

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

FABA leadership change approaches

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

I need your help.

Although I have yet to assume my duties as your new president, I am looking forward and considering my responsibilities for this stewardship.

One of the very first things I have to accomplish is to submit a budget to the board for consideration.

Our sources of income are fairly standard: Membership, Iron in the Hat during meetings, donations, sales, grants and, most of all, the annual conference. Many of our expenses are also set, for example: bank/CPA charges, publication of the Clinker Breaker, Square Point of Sale fees, Web site support, insurance, trailer/equipment maintenance and (the big one) our annual conference. Additionally, for the past two years, we have held off on our scholarship program, nor have we funded our "Regionally Hosted Statewide Meetings."



David Sandlin

Here is how I need your help:

Send me an email, text, or phone call and let me know if you have any specific ideas (either income or expense) that I need to work into the budget for 2022. If your idea involves the annual conference, you should include Erin Harlow with the recommendation, but if you don't, I will forward the information on to her as well.

Thank you for your time. I will use the next issue of the Clinker Breaker to better introduce myself and cast a vision for where this great organization is going forward for the next few years. Carry the torch – pass the flame.

— David Sandlin, President Elect
David@TraditionsWorkshop.com, 850-974-1548



INTERIM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This issue of the Clinker Breaker comes right before Thanksgiving, and I cannot think of a more appropriate time to express Gratitude to each and every one of You! Not just to those of you who were able to join us for this past Conference, but all who continue to support FABA and our mission in a myriad of ways.



Lisa Anne Conner

Thank you for your membership, your fellowship, your thoughtful emails/texts/phone calls.

Thank you for visiting our FABA website, our various online groups, and our Virtual Gatherings and classes and demos — and thanks for chiming in!

Thank you for coming in person to meetings; thank you for hosting said gatherings!

Thank you for donating your expertise, your time and energy, your "extra" supplies, your creative spark!

Enjoy the cooler, dryer weather — but, please, remember to Hydrate!

— Lisa Anne Conner,
Interim President

Calendar of Events

The calendar includes events of interest to the blacksmithing community. The regions have no boundaries – everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can.

We hold regular meetings in each region on the following Saturdays of each month: NE-1st, NW-2nd, SE-3rd, Far West and SW-4th. The actual dates vary, so check the schedule noted in the regional reports.

Our meetings are informal gatherings around the forge. Prospective members are always welcome. Come for all or any part of a meeting, bring your tools or just watch.

Most meetings run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and you'll want to bring a bag lunch if not otherwise noted. If you have any questions about meetings or events, please contact the Regional Coordinators:

Central Northeast Region	Heinrich Hole	386-848-6982	heinrich.faba@gmail.com
North Northeast Region	vacant	for questions, please email	djhayes29@hotmail.com
Northwest Region	John Pfund	850-528-3280	johnwpfund@aol.com
Southeast Region	Peter Hill	651-635-6022	blazebldes561@gmail.com
Southwest Region	Antony Fenn	617-320-4781	antony.fenn@gmail.com
Far West Region	Dave Sandlin	850-974-1548	david@traditionsworkshop.com

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA)

is a not-for-profit organization chartered with the State of Florida and 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, <http://www.blacksmithing.org>, our Facebook Page or provided at meetings or demonstrations.

Contributions to FABA are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. FABA publishes the Florida Clinker Breaker monthly and FABA membership includes a subscription. We solicit correspondence and unpaid articles on any subjects related to FABA's purposes. Send to editor@blacksmithing.org. Materials submitted must be your own work, and citations of others must be clearly identified. By submitting materials, you are allowing FABA to edit, print and post them to FABA's website. ABANA Chapter newsletters may reprint non-copyrighted material, if it is credited to the author and this newsletter. You need the publisher's permission to reprint copyrighted material unless otherwise noted.



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SW Region Report

We met at the Crowley Museum blacksmith forge at the end of October. Trez Cole and Tony Fenn demo'ed making different forms of dragon's heads. At the meeting we decided in the future to set aside time at each monthly SW meeting to let members demonstrate skills from their FABA Journeyman Booklet, and then have Francis Trez Cole sign off on each successfully demo'ed skill. Thank you to all members who attended! — **Trez Cole, SW Region Trustee**



SW Region Meeting, Dec. 4

There was no SW meeting in November because of Thanksgiving, but we will have a meeting on Saturday, Dec. 4, at Crowley Museum and Nature Center.

