

July 2022

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Blacksmiths bring history to life

This month my thoughts have turned to our living history. Every time anyone of us steps up to the forge, picks up a hammer and starts to work metal, we become living history. As you make something, you are placing an indelible mark in time. You do not need to be wearing “period garb,” nor do you need to be using authentic historical practices to accomplish your end goal. Just the fact that you are creating an object makes a mark in time.

I was privileged to receive a phone call from Skeeter Prather last week. He has been on our Historical Committee for years and wanted to encourage our membership to contribute items to the blacksmith museum at the Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown, FL.

This brings me around to my starting comment. We often think of museums as places to archive items that have been around for 100 plus years. Yes, I have an anvil in my shop that would qualify for that honor, but neither it, nor I, are ready to retire anytime soon.

Maybe you too have something of blacksmithing significance that is old enough to qualify as an artifact, but you are not about to let go of it because it is still useful to you. Good for you! Keep the craft alive by using those tools for their intended purpose.

However, (even though antique donations would be appreciated) that is NOT what the Pioneer Settlement is looking for to place in the Blacksmith Museum at this time. Instead, they are looking for your work. That indelible mark in time that you just created last week.

Museums do not just collect old stuff, they also curate new contributions to our culture. Therefore, the museum dearly wants to display the work of modern blacksmiths, not just the tools of their predecessors.



David Sandlin

If you would like to contribute please contact:
Panhandle Pioneer Settlement
17869 NW Pioneer Settlement Rd.
Blountstown, FL 32424
pioneersettlement@panhandlepioneer.us
(850) 674-2777

And, oh by the way, Skeeter reminded me that he's not getting any younger and is looking for someone to replace him on our Historical Committee. This is a job that can be as big as you want it to be, working with one or more of the historic blacksmith shops and events around the state. You just need to have a desire to teach our history and preserve our heritage, both historic and current.

“One machine can do the work of 50 ordinary men, but no machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.” Be extraordinary! Contribute.

Perhaps you have seen the email from Tia Kitchen at secretary@blacksmithing.org calling for nominations. Email her directly if you want to nominate yourself (or someone else – but ASK them first.) All we request is that you notify us of your intent to run for an office by July 10, 2022. We have the following positions to be elected, starting Jan. 1, 2023, and serving until Dec. 31, 2025: Treasurer (YES, Doug is looking for a replacement!), Editor (would be happy to have some additional help), Program Chair (thank you, Heinrich, for becoming her understudy), SE Trustee, and NE Trustee. Plus we are still looking for a regional coordinator in the NNE (Jacksonville) area.

Hope and pray your anvil rings true throughout the year.

— **David Sandlin, President**

*Iron seems a simple metal
But in its nature are many mysteries
And men who bend to them in their minds
Shall in arriving days gather therefrom
Much profit
Not to themselves alone, but to all mankind.
– Joseph Glandwill, 1650.*

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 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.

FLORIDA ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION#: CH38635 EXPIRATION: May 13, 2023
A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE.
REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



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SW Region Report

We had a great meeting in May at Crowley Museum, although attendance was down, most likely because of the summer heat. We had to move some of the museum chickens from their comfortable roost in our forge when we arrived.

We set a fun challenge, seen at the last FABBA conference, to practice some basic Journeyman skills. Trez Cole demonstrated the challenge using two 6" lengths of 3/8" round. One length was used to make a 'one off' punch, and then use it to punch a 3/8" hole in the other length and then bend it to pierce itself.

Attendees then had a fun time perfecting their forging of the challenge.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**



SW Region Meeting, June 25

The SW meeting in June will be held on Saturday the 25th, 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.

Trez Cole will demonstrate making cable damascus and then attendees can have a go themselves.

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

www.crowleyfl.org

Address: 16405 Myakka Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

Telephone: (941) 322-1000



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.

