

March 2023

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985



Gainesville Region Celebrates Its First FABA Meeting

Read about the region's startup event, page 10



Regional Events & Information

FABA now has seven regions, and regular meetings are held in each region on the following Saturdays of each month: 1st Saturday—NE, 2nd Saturday—NW, 3rd Saturday—SE, 4th Saturday—Far West & SW. The NNE meetings will be the 2nd or 3rd Saturdays (depending on the month) in 2023, and the first Gainesville Regional Meeting will be Feb. 18, 2023. The regions have no boundaries – everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can! The dates may vary, so check the schedule noted in the Regional Reports or on Facebook, or contact the Regional Coordinator. 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 events, please check the region's Facebook page or contact the Regional Coordinators:

Gainesville Region	Jordan Borstelmann	352-727-8260	crookedpathforge@gmail.com
Central Northeast Region	Heinrich Hole	386-848-6982	heinrich.faba@gmail.com
North Northeast Region	Doug Hayes	910-330-7601	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 Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/FloridaBlacksmiths; 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
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FABA approves 2023 budget

For FABA, fiscal year planning starts in earnest as soon as the conference is over. As per our by-laws, I am required to submit a budget to the board for the coming year in January. I'm happy to report your board has approved our 2023 budget (see details on page 11).

Here are some highlights:

- We have re-instituted our bi-annual scholarship program. These two \$1,000 blacksmithing scholarships will be awarded in July and January. Send your applications to John Butler (aka Tallahassee John Butler, dotbutler55@gmail.com). John has a write-up on how to apply on page 11.
- Each region will not only receive 5 bags of coal (at conference) for their regional meeting, they are also authorized to expend up to \$300 on a regional meeting, bringing in a demonstrator or to otherwise make a meeting a unique event. Discuss your region's plan with me or our Vice President Lisa Anne before committing any of these funds. If you are looking for a demonstrator, I highly encourage our regional coordinators to invite any of our journeymen or scholarship winners to demonstrate.
- FABA CON 2023 will be funded at approximately the same amount as last year.
- Membership has not recovered to our pre-COVID levels. We currently stand at 240 families, which is about 100 families less that we had in 2019. Please invite new folks to our regional meetings, so others can learn about our noble craft.



David Sandlin
FABA President

Volunteer Opportunities Abound

Treasurer: Unfortunately, I have some sad news to report. Our treasurer, Richard Wright, has encountered a family emergency that will require him to be out of country for an extended period of time and has asked to resign. Our prayers are with Richard and his family as he goes. Thankfully, Douglass Hayes has stepped up to help us as an interim treasurer and get us through the tax season. But Doug has stressed interim! So, we are actively looking for a new treasurer.

Membership: Additionally, webmaster Jessica Sandlin (and myself) will be taking on the duties of “membership secretary” until we can find someone willing to take on this important task. In the meantime, if you elect not to use the electronic system for membership sign up or for renewal, we request that you send checks to “FABA Membership Secretary, C/O Sandlin, 114 Choctaw Cove, Valparaiso, FL 32580.”

Outreach: Next, we are looking for someone to lead the charge in contacting Florida, South Georgia and South Alabama colleges and university art departments. Our intent with this task is not only to invite these departments and students to learn metalworking – practical and artistic – but to also encourage them to participate in FABA CON 2023.

Fundraising: Two new ideas have been proposed to help with fundraising and our outreach for our 2023 conference.

1. Have businesses sponsor tents.
2. Offer corporate tables during the banquet, with the hope they stay for the auction. As we're not entirely sure how to execute this, we're looking for a volunteer to take this task on. Please, let a board member know if you are interested.

Grant writing: Each year we receive a grant from the county where we hold our convention. Erin has been very successful over the last two years in securing these grants, but she is asking for help. In fact, we know there are a number of educational opportunity, veteran, cultural, arts and other grants that we should be applying for (see www.american-madeheros.com, www.dos.myflorida.com/cultural/grants or www.grants.gov for just a small sample).

Chaplain: Finally, I'd like to find someone that is willing to take on the task of FABA Chaplain. The primary duty will be to organize and preside over our annual “Ring of the Anvil.”

