

March 2022

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

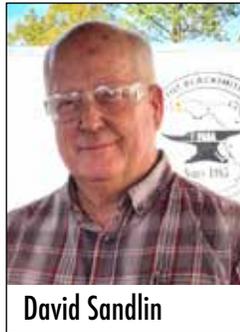
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FABA to add Veterans scholarship program

Greetings! This past month I had an opportunity to travel to the east side of the state and visit Iron Osprey Forge for the NNE Veterans event. It was wonderful to see how many FABA members showed up to support this worthwhile event.

Unfortunately, turnout was low due to the extremely cold weather— well, cold for Florida. There was ice in the slack tub!

While there, I had the privilege to meet with Vietnam Veteran Robert Richmond, who grilled me for about half an hour on FABA's ability to manage scholarship programs. I was privileged to tell him about our Walt Anderson and Jerry Grice scholarships; Robert was so impressed that he asked if we would be willing to manage a veteran's scholarship program that he would fund to provide training opportunities to Veterans and First Responders who have had to deal with PTSD.



Of course, I said yes, we would be happy to help, and we are now in the process of setting up an account for these scholarships that Robert intends to fund in the near future. I will be working with our current scholarship committee to define the procedures for this opportunity.

I also got to speak with John Hare about a potential region in the Orlando area. Most likely it will be in conjunction with Valencia College, which opened an extremely advanced workforce training center in the fall of 2021. Their metal working gear is most impressive and yet they don't have an anvil! John Hare is on fire about a chance for opening another FABA region and the potential for reaching the large number of people in the Orlando area who search our website daily.

There is still a lot of coordination and logistics to be worked out but it is great to see progress in our mission: "to teach and preserve."

Preservation of the historic was the order of the day when I got to visit our FABA team members at the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire.

Our Vice President, Lisa Ann spent her days at the faire educating the crowds about blacksmithing as a woman in the high middle ages – and slipping in a few plugs for FABA in the process.

The BBB were also there in force demonstrating as they were working on their projects and selling their goods.

Events like Hoggetowne go a long way toward educating the public as well as generating interest as evidenced by the significant bump in internet traffic recorded on our web site during the Hoggetowne event. Thanks to everyone who participated!

Safety note: Blacksmith work attracts people. That's both good and bad. As a smith you are not only responsible for your own safety but for the safety of others that might wander into your shop or demonstration area.

Recently I saw a brilliant idea for a workshop. There was a bell by the door with instructions to ring the bell loudly before entering the shop. That way the smith would not be surprised to find someone standing next to them when they turned around with some hot steel. This might not be practical for every workshop but some type of warning system seems like a good idea.

When conducting demonstrations, I rope off a safety zone around the forge and immediately stop work if anyone enters the zone without permission. I also have an assistant who helps keep me honest on things like PPE and safe distances, not just for myself but for visitors as well. A second set of eyes is not a bell but a good alternative.

Hope your anvil rings true throughout the year, plan to see you at the next FABA meeting.

— David Sandlin, 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	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	Christopher Sandlin	850-865-9596	Chris@traditionsworkshop.com

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

(FABA) is a nonprofit organization chartered with the state of Florida that 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, www.blacksmithing.org; our conference Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/groups/2849587158637631; any of our regional Facebook pages; 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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FABA Announcements

President's Report from the January Business Meeting

We held our quarterly business meeting in January and I presented a proposed budget to the board. Allow me to cover the highlights:

On the income side our sources are primarily membership dues and the conference. It looks like we are already well on our way to produce an even stronger conference in 2022 as our conference chair, Erin, is applying the lessons we learned in the 2021 conference.

Conference provides us with the margin of excellence so we can generate training opportunities. On the other hand membership dues are what sustain us for all our operating expenses. However, I note that in the past 2 years membership has dropped to around 260 families. Given the expenses of maintaining equipment and trailers, insurance and just running the business of our organization I'd like to see membership get back up to 350 families so the business part of our budget will not be dependent on the conference.

To support our objective of increased membership, and to assist our treasurer Doug Hayes, we have called on John Butler of the Far West to step up as our membership secretary.