Please check the FABBA SW page for more information at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**



Central NE Region Report

Good morning, and thank you all for joining us in June. It was a particularly nice day for that month and so we got loads of forging done. It was a good day for open forges and getting to enjoy each other's company. That's what it's really all about, isn't it? We're building a community all about advancing our skills in the craft and providing assistance for any who would ask. We are succeeding!

Forge on, my friends, and always keep pushing further in your efforts to grow.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

Central NE Region Meeting, July 2

July 2nd starting at 9am we'll be back at the settlement to once again dive back into our fires. I'll be demonstrating how to make a few small decorative items, but the meeting will be primarily focused on getting you guys in the fire yourselves.

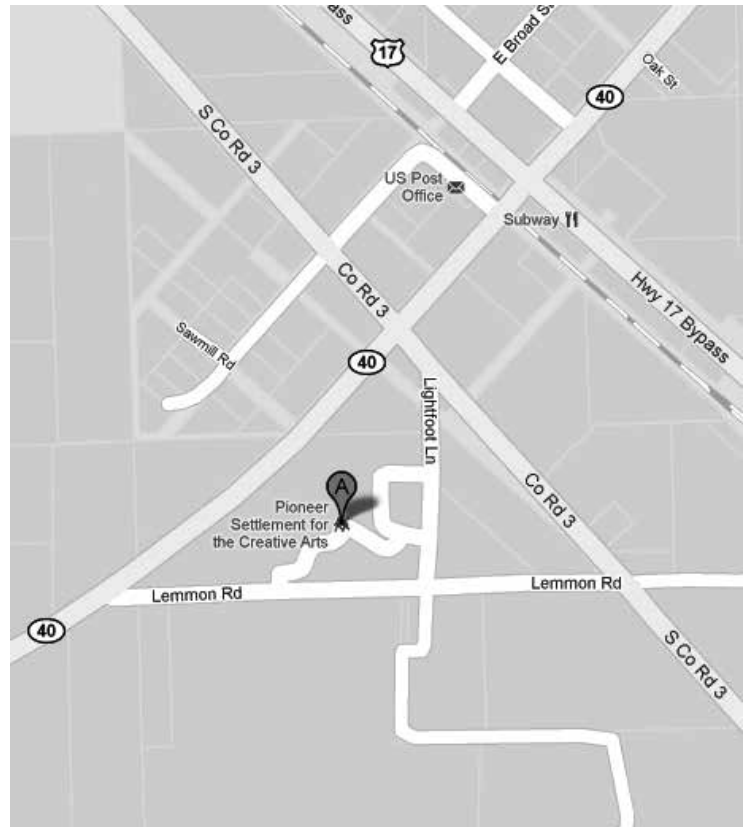
We will also be needing to make plans for our region to make a cool little animal sculpture to submit at conference. It is meant to be a group project in which no less than three people work together to bring a creature of our own into reality. I want you all to spend a moment of your time thinking about something we could do that will be cool but also practical for the skill set in our region. We will have one month to plan and then three months to produce it. That will be plenty of time. We will focus the meetings around the project for the next few months.

One idea I had was to make a centipede. That would involve making lots of legs, which are a fairly simple item to make. That way we can all make a piece of it. I want to hear your ideas, though. This is a group project, so everyone's thoughts will be welcome regardless of skill level.

I'm also kinda looking for people interested in demonstrating at the meetings. If you've been working on a cool little item and you want to show us all about it, then please contact me and we'll work something out. It doesn't need to be a big deal that can span a whole meeting. Any project you're working on will be exactly what we needed to see. It is so much fun when a member shares their progress with us because it lets us all relate to each other's progression. It helps to see each other's struggles to learn new techniques, and if you've just overcome a challenge then I promise you that we all want to know about it.

So come on out in July to see what amazing things can happen next. Cya there! :)

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**



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 dihayes29@hotmail.com and include your business name, tag line, and point of contact information for use in the Clinker Breaker and online.

