

January 2023

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985



A bottle opener and troll cross from the SE Region, page 4.



Works produced during the Far West Region's candleholder challenge, pages 6-7.

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.

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What's on your 2023 wish list?

Merry Christmas everyone! Hopefully you found some goodies under your tree. Or maybe you were a “bad boy” and Santa brought you some coal for your stocking—which is what you probably wanted anyway. Or maybe there was something else on your wish list?

Well, it is time for planning 2023. Bring your blacksmithing wish list to us! Our next board meeting will be held late January, and I am required to submit a budget for consideration by the board during that meeting.

So, again, what is on your wish list? Of course, we already know we will be holding our next FABA Conference at the Best Western Grand Gateway Grand on 20-22 October.

Heinrich is working with Erin to complete our list of demonstrators and classes, generating a nice mix of artistic and blade smithing demonstrations and a bevy of skills classes. But it is not too late to recommend the programs you might be most interested in.

We are also looking to fund some regional events that might draw multi-regional interest. Get with your regional coordinator to make a recommendation that we can add to the FABA program calendar.

Finally, you might have a class or training opportunity you wish to personally addend. Don't forget we offer two scholarships a year. If you are selected for either of our scholarships, all we ask is that you bring what you have learned back to FABA in the form of an article and a presentation at the conference or a regional meeting. Yes, Virginia, dreams do come true.

After we played “lost and found” in the last issue of the Clinker Breaker (yes, the twisting wrench is on its way home), I was asked for more information about touchmarks. We have been collecting for our website a gallery of touchmarks from FABA members and we'd like to be sure to include yours on our site when that part goes live. Please send a JPG of your touchmark to our webmaster!

But the bigger question might be how you get your own. Traditionally, artists in metal “sign” their work with a touchmark of their own design. Be imaginative.

A touchmark is typically an acronym or symbol which represents you as individual or shop. It is usually a stamp or punch with a positive image (reversed or symmetrical) which is indented as a negative image into the finished

project. “Skeeter” Prather had a rather elaborate mosquito touchmark but I recommend something simpler.

Crooked Path Forge and Traditions Workshop both use Celtic ruins as their touchmarks. Chris Cauthen uses his initials in a rather neat nested pattern. There are many others, ask around for examples.

Once you have come up with a design you can file/use Dremel tool to shape the end of a punch, or you can acid-etch the mark, or electro etch the mark. I guess you can also paint it or even use a laser to transfer the mark.

Just as there is no limit in the design of your touch mark there are almost as many ways to imprint your mark into your work. Still the easiest is to make a stamp and use it regularly. See Torbjörn Åhman's You Tube video on making a touchmark: [Blacksmithing - Making a touchmark stamp](#).

If you don't feel confident to make your own stamp there are many vendors who will make one for you, including:

- Metal Hand Stamps and Accessories | Custom Hand Stamps ([stampyours.com](#))
- Making a Blacksmith Touchmark ([durable-tech.com](#))
- Hand Stamps (Touch Marks) ([piehtoolco.com](#)) (several options for lettering)
- Touchmarks - Industrial Engraving and Machining ([brennerind.com](#))
- (20+) Personalized Steel Stamps and Maker's Marks | [Groups | Facebook](#) (made in Pakistan)

Expect to pay around \$80+ depending on complexity.

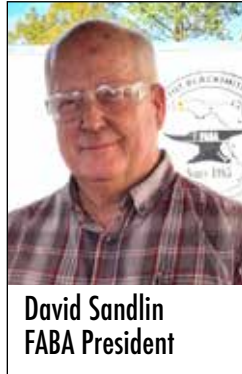
Finally, be sure to check out the details Past President Mark Stone has provided us in this issue of the Clinker Breaker (page 8) on the Southern Blacksmith Association biyearly Meeting in Maddison, Georgia, May 18-20, 2023 (Thursday to Saturday).

I looked up information on their demonstrators: Matt Jenkins is semi-famous for his hook a day project; see [#366Hooks - Cloverdale Forge](#) for more about his creative process that ultimately won him recognition at the World Forging Championship in Stia, Italy, in 2009 and 2015. Liam Hoffman, author of [FORGED A Guide to Becoming a Blacksmith — Hoffman Blacksmithing](#) and youngest winner of “Forged in Fire,” is also demonstrating.

Along with demonstrations by Southeast regional representatives, this is an event well worth attending. Guess I'll add that to my personal wish list.