You have probably already received an email from Doug Hayes about this procedural change, but just in case you missed it: Payment for membership is best accomplished through our website using our Square store.

If you elect to send in payment by check instead of using our website, please send it to:

FABA Membership Secretary John Butler
4112 Bell Lane, Pea Ridge, FL 32571

Back to our budget: Expenses can be rolled up into four categories: Equipment & Maintenance, Membership Support, Business Operations, and Annual Conference.

For 2022 we have taken many of the expenses that we've paid for at conference and put them into the Equipment and Maintenance category under the logic that we'd have to pay those expenses whether we held a conference or not. This includes trailer and generator inspections, tags, tires and about \$1,000 for tools to include expendables.

Our Quartermaster, Kirk Sulens, is the overseer of this part of our budget.

Membership support pays for the Clunker Breaker, our website,

our scholarship programs (YES, we will have at least one scholarship this year!) and our statewide regional meetings. In that category we are allocating \$300 for each region so they can invite in an instructor/demonstrator for a special regional event.

I'd like to encourage the regional coordinators to take advantage of this opportunity to cross-pollinate by inviting a demonstrator from another part of FABA to make the trip to their region to teach. The funds can be used to help defray travel costs or even to award a stipend.

Business expenses covers everything from CPA support, to insurance, to filing taxes, corporate registration and even postage. Business expenses are like death and taxes, you just can't avoid them, and as the organization has grown in numbers and assets, these expenses follow that trend.

Finally the conference. In 2021 we had a lot more conference expenses than we have forecast for 2022 but that is because we were using the conference to fund our regular operations. 2022 actually has more funds for advertising, promotion and demonstrators than we had in the past because we are not counting on the conference to "pay the bills."

I'd like to call your attention to one very bright spot in the 2021 revenue line. Just this past week Erin found out that her grant application for last year's conference was approved for up to \$5,000! Documentation is still required so it's not in the actuals for 2021, yet. We had thought it might have been zero like the past two years, but Erin's hard work has really paid off.

Below is the broad brush look at our 2022 budget. If you want more detail you are welcome to call, text or email me and we can discuss.

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual (& estimated)	2022 Proposed
Revenue				
Membership dues	\$ 11,410.00	\$ 10,411.00	\$ 7,273.00	\$ 7,800.00
Meeting Income (buck in bucket)	-----	\$ 629.00		\$ 600.00
Donations and Contributions (sponsors out side of membership)	\$ 7,486.00	\$ -	\$ 450.00	\$ 1,000.00
Investment & Interest Income	\$ 714.00	..	\$ (644.00)	\$ 500.00
Merch Sales - Coal, shirts, buckles, etc. Outside of Conference	\$ 5,960.00	\$ 3,985.00	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 448.00
Statewide Meeting Income			\$ 1,026.00	\$ 800.00
Affiliated Org Contributions (SBA)				\$ -
Grants				\$ 2,000.00
Other Miscellaneous Income				\$ -
Revenue Sub Total, not including conference			\$ 9,555.00	\$ 13,148.00
Annual Conference Income	\$ 33,412.00	\$ 6,368.00	\$ 25,551.00	\$ 25,050.00
Total Revenue	\$ 58,982.00	\$ 21,393.00	\$ 35,106.00	\$ 38,198.00
Equipment & Maintenance Expenses	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,229.00	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 5,181.50
Total Membership Support Expenses	\$ 4,776.00	\$ 8,787.00	\$ 6,026.00	\$ 7,527.98
Total Business Expenses	\$ 3,994.00	\$ 5,007.00	\$ 4,568.17	\$ 4,858.70
Total Annual Conference Expenses	\$ 12,393.00	\$ 6,143.00	\$ 20,080.00	\$ 17,705.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 35,422.00	\$ 28,054.00	\$ 34,074.17	\$ 35,273.18
Net Revenue	\$ 23,560.00	\$ (-6,661)	\$ 1,031.83	\$ 2,924.82

SW Region Meeting, Feb. 26

The Southwest Region did not have a January meeting because of Covid.

