The May 1st meeting will be starting at 9 a.m. at the [Pioneer Settlement, 1776 Lightfoot Lane, in Barberville](#). We will be completing a three-month series of tong-making so that we can help replenish the FABAs conference supplies. This meeting's focus is going to be on riveting the tongs together and fine-tuning their adjustments.

There is a surprising amount of information that is overlooked about tong design that will be gone over this meeting. Tools can sometimes be very simple in design and effort to construct, but must be made with their specific application in mind in order to work correctly. We will delve a little more deeply into the "whys" of tong design in this meeting.

I will also be making more attempts to discern the best direction for our region to continue its growth by taking suggestions from the membership at our next meeting. If you have ideas about what you'd like to see done for a demo or a project we can work on, please feel free to discuss it with me at the next meeting or any time really. I'll be providing suggestion cards or some other means of recording ideas so they can be worked out over time.

This is our region. Let's decide together what to do with it!!! I hope to see you all there. Don't forget to bring your appetite.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**



## Far West Region Report

The Far West Region had a fundraising class in March – The Viking Era Utility Knife.

The project we selected and promoted for our class was a classic knife made of 1x1/4” flat bar.

Did the Vikings use it? Perhaps. After all, it was a common knife found throughout Europe in the Middle Ages. I’ve seen them at “The Viking shop” in Stockholm, Sweden, but that doesn’t vouch much for their authenticity.

So titling the project “Viking era...” instead of “Viking knife” was a way of hedging our bets. But the name didn’t keep people away. We had a dozen people sign up for the class!

Great credit goes to the whole team that pulled this off. Jen Hay took pictures throughout the day. John Butler was a fantastic host, providing the location and setting up a catered lunch from Sonny’s BBQ (students paid for their own meals as part of the cost for the class).

Christopher Mallet corralled the few FABA members we had that wanted to do some open forge work and then he occasionally chimed in to provide pointers to our students, as did John Pfund and Chris Cauthen from Tallahassee. Plus, those members of the West Region brought us some extra forges, allowing us to have no more than two irons in each fire.

Billy Hay, Christopher Sandlin and myself (David Sandlin) were principle instructors.

For other regions, and for the Far West if (no, when) we do this again, we will need have more knife tongs on hand. David had made several sets of flat-jaw tongs over the previous weeks, so we had plenty of tongs for everyone, but we only had two sets of the specialty knife tongs, which are much better for this type of work.

We will also want to make a progress display board to



help illustrate the steps in the process. This could be pictures or actual artifacts in the steps toward completion (like John Pfund had made for his no-tong, tongs board).

As it was, the Far West had three finished example knives

## Regional Reports



for the students to examine as they worked toward their goal.

We also felt that one instructor per four students was a good ratio, especially since most of our students had never worked hot steel before. Plus, one of our students had special needs requiring a fair amount of striker team hammer support by the instructor to keep her on track with the rest of the group.

Having a low student/instructor ratio allowed us to flex around the fires, providing extra help to those who needed it without anyone feeling marginalized.

We finished our class with a demonstration of how to heat treat and quench to harden a knife all in one go. Granted our training material was mild steel, but we wanted to get the concept across to our audience so they could at least try without risk of over-hardening and breaking a blade they had just put 5 hours of effort into.

By the end of the day, every student finished their project! Some looked better than others, but everyone was proud of their efforts. Plus, looking at the bottom line for FABA, after expenses this event made just over \$1,000.

— **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



## Looking Ahead in the Far West

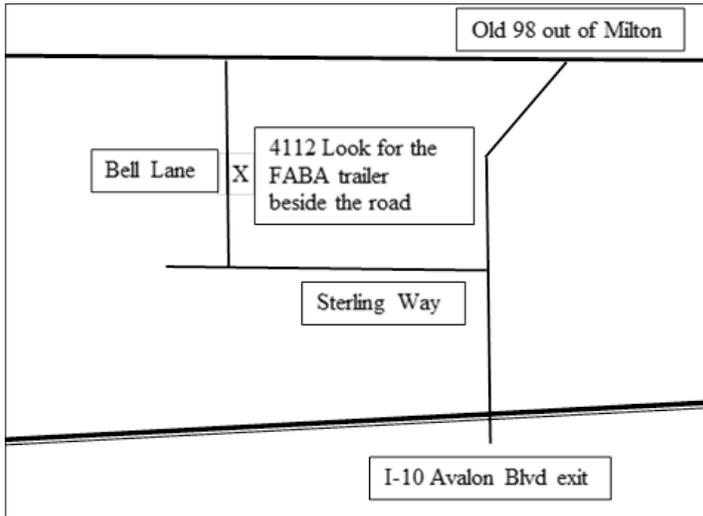
The next meeting in the Far West will be held on April 24, starting at 9 a.m. and running to 2 p.m. The event will be held at [John Butler's Countryside Farm, 4112 Bell Lane](#) in Milton, FL. In support of members progressing toward their Journeyman status, we will have a demonstration on collaring.

