

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Annual FABA Conference this month

Happy October, Blacksmiths! 'Tis the month of our annual conference and Halloween. Our conference was moved back to its original second weekend of the month and won't interfere with Halloween, as it did last year.

I hope all of you are well and looking forward to attending our conference Oct. 8th through 10th. This looks to be a great conference with a lot of blacksmithing classes and demos, from bladesmithing to animal heads as well as lost wax casting and working with aluminum.



Mark Stone

The Exchange Item is a Door Knocker and I'm looking forward to seeing what everyone comes up with.

A leather sheath class is also being offered so you can make a sheath for the knife you make in the class.

The Gallery is always great and a real treat to see what our membership creates. You can check out more information on the conference on the following pages and/or online at www.blacksmithing.org/conference. I am really looking forward to seeing everyone, many of whom I only get to see at the conference. Unfortunately, Covid may be keeping many of our members from attending again this year, so you'll be in our thoughts and prayers.

The Board election completed last month and all who ran were elected by a landslide. David Sandlin will be your new President, so you will be able to congratulate him on his new position at the Conference.

He will officially take the reins January 1, 2022, and lead us for at least the next two years when the next election for President will be held. Vice President Lisa Anne Conner, Secretary Tia Kitchen, NW Trustee Ron Childers, and SW Trustee Trez Cole will retain the positions they have held the past couple years.

The 2023 Southern Blacksmith Association planning has started up again. The dates for that conference are May 18–20, 2023, in Madison, Ga. We still have Liam Hoffman and Matt Jenkins being our primary demonstrators.

We had much of the 2021 conference planned when we decided to postpone it due to Covid, so hopefully that threat will have passed by then. We are holding our planning meetings every other month until next May, when we will start holding our meetings monthly. That is always a great conference and, even though it is nearly two years out, I am excited about what we have planned.

I hope to see y'all at our conference and am looking forward to a great time. Keep those fires hot and hammers swinging. Have a fantastic October!

— Mark Stone, President

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	johnwfund@aol.com
Southeast Region	Peter Hill	651-635-6022	blazebldes561@gmail.com
Southwest Region	Antony Fenn	617-320-4781	antony.fenn@gmail.com
Far West Region	Dave Sandlin	850-974-1548	david@traditionsworkshop.com

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 Clunker 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.



Table of Contents

1	President's Message
2	Calendar of Events
2	Regional Coordinators
3-8	Regional Reports
8	Journeyman's Notebook
8	FABA Announcement
9	FABA Annual Conference
10	FABA Officers/ Membership Application



SW Region Meeting, Sept. 25

The September SW meeting will be held on Saturday 25th at Crowley Museum and Nature Center just east of Sarasota. We will light up the forge in the restored museum blacksmiths shop, and Trez Cole and Tony Fenn will demonstrate making a French style tomahawk.

The meeting will start at 10 am. If you intend to join in and make use of the shop after the demo, then please bring safety eye wear and dress appropriately.

Please bring something for Iron in the Hat, and a food or drink item to share.

The October SW meeting has not yet been determined. Please check the FABA SW page in October for an update at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674.

— **Tony Fenn,**
SW Regional Coordinator

Crowley Museum and Nature Center

<https://crowleyfl.org>

Address: 16405 Myakka Road,
Sarasota, FL 34240

Telephone : (941) 322-1000

DIRECTIONS: I-75 from the south or west

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

FROM NORTH OR WEST: Take I-75 to 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.



SW Region Report

Our August meeting was at the renovated Crowley Museum blacksmith forge. About 10 people attended, and Trez Cole demonstrated making a pair of spring scissors.

There was a lot of good information exchanged and everyone had a great lunch on a beautiful but hot summers day,

Thank you to all the members who turned out.

— **Trez Cole,**
SW Regional Trustee

Far West Region Report

The August 28th meeting (9am-2pm) was hosted by Christopher Mallet at his home. There were only 4 smiths and two guests in attendance on this hot august day with the threat of hurricane Ida in the gulf – which might be the reason we had so few folks visiting this time.

We set up the FABA tent in the side yard and quickly got to work on “making a mini xiphos” using cast aluminum in green sand. Christopher Sandlin, who had just returned from Sweden three days prior, was our demonstrator and teacher.

Using a coal fire we set a crucible in our forge and used fire bricks to build up the sides of the fire as well as to block the heat in.