The next SW meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 26, at the blacksmith's forge at the Pioneer Village Museum, which is north of downtown Dade City, Florida, adjacent to the Little Everglades Ranch. The meeting will start at 10 am.

The Museum is dedicated to educating, promoting, fostering, and encouraging public interest in Florida life and history from pioneer times until 1945.

To accomplish its mission, the Museum Association acquires, collects, preserves, restores, exhibits, interprets, researches and publicizes items of historical significance, aimed at depicting pioneer life in Florida through an organized community effort.

Burt Golub, who is hosting the meeting, is asking all attending to consider, before the meeting, to make and donate a decorative nail or spike to the Nail Tree at the forge. The Pioneer Village is an educational experience for visitors and highlighting the talents of modern blacksmiths is one way we do it.

Local blacksmith Robert Graber will be demonstrating at the meeting. We will also make time to discuss and advise on any aspects of any Journeyman skills you may be working on.

SW member Gary EagleDad Kemp is generously going to smoke a Boston Butt and provide Pulled Pork and Buns for the gathering. Please consider bring some sides or drinks which will compliment Gary's cooking.

Also search through your scrap pile or unused tools and bring something for Iron in the Hat.

Looking forward to a great meeting at the end of February! Please check the FABA SW page for news and updates at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674.

— Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator



SW Region Meeting, March 26

The March meeting for the SW Region will be held on Saturday, March 26, at the Crowley Museum and Nature Center just east of Sarasota. We will light up the forges in the restored museum blacksmiths shop.

We will continue with Trez Cole inspecting and certifying any skills you are prepared to demo for the Journeyman certification.

The meeting will start at 10 am on Saturday. Please bring safety eye wear and dress appropriately.

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



Crowley Museum and Nature Center

<https://crowleyfl.org>

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 about 6 miles to the Crowley entrance on your left.

From East: Take Hwy #70 to Verna Road. Turn LEFT. Travel about 6 miles to Crowley entrance on your left.

Central NE Region Report

Thank you to those that came out and attended our February meeting. We had a really nice turnout and once again had every single fire lit and who knows how many hammers were swung. Lots of projects got worked on with the help of our fellow smiths.

Steve Estenson brought a really cool storyboard showing the new way he's figured out to make box jaw tongs. It was a nice preview for next month, when he's going to do a full demo of how he makes them.

Thanks again to those of you bringing in food. It really helps improve the meal and it takes a bit of the strain off of me as well. Thank you.

OMG, did we have an awesome donation from Alex. Holland Anvil made a mistake in shipping his order to him and rather than have the item returned, they suggested he donate it to a nonprofit and then immediately replaced the item. Thank you, Holland Anvil, for your generosity and for correcting the shipping error so quickly. Respect!!!

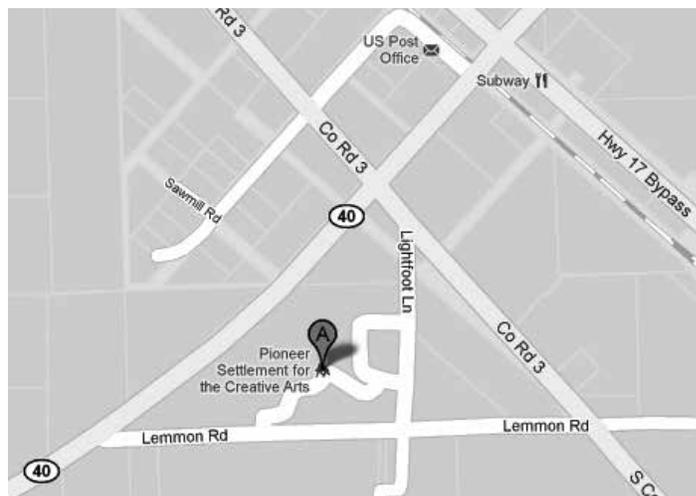
The generosity of our people filling the Iron in the Hat table has one again proven its effectiveness. This month, the region brought in more than twice as much as the meeting costs.