Our May meeting will be held at [Traditions Workshop, 418 Green Acres Road, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547](#).

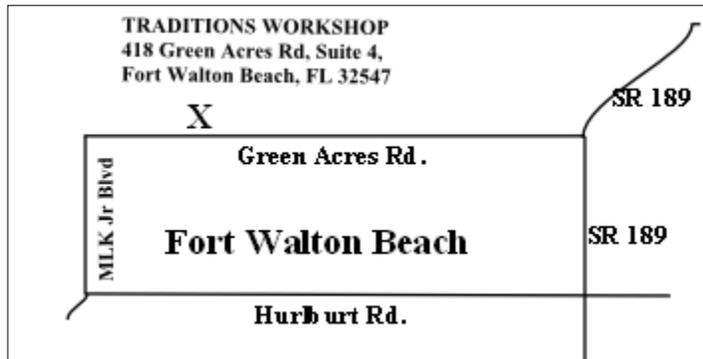
Billy Hay will be hosting the meeting since the Sandlin clan will be out of town. Expect the May 22nd meeting to start at 9 a.m. and end on 2 p.m.; the presentation topic is to be decided.

**— David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**

Butler's Countryside Farm - Far West April 24 Meeting



Far West May Meeting - Traditions Workshop



## NW Region Meeting, May 8

The April 10th meeting of the Northwest Region at Aunt Louise's Farm was canceled due to very rainy weather. It was to be the opening day of their spring season and the start of a six-weekend marathon of opportunities to Blacksmith with a audience.

The Farm wisely postponed their opening day for a week, and we will start on Saturday, April 17th, with our Blacksmithing presence there. I had already planned to hold our May meeting at Aunt Louise's on May 8th, so that's still the plan. [Aunt Louise's Farm](#) is at [8101 Waukeenah Hwy, Monticello, FL 32344](#).

Aunt Louise's Farm is in the process of improving their facility with new buildings and equipment. In the long term, this will be even better for us than what we had before, but in the meantime, our fenced area has been displaced and repurposed, so we get to pick out a new place to set up. Because we don't have a fenced area and a shady area and close electric service in the same place, I'm thinking that we'll go with the shade and a more "bring it for the day" set-up with manual blowers and post-and-rope crowd control.

We have three weekends before our May meeting to help get ready for it. If enough people bring items to donate, we'll have a raffle, and we will probably grill hotdogs on one of the forges for lunch.

The Farm hours on Saturdays run from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., so even though we start our meeting at 9 a.m., we are encouraged to stay until 6 p.m. when they close.

The theme for the May meeting is "Things that are fast and easy to make and can be sold the public." We'll have a long day to see what we can make.

The June meeting will be held at Craig Hines' place and the next few months are still open.

**— John Pfund, NW Coordinator**



Hello, Friendly Forgers! Are you a Blacksmith? Are you looking for a GREAT SUMMER JOB where you can not only utilize your skills, teach young eager minds but also get paid to be in one of the most beautiful places in the world? Then look no further than Long Lake Camp Adventures! Located in the astonishing Adirondack Mountains, Long Lake is a place where campers age 8-16 can escape their regular lives and experience an unforgettable and unique adventure.

Our exciting programs are designed to spark interest in new activities and let our young campers explore their wild and creative fun side. Each day offers something new, and campers can choose their own unique schedule to try something different or stick to some of their favorite activities.

We are looking for a Blacksmith who is able to come live on camp and teach for the summer of 2021! The applicants must be available from June 14th, 2021 to August 30th, 2021.

The job includes housing, 3 meals a day, 1 day off a week, access to most activities on camp including our spectacular waterfront, a social club with a full bar for staff at night, as well as a summer salary.

The job duties include living with the campers, escorting them to meals/medication, going on trips with your bunk, teaching during activity periods (7 a day, of which each staff member works 6), and a few other duties to be discussed in a formal interview.

At Long Lake, our staff does not do one job all day long. With most camps, if you are the tennis coach, then you teach tennis 6 to 8 hours every day for 9 weeks.

At Long Lake, if you are a soccer coach, you might only do soccer for 2 or 3 hours a day, and then the rest of the day would be split between different activities, like working the climbing tower or paddleboarding on our beautiful lake.

With that said, our blacksmiths do usually spend most of their day at the forge as it is one of our most popular activities. Camp should be fun and exciting for the kids, and if the staff is bored of doing the same thing day in and day out, then that will reflect back on the campers.

We want energetic, fun, and happy staff.

Before camp, we do an intensive staff training program where you will be certified for different activities, like the high ropes course and the climbing tower, plus things like CPR and wilderness training, even lifeguarding for some.

We are looking for smart, energetic staff who are not afraid to work really long hours and who can adapt to a changing schedule depending on what our campers want.

This will not be a summer vacation. We work long hard hours, and sometimes the job can be quite frustrating. Campers can be difficult, and relationships with other staff can seem impossible at times.

