December 2024

CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985



That's a Wrap!
FABACON 2024

FABACON 2024 is finished, and you all, each and every one, made this Conference in Gainesville, FL, the success it was! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

We are still compiling the final totals, and there are still some bills to pay. The final accounting will be presented in either December or January. As noted at the General Meeting on Saturday night, we are currently planning to stay at the Best Western Gateway Grand for next year's 40th Anniversary Conference. Dates should be announced in January; but rest assured that your Conference Team is already working on a special celebration. In the meantime, enjoy this little taste of cooler weather, gather friends and family close for the holidays, and please continue to share your joy in artistry!

— Lisa Anne Conner, Vice President, Program Chair

Regional Events & Information

FABA has eight regions, and regular meetings are held in each region on the following Saturdays of each month: 1st Saturday–Central NE / 2nd Saturday–NW / 3rd Saturday–SE, Greater Orlando & Gainesville / 4th Saturday–Far West & SW.
The NNE meetings will be the 2nd or 3rd Saturdays (depending on the month) in 2024.
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:

Greater Orlando Region	John Hare	802-373-1190	legacy.john.hare@gmail.com
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 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.

FLORIDA ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION#: CH38635 EXPIRATION: May 13, 2025
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FABACON 2024 a success!

Wow! What a conference! FABACON 2024 brought us back to our pre-2020 levels of attendance. We offered 26 blacksmithing classes, and we filled almost every class to capacity. When we include our family classes, 209 people received training in the crafts. We most certainly met the "we teach" objective of our mission statement with this conference; especially when you include the educational opportunities we afforded our membership by bringing in demonstrators Doug Wilson, Jacob Easttom and our own FABA team led by Tony Fenn.



David Sandlin
FABA President



For those who did not make our general membership meeting on Saturday night, we had a couple of exciting announcements. First, we added another journeyman to our ranks: Sarah Walker received her certificate from Southeast Regional Coordinator Peter Hill.

Next, we awarded our PhD honors to John Pfund and Jordan Thomas.



John Pfund is our Northwest Regional Coordinator and has been active teaching and promoting blacksmithing for decades. We have several of his "Susie" forges actively being used in FABA, and his shop-made anvils are always found in the open forges tent every year. It is also worth mentioning that John has run our "Iron in the Hat" event at conference for as long as I can remember.

Jordon Thomas is now the youngest FABA member to receive our prestigious PhD award. Jordan is a very strong craftsman and most notably, over the past 5 years, he has developed our conference training program and found instructors for our classes. The award is well-deserved for both of these men.

Finally, we announced that we will again return to the Best Western Gateway Grand for our 2025 conference, with a date to be determined by the football schedule. Expect a date announcement in January. Additionally, we are negotiating for Best Western to make more rooms available at our conference rate, and we are exploring options that will allow us to expand seating for the banquet dinner and auction. The 2025 conference will be the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association's Ruby Anniversary (40 years in the business of Teaching and Preserving the noble craft of blacksmithing); expect our conference to be themed to celebrate and acknowledge this momentous event.

The gift exchange this year had 8 participants with some unusual interpretations for projects that met the theme of "something with teeth." It is fascinating to see how, with a simple prompt, our community can interpret a concept into reality. Sami Hayes, I loved your "Hack Jaw" (on far right).



The top honors and bragging rights for best regional project, in a very tight race that was ultimately determined by the number of participants on each team, went to the Central Northeast region for their interpretation of two classic Anglo-Saxon myths: the sword in the stone and Robin Hood.

If you want to get into the fun for next year, the gift exchange project will be "something that opens" and the regional project competition is "skyline."

In closing, I cannot thank the conference crew enough for putting together such an excellent event. Lisa Anne led a great effort, but none of it would have happened without all the volunteers.

In proof of the saying that "many hands make light work," the entire field was set up and ready to go before 5 pm Thursday. In similar fashion, the trailers were packed and leaving Best Western before 4 pm Sunday. In between, the hundreds of details that kept the event running smoothly were handled in such a way that no one noticed – this may sound funny but that is a huge compliment!

To run an event of our scale with 250+ people coming in from all over the state/country without a hiccup speaks volumes to the professional nature of our team. A lot of pre-planning and a concerted effort in execution made for an event that ran so smooth that no one was tracking me down to complain. Thank you, team!

Hope and pray your anvil rings true throughout the coming year. See you all in 2025!

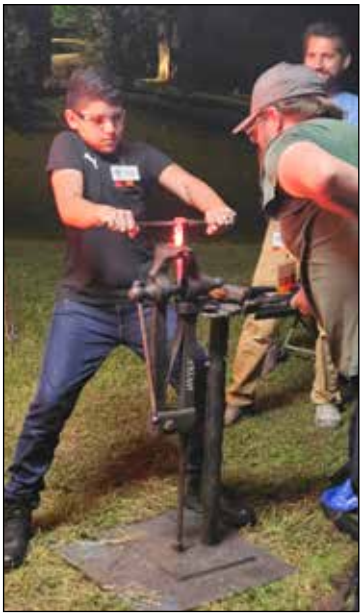
— David Sandlin, President

Scenes from FABACON 2024















FABA CON 2024





















FABA CON 2024

























FABA CON 2024













FABA CON 2024























SW Region Meeting, Dec. 7



Let's get back to having Southwest meetings!

