

August 2023

CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association



Established May 18, 1985



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FABA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 20-22, Gainesville, Florida

[BOOK HOTEL](#)

96	03	28	28
Days	Hours	Mins	Secs



FABA CON 2023 is Live!

Learn more about registration, page 3

More event information, page 8

Quick Links

A quick guide to all you need to know for this year's FABA Annual Conference!

[Book Hotel](#)

[Register for conference](#)

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[Schedule \(coming soon\)](#)

Don't forget to VOTE!

FABA Elections for 2023 are online at www.blacksmithing.org/elections

Regional Events & Information

FABA has eight regions, and regular meetings are held in each region on the following Saturdays of each month:
 1st Saturday—NE / 2nd Saturday—NW / 3rd Saturday—SE, Greater Orlando & Gainesville / 4th Saturday—Far West & SW.
 The NNE meetings will be the 2nd or 3rd Saturdays (depending on the month) in 2023.

The regions have no boundaries – everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can!

The dates may vary, so check the schedule noted in the Regional Reports or on Facebook, or contact the Regional Coordinator.

Our meetings are informal gatherings around the forge. Prospective members are always welcome. Come for all or any part of a meeting, bring your tools or just watch. Most meetings run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and you'll want to bring a bag lunch if not otherwise noted. If you have any questions about events, please check the region's Facebook page or contact the Regional Coordinators:

Greater Orlando Region	John Hare		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	johnwpfung@aol.com
Southeast Region	Peter Hill	651-635-6022	blazeblades561@gmail.com
Southwest Region	Antony Fenn	617-320-4781	antony.fenn@gmail.com
Far West Region	Christopher Sandlin	850-865-9596	Chris@traditionsworkshop.com

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA)

is a nonprofit organization chartered with the state of Florida that is dedicated to promoting and expanding the horizons of architectural, artistic and practical blacksmithing while preserving the rich heritage of this craft.

FABA Officers and members assume no responsibility or liability for injuries or damage caused as a result of the use of any information, materials, design, techniques, etc., contained in this newsletter; our website, www.blacksmithing.org; our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/FloridaBlacksmiths; any of our regional Facebook pages; or provided at meetings or demonstrations.

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FLORIDA ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION#: CH38635 EXPIRATION: May 13, 2024
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FABA CON 2023 is Live!

By the time you read this our FABA CON 2023 registration pages will be open for business. Thanks to Jordan Thomas, all our basic/introduction classes have been scheduled with instructors and even helpers.

We also have a number of (but not all) our specialty classes scheduled. Leroy Price is offering a very interesting knife class that will focus on filing, engraving, heat treating and assembly.

James Worm will be offering a torch safety class. There will be seminars on the technical side of heat treating, and Craig Hines is offering some lessons learned on the road to ABANA National Curriculum Level I.

Craig, Chris Cauthen and John Pfund all visited the Far West Region in June, and Craig gave us a taste of what to expect during his Level I seminar – it will be well worth your time to attend.

Look for additional learning opportunities as we get closer to conference; but for now, you can register to enjoy our world class demonstrators, sign up for many of our classes, and there is a link to the hotel for the FABA group discount. By the way, when making hotel reservations be sure to check the dates as the default for our discount covers Wednesday through Monday.

I also want to point out that in the process of building the FABA CON website, we also updated our basic FABA website. Adding the integrated registration tools for FABA CON was no small feat. A great big “thank you” goes to our webmaster – Jessica Sandlin – who has worked many sleepless nights and more than a few weekends to bring us this new feature-laden website, www.blacksmithing.org.

Some of the many Easter eggs that are part of this transition include the ability to conduct membership management (this answers the question “When are my dues due?”) and to send bulk e-mails to our membership. (Read that as much improved electronic and physical distribution of the Clunker Breaker!)

There will also be a members’ only side to the website, plus we will finally have enough storage space to repost all the past issues of the Clunker Breaker.

Keep checking back on our FABA CON pages for updates. But don’t wait too long, the price for all types of registration will go up by \$5 on October 1st.



David Sandlin
FABA President



WE NEED YOU!