To melt the aluminum we first dropped a couple of small scraps of aluminum “seed metal” into the crucible. Having a puddle of molten metal makes it much easier to melt the rest of the metal. Pure aluminum melts at 1221 degrees F, of course the aluminum we had was not pure since we were using scrape so the actual melting temperature is approximately 1221 degrees F.

I should add a note of caution here, if you start to see yellow-green smoke coming out of the crucible it is time to stop the blower and move away until things cool down! Yellow-green smoke is a sign that you have some zinc in the mix, and zinc vaporizes around 1600 degrees F and since our coal forges are used for working steel the crucible temperature will be much higher than 1600 degrees F.

Anyway, once the seed metal had melted we added larger and larger chunks of aluminum until we had enough melted metal to make our mini xiphos.

Concurrently with melting the metal we packed sand into the lower part of the “flask” making it ready to accept the wood mold of the mini xiphos.

Corn starch is used as a separating agent to keep the wood mold from sticking to the sand and to keep the sand in the “drag” (lower part of the flask) from sticking to the sand in the “cope” (upper part of the flask).

We simply pressed the mold into the sand in the drag, dusted it with a bit more corn starch then added the frame of the cope and started packing sand on top of the model.

Once the cope was filled with sand we screwed the cover to the top of the cope and were able to gently pull the cope free from the drag to expose the wood model.

After removing the model we then cut some sand away from the area of the hilt forming the “sprue”; a sprue is the place where we pour the molten metal into the mold. There is no need for a riser or vent in this casting because the sprue is large enough to act as the riser.

Once everything is ready we donned our PPE – long leather gloves, apron, and face shield; we stood the flask up on end with the sprue to the hilt of our mini xiphos pointed



Christopher Sandlin attending to the melting of the aluminum. This batch of metal had zinc in it and had to be abandoned.

up. Then using tongs, pick up the crucible and smoothly pour the molten metal into the sprue until it comes out of the top of the flask. Excess metal is poured into a nearby muffin pan so it can be used for seed or source material again.

Another safety note is appropriate here: spilling molten metal on a concrete floor can result in spalling; the moisture in the concrete when exposed to molten metal explosively boils sending metal and concrete in all directions.

The flask is given a few minutes to cool and then opened up to see the results. The now backed green sand is returned to its storage container to be “mulled”, that is reconstituted for future use. The newly minted mini xiphos is quenched and then sanded/filled to achieve the desired level of finish for this neat project.

If you would like to try your hand at green sand casting sign up for the class that will be offered during the conference on Sunday, October 10th.

— David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator

Regional Reports



John Butler packing the sand into the drag.



John Butler then took some time to help Christopher Mallet diagnose a switch problem in this milling machine.



Setting the wood model into the drag. The cope is sitting next to the drag waiting to be installed.



With a good melt of aluminum this time, the one flask is ready for the pour. We set the flask on the ground prior to pouring. Note that behind the vertical flask a second flask is being prepared with its sprue already cut in and one of the mini xiphos is finished and in the foreground.

Regional Reports



FAR WEST (continued)

Jeff Badarac demonstrated for us how he cleans up coal for use in his forge. Jeff says that cleaning coal reduces clinkers and creates a cleaner/hotter fire. First he sifts it with a mesh.



Next he washes the coal in the quench bucket, or uses a hose to wash the coal in his specially modified bucket, shown below.



Regional Reports

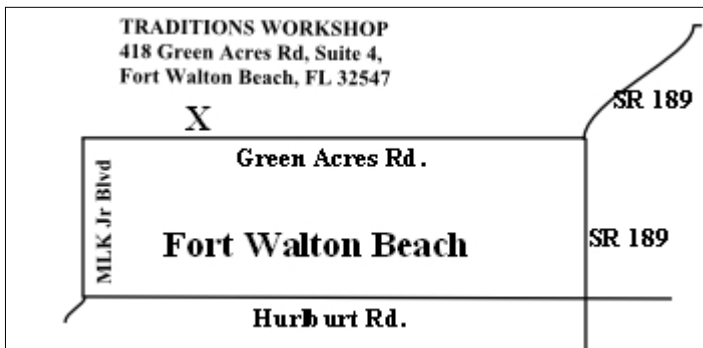


This is not a mini xiphos but the real deal, 3 pounds of bronze just out of the flask with a minimum of clean up. This will be a great looking sword and will be up for auction on Saturday night at the conference. We will be demonstrating casting this type of sword at the FABA Conference on Saturday, October 9th.



