

May 2022

# CLINKER



# BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Regional conferences still going strong

Many of you may already know that ABANA canceled its 2022 conference, originally scheduled for mid-May in Denton, Texas.

As a member of ABANA, I received this sad news as an email direct from ABANA President Leigh Morrell, and I assume if you pre-registered for the event, you too should have received this notice. There is the promise of a refund if you had committed funds.

It is surprising to me to see such a major blacksmith event canceled, but the ABANA conference has grown so big that they have to have over \$130K in pre-event sales to ensure event success. It seems with all the confusion in the world today (and the higher costs for travel), not enough people were willing to commit several hundred dollars to a blacksmith conference six weeks in advance of the event.

HOWEVER, I note that lower cost, closer to home, regional blacksmith conferences are thriving! And our FABA members are an integral part of making those regional events happen.

Planning for the 20th bi-annual 2023 Southeastern Blacksmith Association (SBA) Conference to be held at the Lion's Club Fair Grounds in Madison, Georgia, from Thursday May 18th through Saturday May 20th, 2023, is going strong. Our past president, Mark Stone, is working to make that an event to remember. Kirk Sullens will be demonstrating at the 2022 BAM Ozark Conference at the Missouri State fairgrounds in Sedalia, MO, on April 28 - May 1. The Northwest Blacksmith Association 2022 Spring Conference is still planning to be held June 3-5 and features Sculptural Work with Leslie Tharp as a main demonstration.

AND most importantly, the FABA Conference in Gainesville, Florida, November 4-6, has now opened a link on our website to book your hotel room.

Yes! Erin Harlow is continuing to line up a full slate of demonstrators and classes, as well as securing grants for our conference. In fact, I need to brag on her great work as we recently received notice that we will get a check from "Visit Gainesville" for \$5,035. The FABA Conference is full steam ahead with our Iron Smiths producing more Legendary Steel. Look for opportunities to sign up to take classes, volunteer, or otherwise help out as early as next month. Keep an eye on FABA's website at [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org). That is where those opportunities will appear!

Also, next month we hope to open our Orlando Region with John Hare as the regional coordinator. The "home base" for the Orlando Region will be on the main campus of Valencia College. Keep an eye on the Clinker Breaker, our web page and Facebook pages for additional details and the actual start date for the first meeting.

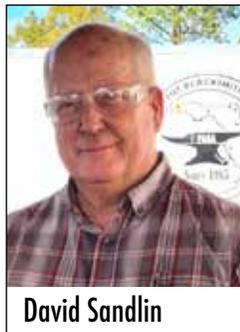
I'm proud to announce that John Butler of Tallahassee has stepped up to administer our scholarship program this year. The announcement with the details for our \$1,000 summer scholarship is here in the Clinker Breaker. Note the funds can be used for classes, travel and/or lodging.

Sending members out on scholarship has proven to be a great way to bring fresh ideas back to the organization, and we are very happy to restart this learning opportunity.

If you are wondering where you might go with a scholarship like this, consider: We have several exceptional instructors scattered around the state, John C. Campbell always has interesting offerings, the Alabama Folk School usually has a blacksmithing class twice a year (that's where I learned about building an iron garden gate). Members have ranged as far north as the Maine School of Metal Working, and North House Folk School in Michigan. We all look forward to what you might learn on your journey and bring back to the team.

I hope and pray your anvil rings true throughout the year.

— **David Sandlin, President**



David Sandlin

# 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](http://www.blacksmithing.org); our conference Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/groups/2849587158637631](https://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](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.



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## SW Region Report

We had a great meeting at our new FABAs SW home at the Crowley Museum blacksmith forge.



Doug Rogerson and Tony Fenn demonstrated jump welding sections of 5/8" square bar.

We then used the two forges for Smiths to work on their skills required for the Journeyman certification. It was great to see the 4 members of the Teele family working together on perfecting their tapering using railroad spikes. Thank you again to Francis Trez Cole for his patient guidance and for signing off on everyone's work.

Everyone contributed to an excellent spread for lunch and there were some great items in Iron in Hat. Over \$100 was raised in the raffle and everyone went home with something useful.

Please check the FABAs SW page for news and updates at [www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674](http://www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674).

## SW Region Meeting, May 28

The SW meeting in May will be held on Saturday 28nd, starting at 10 am. We will be back to Crowley Museum and Nature Center just east of Sarasota. We will light up the forges in the restored museum blacksmiths shop.