Please note it is time for elections; and our slate of officers has some significant blanks!

We need a new treasurer and a program chair. Please volunteer. Douglas Hayes has worked diligently as our treasurer for the last four years, he has set us up with lots of professional help (accountant, CPA, tax advisor ...) so the incoming treasurer is now much more of a manager instead of a worker-bee. Erin has built a great FABA CON execution checklist and has a team of people to organize and run our annual convention. However, she has two small children and needs a break from babysitting us.

Many hands make light work. Please consider joining the team! Go to www.blacksmithing.org/elections today!

5 TIPS ON KEEPING COOL IN THE FORGE

(lovingly plagiarized from someone else’s newsletter)

- Stay hydrated - Cold water is your friend.
- Wet cloth around the neck - dunk in ice water or keep in the fridge. Note: Wet gloves can lead to steam burns, so be sure to keep them dry.
- Ensure proper ventilation - Generate a breeze if you can (open a window, door, use a fan, etc.)
- Take breaks - Work on keeping your core cool by taking a break in front of a fan or step into an air-conditioned space.
- Know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke and appropriate first aid. Heat illnesses can have a lasting impact. Nothing is worth jeopardizing your health!

Safety Tip: People who play with fire should have good FIRE EXTINGUISHERS.

— David Sandlin, President

Introducing the Greater Orlando Region

I'm excited to announce (and if I'm being honest with a little trepidation) the inaugural Greater Orlando FABA meeting at the Valencia College Advanced Training Center in Kissimmee on August 19th.

I remember my first FABA meetings and how impactful it was for me to get some hands-on time at the forge while being surrounded by the fantastic blacksmithing community that we foster at FABA. The personal connection I made with so many people that I now call friends kept me coming back and pushed me to continue growing my skill set at the anvil.

I'm hoping that our meeting in the Orlando area will expose a new group of potential smiths to the hobby (and for those lucky few, a profession) that we so much enjoy in the state of Florida while making new friends along the way.

This new region wouldn't be possible without the support of the FABA board and members, who have been very patient with me as we navigate the ins and outs of partnering with a state college and all of the amazing opportunities and new considerations that come with that privilege.

I'd also like to give a shoutout to David Sandlin, Heinrich Hole, Doug Hayes, and Kirk Sullens who have been especially helpful in preparing/setting up a successful meeting and have put in a lot of their own time in on phone calls and home visits to figure out how to get this region launched.

I would also like to recognize David Caylor, a longtime FABA member who has stepped up as the Valencia liaison/ Without his commitment to attend, our monthly meetings would not be possible.

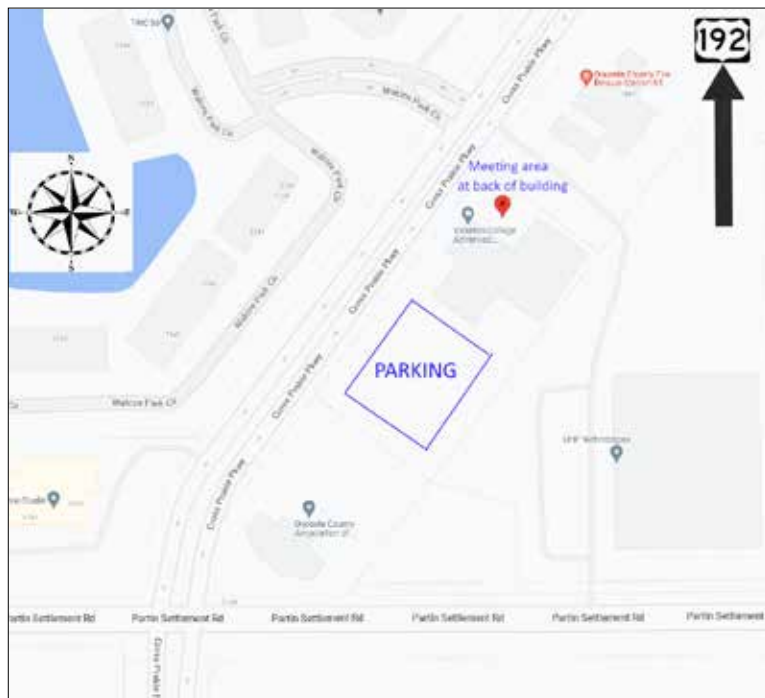
Our first few meetings we will be learning the lay of the land, and I will appreciate your patience as we get settled into the swing of things at this new location.