Hope and pray your anvil rings true throughout the year.

— **David Sandlin, President**



SW Region Meeting Report

We had an excellent and busy December meeting at my workshop, FishnChips Forge in Sarasota. Two new young members brought along their families to see what a FABA meeting was all about. In all, 15 people turned out.

We started with Trez Cole demoing how to add reins to tong bosses using the 'drop tong' scarf forge welding technique. Then I demoed how to make a bottle opener with a drift and punched hole method.

After the demos, my gas forge was lit and Scott Teele and I guided the two youngsters in making simple hooks with tapering, scrolling, bending and twists.

Doug Rogerson fired up my coal forge and worked on perfecting making square corners with flat bar (pictured at left), and Trez made a troll cross.

When we all finished up our pieces, we stopped for a potluck lunch and for some great catch-up chat.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

SW Region Meeting, Jan. 28

The SW meeting will be on Saturday, Jan. 28th, starting at 10 am, at the blacksmith forge at the Pinellas Pioneer Settlement in Saint Petersburg. FABA member Jay Dugan from Ram Forge will be our host.

Address:

3018-3026 31st St S

Saint Petersburg, FL 33712

Jay can be contacted at 727-480-5611.

Once the holidays are out of the way, we will come up with a cool demo for the meeting. But contact me if there is a technique or Journeyman skill you would like to see demoed.

Please bring a food item or drinks for a Pot Luck lunch and an item for Iron in The Hat.

This is my first time visiting the Pioneer Settlement and I'm excited to see what Jay has been working on to show of our craft to the public.

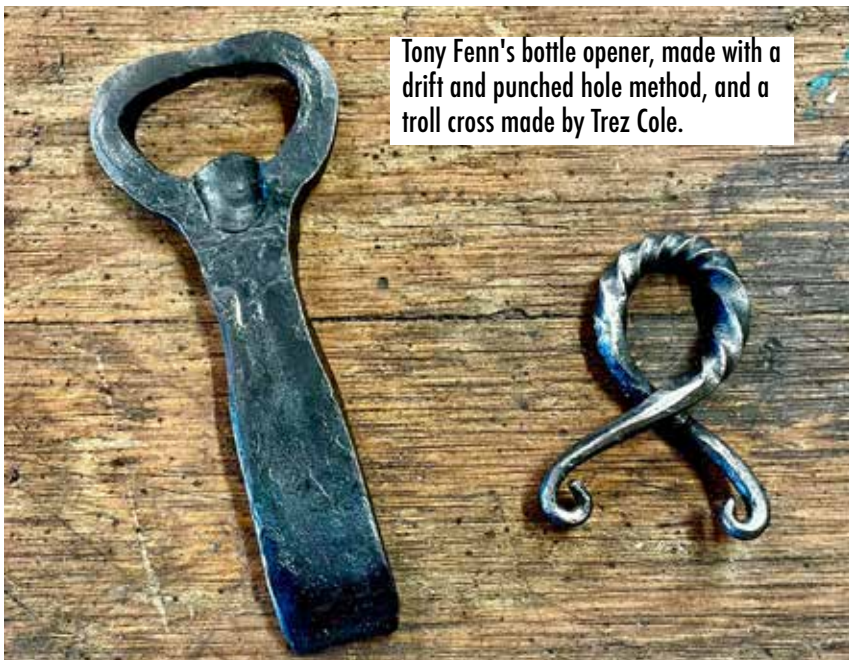
See you in the New Year!

Keep an eye on our FABA SW page for any announcements at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**



Doug Rogerson



Tony Fenn's bottle opener, made with a drift and punched hole method, and a troll cross made by Trez Cole.

Central NE Region Report

First, let's take a moment to recognize Doug Hayes for demonstrating proper fire use at the December meeting. I believe each of us benefitted from the deep dive into fire control he presented. Once again, after nearly 10 years forge side, I learned something new about fire management. There truly exists no limit to skills imparted within our firetastic craft.