In short, it takes a large team to run our organization, and your board doesn't want to overwhelm any one individual. If you believe you have the time, and energy to help please reach out, we welcome your support very much.

Hope and pray your anvil rings true throughout the year.

— David Sandlin, President

Central NE Region Report

!!! BOOM !!! BABY!!! February was one of our most highly attended meeting in the past 4 years with an astounding 42 participants. Kirk's Pea Pod Pointer and Turtle were a major hit.

Tickets were sold in abundance as everyone wanted to get a shot at Kirk's demo pieces in Iron in the Hat. Of course, Kirk in his typical unique fashion, simply dropped his demo pieces on the ground near Iron in the Hat when I suggested that he display them prominently. No ego in this one, my friends, just a man who can't wait to share his knowledge with the community.

Thank you, Kirk, for your ongoing and abundant support. Big hugs for all of you lovely people that brought food as well. Your edible contributions were rivaled only by the fellowship and connections made between new and returning attendees alike.

— Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator

Central NE Meeting, March 4

On March 4th at 9 a.m., we'll be starting our next meeting at the Pioneer Art Settlement.

Malachi Tangard will be demonstrating how to make flint strikers out of high carbon steel. This is an extremely useful item for the survivalist to have on hand. Understanding its production process could be life saving in one of the many possible futures ahead of us.

I personally will be out demonstrating at the Weeki Wachee Swampfest, so Malachi will be running the March meeting overall. Please show him all the respect and support you would normally give for me.

On a side note, coal prices at the Pioneer Art Settlement are going up to \$45 on the 100lb bags. 50lb bags will remain at \$25. This change goes into effect March 1st, but if you can place your coal orders before that date, you can lock in your next purchase at the old price point. Once you place your order, you can arrange to pick up your coal on the FABA meeting date.

Learn more about the region on its Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/www.faba.org.

— Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator



Kirk Sullens demonstrates at his workshop during the Central NE meeting



Regional Reports



Support our FABA business members

DAMASCUS SPONSORS

David Sandlin - Traditions Workshop - Fort Walton Beach, FL

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

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

2023 Southern Blacksmith Association Conference



Madison, Georgia
May 18 - 20, 2023

Two great demonstrators, Matt Jenkins and Liam Hoffman, are slated to demonstrate May 18-20, 2023, in Madison, Ga. Family classes will offer up an alternative to blacksmithing. Learn more online at the website, SBAconference.org.

Mark your calendars and plan to enjoy a great weekend of blacksmithing and other activities.

NW Region Meeting, March 11

Our March meeting is going to be held at Craig and Marcia Hines' house on the 11th. The address is 6340 Maddox Road, Ochlocknee, GA 31773.

Craig is going to demonstrate making tongs again, but this time he will have extra anvils set up and is taking volunteers to follow his lead and make a pair each as well.

This is a chance for a free tong making class, and 6-8 slots are available on a first asked, first served basis, so let Craig or me know if you want to reserve a spot. If there is still an open spot by the time of the meeting, I will be sure to take advantage of it.

I'll be cooking burgers and hot dogs on the grill for our main dish so be sure to bring sides and desserts to go along with them. Keep bringing all the great donations for the raffle, especially those handmade by you. I hope to see you there!

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**



Craig Hines demonstrates at the FABAs NW Region meeting in February 2023



NW Region Meeting Report

Our February meeting was held at the Homestead Barn in Monticello. We had 26 people sign in. It was a very rainy day, but we had shelter on the front porch of the barn. We had one forge and two anvils set up and had demonstrations of heart-shaped hangers and tong making.

Roger's venison stew was greatly appreciated and everyone enjoyed the two loaves of fresh bread we baked in the host's kitchen. Lots of sides and desserts and donations for the raffle were brought by members attending the meeting.

One of the pairs of tongs was demonstrated by Craig Hines. It was made from 1/2 inch square stock and donated to the raffle.

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**



Far West Region Meeting Report

January was a great start to the year, and several people showed up, new and old. Making a square-headed bolt went well. We demonstrated two methods: forge welding the head on and upsetting to make the head. There was also an impromptu welding class on using a MIG for someone who is looking to make a chicken coop dolly.

Most people were shaking off the cold and rust from not having not practiced at a forge for a while, so the meeting was a slow one for the most part.