The meetings will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month and will run from approximately 9AM-noon-ish, followed by a potluck style lunch and an Iron in the Hat drawing.

Anyone who would like to help set up the carport, etc., is free to arrive early (but no earlier than 8 AM, please).

The meeting location is just off I-192 at 1099 Cross Prairie Pkwy, Kissimmee, FL 34744. There is ample parking in front of the building. Our meeting area is on the back side of the building in the fenced area.

— **John Hare,**
Greater Orlando Region Coordinator



Support our FABA business members

DAMASCUS SPONSORS

David Sandlin - Traditions Workshop - Fort Walton Beach, FL

STEEL SPONSORS

Greg Hagen - Holland Anvils - Holland, MI

John Elliot - Blacksmith Supply - Chester, VA

Michael Oliver - Turn and Burn Metalworks - Lakeland, FL

Doug Hayes - Iron Osprey Forge - St. Augustine, FL

IRON SPONSORS

Scott Brown - Medieval Smith - Land O' Lakes, FL

Jordan Borstelmann - Crooked Path Forge - Gainesville, FL

Rick Smith - Gainesville, FL

Nicole Horenstein - High Springs, FL

Mark Fillmore - Naples, FL

Interested in being a FABA sponsor or expanding your sponsor listing? Please contact FABA treasurer Doug Hayes at djhayes29@hotmail.com and include your business name, tag line, and point of contact information for use in the Clunker Breaker and online.



Central NE Meeting Report

July was a small but good meeting. Thank you very much, James Worm, for your Oxy/Propane demonstration. We now have several members who will be acquiring new torch set ups as a direct result of the meeting. That couldn't make me happier! :)

The demo was extremely informative regarding the safe use of torches and their many uses.

Central NE Meeting, Aug. 5

We'll be meeting at the Barberville Pioneer Settlement on Saturday, Aug. 5, starting at 9 AM for the next meeting. Steve Estenson will be doing a demonstration about how to go from design concept to a realistic production process.

Multi-part production can be more complicated than we may imagine at first, and his demo will be about how to overcome some of the challenges involved. Specifically he'll be showing us how to analyze a photo of something we'd like to make in a way that makes it possible to do ourselves. This is an invaluable skill to have in our tool box. Hope to see you there!

— Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator

Remember to Vote!

FABA elections are here!

Please visit www.blacksmithing.org/elections to cast your vote in FABA's 2023 elections! You will also have the opportunity to submit your name for treasurer or program chair. Please vote today!

Far West Meeting Schedule

September 30th is at Traditions Workshop so we can prep the trailer for the pilgrimage to the annual FABA conference in Gainesville on October 20-22.

Our October 28 meeting will be back at Traditions Workshop so we can unpack the trailer and swap stories/lessons learned from the conference.

November 18th is when we will have our annual forging competition at Timber Creek.

Hope to see you at most if not all these events.

— Christopher Sandlin,
Far West Coordinator

CALL FOR BLACKSMITHS

Work on projects in a fully functioning 1830s blacksmith shop at a national historic landmark. Demonstrators are welcome to use materials and tools provided, or bring their own supplies. All blacksmiths must allow the public to watch them create projects.



LOOKING FOR TIME PERIOD DEMONSTRATORS AND NOVICES

- Seeking professional demonstrators or hobbyists
- Reserve shop space on Fridays and Saturdays
- Engage with the public and share the art of blacksmithing
- Experience is required; proof of working knowledge, safety and/or portfolio required

SEND PROOF OF EXPERIENCE OR PORTFOLIO TO FORTKING@OCALAFL.GOV

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NNE Meeting, Sept. 9

The NNE region will meet at Iron Osprey Forge on Saturday, Sept 9th at 9 a.m. We will work on the group project for the conference and learn a bit about flowers and critters, with an open forge afterward.

