

June 2025

# CLINKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association



# BREAKER

Established May 18, 1985

## Scenes from the SBA

The Southern Blacksmith Association Conference in Madison, GA, in May was a success! Read more about FABA's contribution, pages 3-4



A closer look at some SBA Gallery items.



Along with a fireplace set that was created by Mark Stone and Chris Cauthen, FABA submitted this Viking era sea chest dubbed "the Toothless Chest" to the SBA Gallery.



Some of the tools and dies that Bradley Schwartz made at SBA. They are used to make positive and negative repeating elements in metalwork.



## 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

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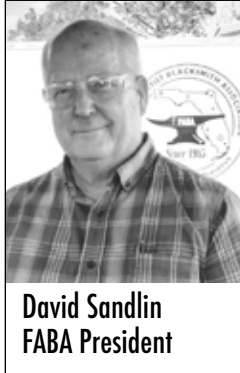
# Don't Leave Money on the Table!

Are you leaving money on the table? Each year FABA sponsors 2 scholarships of \$1,000 each. These scholarships are open to members in good standing. The scholarships can be awarded to a single individual or split between several individuals. The scholarship funds are to be used to further your blacksmith experience (paying for class, transportation, hotel ... expenses as necessary) with the request that you will in-turn bring some of your new found information/experience back to FABA members in the form of an article for the Clinker Breaker and/or an instructional demonstration for your region or even at the conference. Application details are at the end of this and every issue of the Clinker Breaker and online at [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org)

But FABA has even more! Our Veteran's scholarship program will award 80% of your class or event registration fees up to \$100. The awards committee meets in February and August to award up to 3 participants per scholarship. This February, NO ONE applied! Talk about leaving \$\$\$ on the table. You can use these funds to apply for a conference and pay for classes at that conference and both fees will count as one course of instruction. I'd like to see three Veterans awarded scholarships to cover FABACON 2025 registration and classes when the applications are reviewed this August. Again, application details at the end of this Clinker Breaker and online at [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org)

Every regional coordinator sets up demonstrations during their monthly get togethers. That's a free learning opportunity. The regional coordinators also have an education budget of \$600 this year. The funds need to be allocated by July 15th or we will roll the money back to the FABACON program. These funds can be used in your region or combined with other regions to invite a demonstrator/instructor to your regional event as an augmented educational opportunity. Don't let your region leave money on the table.

Need some ideas for demonstrators who might come to your region? While I was at Southern Blacksmith Association Conference this week, I met with several demonstrators from other affiliates that provided great presentations and these men could be persuaded to come further south to demonstrate for one of our regions. Steve Alford of the Alabama Forge Council demonstrated a friction folder with an integrated spring lock. Bradley Schwarz from North Carolina ABANA demonstrated how he creates a die that in turn can be used to forge multiples



David Sandlin  
FABA President

of the same ornamental element. Lance Zeigler of the Alex Bealer Blacksmith Association of Georgia (ABBA) demonstrated crafting several types of animal heads during his session (Note: Horse heads outsell all other animal heads at a ratio of 10 to 1). Rusty Osborne of ABANA demonstrated scrolls, which are part of the ABANA Level II curriculum. He has already told me he is more than willing to travel and can sign off on the ABANA Level I curriculum if you are working toward that goal. (Note: Christopher Sandlin now has a certificate of completion for his ABANA Level I). Finally, our own Jordan Thomas demonstrated crafting a Viking ship candle stand.

Yes, your region can use these funds to invite a smith from one of our own FABA regions, allowing them to make the trek across the state to show your team a new or different technique.

I have looked further afield and there are even more opportunities. The ABANA Grant Program opens every 6 months, the next opportunity is June 1 with an application due date of June 30, 2025. They award Education grants of \$500 and Conference attendance grants of \$250. See their web page at [abana.org/education/grants/](http://abana.org/education/grants/). If you are an ABANA member, why not see if they will pay your next class or conference fee?

John C Campbell does have several grants and scholarships; however, they are usually awarded early in the calendar year. Go to their website at the start of the year because once they close their scholarships for the year there is no application information available on their web page. However, the Folk School also offers a 25% tuition discount and guaranteed seats to teachers, veterans, and young adults 18-25. [www.folkschool.org/programs/scholarships/](http://www.folkschool.org/programs/scholarships/)

North House Folk School offers blacksmith classes and has a needs-based scholarship program available throughout the year. [northhouse.org/courses/scholarships](http://northhouse.org/courses/scholarships)

Interestingly, the Arizona Artist Blacksmith Association does not require membership in the AABA for their scholarship program. I'm sure it helps to be a member but it is not required. They review candidates on a quarterly basis and will award up to \$1000 for a program that you select. For details go to <https://azblacksmiths.org/read-carlock-scholarship/>

The bottom line is this; there are plenty of opportunities to improve your blacksmith skills with hands on learning at little to no cost to your budget; don't leave \$\$\$ sitting on the table.