Far West Region Meetings

The Far West Region meeting schedule for 2023:

February 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Traditions Workshop. The demonstration TBD, but it will support Journeyman standards.

March 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Michael's Brewery in Navarre, FL.

April 22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at John Butler's Family Farm in Milton, FL. We will run this meeting as a FABA fundraiser, offering a class open to the public on how to make a Viking era utility knife.

In June, we return to Traditions Workshop.

— **Christopher Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



SE Region Meeting Report

Hello all! The SE Region had a good meeting this month, a couple of new people and a few old. Newcomers Dean and Jimmy did great for their first day forging. I did some work on the four burner forge—it's coming along. Our next meeting will be March 18. Stop by and check it out. Thanks!

— **Peter Hill, SE Coordinator**



New FABA SE members Dean (in yellow) and Jimmy with Steve Silvers (above left) and with Peter Hill (center) in picture above right



SW Region Meeting, March 25

The SW FABA meeting will be at 10am on March 25th at Heritage Village in Largo FL.

Address:

11909 125th Street
Largo, Florida 33774

This is a first FABA visit and I'm looking forward to seeing the facility. The forge is a pole barn about 30 foot long and the 3 forges are under the roof and there's plenty of seating, picnic tables, bathrooms and a big parking lot.

At the meeting we will reproduce a demo that the amazing Pete Braspeninx gave at our last FABA conference. This is a key and wedge join through a 1/2" hole punched through 1/2" square bar.

But first we will need to make a slot punch and a drift; as having the right tools is essential.

After the demo materials will be provided for attendees who want to try their hammer skills. This is a tricky skill to master to get to Pete's level, but you should go away with the tools and method to practice a few hundred holes in your own shop to get up to his quality.

As always please bring something for a Potluck lunch and an item for Iron in the Hat. Bottled water will be provided.

Please check our Facebook FABA-SW group at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674 for information.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

SW Region Report

We had our SW meeting hosted by Jay Dugan at the Blacksmith workshop at the St Pete Pinellas Pioneer Settlement, and 17 people attended.

Jay needed our support to help promote the park as this beautiful spot is not well known and is underutilized. Several local Smiths jumped at the chance to work with Jay at the forge on a regular basis and begin to generate community interest. On a similar vein we had a discussion with a new FABA member who runs the forge at Pinellas County Heritage Village in Largo. He also needs help to promote activities at that location. To that end we agreed that our March SW meeting will be in Largo. (See SW March Meeting in this Clinker Breaker).

It is amazing to see that in the SW region we now have 5 active forges in parks or Pioneer villages. Our region is big in that it broadly stretches from Ocala going down the southwest quadrant to around Naples. But these 5 locations mean that you as a member should be able to find regular blacksmithing activities and camaraderie within a reasonable drive.



Tony Fenn and Trez Cole work on a piece during the FABA meeting

Reach out to me if you need to find out about FABA contacts at the following locations:

1. Pioneer Village Dade City
2. Pinellas County Heritage Village in Largo
3. Pinellas Pioneer Settlement in St Petersburg
4. Crowley Heritage Museum east of Sarasota
5. Koreshan Park near Fort Myers and Naples

Back to my January meeting report: For the demo, an alligator emerged from a piece of 1/2" x 3" plate with the help of Francis Trez Cole, myself and Doug Rogerson who cranked and maintained the fire.

Thank you to Jay who made a huge amount of BBQ ribs and to everyone else who made and brought delicious food and items for our Iron in the Hat raffle.

Also a big thank you to David Reddy who generously donated a blacksmith starter kit of tools to the Pinellas Pioneer Settlement. David had won the nice tool box and tools at the last FABA conference.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

Regional Reports



The alligator starting stock (above) and punching process (below). The finished alligator is displayed at right, above the blacksmith starter kit donated to the Pinellas Pioneer Settlement by David Reddy



Gainesville Region Report

On Feb. 18, we celebrated the first meeting of the new Gainesville region. Jordan Borstelmann, the regional coordinator and our host, gave us a demonstration of making a candle holder on a portable coal forge. After the demo, Jordan lit the gas forge and opened the shop for member participation. Several smiths took up the challenge and started making knives and other projects.

