

May 2025

# CLINKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association



# BREAKER

Established May 18, 1985

## FANNING THE FLAMES

Art  
Knowledge  
Technique  
Resources  
Education  
Skill



## SOUTHERN BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION

May 15-17, 2025 Madison, Georgia

### SBA Conference

The conference in Madison, Ga., at the Lions Club Fairgrounds is scheduled for May 15 through May 17, 2025.

Jordan Thomas is demonstrating for FABA, joining headliners Mark Ling and Butch Sheely.

Learn more, **pages 3 & 6**

## 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).

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.

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**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](mailto: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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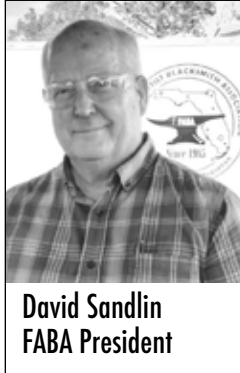
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# See You There: SBA Conference

Looking forward to the Southern Blacksmithing Association convention in May.

As we have before FABA will be bringing a couple of trailers up for this convention at Lion's Club Fair Grounds in Madison, Georgia, Thursday May 15th through Saturday May 17th, 2025. This is the Southeast's largest convention, supported by seven blacksmithing organizations all located in the southeast. This year the event is hosted by the Alabama Forge Counsel and they have secured Mark Ling and Butch Sheely as their primary demonstrators. I should mention that each of the organizations in SBA are also supplying one of their own members as a demonstrator, our representative will be Jordan Thomas.

Mark Ling is a young blacksmith in College Station, Texas, who began blacksmithing at the age of 11 after having the desire to make his own knife. Since then he has had the chance to work with many other more knowledgeable smiths, all who have influenced him to the style and type of forging he now accomplishes. Mark currently forges tools for the blacksmith, bladesmith, and farrier, as well as offering classes; teaching the techniques involved in tool making. Mark is the up-and-coming face of our next era of blacksmiths.



David Sandlin  
FABA President

Butch Sheely started bladesmithing and blacksmithing in 1982, after getting involved in re-enacting. For the next twenty plus years he forged knives, tomahawks and various other items, mostly for re-enactors. He joined the American Bladesmith Society in 2005, and in 2009 was awarded his ABS Journeyman rating from the ABS. His work is distinguished by his use of natural materials for handles, including wood, stag, antler, horn and bone. All this supporting his traditional style of knives, axes and hawks.

All told it sounds like a great line-up and an exciting event. One thing I've always noted at SBA is the large number of vendors and tailgate sales. Be sure to stick around for Saturday, it seems that the tailgaters with big anvils only show up on that day.

Other business: Just a reminder that the regional coordinators all have a budget to spend on local events. Encourage your region to invite your own demonstrators to one of your events; hands on instruction always beats a YouTube video.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon. If not at SBA on May 15-17 then at FABA CON 25 in Gainesville on October 10-12 (same hotel as usual).

Hope and pray your anvil rings true throughout the year.

— **David Sandlin, President**

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## Representing FABA

Jeremy Perkins represented FABA at the Ormond Beach Main Street Celtic Festival and had a good time representing our organization. We encourage other members who are comfortable working in front of a crowd to step forward for these opportunities. Contact me or treasurer Dawn Fortenberry so we can have a ready list of volunteers to contact when the opportunity arises. We will need to know what equipment you have and how far you are willing to travel.

— **David Sandlin, President**





### SW Region Meeting Report

We had a great turn out for our meeting at Heritage Pioneer Village in Largo FL, with some new members attending.

We ran a little competition to forge something from a 12 inch piece of 3/8 square stock, using charcoal forges. Everyone managed to light and tend the charcoal and make some nice pieces. Jay Dugan and I judged and decided all deserved a prize of several raffle tickets for the Iron in the Hat. One of those lucky ticket holders went home with a combination hand crank blower and rivet forge, (thank you for the donation from Scott Teele). Thank you also to Steve Berglund, who sent a lot of great stuff for our raffle. Everyone went away with something useful.

Also thank you to all who contributed to the lunch spread, especially Jay Dugan's wife who made two big pots of black eyed peas and collard greens.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

### SW Region Meeting, April 26

The SW meeting will start at 10 am on Saturday April 26th at my NEW workshop – FishnChips Forge. Please note the new address.