We will come up with a demo appropriate for the Journeyman skills, and the we will continue with Trez Cole inspecting and certifying any skills you are prepared to demo for the certification. Please bring safety eye wear and dress appropriately. Please bring something for Iron in the Hat, and a food or drink item to share.

### Crowley Museum and Nature Center

**Address:** 16405 Myakka Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

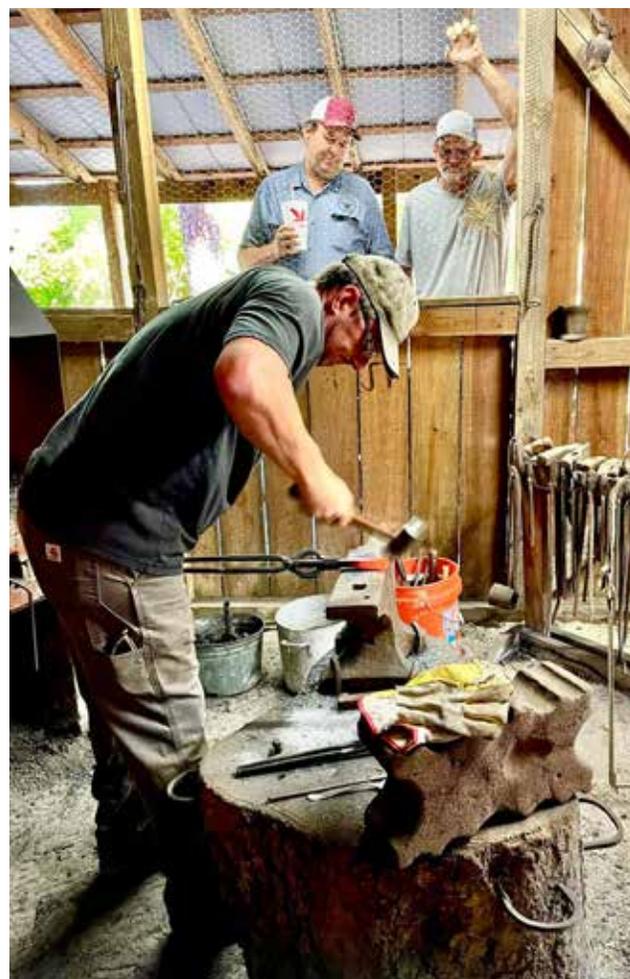
**Telephone :** (941) 322-1000 **Website:** [www.crowleyfl.org](http://www.crowleyfl.org)

**DIRECTIONS** to Crowley Museum From the south or west: Take Fruitville Road (exit #210 off I75) and drive 10 miles to the dead end. Turn right on Myakka road. Go 3 miles, Crowley is on your left. If you travel over the bridge to the north entrance of Myakka State Park, you missed us by a mile.

From the north: Take I75 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.

From the east: Take hwy #70 to Verna Road. Turn left. Travel approximately 6 miles to Crowley entrance on your left.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**



## Central NE Region Report

Thank you to everyone who attended our meeting in April. We had a wonderful meeting at Steve Blooms shop. Approximately 30 people attended and we got a couple new members as well. Thank you Mr. Bloom for hosting the meeting and for delivering such an excellent demonstration. We got to see a great many things not available at our average meeting. I look forward to the day we can return.

## Central NE Meeting, May 7

May 7th will be the next meeting. It starts at 9am and we'll be back at the Barberville Pioneer Settlement. It will be an open forges meeting with a slight chance of minor demos. Cya there. — **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

## NW Region Report

Our April meeting was held at the residence of Craig and Marcia Hines. Craig demonstrated making a pair of tongs from a piece of Titanium scrap.

About 25 people attended. The weather was cold and very windy! We kept the shop doors closed the whole time, and I had to move the grill into the garage to be able to cook the hamburgers and hotdogs. The newly forged Titanium Tongs being in the raffle inspired a lot of participation, and the lucky winner was a new member, Kevin Songer. You can see him smiling in picture below.

This was before he knew he was going to win. Happily he had documented much of it being made during the demo. On the way home from the meeting, Chris Cauthen and I tried to go to Aunt Louise's Farm and spend the rest of the day Blacksmithing there, but it was so windy that we were afraid to light the forge.

Below is a picture of where we set up at Aunt Louise's this year for the spring season. The next day on Sunday, six of our members returned to Aunt Louise's and had a delightful afternoon of blacksmithing and conversation.



### NW Region Meeting, May 14

Our May meeting is going to be held at Aunt Louise's Farm on the 14th. The address is 8101 Waukeelah Hwy. Monticello, Florida 32344.