NW Region Report

Our June meeting was held at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown on June 11th. We had 18 people sign in. Most of the blacksmithing was done by people who had taken the classes this season, with assistance from the teachers and other members of the club. We had fresh coffee and donuts, even though it was a hot one! Plenty of ice water, too. No raffle this meeting and no lunch provided at the meeting, so we all went to a local seafood restaurant for our meal. Most of the people who were blacksmithing brought their own lunches and snacks, so we had meal at the restaurant in two shifts as to not interrupt the fun. Eventually we were all hot and tired and ready to go home, so we closed up the shop and did. Thank you to Willard Smith and the rest of the crew at the settlement and all of the people in the club who helped make it happen.

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**

NW Region Meeting, July 9

Our July meeting for the north west region will be held at the residence of Craig and Marcia Hines, on the 9th. The address is 6340 Maddox Rd. Ochlocknee, Georgia 31773. Chris Cauthen is going to demonstrate making a "Miner's candle holder" and will donate it to the raffle. Please be sure to bring something to donate to the



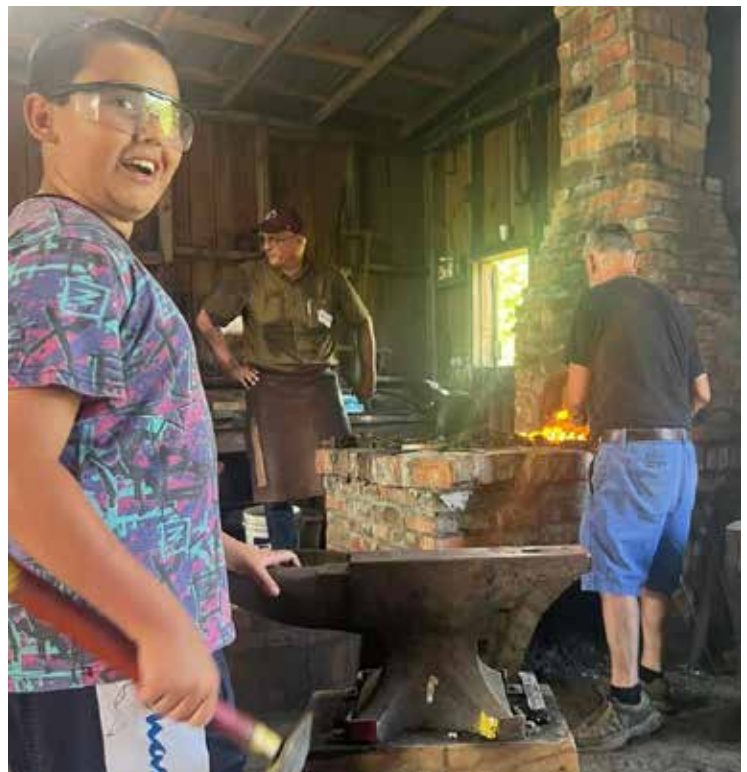
raffle, if it's something you made yourself, you get at least 7 free tickets, sometimes more depending on the amount of work put into the item. We're going to have ingredients to make sandwiches and water and iced tea provided. Please bring sides and desserts to go with it. We'll have coffee and donuts ready when you get there in the morning.

Meeting starts at 9 AM, and we'll stop for the raffle and lunch at noon. After lunch there might be a chance to try out some of the techniques Chris has demonstrated or it might just be too hot and we're all going to want to go home and take a nap. Either way it's going to be great, I hope to see you there!

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**



Logan gets his first Blacksmithing lesson at the June meeting in Blountstown.



Far West Region Report

At the May meeting at Timber Creek Distillery, our small group was working on our group project for FABA by making various sea creatures. Three were finished in total: one sea snake and two sea horses. Others were started but not finished, so we look forward to seeing them completed.

David Sandlin, after demonstrating how to make a square corner, took it upon himself to improve our hosts' picnic tables by adding a purse hook to one of them of them. We had several spectators and lots of questions were asked. Sadly, no one felt like joining us.

— **Christopher Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**

Far West Meeting Schedule

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!