At this meeting we will continue making the pieces for our cross project for the 2025 conference, with the focus, with Trez's direction, on the main cross pieces.

FishnChips Forge is located at Unit 213 Sawyer Business Park, 4023 Sawyer Road, Sarasota. The location is close to the corner of Sawyer Road and Bee Ridge Road.

Please bring an item for the Iron and Hat raffle.

Please also dress appropriately and bring something to share for lunch. Looking forward to another hot, tiring and absolutely fun day!

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

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**



### Far West Meeting Schedule

Our April 26th membership drive will be held at Black Rifle Coffee in Niceville, FL (510 W. John Sims Pkwy). We plan to forge hooks to hang coffee cups between 9 am and 2 pm. If you don't want to forge hooks, then use this as open forge time.

May 24th we will return to Timber Creek. Our goal is to get a jump start on the regional competition project – “skyline.” Members are encouraged to bring projects that they desire to sell. Timber Creek will put them on display for you and act as your sales agent.

For June 28th we are hoping to return to St. Michael's brewery. However, this may change as we are still trying to confirm the date.

On July 26 we are coordinating for a return to John Butler's farm in Milton. If you only attend the Milton meetings and plan to contribute to the regional competition project, this will be your opportunity.

August 23 and September 27 will be back at Traditions Workshop. In the heat of August we hope to be assembling our group project and to be working on our gift exchange projects – “something that opens.”

During the September meeting, we will be pre-packing the trailer in anticipation of FABA CON 25, our 40th anniversary get-together. Hope to see everyone at the Best Western Gateway Grand on Oct. 10-12, 2025.

We are not planning another meeting in October but we do plan to meet for our now annual forging competition held at Timber Creek on November 8th. The competition is early this year because we plan to be off Viking the next two weekends in November, and then there is Thanksgiving and Christmas.

January 24, 2026 and February 28, 2026 meetings will be held at Traditions Workshop – however, probably not at the current location. We hope to have the BIG barn built on Christopher's property by then, so look for a new address as things progress.

For any meeting where we do not have a specific project or objective expect us to cover the FABA journeyman standards or parts of the ABANA National Curriculum as the year progresses.

**— Christopher Sandlin,  
Far West Coordinator**

### North NE Meeting, April 19

Our next meeting will be April 19 at Iron Osprey Forge, 9am-3pm, at 102 Marshall Circle, St Augustine. The first FABA Thursday workshop is April 10.

**— Doug Hayes,  
NNE Region Coordinator**

### Central NE Volunteers Needed

There will be no regional meeting in April. Instead we need volunteers to help demonstrate for the spring frolic at the settlement. Please contact me here or in text if you're interested. Volunteers will be provided a free lunch.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be the first Saturday in May.

**— Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

### Greater Orlando Meeting, April 19

There was no March meeting for the region. The next meeting is on the third Saturday of April! Everyone is welcome!

April 19th, 9 AM  
UnderGround Metal Works  
660 W Kennedy Blvd Suite A  
Orlando, FL 32810 FL.

For more information and to confirm meetings, contact John Hare at 802-373-1190 or [legacy.john.hare@gmail.com](mailto:legacy.john.hare@gmail.com).

**— John Hare, Orlando Regional Coordinator**

### SE Region Meeting, April 19

The SE Region meets every third Saturday of the month at The Farm, 1566 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL.

The next meeting is April 19.

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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/603288803747002)

**— Gary Becker, member**



# SBA Conference 2025

The biennial SBA Conference is quickly approaching. The conference will be held again in Madison, Ga., at the Lions Club Fairgrounds May 15 through May 17, 2025.

The Alabama Forge Council, AFC, is heading up the conference this go-round, and the conference theme is Fanning the Flames.

The main demonstrators are Mark Ling and Butch Sheely. Each of the seven chapters will also have someone from their chapter demonstrating for a three-hour block starting Thursday afternoon and running until noon on Saturday. Dr. Jordan Thomas will be demonstrating for FABA.

A Thursday evening Meet n Greet is planned, plus a Friday evening seafood buffet with the auction to follow.

We will be having another blacksmithing competition to get the adrenalin pumping, with the winner(s) getting bragging rights for two years and a cash prize.

FABA is in charge of gate security again, and we will need volunteers. Let me know if you are interested ([markham62@comcast.net](mailto:markham62@comcast.net)).