We are dedicating this meeting to Journeyman activities. If you wish to start your journey to FABA certification, then please come prepared to demonstrate your skills and bring any tools, materials or jigs you may need.

Bring your FABA Journeyman Booklet, or we can provide one, and then Francis Trez Cole will sign off on each successfully demoed skill.

Note this is not a teaching day, but experienced blacksmiths will be available to discuss and advise on how you can perfect your skills.

Members from other regions are

always welcome.

If you are going to attend and are going to demo, please let me know before the end of November. Contact me via email at antony.fenn@gmail.com or through Facebook Messenger. This is essential so we can make sure to prepare to provide sufficient forges, etc., to support you.

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

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

Please check the FABA SW page for news and updates at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674.

Looking forward to a great meeting in December!

— **Tony Fenn,**
SW Region Coordinator

Crowley Museum and Nature Center

<https://crowleyfl.org>

16405 Myakka Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

Telephone : (941) 322-1000

DIRECTIONS: I-75 from the south or west

Take exit #210 Fruitville Road and drive EAST 10 miles to the dead end. Turn RIGHT on Myakka Road. Go 3 miles, Crowley is on your LEFT shown by a large wooden sign. If you travel over the bridge to the north entrance of Myakka State Park, you missed by a mile :).

DIRECTIONS: Route #70

FROM NORTH OR WEST: Take I-75 to route #70, exit #217B, travel to Verna Road. Turn RIGHT and travel SOUTH for about 6 miles to the Crowley entrance on your left.

EAST: Take Hwy #70 to Verna Road. Turn LEFT. Travel approximately 6 miles to Crowley entrance on your LEFT.

Far West Region Report

Immediately following FABA Con 2021, the membership of the Far West had a small get-together on Oct. 23rd to discuss the happenings at the convention.

Since the challenge for a regional auction project has already been announced, our small team of five spent the majority of our time bantering ideas and suggestions for the type of creature or creatures we will create for next year's conference. Unfortunately, due to other commitments, our meeting ended early without anyone taking advantage of the open forge time.

A new arrival at Traditions Workshop!

The FABA power hammer came home from convention to find a Little Giant "Babe" trip hammer next to Jeff's "perfect" hammer. Our FABA tire hammer couldn't have been more proud (and we shouldn't have him alone with the Perfect in the shop over the weekend). "Babe" takes after his mother's looks but has his father's kick.

We will be publishing updates on Babe as he gets rebuilt over the next year. The first major challenge was to remove the drift pins to release the anvil and die.

— David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator



Far West Meeting Schedule

In November, we will meet once again at [Timber Creek Distillery](#); November 20th, 9am-4pm. Just like last year, we will have a challenge project to be judged by the owners of the Timber

Creek Distillery. This year's challenge will be making a loggerhead, sometimes known as a blacksmith's microwave, it's a tool for making your drink hot. Not sure how Timber Creek will judge this one since any hot



A couple of Loggerheads to draw inspiration from.

piece of metal could do the job, but it will probably need to look good enough that you'd be willing to put it in a tankard that you intend to imbibe from. The power hammer will be available for use during this event.

Directions to Timber Creek Distillery:

Plug "[6451 Lake Ella Rd, Crestview, FL 32539](#)" into your GPS and be ready for a drive. Yes, it is at the end of a long dirt road and it is off the power grid. What else do you expect from a distillery in the boondocks of Florida?

When done with your smithing work for the day, try some of their spirits, their stone oven pizza and make use of their axe-throwing range. You might want to bring some of your items for sale as there is likely to be a Christmas market in progress all day.

We don't usually meet in December but be on the lookout for a number of blacksmithing demonstration events throughout the fall and early winter.

The fourth Saturday of January and February will find us back at Traditions Workshop so we will have a place to retreat into if the weather turns bitter on us.

Meeting time as always will be 9am-2pm on the fourth Saturday of the month.

— David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator

NW Region, Dec. 11

Hello everyone and greetings from the Northwest region! Here are a few pictures from our November meeting at Aunt Louise's farm. Only about a dozen people showed up for the meeting, but one was our past president, John Boy Watson. We also had a brand new member show up. Welcome, Jacques!

This weekend was the last one of the six-weekend fall season. We didn't have enough people to have a raffle, but I still cooked burgers and sausages on the forge. It doesn't get much better than that!

Our December meeting will be held at the home of Mary Ellen Anderson on Dec. 11th. The address is [1221 Vista Road, Monticello FL 32344](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1221+Vista+Road,+Monticello,+FL+32344).