The July 23 meeting will be in Milton at 4112 CR-197A, Pea Ridge, hosted by John Butler.

The August meeting will be held on Aug. 20th, which is **the third Saturday instead of our usual meeting time**, so please make note of the change. The meeting will be at the [Baker Block Museum](#) at 1307 State Rd. 4 & FL-189, Baker, FL.

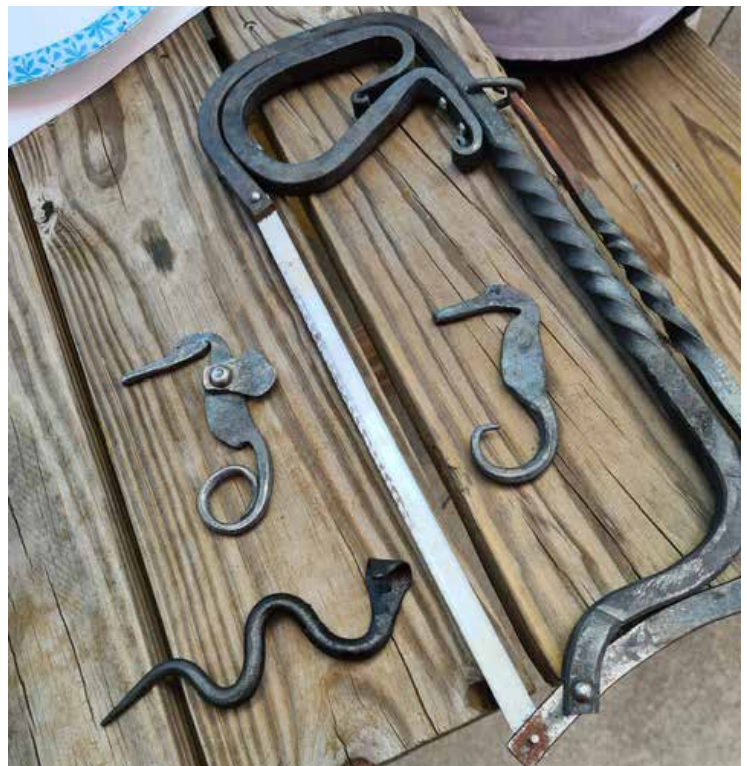
In the lead up to the November conference, we are headed back to Butler's farm on Sept. 24th to start assembly of the group project.

The last hammer before the conference will be back at Traditions Workshop on October 22nd. This will be the last day to add your contribution to the team project before it is sealed up. We will also to prep the trailer for the conference.

Please email me if you have questions or need more information at Chris@traditionsworkshop.com.

As always there will not be a December meeting.

— **Christopher Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



Regional Reports



The Blacksmiths' Commandments

- 1** Thou shall not smite thine iron when it has lost its glow.
- 2** Thou shall not smite thy hammer upon thine anvil,
lest the shrapnel gods invade thy crotch.
- 3** Thou shall keep thy slack tub clean,
lest the vermin of illness and stench of hell invade thy body.
- 4** Thou shall remove the hardie when its task is complete,
lest thee and thy digits part company.
- 5** Thou shall not cool thy work on the floor where upon thou treadest,
lest thou ignite thy boots.
- 6** Thou shall put away thy store-bought tongs,
lest the other smiths covet them and make merry at thy expense.
- 7** Thou shall not run thy gasses over pressure,
lest thou reach out and touch the face of god.
- 8** Secure thy anvil well to the stump,
lest in thy latter days thou shalt be unable to hear thy loved ones.
- 9** Refrain from placing thy digits between the dies of thy power hammer,
that thou mayest keep them even until the end of thy days.
- 10** Keep thy bellows and thy blower in working condition,
for thou knowest that power doeth upon occasion fail.
- 11** Thou shall not baptize thy S7 in Super Quench,
lest the fruits of thy labor be lost.
- 12** Thy safety glasses may appear humorous to other smiths,
but thee will keep thine eyes and they may not.