Far West Meeting Schedule

On September 25th, 9am-2pm, we will be back at [Traditions Workshop, 418 Green Acres Road, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547](#), to prep the trailer and equipment for the annual FABA convention. Don't forget to bring your parts for the Viking Era tool chest, this meeting is when we will do our final assembly and place the tools in the chest.



Right after the annual conference, on Oct. 23rd, 9am-2pm, we will hold a hammer-in at Traditions Workshop. Topic for the day will be a recap of activities at FABA CON 21, giving those members that were not able to attend an update on all they missed. Of course, after the update presentation, there will be our monthly open forge time for members.

In November, we will meet once again at Timber Creek Distillery on November 20th, 9am-4pm. Just like last year, we will have a challenge project to be judged by the owners

of the Timber Creek Distillery. This year's challenge will be making a loggerhead, sometimes known as a blacksmith's microwave, it's a tool for making your drink hot. Not sure how Timber Creek will judge this one, since any hot piece of metal could do the job, but it will probably need to look good enough that you'd be willing to put it in a tankard that you intend to imbibe from. The power hammer will be available for use during this event.



A couple of Loggerheads to draw inspiration from.

We don't usually meet in December but be on the lookout for a number of blacksmithing demonstration events throughout the fall and early winter. The fourth Saturday of January and February will find us back at Traditions Workshop so we will have a place to retreat into if the weather turns bitter on us.

— **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**

Central NE Report

Sometimes you make plans and you get what you want. ... Other times you get a really cool experiment. That's what we got at our last meeting in September.

Apparently the copper-based metals can be quite deceiving. The bronze I purchased at a reputable location turned out to be an interesting but not really forgeable metal.

Thank you, Jordan Thomas, for handling the situation like a boss.

Did our demonstrator recoil at the challenge of an unknown metal? No sir, we got a lesson in learning to diagnose a copper-based metal followed up by an awesome demonstration of a steel spearhead.

Now, thanks to Jordan's highly educational demonstration and some follow-up information he gave me after the meeting, I will be better able to purchase *forgeable* bronze for a future meeting.

Again I must say, what an awesome team FABA is. No challenge is too great for us. ... Now if I could just remember where I put that punch I had a few minutes ago. ...

September's meeting was again bursting at the seams with 36 people signed in. Wow, just wow.

The amount of resources in metal put out for Iron in the Hat was mind-boggling. The entire table... Let me repeat that.... The entirety of our giant table was completely covered in treasures just waiting to be shared amongst the group.

Thank you all so much for the amazing generosity shown within our region. That Iron in the Hat table is what supplied my beginner efforts as a Smith, and it makes me proud to see the region's resources being so readily shared. Big smiles.

There will be no October regional meeting. That time is needed too much for conference prep. Cya at conference.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

NW Region Report

Hello, everyone from the Northwest region. We ended up not having a September meeting, and we won't be having a October meeting as it would conflict with the conference.

We will be setting up our Blacksmithing area at Aunt Louise's farm for their Fall season. All of the weekends in October and the first two in November. These six weekends they will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and 2 to 6 p.m. on Sundays. We are invited to come out any of these times, the equipment stays set up and we can show up when we want to. It's a chance to hang out and Blacksmith, demonstrate the craft, and offer products for sale.

Anyone who can't make it to the FABA Conference can still get some blacksmithing in at Aunt Louise's farm on that weekend. I'll be there on the first weekend in October getting us started. It's a good chance to come and check it out. We'll probably have our November meeting there.

Mostly, we're getting ready for the conference this month. Moving to a new location brings opportunity for great new things, but also some anxiety about setting up in an unfamiliar situation. I'll try to get there earlier in the day on Thursday to help set up, and I encourage others to do the same. Usually I have trouble getting there before dark.

I'll be bringing equipment for the open forges tent and making sure it is available for anyone to use during the conference. I'm also going to bring tong blanks and a jig for making tongs. Everyone is encouraged to make a pair of tongs for themselves, sometime during the conference, at no extra charge, and assistance is available.

I'll be in charge of the Iron in the Hat raffle, so I'm looking for lots of great donations and some help when we pick the winning tickets. Hoping to see you there!