For more information, check out the SBA webpage (<https://sbaconference.org/>) where you will find the dem-



onstrators' bios, schedule of events, and registration and accommodation information.

— **Mark Stone, FABA Past President**

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## Gainesville Meeting, May 17

The Gainesville meeting on May 17 will be hosted by Steve Bloom at Ironflower Forge: Getting a Handle on Your Craft - Techniques and Tooling for Guards, Bolsters, Pomels & Mosiac Pins.

Location: 11350 NE 100 Street, Williston FL 32696 -- 3.5 miles south of Archer on CR 241, then 1.7 miles west on the paved county line road (SW 191 Ave on the north side, NE100 Street on the south side). Look for the anvil sign.

Bring your own lunch (and there are lunch places in Archer) - we'll provide the coffee. Kickoff ~ 9:30 AM. Land line 352-528-6508, [sabloom@ironflower.com](mailto:sabloom@ironflower.com)

Need more info on the Gainesville Region? Shoot me an email at [crookedpathforge@gmail.com](mailto:crookedpathforge@gmail.com).

— **Jordan Borstelmann, Coordinator**



### NW Region Meeting Report

The Northwest region had our April meeting at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. The settlement was putting on a two day event, where Friday was "kids day" for the local schools and Saturday was the main event. I volunteered to demonstrate on Friday and we had over 500 students and 100 parents. Even though I was alone, they had the blacksmith shop set up nicely with ropes and benches to keep everyone moving through and viewing safely. I demonstrated making pliers from 1/2" square stock. I have a storyboard of making pliers where I've painted the pieces different colors to make it easier to see and understand. I got 4 halves of a pair of pliers made, but none of them seemed to fit together well enough to complete a pair. I'll take it up again when I'm not in front of a crowd. Both days were ideal weather! Friday was really busy with the school groups, but Saturday seemed to be a very slow day, attendance wise for the settlement. It was a great day for a meeting, cool and clear and bright. I spent most of the day outside of the shop, forgot to put sunscreen on and burned my face, especially my nose, again. Something about a cool day helps me forget! Twenty people signed in and we spent the day improving the shop, taking advantage of the open forges and checking out the settlement when it's full of volunteers manning the settlement buildings, telling stories and giving demonstrations.

We all had lunch at the settlement food service, hamburgers, Hot dogs, pork sandwiches and etc. A easy and comfortable way to have our meal. A big Thank you to everyone at the settlement, for making us welcome and taking care of us. We're still teaching classes there on the first and 3rd Saturdays of most months, we'll stop for the summer after the classes in May and start back up in September. In the meantime, Aunt Louise's Farm is having their spring season. They are open all the weekends in April. We've been hanging out there in our little fenced in area under the big oak trees. Thanks to Ken Weldon for keeping it going while the rest of us were off to Blountstown at the event and meeting.

### NW Region Meeting, May 10

Aunt Louise's spring season ends on the last weekend in April, but we going to have our May meeting there anyway. The address is 8101 Waukeenah Hwy. Monticello, Florida. 32344. May 10th is the second Saturday in May and we'll start our meeting as usual at 9am and stop for the raffle and lunch at noon. I'm going to cook hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill (forge) for lunch. I'll bring buns and some condiments, Billy will bring water and tea. We should



bring sides and desserts to go with the burgers and hotdogs. Don't forget to bring something to donate to the raffle, we didn't have enough at the April meeting to have one. Also since Aunt Louise's isn't going to have any customers, we have plenty of room for tailgate sales. The Madison conference is the following weekend and people might have their trucks already loaded. Bring it out and show us what you taking. For entertainment at the meeting we're going to have a sword making class. We'll have premade blanks ready to heat in the forge and pound out the blades edges. The blanks are free and you get to keep the sword! We're not going to have any sword fighting though, these swords are made for splitting firewood. This is a good opportunity for people who live a little farther away to come and visit. If we find that we like the class, we can bring it to the conference this fall. May 10th, Aunt Louise's Farm. I hope to see you there! John Pfund NWRC I hope to see you there!