FABA Elections: Time to declare your intentions!

We Want You to join the FABA Board of Directors for 2023!

We are seeking officers for the following positions:

- * Treasure
- * Editor
- * Program Chairperson
- * SE Trustee
- * NE Trustee

If you would like to be a candidate in the upcoming election, please email me with your intention to run and the office for which you wish to be considered for:
secretary@blacksmithing.org

To give us adequate time to create ballots and get them sent out, we ask that you notify us of your intent to run for an office by JULY 10, 2022.

— Tia Kitchen, FABA Secretary



Florida Folklife program seeks master artists and apprentices

The Florida Department of State's Division of Arts and Culture is seeking applications for the 2022-2023 Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Program. Expert practitioners of traditional art forms and persons with a strong commitment to learning and preserving folk and traditional arts are encouraged to apply.

The Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Program creates opportunities for apprentices to study traditional arts with recognized master artists. Traditional arts are expressions of shared community identity that reflect the values and aesthetics of the groups that practice them.

The application deadline is July 15, 2022.

Interested masters and apprentices must apply as a team by submitting the joint application to the Florida Folklife Program. The Florida Folklife Council will review applications and recommend apprenticeship teams to the Secretary of State. The selected apprenticeship teams will be announced by September 2022. The program provides a stipend and funds for supplies.

Interested applicants should contact the Florida Folklife Program by calling 850.245.6482 or 800.847.PAST.

Program guidelines and applications can be found at dos.myflorida.com/historical/preservation/florida-folklife-program/apprenticeship-program/

SUBMISSIONS WANTED: The Art and Craft of the Blacksmith

The FABA Museum has been ready to receive artifacts for some two years. Some half dozen are in place.

Because of this lack of showing, your museum committee has elected to refocus its mission: "To highlight and focus on the Art and Craft of the Blacksmith."

With this new mission in mind, you are invited and encouraged to display your own work. Display for 6 months or a year or forever, your choice.

For questions or comments, please contact Skeeter Prather, museum committee chairman, via phone only (no text) at 850-386-9246.

Greetings to all, Skeeter

Nov 4 - 6, 2022

FABA Conference



Where is the conference?

Best Western Grand Hotel and Conference Center
4200 NW 97th Boulevard Gainesville, Florida 32606

When can I register for the conference?

The conference registration will open July 1st. Registration can be found at <https://blacksmithing.org/>. Don't forget to update your membership at the same time.

When do workshops open?

Workshops will open July 1st. Registration can be found at <https://blacksmithing.org/>.
Classes will be announced in the June Clinker Breaker.

How do I get involved?

We need your help! Become a volunteer for the conference. We need help with everything from set up, stocking coolers, to registration. If you are interested, please fill out the volunteer form at <https://blacksmithing.org/conference/> or contact Erin Harlow at fabaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com or join us during the conference planning meetings.

What about lodging?

Rooms are available at the Best Western for our special group rate of \$115 per night. Rooms are available for booking now and the link can be found at <https://blacksmithing.org/conference/>.



FORGING FUN



Exchange - "Catcher of Light"

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

Nov 4 - 6, 2022



SHARE & SUPPORT

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 5th 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 5th from noon to 1 pm. Bring a 24 case of bottled water for 3 free tickets. Limit 3 cases per individual.

Vendors & Tailgate Sales

Interested in selling items at the conference or representing your business? There will be opportunities for both tailgate sales and vendor booths or tent sponsorships. Tailgating and vendor registration will open on July 1 and will be available on the conference website at <https://blacksmithing.org/conference/>.

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

June 30 deadline

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 email 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.

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 Clinker Breakers and on the FABA website. Until that email is established, you can email questions to Treasurer@blacksmithing.org

As always, if you have questions about any payments, refunds or reimbursements, just reach out to 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



July 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
Trustee NW	Ron Childers	Ron@munlaw.net
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	fabaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com
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 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 _____