A special thanks to those who contributed food - it remains pivotal to the fellowship of our community and allows us to focus key budget resources on coming horizons. I'd also like to appreciate Dale Goodwin for demonstrating sword making the following weekend at the Settlement's 'Christmas Remembered' event. This is the true purpose of FABA - we thank you, sir. As intimidating as it can be - drawing in public audiences - the connection sparked between demonstrator and guest is something extraordinary. I believe I can speak for many (if not all) in stating this: blacksmithing has changed my life forever, and for the better. I live for that connection, and simply can't wait to share it with everyone open to learning more.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

Central NE Meeting, Jan. 7

Around 9 AM on January 7th, 2023, we will hold our next meeting at the [Barberville Pioneer Art Settlement](#), 1776 Lightfoot Lane, Barberville, FL 32105.

Blacksmith Timmy Boyle will demonstrate how to take an ordinary farrier's rasp and turn it into a functional camp knife.

One of my favorite elements about our craft is the sheer practicality. By applying best practices in blacksmithing, a useless rasp will transform into a brand new tool...completely repurposed to its original glory. Rasp knives such as this one are highly durable and can serve a renewed long life in the hands of a camper.

You may be asking yourself what makes them so notable. Well, imagine this: in the wild, you are limited in your on-hand tools. You may need to chop up a bit of wood into kindling; you may need to cut up your food. A transformed rasp knife can do all of that. How many average kitchen knives perform at that level of impact and versatility?

I invite you to join us at the January meeting to learn about the smith's conversion process...from a nearly obsolete tool into the camper's multipass. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Learn more on the NE FABA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/www.faba.org.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

Support our FABA business members

DAMASCUS SPONSORS

David Sandlin - Traditions Workshop - Fort Walton Beach, FL

STEEL SPONSORS

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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.

NW Region Meeting, Jan. 14

Our January meeting for the north west region will be held on the 14th, at Mike Bettinger's welding shop. The address is 3340 Garber Road, Tallahassee, FL 32303.

Mike's grilling crew will be cooking chicken for us and we should bring sides and desserts. Daniel Schul will be demonstrating making axes. Don't forget to bring something for the raffle and I hope to see you there.

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**

Far West Region Report

As has become our annual tradition the Far West region held its November meeting and forging competition at Timber Creek Distillery. Activities started early on the 19th with setup of tent, anvils, forges and power hammer. At 10am our hosts from the distillery, Aaron and Cam, presented the challenge - make a candle holder by 3pm. This open ended challenge resulted in a lot of different approaches for our eight competitors.



Our reigning champion, Christopher Mallet, looked to the stars for inspiration and started forging a galactic swirl that would lift a tea light candle above the chaos of two black masses circling the central point of light. But something happened along the way. Mr. Mallet is also our DJ at these events but this time he'd forgot to fully charge his music player and when the music ran out somehow his muse also vanished. The shining star never quite rose from the chaos as he'd planned. The field was open for a new champion to arise.

Jessica was inspired by an aquatic scene; so with some skillful use of the power hammer and some welding help from Regional Coordinator Christopher Sandlin she was able to bring her vision up from the murky depths and into fruition.



Christopher Sandlin, when not using his welder to help other competitors decided to try to make metal origami, turning a piece of sheet steel into a 3D angel after cut and folding it into shape. holding a tea light the angel appears backlit.



Aaron (right) went with an ambitious double split design with the upper split holding the candlestick and the lower one twisting into a symmetrical heart.



New member Trenton stayed with a tried and true pattern of a spiraled candle holder, able to take several sizes, shapes and types of candles (at right).



Regional Reports

This was the first time blacksmithing for Hailey so David took some time to show her how to make a simple wrapped spiral teal light candle holder. She was inspired! Simple was not enough! She did not enter her learning piece, instead she made a second one. This time pulling the spiral out so it could be suspended as it wrapped around to hold a taper candle. Great idea! Very innovative.



David also took time to talk to two prospective members, demonstrating and then coaching them on how to make nails. The Father and son have since elected to join FABA and have promised to become regular attendees to the FAR West events.

It was now late in the day and David was just getting started on his project. Ample use of the power hammer was required to draw 15 inches of 1/4" round taper out from a 1/4"x3"x6" flat bar, then to also flip it over and use the power hammer and hand hammer to shape a large broad leaf with the remaining material.

With only 45 minutes remaining he had just enough time to swing the taper back over the leaf creating a spiral that would hold a candle. That's when a moment of distraction allowed him to burn through the taper! Now what? Forge welding a piece of 1/4" round stock was an option, but Christopher already had the arc welder out to help Jessica and a quick tack weld put David back in business but now with less than 30 minutes to finish the project.