Hope and pray your anvil rings true throughout the year.

— David Sandlin, President

## Notes and Pictures from SBA

Although we confirmed several times that FABA did not need to bring an extra 20x30 tent, when we arrived at SBA, we were asked on Thursday morning if we had an extra 20x30 tent for the fourth demonstration area. Monday night I'd had a brake failure on my Ram 2500, so I'd light loaded the trailer in anticipation that I might need to use my ½ ton truck to take the FABA trailer to SBA. My mechanic busted knuckles and had my Ram 2500 ready to go on Wednesday morning but we didn't have time to load all the extras that we usually carry back in the trailer when we departed for SBA that day. Then came the question on Thursday morning! Thankfully our treasurer, Dawn Fortenberry, and her husband Jack were leaving Fort Walton Beach on Thursday morning for Dawn's graduation commencement in Virginia on Saturday. After a quick coordination phone call, they were willing to swing by my shop to pick up the tent parts we'd left behind. They arrived in Madison, GA, at 5PM Thursday evening with everything we needed to assemble the 20x30 so it was ready for its first demonstrator on Friday morning. Dawn got a big thank you and a congratulations card from the SBA for completing her Bachelorette degree in computer science and tent rescue.

The SBA forging competition on Friday night had 8 people compete in two heats. FABA was represented very well by Jordan Thomas, Christopher Sandlin and Nathan Nettles.

The participants were given 4 pieces of 5/16" square bar, each 8" long. The goal was to create a chain in 15 minutes with at least 2 of the four pieces connected, and bonus points for every additional link crafted. The links did not need to be forge welded but did need to represent a consistent pattern. The completed pieces were also judge on cleanliness and artistic appearance

Jordan Thomas took 1st place and Christopher Sandlin took 2nd with four links each. Nathan Nettles completed joining three of the four pieces. Great job!



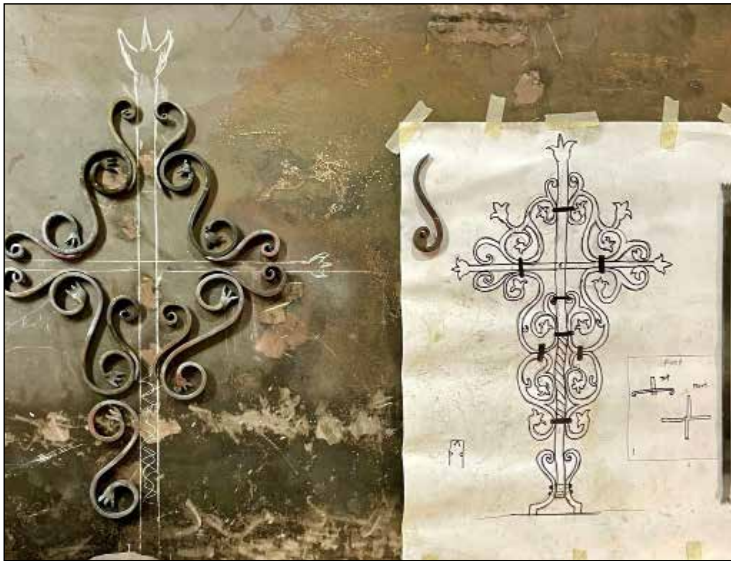
Jordan Thomas, FABA's chapter demonstrator, had three hours to demonstrate anything of his choosing. He chose to do a Viking ship-styled candle holder with traditional joinery and did a great job demoing and forging the piece pictured. Thank you, Jordan, pictured below, for representing FABA very well.



A series of storyboards Lance Zeigler of ABBA used to demonstrate making animal heads.

— David Sandlin and Mark Stone





### SW Region Meeting Report

At our April meeting, we continued making the pieces for our cross project for the 2025 conference. Trez took the lead and demonstrated how to make a slot punch and then a punch to forge a 1 inch square hole in a 1 inch square bar. Then with the help of a couple of sledgehammer swingers, he punched the hole for our main cross pieces. It was definitely a hot and tiring effort.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to lunch.

At the May meeting, we made a few more scrolls and riveted the cross pieces together and forged the ends into the tulip design shape. Trez directed the effort.