Now to discuss something serious: While I did talk about Veterans activities with a few of you in person, I did not remember to bring it up while I had the attention of everyone present. This is how your coordinator has earned the nickname of GOLDFISH. My attention span is special at best, and so I tend to forget things even when they are important to me. Therefore, next meeting we will discuss that subject and anything else the membership would like to bring up at the conclusion of Iron in the Hat.

Now I'd like to take a moment to announce that two individuals have stepped up to my request for help and have begun their path as coordinator assistants. Travis Beck and Justin Jennings have just joined the team, and I can't wait to see what comes of it. With them on board, we will be able to start growing more and having more to do at each meeting. We will be better able to meet the interests of the group as there will be choices of how to spend your time at the meeting.

Also, there were anvils for sale last month and I suspect there will be more at upcoming meetings. You never know what's going to show up at future meetings. (Wink, wink)

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**



Central NE Meeting, March 5

The next Central NE Region meeting is March 5th, 9 am, at the Barberville Pioneer Settlement.

You ready to watch a tong specialist teach his newest method to forge box jaw tongs? You want to know about each portion of the tongs and what's so important about it?

Well, these answers will be given at the next meeting by Steve Estenson. Steve is the man who taught me how to tong, and I can assure you that he knows the intricacies of the process far better than myself and is also much better at explaining it.

Don't miss out on this chance to expand your knowledge.

After the primary demonstration, someone is going to demo a leaf making process. Then, we are going to break up across all the forges and make lots of leaves to trade.

Normally trade items are made at home and then brought in, but this time we're going to make them at the meeting. There will be no pressure to make the coolest leaf or any competition. This activity is simply designed to be fun and a way to interact and work together.

Until the next meeting, I'd like for you guys to think about competitions and what you would like to see in the future. Jesse Allen has very generously offered to donate some prize items. So now we just need a specific direction to go.

What do you think about it? Be sure to join us at the next meeting to get your voice heard and to get wrapped up in all the activities going on and being planned.

Cya there! :)

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

Far West Region Report

A small but mighty group braved the cold wintry winds of the north for the January meeting. Well, cold for northwest Florida at least!

Armed with cups of hot chocolate, warm tea, and of course coffee, there was a demonstration of swaging and joining a mortise and tenon. Several of the attendees found it useful and were able to take detailed notes, and practice it later on in the day.

The continued goal of each Far West FABA meeting is to continue training the attendees on the skills found in the 1913 Journeyman's Standards handbook. It has been a long process, but soon we'll have a team ready for their certifications.

After the demonstrations, we were able to teach some first-time attendees a few basic skills, as well as fire management, and safety.

One gentleman has a project he'll bring back to the next meeting so he can complete it. He also informed us the next day that he wasn't too fatigued, so we'll work harder next time.

Two of our members were able to make progress on their item exchange items (holder of light), although Jessica did successfully burn hers — a casualty of trying to teach three new people while working on your own project.

Another one of our members, Kelsi, tried her hand at forging with rebar for the first time, and managed to complete an extra-long fire poker as a gift for her dad.

The Far West also was able to attend the Camilla Festival at Eden State Park! We were part of a team of reenactors who were showing off trade skills commonly used in the 1800s.

FABA was in good company with beekeepers, wood toy makers, weavers, seamstresses and more. One of the other groups was demonstrating how to make and mount shingles; we of course ensured that he had enough nails for his roof. After all, during this time period, an apprentice was expected to make 2,000 nails a day!

This year was the largest turnout for the park, and we had hundreds of people stop by the demonstration asking questions and showing interest in blacksmithing as an art.

We were able to have a few kids try their hand at forging with making mighty hamster swords, and a few families hope to make it to our next hammer-in. All in all, a good outreach for FABA!