Also, sometime in September we will have an open house at Veterans' Forge in Hasting and Robert Richmond can show us his new workshop. Check the Facebook group for updates.

Lastly, October will be the final prep for the FABA conference. We're still shooting for October 14th for all of the conference stuff. This includes open forge time for those working on an exchange item.

Hammer on!

— Doug Hayes,
NNE Coordinator

SW Meeting Report

For our June, FABA Southwest meeting we headed down to our southernmost friends, just north of Naples, for a meeting hosted by Stephan Kalb at Koreshan State Park.

Koreshan State Park offers a window into the lives of a unique and eccentric pioneer group that made its home under towering oaks on the banks of the Estero River.

In 1893, the Koreshan Unity, a religious sect founded by Dr. Cyrus R. Teed, moved here and built a settlement based on a commitment to communal living and a belief that the universe existed on the inside of the Earth. Living celibate lives, the enterprising Koreshans established their own power generation, a farm, nursery and botanical gardens.

The park is home to 11 immaculately restored and nationally registered historic buildings erected by the Koreshans between the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

I did some background reading on the Koreshans. It seemed like the leader Cyrus Teed could have been a true “Florida Man” in his eccentricity.

Celibacy, according to Teed, was the guiding principle humans should live by in order to attain immortality. Teed preached that women were slaves in their marriages and a way for them to be liberated was to move to the commune and practice celibacy, which was very appealing to women at the time. When Teed passed away, members of the sect waited patiently while his body decomposed fully expecting him to emerge as if from a chrysalis. Finally the state of Florida ordered a burial.

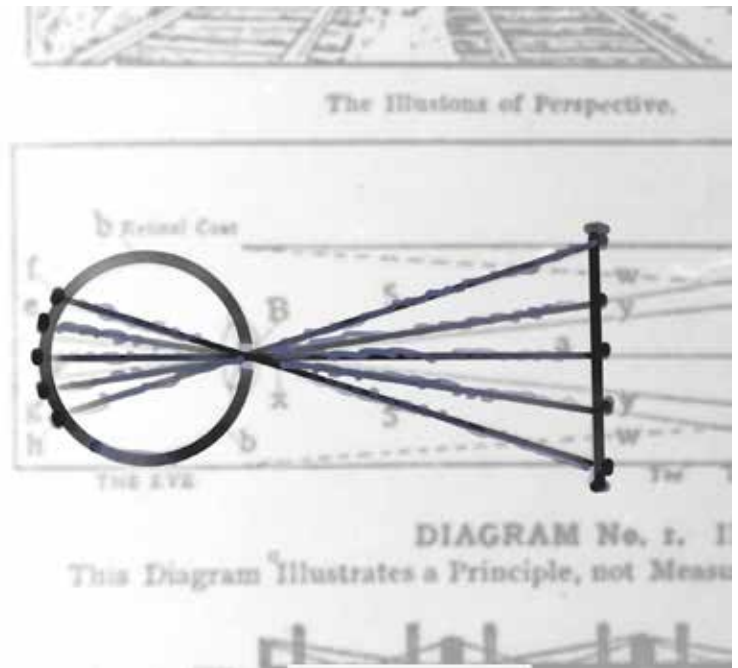
The Unity also believed in a concave, hollow Earth. They thought the world was on the inside crust of the planet and the sky was the inside of the earth. Teed backed this up with a various devices to show that traditional scientists and astronomers were wrong. One such original device is held by park ranger in the photo at right. It shows how two telescopes could only line up if the world was concave.



With all of this in mind, I came up with an easy to build sculpture idea, to be made at our meeting, as a gift from FABA SW. The sculpture is representative of the Koreshan's view that scientists were misleading us as objects in the far distance were not truthfully seen as not enough rays of light are entering our eyes. They called this “The Law of Visual Impression.”



Koreshan children gather on the lawn in front of the Founder's House for a special program. Dr. Cyrus Teed and Victoria Gratia (Annie Ordway) can be seen to the right, on the porch. The ladies of the Planetary Court are standing on the porch behind the children. The photograph was probably taken circa 1905-07.