### SW Region Meeting

The heat of summer is now upon us and I will be out of town for the June meeting, so 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**

### SE Region Meeting Report

It was a hot day at the farm with 2 coal forges burning. Everyone was busy working on their own projects. One very proud young man forged for the first time.

It's going to be a long hot summer at the farm. 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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/603288803747002)

— **Gary Becker, member**





### North NE Meeting Report

The NNE region had an active day with progress made on the regional project. We were joined by 3 smiths from Georgia: one FABA member, one W. Virginia smith on a work assignment in Brunswick and a third who drove down from Savannah for the day. All three joined in on the project prep and contributed and we shared ideas, works in progress and generally had a good time with both the coal and gas forges running hot. Some of our regular FABA folks rounded out the roster and we also worked on some punches and drifts.

Our new program, the FABA Thursday night open forge idea had several folks stop in and work on items and looks like a nice option for those who can't make weekend meetings.

### North NE Meeting, June 14

Our June meeting will be Saturday, June 14, at Iron Osprey Forge and the FABA Thursday will be the 19th, also at Iron Osprey. Those evening sessions are open to FABA members only and folks can work on FABA related activities or their own projects.

July is still up in the air, both for heat and temperature considerations and upcoming schedule conflicts for Doug. We will have a meeting the second Saturday of August but that evening open forge is to be determined.

— Doug Hayes, NNE Region Coordinator



Matt B. puts an edge on a new blade.



Matt D., down from West Virginia via Georgia, consolidates a bloom of wrought iron.

### Central NE Region Meeting, June 7

**Where:** Pioneer Settlement

**When:** 9:00-4:00 June 7th.

Good morning, fellow Smiths. May's meeting was a great success for our planning stage of the group project. Loads of progress was made and now we're ready to move on with production in June. We will be having a small event here at the settlement that day so I'd love it if we could get a couple people to demonstrate and make a few items for our sales table. The rest of the group will be getting to continue work on the project. Lunch will be provided by myself as usual. Feel free to bring any extras you may want to contribute. Cya there :).

— Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator



### NW Region Meeting Report

Hello everyone and greetings from the Northwest Region! We had our May meeting at Aunt Louise's Farm. Their spring season was already done at the end of April, so we had to whole place to ourselves!

Because we expected rain, we moved the blacksmithing equipment from under the big oak trees to under the big shelter where the guests usually eat their purchases from the concession stand. It never did rain, but it was a great place to have our meeting anyway. We only had 12 signed in, but everyone seemed to enjoy the smaller meeting in a beautiful place.

Several people took me up on the sword making, providing entertainment for the rest of us, who were catching up and talking about plans for the conference in Madison. I had planned on cooking burgers and brats on the forge, but Uncle Bob had some of his delicious pulled pork left over from the spring season that just ended and he gave it to us for free! Thank you Uncle Bob! And everyone at Aunt Louise's Farm, they treat us like family!

Because of the small attendance, we only used half of the pork and are saving the rest in the chest freezer for our next meeting in June.

### NW Region Meeting, June 14

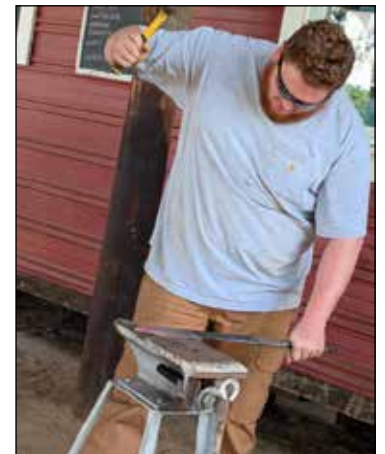
Speaking of, our June meeting will be held on June 14th at the residence of Mark and Shelley Mason in Grand Ridge. The address is 2181 El Bethel Church Rd. Grand Ridge, Florida 32442. This is the first time we are having a meeting here and I've never been there, but Mark sent me some pictures of his shop and it looks like it's going to be great. Mark's phone number is 912-614-2973 in case anyone wants to contact him about the meeting.

Besides the pork sandwiches, we're going to cook hamburgers and brats on the grill. We should bring sides and desserts to go along with them.

For the blacksmithing entertainment, I'm asking for volunteers to make something from railroad spikes or horse shoes. Mark says he has a bucket of each to use. The possibilities are endless!

Please try to bring something made from railroad spikes or horse shoes to show off and/or put in the raffle. We've skipped having the raffle at the last two meetings, so we should have a lot of good stuff in this one. It's exciting to have a meeting at a new place and I expect a bigger attendance, maybe 20 or 30 people. I hope to see you there!