— **Christopher Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



Far West Meeting Schedule

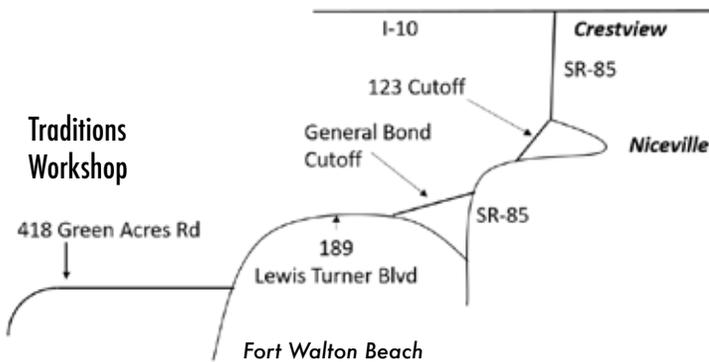
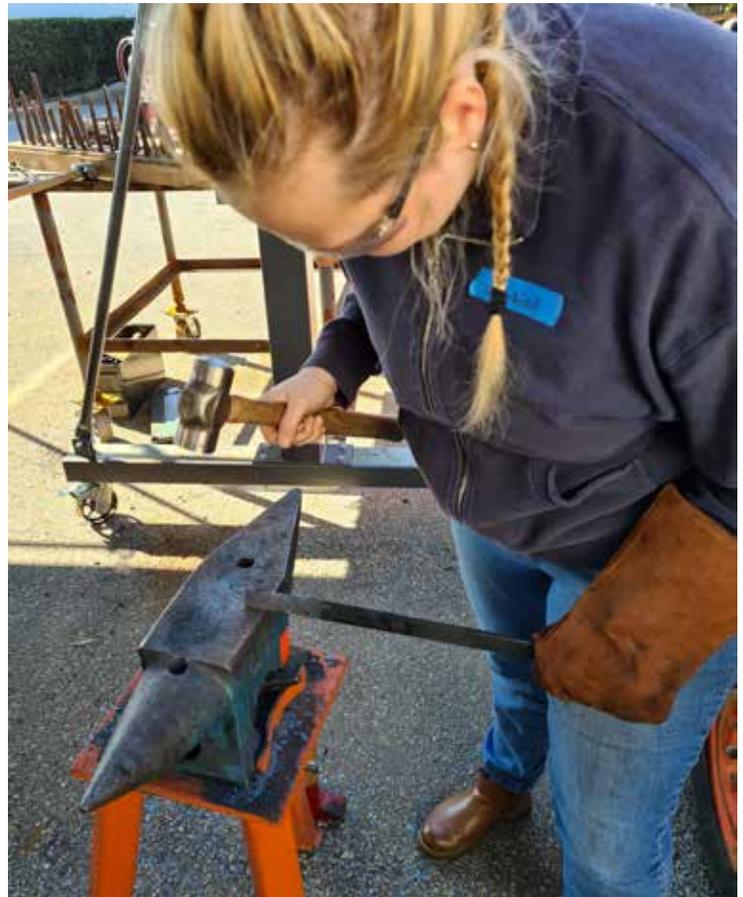
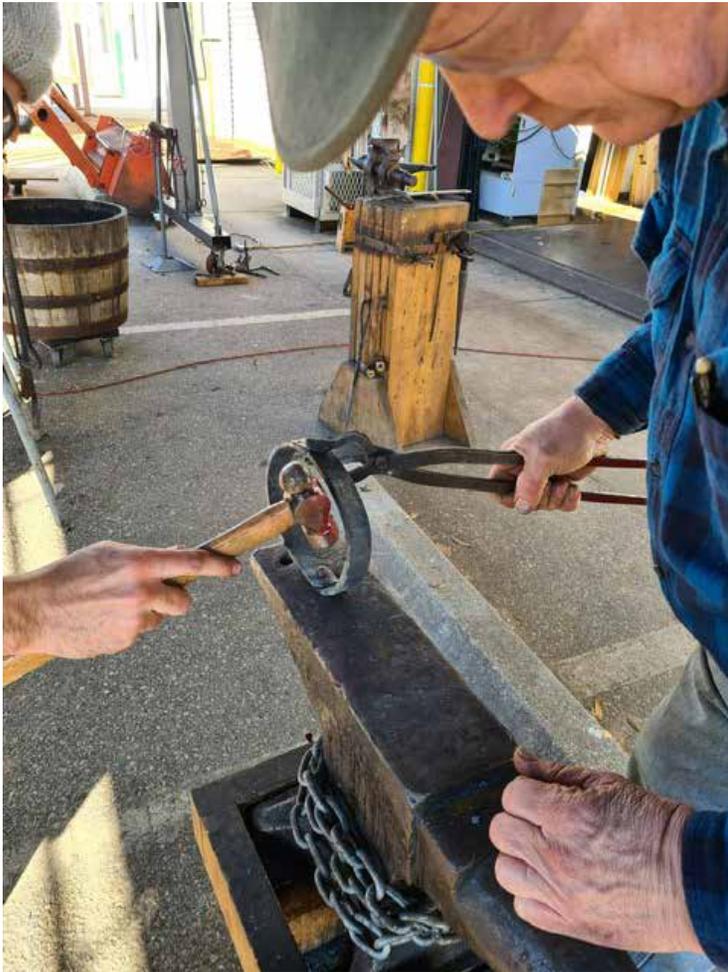
Our next meeting will be Feb. 26 at Traditions Workshop (418 Green Acres Rd., Ft Walton Beach, FL), 9 AM to 2PM. The meeting will focus on splitting, where the demonstrated task will be to split a bar with a hot cut in the middle of a bar.