Aunt Louise's is open from 10am until 6pm on Saturdays and 2pm until 6pm on Sundays. We've already got the equipment set up and it will stay set up for their entire spring season, which will run from now until the day after our meeting.

Except for two of the Sundays, April 17th(Easter) and May 8th(Mother's Day), we will be there both days, each weekend. Everyone is encouraged to participate!

On our first day on Sunday we had all three anvils working the whole time without me even lifting a hammer. This is a shady place to practice your craft and offer your wares for sale.

On the day of our meeting, we will start at 9am, our usual time, even though Aunt Louise's doesn't open until 10am.

This will give us some time to get started before they let the guests in.

For the Iron in the Hat raffle, I'm asking for only blacksmith made items this time, to make it nicer for other guests to participate in the raffle if they want to.

For the demo we will highlight whatever we have practiced during the month of weekends that we've been out there.

We're right next to all the picnic tables. For lunch I'm planning on bringing stuff to make sandwiches or maybe a sandwich platter and asking for other picnic type things to go with it. Fruit salad, chips,etc. We'll have water and tea to drink.

Aunt Louise's Farm stays open until 6pm, so we're welcome to stay for the rest of the day. Lots of fun to be had! I hope to see you there.

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**

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### NW Region Class

A Hacksaw-making Class was hosted by Craig Hines on March 26th. Chris Belden helped Craig teach the class. Nine people attended, and eight Hacksaws were made. Pictured below are Tim Strickland, Tyler Strickland, Craig Hines, Chris Belden, Roger Bell, Mike McGinnis, Mark Stone, Billy Christie, Donovan Fletcher, Mike Wright and Jeff Mohr.

Below right, the father and son Stricklands work on their piece.



## Far West Region Report

We had a great fundraiser meeting with 10 students to make railroad spike knives raising \$590 for FABA. We also were able to host our first iron in the hat thanks to Jon Pfund officiating the event which raised \$120 for FABA. I would also like to thank everyone else from the West region that came out to support us and helping to make the total event a great success.

— **Christopher Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**

## Far West Meeting Schedule

Our April 23rd meeting (9AM-3PM) will be hosted at the St. Michael's Brewery of 2199 FL-87 Navarre, FL 32566. We will be having Craig Hines come and show how to make a very nice blacksmith hacksaw, this is a make and take with a material fee of \$15. There will of course be a variety of drinks available at the brewery and The Bigger Picture Chow Wagon will be the food truck on site providing food from your standard burgers with fries to Southern grilled chicken to their signature B.L.P's (you will have to attend to learn what it is).

The May 28th meeting (9AM-3PM) for the Far West will be back at [Timber Creek](#) with the task to make a sea creature for our contribution to the FABA Con 2022 auction. Bring or make your contribution and we will lay out the plan for how everything will be incorporated into our group project. Also, Cam & Aaron have warned us that a bottle of their best whiskey is at stake for the best creature! However no insight has been given as to how the competition will be set up, or how judging will be done. They promised an excellent drink selection & fun food options.

For the June 25th meeting we're keeping things simple with a meeting at [Traditions Workshop \(418 Green Acres Rd., Ft Walton Beach, FL\)](#). Food will be provided, and a demonstration on making a half-sphere will be conducted. Plenty of forges will be available, so if you're advanced, or beginner, stop on by!

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](mailto:Chris@traditionsworkshop.com).

However, 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**



# Regional Reports



# Walt Anderson Scholarship applications open

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

The award is limited to the actual cost or \$1000, whichever is lesser. It may be used for materials, tuition, lodging and transportation (paid at the rate of 43.2 cents per mile or the actual cost of public transportation, whichever is lesser).

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

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 the name of the instructor teaching the class?

6. What costs will be incurred (tuition, lodging, transportation, etc.)?

Note: By accepting the Walt Anderson Scholarship the applicant agrees to provide a demonstration of skills learned at a regular FABA meeting or statewide conference, and write an article concerning the learning experience, including a "how-to" article for publication in the Clinker Breaker. The next item is not required but strongly suggested: that an item made with the new knowledge be offered for auction at the Annual meeting.

Completed letters of application (electronic format appreciated, but not required) should be sent to:

John Butler, Chair, FABA Scholarship Committee,  
777 Tyre Road, Havana, FL 32333  
or [jgbutler@sprintmail.com](mailto:jgbutler@sprintmail.com)

Deadline for receipt is **June 30, 2022**. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final. The successful applicant will be notified.