— John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator



### Far West Meeting Report

FABA Far West met at Black Rifle Coffee in Niceville, FL. Although only six members attended, we had quite a few visitors from the coffee shop that was our host. We are hopeful that those visitors will someday become members now that they know there is a chapter of Blacksmiths in the local area. Since our host was a coffee shop, we thought it was appropriate that we should make coffee scoops during this event. We gave them the coffee scoop shown below.



### Far West Meeting Schedule

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. Cam and Aaron have already laid down the challenge for the November 8 meeting: We are to make a pizza cutter of any shape, size or style in the five hours that we will be given during the competition. Members are encouraged to bring their own steel, but there will be a generous amount of materials available to work from.

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**

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## Support our FABA business members

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### DAMASCUS SPONSORS

David Sandlin - Traditions Workshop - Ft. Walton Beach, FL  
Jake Pytlik - Warehouse Services Inc. - Naples, FL  
Doug Hayes - Iron Osprey Forge - St. Augustine, FL  
Benchmark Abrasives - Flagstaff, AZ

### STEEL SPONSORS

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John Elliot - Blacksmith Supply - Chester, VA  
Michael Oliver - Turn and Burn Metalworks - Lakeland, FL  
Mission San Luis - Tallahassee, 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  
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.



# 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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## In Memoriam: Tim Ryan, auctioneer and blacksmith

Col. Tim Ryan, of North Carolina, for many years was the auctioneer for FABA, AFC, Ocmulgee Guild, the American Bladesmith Society, and many other groups. He was able to create a storyline using what was available at the auction; and he had a unique ability to invigorate the crowd and raise the most money possible. He often bought auction items himself using the stipend he was paid to conduct the auction. He loved cigars and anvil shooting. He fired the anvil shot that forever changed the relationship between the chapters and ABANA. FABA bestowed an honorary doctorate of Metal Arts upon him.

Tim Ryan was also a long-time instructor and board member, staff member, donor and auctioneer at the John C. Campbell Folk School. He proved to be an excellent friend to many blacksmiths in the country, me included. It was an honor to know him. — **John Butler, Tallahassee**

Tim tells his story in a YouTube profile at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2KXURVAbiw>



# The point of the scholarship: Sword Reflections

By Jordan Borstelmann, Crooked Path Forge

In April of 2025, I had the rare opportunity to attend one of Peter Johnsson's Sword Reflections classes, in New Hampshire. If you don't know who Peter is, here is a bit about him from his website: Peter Johnson is a world renowned swordsmith and one of the most influential artists working in this medium today. Peter's work is informed by his profound knowledge of the ancient craft of sword making. This knowledge was wrought from decades of

extensive research and documentation of artifacts from the bronze age to the early renaissance in museums across Europe and the United States. The origins of many of the recurring themes present in his work today rise from this passion for history and archeology.



Learning swordsmithing from Peter is like learning hockey from Wayne Gretzky.

We had a choice of three different Falchions to choose from. I chose the Elmslie Type 1 falchion.



Students had to arrive at the class with a sword blank already forged and ground to Peter's Specifications. On the first day of class we went over the heattreating of the sword. While the swords were going through the heat treating regime, Peter gave us a powerpoint presentation showing us an overview of his work, the discoveries he has made in the way that ancient smiths designed their blades, and on the philosophy of the sword itself. This talk set the stage for the days ahead. Not only were we shown the nuts and bolts techniques on how to create a well balanced blade, just as much emphasis was put on the subtler aspects. A sword gives Power onto those who wield it. It must be flexible, yet also hard and rigid. Its flowing curves and clean lines leave straight, deep cuts. A sword is dynamic, it vibrates, it can fight the motion of the hand, it is alive. As a swordsmith, we bring this piece of steel to life. We also are the ones that bestow its Power onto the folk we have made it for. The sword is a reflection of us. These considerations are just as important as the angle of the bevel, or the temperature and time of the temper.



The next two days were spent grinding, grinding, and more grinding. I had to lose close to 3lbs of weight from my sword. Although it went through the quenching and tempering without picking up a warp, the act of grinding the blade can introduce them. These two days were all about training our eyes, and our hands to identify high spots in the grind that needed to be worked out. This basically all has to be done by hand and eye. The blade is never square at any point. There is a distal taper from base to tip,

making it difficult to use a surface grinder. The taper of the bevel from spine to edge is at a different angle at the base of the blade, than it is at its midpoint where the cutting power is at its best. Getting warps out of our swords was made incredibly easy and stress free by the use of the molten salt bath that we also used for tempering, and by the bending jig set up close to it.