Cam and Aaron called time! Candles were lit and the projects were placed on the table for evaluation. Several projects remained incomplete, and Christopher Mallet would not continue his winning streak.

Surprising everyone, our first time blacksmith, Haley, placed 3rd with her hanging spiral candle holder.

Aaron placed second with his "heart and hands" candle holder. And in spite of trying to be in too many places at one time David Sandlin (with a little help) placed first with his leaf candle holder. All three winners were given some Timber Creek spirits as a prize.

So what will next year bring? Will a dark horse rise up and snatch the laurels? Will Mr. Mallet bring a fully charged juke box and power through to another victory? Will David actually focus on the competition project? We will just have to meet again at Timber Creek Distillery in November 2023 to find out.

Far West Region Meetings

The Far West Region meeting schedule for 2023, so far:

January 28, 9-2 at Traditions Workshop. Far West Regional Coordinator Christopher Sandlin will demonstrate how to make bolt heads for those working on Journeyman.

February 25, 9-2 at Traditions Workshop. The demonstration TBD, but it will support Journeyman standards.

March 25, 9-4 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 the works but not confirmed yet: a meeting at St. Michael's Brewery in Navarre FL, a visit to Baker Block Museum, a spring visit to Timber Creek Distillery (we got invited back early!), and some focus on our regional project for the competition at FABA CON 2023: "Florida flora and fauna."

Treasurer Change

Outgoing Treasurer:

Well folks, I want to thank all of you for your patience with me for the last several years as I slowly worked my way into finally almost having a good grasp on this job. The good news is that I have passed on what I learned from my mistakes to Richard Wright, our new Treasurer, and those lessons, along with Richard's experience in finance and accounting, will mean much smoother sailing as we move forward.

A couple of IMPORTANT reminders:

The FABA official mailing address is changed to:
8156 SW 204th Ct., Dunnellon, FL 34431

We only have a 6 week overlap at the old mail center so please make a note of the new address and let your friends know. Especially those folks among us who are more traditional (read - prefer snail mail to online purchasing or email) - remind them!!

Also remind folks that MEMBERSHIP renewals need to go to our Membership Secretary - John Butler of the Far West region.

FABA c/o John Butler
4112 Bell Lane, Pea Ridge, FL 32571

Hammer on and come see me in St. Augustine as I get the NNE region active in 2023.

— Doug Hayes, North NE Coordinator

Incoming Treasurer:

I'd just like to tell all FABA members that I'm honored to be the new Treasurer for our organization. I appreciate all that Doug Hayes has done to help in the transition (almost finished) and I hope that I can do half as well as he has done in the past few years. I hope everyone will be a little patient with me as I get established in this job. I'm likely to forget something or make a mistake so if that happens, just let me know and I'll straighten it out. I'm happy to hear suggestions or new ideas and discuss anything with FABA members. I'll try to respond very fast to phone calls or email messages, or of course Facebook works too.

— Richard Wright, FABA Treasurer

2023 Southern Blacksmith Association Conference



Happy 2023! Hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year Celebration. The 2023 Southern Blacksmith Association Conference is coming together nicely with two great demonstrators, Matt Jenkins, and Liam Hoffman slated to demonstrate May 18 through May 20, 2023 in Madison, Ga. We will be having each of the seven chapters putting on a three hour demonstration of their choice, Green Coal classes for aspiring blacksmiths or those needing to just pick up a hammer again after a hiatus. Family classes will offer up an alternative to blacksmithing for those attending who do not wish to pound hot steel. We will also have Big Blu onsite which will be bringing a press for use during demonstrations and also for sale. A Meet and Greet on Thursday, a Seafood banquet preceding the Auction on Friday. Forging contest, Iron in the Hat, are other events scheduled as well as a memorial to honor the Blacksmiths we have lost over the last four years. We will have our website up, sbaconference.org, in the very near future where you can find out more information. You will also be able to register for the conference, sign up for classes, pre-order T-shirts, and other conference items online. Our hotel will be the Quality Inn again. Tailgate sales will be plentiful with items to expand your tool boxes and shops. Mark your calendars and plan on enjoying a great weekend of blacksmithing demonstrations, and other activities. See you there!

— Mark Stone, FABA Past President

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Doug Hayes, Treasurer
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St. Augustine, FL 32086



January 2023

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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 _____

John Butler

FAMILY MEMBERS _____

4112 Bell Lane

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