The youth group is not going to attend this year, so instead of having a class for them, we're going to ask for demonstrations from our members. Please come prepared to give a demonstration of how to make a Christmas gift-type item. We're also looking for Christmas gift-type items for the Iron in the Hat raffle.

If you made them yourself you can earn a seven ticket or more bounty, based on the complexity of the item. Pictures that make it into the Clinker Breaker will also earn a generous reward.

For our lunch, Kieran is going to cook pork for us at home and bring it for sandwiches. Mary Ellen is going to make baked beans and we'll provide water and iced tea. Please bring sides and desserts.

This is our last regular monthly meeting of the year. If you haven't made it to a meeting lately, I am giving you a personal invitation to come to this one! I hope to see you there. — **John Pfund, NW Coordinator**



Central NE Region, Dec. 4

This month, we are getting an opportunity to watch Kirk Sullens work through the learning process as he tries to make a complex spear that will be used for its intended purpose, starting at 9 a.m. at his shop at [33741 Cardinal Lane, Eustis](https://www.google.com/maps/place/33741+Cardinal+Lane,+Eustis,+FL).

This spear has several forge welds, including one high-carbon piece to be the cutting edge. Let me please explain the significance of this meeting and why you need to be there: Anybody can show you how to make an object they've done many times. However, it takes a lot of guts to show how to learn something, and this one is no simple something.

This month, we have the opportunity to watch someone who doesn't know the words "can't do that" try to learn a new thing. Let me remind you, this is not a wall hanger being made. It is going to be taken out and will be expected to perform reliably in a real life situation. It can NOT fail.

There are many reasons to witness this demonstration. One of the reasons I'll be going is to see how a man performs under that kind of pressure and still produces a fully functional item. Or hey, maybe it won't work and then we'll get to see that same high-level analysis of what happened and how to learn from it anyway and still advance our skills.

Don't be the one that misses out. Also it's the Christmas meeting, so there will be plenty of food for everyone. I'll provide the main meats, and you guys can bring the rest. Just contact me if you need a suggestion or want to coordinate your efforts. Cya soon!!!

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

Check this out to see what the big fuss is about. This is the kind of spear Kirk is going to make. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTSIgtXZkaM&t=31s>

North NE Report

The NNE region is still looking for a regional coordinator, but in spite of that, we have had a little action in the region.

FABA and Iron Osprey Forge have had two Veterans Open House hammer-ins in St. Augustine so far in 2021, and the next one will be January 29th, at [Iron Osprey Forge, 102 Marshall Circle, St. Augustine.](#)

This event is open to all, but with an emphasis on recognizing the service our veterans and active duty military have provided to us.

There will be demonstrations, snacks, lunch and opportunities for folks to hit some hot iron throughout the day. We hope to see you!

— **Doug Hayes, FABA Treasurer**



Brandon Long and Robert Richmond work on tool boxes for the FABA auction.



Ryan Rowe, one of the demonstrators at the Veterans Open House, shows a spike hammer at the event.



Brandon Long and Kirk Sullens demonstrate at the Veterans Open House.





Doug Hayes



FABA's 2021 Conference

FABA Treasurer's Report

Folks, 2021 was a much better year for FABA, and the Conference was a great success with all the hard work Erin Harlow and the volunteers put in.

Our auction brought in more than \$10,000, and the Iron in the Hat more than \$1,000. That plus our conference and class revenues exceeded our expenditures for the conference by several thousand dollars, and that means we have a bit of a nest egg for planning for the 2022 conference.

So thanks to everyone for your support and participation in this year's conference.

MEMBERSHIP

As you all have heard (many times), we have revamped our membership system and that is still progressing. Renewal and expired membership notices have gone out by email. However, several members still have not provided email contact information.

We will also be mailing a series of snail mail notices to folks we have not been able to reach by email. We are pretty sure we have caught all errors in the records, but if you want to make sure, or you know there is a problem, please email treasurer@blacksmithing.org. You can also call Doug at 910-330-7601.

FABA still accepts renewals by checks mailed to FABA, 4255 US-1 South Ste. 18 PMB 329 St. Augustine, FL 32086

But the preferred renewal method is by using the "Membership" link and then the "Join" tab on the FABA website at www.blacksmithing.org.

— Doug Hayes, FABA Treasurer



In Memoriam: Albert "Ray" Coats

Albert "Ray" Coats passed away suddenly, following a fall while hunting, on October 24, 2021.