In the Far West, we always have open forges following the demonstration so you can try your hand at the project for the day. The weather might be brisk again, therefore coffee and hot water will be provided for your tea and cocoa needs!

Our March 26th meeting (9AM-3PM) will be at John Butler's farm. We are planning to conduct this meeting as a "make and take" class – turning a Railroad Spike into a knife. Class cost is \$110 with lunch from Sonny's BBQ included. Class size is limited to 12 people, and there are only three spots left. There will also be one open forge for those not interested in the class. All proceeds from the class will go to support FABA.

The April 23rd meeting (9AM-3PM) will most likely be held at Traditions Workshop. Jordan Borstelmann of Crooked Path Forge will be visiting the Far West to demonstrate how to make axes. After the demonstration, the forges will be open for people to try and make their own, and Jordan will be

Regional Reports



around to offer pointers. This is not planned as a class, only a demonstration and open forge.

The May 28th meeting (9AM-3PM) will be back at Timber Creek with the task to make a sea creature for our contribution to the FABAs Con 2022 auction. We don't yet know how Cam and Arron might weigh in on this event, but you can count on great pizza from their stone oven and libations from the distillery. If you plan to make an axe at the April Meeting, bring it along, and test its throwing capabilities..... if you dare...

Expect us to meet at the Baker Block Museum sometime in the early summer, date TBD. Other summer monthly

meetings are still up in the air. Please email me if you have suggestions at Chris@traditionsworkshop.com.

The October 22nd meeting will be back at Traditions Workshop to prep the trailer for the November Conference. The forges are already reserved on that day for finalizing your team contributions to the event. As always there will not be a December meeting.

— Christopher Sandlin, Far West Coordinator

NW Region Meeting, March 12

Hello everyone and greetings from the Northwest region. We just had our February meeting at Mike Bettinger's welding shop. We had a great turnout with 40 people signing in. Lots of familer faces and new ones, too.

It was a open forges meeting where those who came prepared to work gave us some wonderful demonstrations. Thank you, Daniel, Craig and Chris. Thank you also to Mike for hosting the meeting and cooking the chicken. And to everyone who brought items for the raffle and bought tickets to win them.

Our March meeting will be held at Juan Holbrook's home and shop in Gainesville on the 12th. The address is 6418 NW 97th Court, Gainesville FL 32653. Juan will be giving us a demonstration in his wonderful (vary well-equipped) shop and we're going to have a pot luck for the meal.

Please bring a favorite dish, side or dessert to share and enjoy. Suzy and I will bring chili and fresh bread like had at the January meeting at Roger Bell's. We will have water and tea for the meeting and meal.

Don't forget to bring something to donate for the Iron in the Hat raffle. I'll be bringing donations from Skeeter. Hope to see you there!

The April meeting for the Northwest will be held at Craig Hines's shop. I'll have the details in the April Clinker Breaker.