It was a great day weather wise, and 32 people signed in. We had tailgate sales and an impromptu Iron in the Hat Raffle that brought in \$150. We were instructed to bring our own lunch, so those who did reaped the benefit. Everyone enjoyed the fresh doughnuts that were provided at the start of the day.

Thank you to everyone who came to the meeting and did all the little things that help to make it happen. The next meeting will be April 15th, possibly at a local brewery. Details to come!

— **John Pfund, NW Coordinator, and Jordan Borstelmann, Gainesville Coordinator**



Walt Anderson Scholarship 2023

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 \$1,000, 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, 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: An item should be made with the new knowledge and offered for auction at the Annual Conference.

Completed letters of application or emails should be sent to John Butler, Chair, FABA Scholarship Committee, 777 Tyre Road, Havana, FL 32333 or jgbutler@sprintmail.com.

Deadline for receipt is June 30, 2023. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final. The successful applicant will be notified.

Jerry Grice Scholarship 2023

This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Jerry Grice, one of our charter members.

Its terms, award and conditions match the Walt Anderson Scholarship.

Completed letters of application or emails should be sent to John Butler, Chair, FABA Scholarship Committee, 777 Tyre Road, Havana, FL 32333 or jgbutler@sprintmail.com.

Deadline for receipt is December 31, 2023.

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association 2023 Budget and History

	<u>2019 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2021 Actual (& estimated)</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Proposed</u>	
Revenue						
Membership dues	\$ 11,410.00	\$ 10,411.00	\$ 7,273.00	7,395.00	\$ 7,200.00	paid memberships
Meeting Income (buck in bucket)	-----	\$ 629.00		894.00	800.00	
Donations and Contributions (sponsors outside of membership dues)	\$ 7,486.00	\$ -	\$ 450.00	80.00	500.00	
Investment & Interest Income	\$ 714.00	..	\$ (644.00)		-	
Merch Sales - Coal, shirts, buckles, etc. Outside of Conference	\$ 5,960.00	\$ 3,985.00	\$ 1,450.00	3,296.00	1,000.00	Coal and other sales outside of conference
Statewide Meeting Income			\$ 1,026.00	1,080.00	1,000.00	Regional workshops that generate revenue
Affiliated Org Contributions (SBA)					\$2,000	Estimated based on 2019
Grants not associated with conference						
Other Miscellaneous Income				2,177.00	-	
Revenue Sub Total, not including conference			\$ 9,555.00	14,922.00	12,500.00	
Annual Conference Income	\$ 33,412.00	\$ 6,368.00	\$ 30,551.00	31,640.00	29,225.00	
Total Revenue	\$ 58,982.00	\$ 21,393.00	\$ 40,106.00	\$ 46,562.00	\$ 41,725.00	
Equipment & Maintenance Expenses	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,229.00	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,120.07	\$ 5,255.00	
Total Membership Support Expenses	\$ 4,776.00	\$ 8,787.00	\$ 6,026.00	\$ 4,902.64	\$ 7,270.00	Includes scholarships and regional funds
Total Business Expenses	\$ 3,994.00	\$ 5,007.00	\$ 4,568.17	\$ 3,575.56	\$ 4,350.00	
Total Annual Conference Expenses	\$ 12,393.00	\$ 6,143.00	\$ 20,080.00	\$ 23,036.00	\$ 23,631.00	
Total Expenditures	\$ 35,422.00	\$ 28,054.00	\$ 34,074.17	34,634.27	40,506.00	
Net Revenue	\$ 23,560.00	\$ (-6,661)	\$ 6,031.83	11,927.73	1,219.00	

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President
114 Choctaw Cove
Valparaiso, FL 32580



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March 2023

FABA Officers

President	David Sandlin	david@traditionsworkshop.com
Vice President	Lisa Anne Conner	vicepres@blacksmithing.org
Interim Treasurer	Doug Hayes	Treasurer@blacksmithing.org
Secretary	Tia Kitchen	secretary@blacksmithing.org
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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 temporary Membership Secretary at:

FABA Membership Secretary,
C/O Sandlin
114 Choctaw Cove
Valparaiso, FL 32580

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 _____