It seems like whichever way we turn something gets in the way of our regular time — hurricanes, the FABA Conference, moving my workshop, then there is Thanksgiving and Christmas.

So I'm calling a meeting on Saturday December 7th at 10 am at my NEW shop!

Usually we would make some kind of Christmas trinkets, but I'm sure your mothers have enough of your S hooks and twirly things with marbles in them. We had a group project in mind for the conference and nature threw us a couple of curve balls. I want us to work on that project, as there will be a lot of learning and we had some collaboration in mind. Let's make this project something the Southwest will be proud of.



See the pictures of the project with this post. Francis Trez Cole came up with the design. Wade Chappell has already started on a stained glass piece for the middle, and Jan Much has made damascus billets for the collars. I have already started the design for the scroll pieces, as you can see from the pictures. So let's have all hands on hammers and get it hot and hit it hard!



Bring something for Iron in the Hat, and something for a potluck lunch. As usual, safety first, so glasses and appropriate clothes and shoes are a must.

See you at my shop on Dec. 7th at:
SAWYER BUSINESS PARK, UNIT 213
4023 Sawyer Road, Sarasota, FL 34233



Please check our FABA SW Facebook page for more info at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674, or contact antony.fenn@gmail.com. Thank you!

— Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator

Far West Report

The Far West was scheduled to hold its annual forging competition at Timber Creek Distillery in Crestview, FL, on Saturday, Nov. 23.

Check your January Clinker Breaker to see who won the axe-making competition!

Far West Schedule

In December, the Far West stands down for Christmas.

The first meeting of 2025 will be held at Traditions Workshop (418 Green Acres Road, Fort Walton Beach, FL) starting January 25 at 9 am. Christopher Sandlin will demonstrate the 4 types of tapers expected in the ABANA National Curriculum.

The February meeting will also be held at Traditions Workshop on the 22nd, again starting at 9am. We will be featuring Craig Hines demonstrating the ABANA National Curriculum Level I gate latch.

The March 22nd meeting will at John Butler's farm, 4112 Bell Lane, Milton FL 32571. Start time will be 9am for setup and 9:30 for our annual fund-raising class: crafting a Viking era utility knife. This class session is open to the public. The cost is $120/person with a maximum of 12 people. Lunch is included and will be provided by Sonny's BBQ.

Even if you are not taking the class, FABA members are encouraged to attend to act as safety observers and coaches. All profits will go to FABA.

The location of our April 26th membership drive is still to be determined, as are our meetings for May 24th and June 28th. Expect us to cover the FABA journeyman standards as the year progresses.

— David Sandlin, FABA President

SE Region Meeting

The SE Region meets every third Saturday of the month at The Farm, 1566 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL. The Farm is located off Military Trail; just turn at the pole painted red, white and blue, and follow your GPS or Google maps. It should get you there!

Get more info on the FABA SE Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/603288803747002

— Gary Becker, FABA member

NW Region Meeting, Dec. 14

The December meeting for the Northwest Region will be held on Dec 14th at the residence of Marcia and Craig Hines. The address is 6340 Maddox Road Ochlocknee, GA. 31773.

This is our Christmas meeting so we're going to have Christmas gift and decoration themed blacksmithing and Christmas dinner type meal for lunch. If you have any favorite gift or decoration projects or items, please bring them to show and tell, demonstrate or donate, as you prefer.

I'm going to make sure we have a turkey for the main dish, and we should bring sides and desserts to go along with it. Anything handmade by you and donated to the raffle gets you free tickets and might turn out to be a kind gift exchange.

I'm hoping for some cooler weather for the meeting and I hope to see you there!

— John Pfund, NW Coordinator

Greater Orlando Meeting Schedule

Greater Orlando meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at UnderGround Metal Works in Maitland, FL.

For more information and to confirm meetings, especailly during the holiday season, contact John Hare at 802-373-1190 or legacy.john.hare@gmail.com.

— John Hare, Orlando Regional Coordinator

Gainesville Region Report

I am looking for folks interested in hosting meetings for the Gainesville Region. We'll go back to the 3rd Saturday of the month starting in January 2025. That meeting will be held at the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire! So much fun :)

I am also interested in hearing from folks what you would like to see happen at these meetings. Are there particular techniques you want to learn? More Demonstrations, or would you rather there just be Open Forges?

Shoot me an email at crookedpathforge@gmail.com.

— Jordan Borstelmann, Coordinator

Jerry Grice Scholarship applications open

This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Jerry Grice, 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 Jerry Grice 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 December 31, 2024. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final, and the successful applicant will be notified after the vote.

Support our FABA business members

DAMASCUS SPONSORS

David Sandlin - Traditions Workshop - Ft. Walton Beach, FL
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Cameron LaFrance - Micco, FL

Interested in being a FABA sponsor or expanding your sponsor listing? Contact FABA President David Sandlin at President@blacksmithing.org and include your business name, tag line, and contact information.

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association
David Sandlin, President
114 Choctaw Cove
Valparaiso, FL 32580

December 2024

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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 WIX 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

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