— John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator



North NE Region Report

The NNE region had another Veterans' Open House on January 29th. The attendees included the Sandlin clan, which made the trip from the Far West to help out and visit the NNE.

In honor of President David Sandlin's visit, Mother Nature also paid a visit, and with the help of some gusty winds lifted the FABAs tent (along with water bucket and cement block weights) up into the air and we got to see some metal leg origami. That encouraged us to move most activities indoors and to the rear (protected) forge area.

The cold air and wind also kept most visitors away but a few veterans arrived for some hands-on and some class time, and our FABAs folks got to socialize, share skills and make plans for future events.

On Feb. 19, Iron Osprey Forge will host the FABAs Forge Building workshop run by Larry Zoeller. Expect a report and photos in next month's Clinker Breaker!

— **Doug Hayes, FABAs Treasurer**



President's Challenge

Simple, small and useful — even if it is cute. I'm still working on the details for a butter and cheese knife out of ¼ inch round stock.

Here's a challenge for you, what can you make with ¼ inch round stock besides nails?

— **David Sandlin, President**



ABANA's biennial conference will be held May 11-14, 2022, on the grounds of the North Texas Fair & Rodeo, in Denton, Texas, which is north of Fort Worth and Dallas. The full address is 2217 N. Carroll Blvd., Denton, TX 76201. Register early because the ticket prices go up significantly after April 6. abana.org/2022-abana-conference

Demonstrators include Anton Yakushev, Zeevik Gottlieb, Douglas Pryor, Ellen Durkan, Frederic Crist, Randy McDaniel, Sue Howeter, Cotton Elliot, Steve Hotz, JD Smith, Shane Stainton, Pep Gomez, Lyle Wynn and Mark Ling. Mark Aspery will lead the team in the teaching tent. See you there!

Support our FABAs business members

STEEL SPONSORS

Greg Hagen - Holland Anvils - Holland, MI
John Elliot - Blacksmith Supply - Chester, VA
Michael Oliver - Turn and Burn Metalworks - Lakeland, FL
Doug Hayes - Iron Osprey Forge - St. Augustine, FL
David Sandlin - Traditions Workshop - Fort Walton Beach, FL

IRON SPONSORS

Scott Brown - Medieval Smith - Land O' Lakes, FL
Jordan Borstelmann - Crooked Path Forge - Gainesville, FL
Rick Smith - Gainesville, FL
Nicole Horenstein - High Springs, FL
Mark Fillmore - Naples, FL

Interested in being a FABAs sponsor or expanding your sponsor listing? Please contact FABAs treasurer Doug Hayes at djhayes29@hotmail.com and include your business name, tag line, and point of contact information for use in the Clinker Breaker and online.

Showcase Your Work at FABACON22

By Erin Harlow, Program Coordinator

The FABA Conference will be held in Gainesville, FL, on November 4-6, 2022 at the Best Western Grand Hotel and Conference Center.

This month, I would like to highlight opportunities open to members to showcase their work. These conference activities are opened to all and we encourage everyone to submit at least one piece and join the fun.

Item Exchange

The exchange is open to any member and skill level. Each smith creates a piece based on their interpretation of the theme and brings it to the conference. On Saturday afternoon before the auction, each person who brought an item will draw the name of another. The name that you draw is the person's piece that you take home. It might be from a beginner or one of our seasoned smiths, you just never know. "Catcher of Light" is this year's theme and open to your interpretation! Plan ahead and bring an item to exchange.

Creature Challenge

This year we are introducing a new challenge. We are asking each district or sub-district to create a piece as a team. This can be as large or small as you would like. A panel of outside judges will judge the pieces based on the criteria below. Awards will be handed out at the banquet. The winning team gets to choose the theme for the following year. Please consider donating your items to the auction. I hear whispers of some interesting collaborations out there! We hope to see submissions from each part of the state. This is a great project to work on at a monthly meeting.