— John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator



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# FABA Scholarships

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## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association Veterans Scholarship Fund Application

1. Recipients must be veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces (Navy, Air Force, Army, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force).
  - a. Individuals must be able to provide proof of service/separation (DD 214 or an appropriate ID)
2. Scholarship will reimburse 80% of a blacksmithing class/course(s) registration fee up to \$100 upon completion of the course, whichever is less. (for example, if the course(s) cost \$135, 80% of that is \$108, so the awardee would receive \$100; if the course(s) cost is \$95 then the awardee would receive \$76). Formula for determining award:  
$$\text{Registration fee(s)} \$ \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times 0.80 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{TOTAL (awardee would receive \$100 or less of total course registration costs)}$$
3. The coursework must be considered to be directly related to blacksmithing (not welding/fabrication). The FABA Scholarship Committee (defined in article 12 below) reserves the right to determine which coursework is appropriate during the review process.
4. The course instructor must be someone who regularly provides paid blacksmith instruction – in other words is recognized as a legitimate, accepted teacher. Classes at a recognized blacksmith conference (such as the FABA annual conference, The Southern Blacksmith Association biannual conference, SOFA, etc.) are acceptable and specifically at these events, 2 or more classes in one weekend could be stacked and counted as one ‘course’. So, for three (3) FABA intro courses at \$45 apiece, the total would be \$135; 80% of that would be \$108, so the award would be \$100.
5. Before awardee is reimbursed, he/she must provide some proof of completion (documentation of work produced, email from instructor and receipts from course costs). This scholarship is intended for course registration fees only, and does not cover materials or equipment unless those items are part of the course of instruction (i.e. a hammer making course). Students may apply for up to 2 courses per year, but not more than once per six-month cycle and for no more than 3 courses in total.
6. The student must apply for the scholarship prior to the beginning of class (not retroactive). The committee will meet February 15 and August 15 each year to review applications (every 6 months). Up to three applications will be awarded every six months. Coursework does not have to fall within the cycle the student applies, if the application is submitted prior to the start of the course (for example, the student could plan 1 year ahead). The FABA Scholarship Committee (defined in article 12 below) will make that determination during the application process.
7. In any 6-month cycle, preference will be made for beginner classes, then intermediate skill classes as the primary purpose of this fund is to assist veterans to begin their blacksmithing journey.
8. Applicants must be a FABA member to apply and while taking the class/course.
9. Funds can be applied to the FABA annual conference courses, or to similar classes from other guilds or organizations, within the United States. See article 4, above.
10. If anyone wishes to donate additional funds to this scholarship, they agree to abide by the rules above. In other words, future donors cannot modify or change the administration or award process for this scholarship. Any funds donated specifically to this fund will be considered encumbered for this purpose only.
11. Applicants will complete the application and submit their request via email to (add email contact) or through the electronic form on [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org).
12. The FABA Scholarship Committee is comprised of a three-member panel of FABA members. At least one member of the panel will have military experience (active duty or reserve) and two others will be FABA Board members. The President, Treasurer and Vice-President will appoint the members of the Veterans Scholarship committee. Members will serve a minimum one-year term but may be reappointed multiple times.
13. Awardees will be notified via email and USPS the status of their application approximately two weeks after the committee meets.

**Contact Doug Hayes at [djhayes29@hotmail.com](mailto:djhayes29@hotmail.com) or download an application at [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org)**



# Walt Anderson Scholarship deadline June 30

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 any FABA member who has been in good standing for at least one year qualifies to apply. The \$1,000 award may be divided evenly amongst multiple winners. If a single winner, 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 learned skills during a regular FABA meeting, and to write an article concerning the learning experience, including a “how-to” portion, for publication in the Clinker Breaker within 6 months of completing the class.

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](mailto:jgbutler@sprintmail.com).

Deadline for receipt is June 30, 2025. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final, and the successful applicant(s) will be notified after the vote. The scholarship amount of \$1000 may be split evenly amongst multiple candidates if deemed so by the FABA Board of Directors.

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## Support our FABA business members

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### DAMASCUS SPONSORS

David Sandlin - Traditions Workshop - Ft. Walton Beach, FL  
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Doug Hayes - Iron Osprey Forge - St. Augustine, 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](mailto: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



**May 2025**

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## FABA Officers

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| Treasurer      | Dawn Fortenberry | Treasurer@blacksmithing.org     |
| Secretary      | Tia Kitchen      | Secretary@blacksmithing.org     |
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| Trustee NE     | Ben Thompson     | thompsoncrafted@gmail.com       |
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| Trustee SW     | Trez Cole        | nokomisforge@hotmail.com        |
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| Program Chair  | Lisa Anne Conner | FABAprgramcoordinator@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 WIX by going to [www.blacksmithing.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

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