Ray was born on October 16, 1945, in Monticello, Arkansas. He moved to Tallahassee in 1986 with his wife Barbara.

Ray was an avid outdoorsman and blacksmith. He was an active FABA member for many years, and many of us just loved to look at his artistic abilities. His major work involved bladesmithing.

Ray is remembered for his quick wit, humor, and creativity. Please keep his wife Barbara, along with the family, in your prayers.

— John Boy Watson, FABA Past President

FABA Annual Conference



Conference photos by Ken Burns, Jessica Sandlin and John Hare

FABA Annual Conference



FABA Annual Conference



David Ponsler



The artwork on display at the FABA 2021 Conference included a sculpture by David Ponsler, an octopus by Kirk Sullens, a door knocker and candle holder by Jordan Thomas, and Mike Bettinger's Bronze Floral Mirror Frame, which tied for the People's Choice Award with Peter Hill's "Arkansas Toothpick" knife (not pictured).

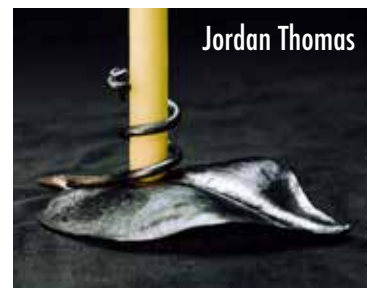
Photos by John Hare of Burrows Forge



Kirk Sullens



Mike Bettinger



Jordan Thomas



Jordan Thomas

Announcing FABAcon2022

The FABA planning committee is excited to announce that the 2022 Florida Artist's Blacksmith Association's annual conference will be held Nov. 4-6, 2022, in Gainesville, FL.

The conference will once again be held at the Best Western Grand Hotel and Conference Center. This year the room rates will be \$115 per night. Hotel rooms will be available to book through the FABA website beginning Jan. 1, 2022.

What can you expect in 2022?

In 2022, the committee plans to add more demonstrators that represents a wider variety of disciplines. We are also exploring many exciting advanced classes, while also maintaining the basic classes to support our beginning smiths.

The committee has already started contacting demonstrators and creating the class schedule. We plan to announce demonstrators early in 2022.

Share Your Art

Now is the time to begin to think about what you might want to display in the gallery, donate to the auction, enter into the exchange/trade item, or enter in the "creature" contest.

Auction

A few auction items have already been donated, and they do not disappoint! Start saving your pennies now because I have a feeling we are going to have some really neat pieces.



Wooden jewelry/keepsake box made and donated by Timmy Boyle.

Exchange/Trade Item

Don't forget to work on your trade item. This year the category is "holder of light." This means you can make anything that holds light as you interpret it. Each person that brings an item gets to put their name in a hat. They then draw a name and whoever they draw that is the piece they get to take home. It is a fun way to get art from another smith.

Don't wait to start your projects! Consider providing an opportunity at a regional meeting for new smiths to work on an item.

Creature Contest

This contest is a new addition to the conference. This is a challenge for each region. The objective is to work together as a team (big or small) and create a "creature." The creatures will be on display in the gallery and judged by an outside panel of judges on Saturday afternoon of the conference.



This anvil stand was created for the Amazon series "Underground Railroad," filmed in Dawsonville, Georgia. This item will be available at the 2022 auction and was donated by Purgatory Ironworks and Trenton Tye.

The winning creature will be announced at the banquet and auction. Creatures can be big or small, but must be created by two or more members from a region.

The winning region will earn bragging rights, the opportunity to take home the "golden" hammer for a year, and the chance to pick the next year's theme. The planning committee would like each region to consider donating their creatures so they can be auctioned on an online venue.

A Huge Thanks

I would like to thank everyone who participated and provided their feedback on the FABAcon2021 survey. We had over 100 people respond. This feedback has been sorted and provided to the planning committee. We appreciate the honest comments and believe they will help make FABAcon2022 even better than last year and a conference filled with education and time with friends.

Keep Up to Date on FABAcon2022

Want to know what is going on for FABAcon2022? Make sure you join the [FABACon2022 Facebook Group](#). This public Facebook group is the perfect place to send people who might be interested in joining FABA or who want to know more information about the conference. We will post regular updates on registration, the schedule, auction items, and more.

Again, I cannot thank all of the volunteers who helped make FABAcon2021 possible. We are all very excited to see everyone at the 2022 conference!

— Erin Harlow, FABA Program Coordinator
fabaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

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December 2021

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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:

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 _____

FABA

Doug Hayes, Treasurer
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