Anticipating that it would be very hot and humid, I pre-prepared some of the pieces in bronze and steel, to limit the work to some light forging and assembly.

We had an awesome meeting at the park with 15 attendees and a lot of curious viewing by the public. Everyone dove right in forging the rays from lengths of square bar, and helped with the assembly.

I think “The Law of Visual Impression” turned out better than I had hoped. The inspiration someone had of different twists really made each of your efforts unique. It was great to create a new memory. (See more pics on the next page.)

Thank you to all who attended and to our gracious host and tour guide Steve Kalb.

— Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator

SW Meeting, Aug. 26

Note: There will not be a July meeting.

The August meeting will start early as we are planning a very busy forging time and want to avoid the heat of the day. We will start at 8:30am on Saturday August 26th at my workshop – FishnChips Forge.

We will continue our collaborative work on forging our seahorse and seaweed sculpture for the Southwest's entry for the 'Flora and Fauna' category at this year's FABA Conference in October.

Trez Cole and I will direct the effort, and we want to get as many as you as possible to be hands on.

FishnChips Forge is located at 5415 Ashton Ct., Sarasota FL 34233. The location is close to I75 at Exit 205, but a little tricky to find.

When on Ashton Road, turn on to Ashton Court at the blue Bishops Aluminum building. Go past several auto body shops and then around the bend.

FishnChips Forge is located just behind CBS roofing.

Please bring an item for Iron and Hat. Please also dress appropriately and bring something to share for lunch.

Looking forward to a hot, tiring and absolutely fun day!

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

**— Tony Fenn,
SW Region Coordinator**





Gainesville Meeting Report

July 15th FABA meeting at Ironhide Creations was demonstrating a couple simple pulls, one being a simple gate pull, and the other a basic ring pull. Both encompassed basic smithing techniques such as tapers, twists, using jigs for rings, texturing, punching and riveting.

We had a small attendance for this meeting, which put us all in a relaxed atmosphere where we did a lot of conversing and catching up on each other's projects.

Kirk Sullens was able to fight the morning monster and attend. However he did have to suffer Cooper the attention sponge.

Ron Williams, a fairly new smith, was able to pick brains and learn a few more techniques to add to his tool chest. Jeremy Thomas decided to set up the spare anvil and get into the heat to apply what he just watched.

Lunch was a nice ham and cheese sandwich, with chips and crackers, and tons of water! We didn't conduct an Iron in the Hat draw this time, as everyone forgot to bring something. All in all, it was a very nice laid-back meet and everyone had an enjoyable time.

— **Robert Graber, FABA member**



Gainesville Meeting, Sept 15

There will be no meeting in August. Our September meeting will be on a Friday evening, September 15th, starting at 4pm at Crooked Path Forge at 2308 NW 71st Place, Bay D, Gainesville, FL, 32653.

— **Jordan Borstelmann,
Gainesville Region Coordinator**



NW Region Meeting, Aug. 12

Hello everyone and greetings from the Northwest Region! Our August meeting will be held on Aug. 12th at Roger Bell's house at 7685 Deepwood Trail, Tallahassee, FL 32317.

We've had the last two meetings at Stephen Foster State Park in White Springs and thought it a good idea to have one closer to home. We're still having "open forges" at Roger's on Tuesday mornings, so come and check it out any Tuesday.

For the meeting, we're going to set up the four-burner forge and a bunch of anvils in the shady area between the house and the lake. We're still making things from the 3/16" round rod. I've asked for simple projects that would be good for beginners and also more difficult ones that show what you can do with some imagination. And chain.

I'm asking for chain to show all the different ways you can make it, and I'm planning to hang it across the open doorways of the blacksmith shop at Stephen Foster. More than just a barrier, I want to hang project guide type decorations from them, too.

For the meal at the meeting, Roger is going to make venison chili and Suzy is going to make regular beef chili too. I'm going to bake a couple loaves of bread. Please bring sides and desserts to go with them. Try to bring donations for the Iron in the Hat raffle and be ready to do some light blacksmithing with some small round rods.