But by the end, you will have made some of the best friends you will ever have, and there will be countless memories that you will never forget.

If you are interested in this type of position, we urge you to please take a look at our website, watch some videos, and learn as much as you can before reaching out.

You can follow the links below, and then afterward, please contact the Camp Director, Ryan, and we can set up a time for an interview! You will also find his contact information below!

Thank you so much for your time, and we hope to hear from you soon!

Homepage- <https://www.longlakecampadventures.com>

Videos- <https://www.longlakecampadventures.com/videos>

Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/adventuresummercamps>

Blacksmithing Page- <https://www.longlakecampadventures.com/activities/blacksmithing>

Staff Application- <https://www.longlakecampadventures.com/about-us/new-staff-application>

Camp Director's Contact Info:

Ryan Troy, [ryantroylonglakecamps@gmail.com](mailto:ryantroylonglakecamps@gmail.com), 914-693-7111

# Setting up equipment for forging on the go

By Sarah McMurray

A previous issue of the Clunker Breaker talked about beginners' equipment. I have a light portable set up that may prove useful.

This idea belongs to Billy Brennan, a Farrier from West Palm Beach, FL. He used it for years doing polo ponies.

Now as a full time RV-er, I use it to indulge my forging urge wherever I am. This stand is easily taken apart and stored in the truck.



### MATERIALS LIST

- 2 BOARDS 11 1/2" w x 24" long x 1 1/2" thick
- 2 1 1/2" pipe collars & wood screws (8)
- 1 1 1/2" threaded pipe
- 2 1 1/2" Sq. Wood (are these furring strips?) outriggers
- 4 Dowel pegs (make bottoms smaller)

You don't have to drill a hole all the way through the board as I did, because the pipe won't thread all the way through the collar. You may also have to remove wood under the pipe when it's in the collar, depending on how far the pipe advances into threads. The idea is to attach the pipe collars to the boards in center. There is also a hole drilled through the pipe. If the pipe is too tightly attached to the wood, place round bar stock into the hole to use as a fulcrum to loosen.

The strap iron on the outriggers doesn't need to be there. They were there before I started so I just left them. Useless.

To get proper pipe length, measure from the ground to the little round bone on the outside of your wrist with your arm at your side. That length should end at top of anvil.

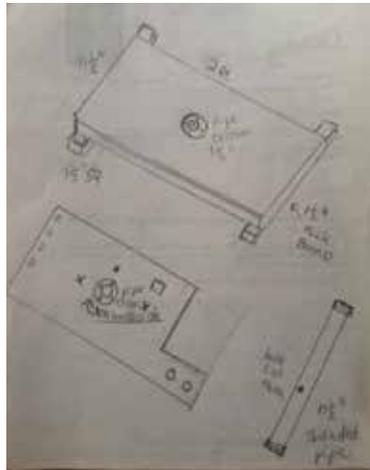
Add the outriggers and board thicknesses, the pipe length (threaded into collars), and anvil height to total the height of your wrist bone.

This is best ergonomically for all but the heaviest overhead sledge striking work. It keeps you from bending over all day and ending up with a backache.

If you already have a bad back add 3-4". The pipes come in 6" increments. Unless you're very lucky, you will have to cut the pipe to fit your height and then have someone rethread it. It's not expensive, but few places do it. Hardware and plumbing supply companies are places to start looking.

Looking back now. I think I should've centered my 80 lb. anvil more over the center of the stand. However, there have been no stability problems.

I could have slid it to left and cut out more under horn to accommodate dropping tongs below horn (when making iron rings, for example.) If not, your hand would only go so far before it hit wood. You can't position properly that way. I made holes to hold tools. This needs hammer holders and would even benefit from a raised lip to hold stuff inside. Work in progress!



Above is my propane forge. More wood and pipe collars. The handles are used to slide it in and out of truck bed. Note the charred wood. I use a split #10 Can to shield wood. A metal base plate to start with might have been better.

# Matty Spinelli



Matty Spinelli, a farrier and accomplished blacksmith from Okeechobee, FL, lost his right hand at the wrist when he was only 19, but he learned to adapt to working with metal with just one hand and the stump of his right arm. He designed sleeves for his arm with different hammers to help him shape horseshoes and complete most shoeing jobs, as well as work with other metal.

Spinelli, who turned 90 in October, made the cane pictured below.

## Matty Spinelli: Farrier With A Hammer Hand

By Red Renchin posted on March 1, 2013 | Posted in Forging



The handle of the cane has an oak leaf and a horse's head, and a horseshoe complete with heel caulks. The body of the cane is pipe narrowed with a guillotine. The middle of the cane has a mouse and basket twist with two ball bearings. The bottom of the cane (not pictured) is a horse's foot complete with the hoof, horseshoe, and hair around the fetlocks all done in iron.

# THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

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## May 2021

### FABA Officers

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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](http://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:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ I want B&W Newsletter by mail (quarterly) \_\_\_\_\_ OR Color Newsletter by Email \_\_\_\_\_

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