## AACB Blacksmith Conference



Dave Custer  
Colonial/Toolmaking

May 19-21  
2022

Cannonsburgh  
Pioneer  
Village  
Murfreesboro  
TN

*Loads of Vendors!*



Matt Jenkins  
Traditional Blacksmithing

Beginner  
Training  
Available!



Lee Oates, Knife Making



Mike LaMarre, 1,000 Twists



Rob Robinson, Tomahawks

[www.aacblacksmiths.org](http://www.aacblacksmiths.org)

## Support our FABA 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 FABA sponsor or expanding your sponsor listing? Please contact FABA treasurer Doug Hayes at [djhayes29@hotmail.com](mailto:djhayes29@hotmail.com) and include your business name, tag line, and point of contact information for use in the Clinker Breaker and online.

# FABA's going to the Zoo!

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has invited FABA to attend the Art in the Garden Festival on May 21 and 22! Art in the Garden is a seasonal event that draws over 7,000 visitors to the zoo over two days. It features artists, music, vendors, organizations, and local businesses.

Attending this event will provide FABA an opportunity to promote our organization and highlight the work of our members. Doug Hayes and Kirk Sullens have generously agreed to join me to help promote the association.

We are looking for work from members from across the state that we can showcase at the booth. We are looking mostly for flora and fauna-inspired pieces, but welcome other artistic pieces as well. Any pieces on display will include the artist's name, forge, and contact information for advertising purposes. If you have a piece that you feel would be appropriate and would like to display, please let me know ([fabaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:fabaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com)) and we can try and coordinate getting it to Jacksonville.

We hope to have a small demonstration area and will advertise monthly meetings, FABA membership, and



the annual conference. It should be a great event for FABA and a wonderful chance to promote the organization and member's work.

If you are interested in learning more about the Art in the Garden event at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, I encourage you to check out their website at <https://www.jacksonvillezoo.org/ArtInTheGarden>.

— **Erin Harlow, FABA Program Coordinator**

## FABA SAFETY NOTE

About once a quarter, the SPAM patrol of the internet culls through our postings to pull out email addresses that are in turn used in "phishing" attacks on our board and occasionally our membership. They usually mask their real identity and purport to be a member of the board asking you to help out by purchasing gift cards for a worthy cause. The gift cards are then requested to be mailed off to a P.O. box or other nondescript location. Unfortunately, the only place those gift cards go is into the pockets of these crooks! These guys are about as honest as the original

Nigerian prince of the internet. Anyway, if you get an unexpected request from me (or anyone else) asking for gift cards DO NOT send them anything. These types of attacks are unpreventable if we desire to have people find out about and join our organization and the only protection we have is to be aware that these activities are going on all the time. If for some reason you think the email request is legitimate check by making a phone call (but don't ask the person who sends the email to provide the phone number or they will play you along that way too).

— **David Sandlin, President**

# How to renew your FABA membership

FABA has been growing, and the Board approved a new position of Membership Secretary. Online renewals/new memberships will continue unchanged through the Square payment system on the FABA website.

However, paper renewals will now be directed to John Butler (Far West).

Please mail all paper checks and renewal forms to:

John Bulter  
4112 Bell Lane  
Pea Ridge, FL 32571

A new Membership Secretary email is being established and that link will be posted in upcoming Clunker Breakers and on the FABA website. Until that email is established, you can email questions to [Treasurer@blacksmithing.org](mailto:Treasurer@blacksmithing.org)

As always, if you have questions about any payments, refunds or reimbursements, just reach out to [treasurer@blacksmithing.org](mailto:treasurer@blacksmithing.org).

— **Doug Hayes, FABA Treasurer**

# THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

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



## May 2022

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## FABA Officers

President	David Sandlin	david@traditionsworkshop.com
Vice President	Lisa Anne Conner	vicepres@blacksmithing.org
Treasurer	Doug Hayes	djhayes29@hotmail.com
Secretary	Tia Kitchen	secretary@blacksmithing.org
Past President	Mark Stone	markham62@comcast.net
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Trustee NE	Bill Harris	wrabh01@gmail.com
Trustee SE	Steve Silvers	
Trustee SW	Trez Cole	nokomisforge@hotmail.com
Editor	Jennifer Jhon	editor@blacksmithing.org
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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

John Butler

FAMILY MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

4112 Bell Lane

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Pea Ridge, FL 32571

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ I want B&W Newsletter by mail (quarterly) \_\_\_\_\_ OR Color Newsletter by Email \_\_\_\_\_