Days 4 and five were spent designing and forging the guards and pommels. This part is particularly fascinating as we learned how many Medieval smiths went about this process. By breaking down the blades into proportional circles using a compass and straightedge, we were able to use those circles as building blocks to layout the rest of the blade. It is the same techniques used by architects to design



cathedrals and castles, and by bookbinders to design the layouts of pages. These techniques go as far back as the Roman and Greek architects of the Ancient World. This was huge! Following these design parameters gives you a playground to play in. It helps to organize the mind, and it keeps the design of the blade "Harmonious" as Peter would like to say.

Using the word harmonious, or harmony is not an accident. Swords vibrate when struck, each sword producing its own unique vibration. It's a waveform that can theoretically be made into a musical note. It is a waveform that we learned to manipulate, placing the stationary nodes of the wave into the palm of the hand, and into the area of the sword with the most cutting power. This is key to having a lively and responsive blade.

The remaining days were mostly filled with demonstrations. Different ways to forge and shape a pommel, including forge welding one together from two halves. We also took this time to put the final hand sand and finish on the metal portions of the sword. I gave my pommel and guard a "brut de forger" finish, which ended up making the pommel look like the moon! I was very pleased with that, and already have plans now of forging out a series of swords based on the phases of the moon.

The last day was a half-day, we spent it discussing grips, which are surprisingly complex. Usually made from a



wood core, with a cord underlayer and leather over top. It's a composite construction that ensures the grip material can flex and give along with the flex and give of the blade. We went over types of wood, different thicknesses of cord, different types of leather.

Every step of constructing this sword there was an almost overwhelming level of nuance. Each step, a rabbit hole you could spend your life falling through.

This experience has changed the way I look at swords, and the way I approach blacksmithing in general. I cannot wait to share more of this knowledge with you. I will be giving a more in depth presentation at the FABA Conference this year. I will also be offering a hands-on experience at my shop the week before the Conference, for those looking to delve deeper.

I have to thank FABA profusely for awarding me the scholarship that helped to pay for this workshop. I also want to thank Peter Johnsson for teaching, Zack Jonas for allowing us use of his shop and home, and to my wife, Kathy, who strongly supports me on this journey.



# FABA Veterans Scholarship Fund Application

The FABA Veterans' Scholarship Fund was established to help veterans to experience the world of blacksmithing. The intent is to assist veterans to get started in the craft with an experienced teacher to provide a guiding hand at the start of the journey, maximizing their learning experience. As such, it is not intended for those with intermediate or advanced skills to hone their craft – rather to assist beginners to learn the basics or to advance to some intermediate skills. First priority will be given to first-time students or early beginner level classes, and then to intermediate level courses.

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 current service or honorable discharge with active duty ID or DD214.
2. Scholarship will reimburse 80% of a blacksmithing class/course(s) registration fee up to \$100 upon completion of the course, whichever is less. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 6-month cycle and for no more than 3 courses in total.
5. 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 will make that determination during the application process.
6. 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. Applicants must be a FABA member to apply and while taking the class/course. Funds can be applied to the FABA annual conference courses, or to similar classes from other guilds or organizations, within the United States.
7. 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.
8. Applicants must complete the application and submit their request via email to [President@blacksmithing.org](mailto:President@blacksmithing.org) or through the electronic form on [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org).

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.

Awardees will be notified via email and USPS the status of their application approximately two weeks after the committee meets.

**Get more information at [www.blacksmithing.org/scholarships](http://www.blacksmithing.org/scholarships)**



# THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President  
114 Choctaw Cove  
Valparaiso, FL 32580



NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Tallahassee, FL  
PERMIT 329

**June 2025**

## FABA Officers

President	David Sandlin	President@blacksmithing.org
Vice President	Lisa Anne Conner	Vicepres@blacksmithing.org
Treasurer	Dawn Fortenberry	Treasurer@blacksmithing.org
Secretary	Tia Kitchen	Secretary@blacksmithing.org
Past President	Mark Stone	markham62@comcast.net
Trustee NW	Craig Hines	whisperingpinesforge@gmail.com
Trustee NE	Ben Thompson	thompsoncrafted@gmail.com
Trustee SE	Steve Silvers	SEtrustee@blacksmithing.org
Trustee SW	Trez Cole	nokomisforge@hotmail.com
Editor	Jennifer Jhon	Editor@blacksmithing.org
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 \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ I want B&W Newsletter by mail (quarterly) \_\_\_\_\_ OR Color Newsletter by Email \_\_\_\_\_