— **John Pfund, NW Coordinator**

FABA Announcement

To Whom It May Concern:

For over 30 years my company Ironware has worked with a family of blacksmiths in Normandy France. Founded in 1988 in Nashville, Tennessee, with the intention of distributing the work of Pierre Picard, I soon began adding to the repertoire of pieces with my own designs. After Pierre died, his son-in-law took over for 12 years and today the grandson of Pierre, David, is head of the forge.

We are currently experiencing a landslide of orders, while the French forge has had a significant loss of experienced artisans due to sickness and age. In addition, the transatlantic shipping is completely upside down. At the current rate of sales and production we are reaching 9 month lead times.

All this to say that we are in need of stateside skilled, artistic blacksmiths to help us catch up on this backlog. Our French partners are aware and understanding of our search to try to ease this situation. Please refer to our website to get an understanding of the variety of styles we offer. I would greatly appreciate any leads that might be interested in working with us. My cell is 615-482-6084 or the email below.

Thanks for your consideration,
Karin Eaton, President + Founder, Ironware
2421 Cruzen Street | Nashville, TN | 37211
615-726-2500 or Karin@ironwareinternational.com
www.ironwareinternational.com

Embrace the Past. Define the Future.

We're quickly approaching the 2021 FABA Conference happening in Gainesville, Oct. 8-10, at the [Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel and Conference Center](#).

Don't wait if you haven't registered. Once you register for the conference, you will receive an email with a link to register for classes. While a few have filled up, we have waiting lists for those and lots of other workshop choices.

Conference Registration is \$45 for FABA members for the full weekend pass, and \$75 for non-members.

A FABA one-day pass is \$20 for members and \$40 for non-members. All passes include all household members.

For your education and enjoyment, we have an excellent line-up of blacksmithing skill classes ranging from Level 1 to Level 5, offered in four-hour blocks.

In addition to skill classes, we offer specialty courses forging knives, tongs, and animal faces, and making broom handles. We also offer open forge time for those who have their own projects to work on.

But our conference is not just for blacksmiths, we strive to make this event a family event. There are heritage classes, such as basket weaving, broom-making, and leather working. Many vendors will be showing off their wares, selling new

and used equipment; others will be conducting tailgate sales offering finished projects, barn finds, and even raw materials. Plus, we have an "Iron in the Hat" raffle, banquet and silent auction, all to benefit the Florida blacksmithing community. Finally, there will be a knife testing event, hosted by the Honorable Bearded Brotherhood of Blacksmiths.

To cool off, you can tour our indoor gallery, where Florida blacksmiths will have their work on display.

Or attend the Friday night forging competition, which is entertaining as smiths of all levels, from beginners to masters, put their skills to the test.

The Saturday night banquet is \$25 per ticket and includes the business meeting, auction, memorial, and trade item. The trade item this year is door knockers.

Learn more at <https://blacksmithing.org/conference/>.

We are excited to see everyone this year in Gainesville and can't wait for a great conference! If you have any questions about this year's conference or want to join the planning committee for next year (yes, we have already started gathering ideas), please contact the Program Coordinator Erin Harlow at FABAprogramcoordinator@gmail.com.

— Erin Harlow, Program Coordinator



FABA 2021 Conference Oct 8-10

<https://blacksmithing.org/conference/>

Exchange/Trade Item

Door Knocker

Classes Include:

- Camp Knife
- Animal Faces
- Beginner Series 1-5
- Working with Aluminum
- Casting a Xiphos
- Everyday Carry Knife
- Movie Props
- Leather Knife Sheaths
- Youth Projects

Location

Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel and Conference Center 4200 NW 97th Blvd | Gainesville, FL 32606

Demonstrations:

- Lost Wax Casting
- Green Sand Casting
- Everyday Carry Knife

Free Seminars

- Metallurgic Aspects of Heat Treatments
- Live Streaming for Blacksmiths for other Hobbies

- Open Forge
- Iron in the Hat (bring an item)
- Blacksmith Challenge
- Knife Testing
- Gallery
- Auction & Banquet (\$25 a ticket)
- Shop (shirts, coal, safety gear)



THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Doug Hayes, Treasurer
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PAID
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October 2021

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Program Chair	Erin Harlow	program@blacksmithing.org
WebMaster	Jessica Sandlin	fabawebmaster@gmail.com

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 Square by going to www.blacksmithing.org and clicking the JOIN FABA button to access the Square payment system.

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 _____

FABA

Doug Hayes, Treasurer
4255 US-1 S. Suite 18 #329
St. Augustine, FL 32086