Rules for team creature challenge

- Piece must be created by 3 or more team members
- Piece should be created between October 1, 2021-November 4, 2022
- Must include at least one forging technique
- Regions and sub-regions can submit more than one entry as long as they meet the other requirements
- Must be submitted at the FABA Conference gallery and auction area before noon on November 4, 2022

Judging Criteria

- A team must comprise at least 3 members and more points are awarded for more artists
- Artistic interpretation of the theme
- Materials and techniques utilized



Gallery

The gallery is a wonderful way to showcase your pieces. These can be pieces that were completed at any time. Perhaps you have a blade, art piece, home item, or other that you want to share with FABA members. Bring one or more items to the gallery to share! Items are judged by attendees and awarded prize money for People's Choice.



Auction

We need auction items! We have a few already, and if you have an item you plan to bring, feel free to email a photo to me at fabaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com. When you drop off the auction item, we will need to know what the item is and what it is made from, who donated or made it, and the estimated value. The live and silent auction will take place on Saturday evening, November 5, immediately following the annual banquet. Tickets will be available for the banquet on the conference registration page when it launches. You do not need a ticket to attend the auction.

Iron in the Hat

Have scraps or interesting items laying around your shop? Bring them to the conference for Iron in the Hat. Tickets will be sold for items to be raffled on Saturday, Nov. 5, from noon to 1 pm. Bring a 24 case of bottled water for 3 free tickets. Limit 3 cases per individual.

For questions or comments, please contact Erin Harlow, program coordinator, at fabaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com.

Updates from the interspace

By Jessica Sandlin

Hello all!

I wanted to deliver a quick update from your webmaster.

We've done quite a bit of development over the past year on the blacksmithing.org website, adding several webpages, and social touch points.

Website Additions

We now have a dedicated calendar page! If you have any upcoming blacksmithing event in the state of Florida, send me an email about the event with at least one week's notice and I will add it to the website.

We also have the ability to do landing pages for specific events. This would require at least one month's notice and approval from the president, but it would be a dedicated page to your event on blacksmithing.org.

Generally, this is good for bigger events, and you will get more hits on a search result with a webpage and social media posts. In short, it will present more avenues to market, and inform about your event.

Additionally, we have the bylaws up on the website, an officer's page (please read the bios, and get a laugh – the Treasurer had the privilege of writing a few), and regions.

The conference page saw the most growth the past few months – A big THANK YOU to our program chair, Erin – and we have added a shop (where you can order a T-shirt from conference 2021).

The issue with only adding one item to the cart at a time has been noted, and will be fixed in time for conference this year.

Be sure to check the incredible video that John Hare of Burrows Forge made for FABA. You can find the link, and all his photos from conference, at the Conference 2021 link.

If you're looking for a brilliant videographer, be sure to reach out to him.

Website Trends

There have been a few interesting trends for visitors on the website. First, the geographical area that has the most new visitors to the site is the greater Orlando area, by far. There is interest in all the cities where our regional coordinators are located, but Orlando was far above any other city in Florida.

Second, we saw a massive spike in website traffic focused in the greater Gainesville area during the days of the Hoggetowne Festival.

Jordan Borstelmann of Crooked Path Forge, in conjunction with the Bearded Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, were in



attendance, as well as our Vice President, Lisa Anne!

Both teams marketed FABA during the event, and Lisa Anne noted she handed out several hundred business cards.

Evidently she also shocked the crowd that lady blacksmiths have always been a thing throughout history.

Word of mouth marketing provided its continued successfulness, with over 650 page views during the festival.

Touchmarks

We are still working on a project from our Past President, Mark Stone: Touchmark Database. It is moving along nicely except for one thing: I NEED TOUCHMARKS. If you're a FABA member with a touchmark, please submit the following:

- Name
- Photo(s) of touch mark
- Forge Name (if applicable)
- Web address (if applicable)
- Social links (if applicable)
- Contact information

I really need everyone's help in order to complete this project, because I know John Pfund isn't the only guy out there with a touch mark! I mean, I could go stalk everyone's Instagram and Facebook, but I think FABA would prefer if you all just send me the information.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, ideas for the website please send me an email at FABAwebmaster@gmail.com.

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

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



March 2022

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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 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 FABA's Membership Secretary, John Butler, at: FABA Membership Secretary

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 _____

John Butler
4112 Bell Lane
Pea Ridge, FL 32571