It's going to be hot! But we'll take it easy with the blacksmithing and have our lunch in the air conditioned comfort of Rogers house. I'm still giving free raffle tickets to anyone who donates items that they've made themselves, and I'm going to start, at this meeting, to give free tickets to anyone who comes from more than 50 miles away! It just keeps getting more fun. I hope to see you there!

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**

NW Region Meeting Report

Our July meeting for the Northwest Region was held at Stephen Foster State Park in White Springs, FL. This was our second meeting in a row and last month was our first meeting there since I've been regional coordinator.

It was a beautiful day for a meeting and we had a great one. Not as much attendance as I expected. We had over 30 at the first meeting and only a little over 20 this one. We had good participation though!

We had inherited a lot of small round rod at the shop, about 3/16". I asked for projects made from this material,

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especially chain, and got a lot of good results. Everyone brought raffle donations and food for our lunch, so we had plenty to eat!

We had our lunch in the pottery cabin next door to the blacksmith shop. The pottery cabin has air conditioning and a bathroom, so it makes for a nice break from the heat for eating.

Even though we had a lower attendance from the Tallahassee area members, we had more people from the area around the state park, especially Live Oak. This is great, as I'm planning on spending a lot of time on the weekends at the park and hope to have "open forges"-type participation for anyone who is interested.

A big Thank You! to everyone who attended and helped make the meeting happen and especially the park and park staff for hosting us!

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**

Save the date: Oct. 20-22 in Gainesville

FABA Con 2023

**Oct. 20-22, Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel,
4200 NW 97th Blvd, Gainesville, FL**

This year's conference is going to be special. We have an amazing demonstrator line up and some pretty awesome new things we're bringing in. Lets start with the main demonstrators:

1. Ellen Durkan: Wearable metals artist

This is a wholly new-to-FABA genre and will bring in some serious diversity to what we think is possible with metal work. It's time to expand our horizons and learn to think in new ways.

2. Andrew Welton: Experimental archeologist

We've had iron smelting before but never like this. It's time now to see this process and hear about it from the perspective of a professional who has based their lives study on learning how smelting and item production was done in its infancy

3. Matt Stagmer: Specialty bladesmith & owner of That Works YouTube channel. Exotic shapes and precision grinds will be the name of this epic game.

Next on the list of new activities for this year is going to be a multi team, high level sculpture project. These teams will be headed up by Francis 'Trez' Cole, Tony Fenn, Kirk Sullens, and David Ponsler. Seriously, I'm drooling in anticipation of what that particular team of guys can come up with. Best of all is the fact that the sculpture they produce will be made available in the conference auction. Get your bidding signs ready because this ones going to be unique.

Another new activity we're adding to the line up is an oxy/propane torch safety beginner class. Torch safety is a big deal and learning it is the key to opening up new doors in production that would otherwise be locked shut. Torches have always intimidated me and this class is the the best way to get past that very reasonable fear.

We're expanding open forges. This year the open forge tent is going to be run by John Pfund and his crew in the N.W region. You will still be able to use this area as always and make whatever tickles your fancy but now there will also be some prepared projects that you can chose to do. These projects will have the necessary materials ready on

hand so you need only bring your own hand tools and a desire to learn in order to participate. (Tooling in this tent is limited.)

Much more is still in the works so make sure to check out the website regularly for updates.

Regional Challenges:

Flora & Fauna is the regional challenge theme for this year as picked by last years winners!!! The rules are simple:

1. The item produced must be primarily blacksmithed. It is acceptable to use powered tools and welders but the work they do must not be the focus.

2. This is a regional project and so there must be a minimum of 3 people who contributed to the project. More is better.

3. Iron is the focus of this competition, however other materials may be incorporated into the project. Refer back to rule 1 line 1 to answer your question about percentages allowed.

4. Have fun. Don't be so serious. Make sure that new guys contribution makes it into the project too. The competitions focus is really in the process, the people collaborating together, and the learning that occurs as a result. These values will be heavily weighted during the judging process.

5. Bonus points will be awarded for a roster of all involved in the project and maybe a short description of skills learned or used to achieve their part. If challenges for the group were overcome then we want to know. One page should do for this bonus point opportunity.

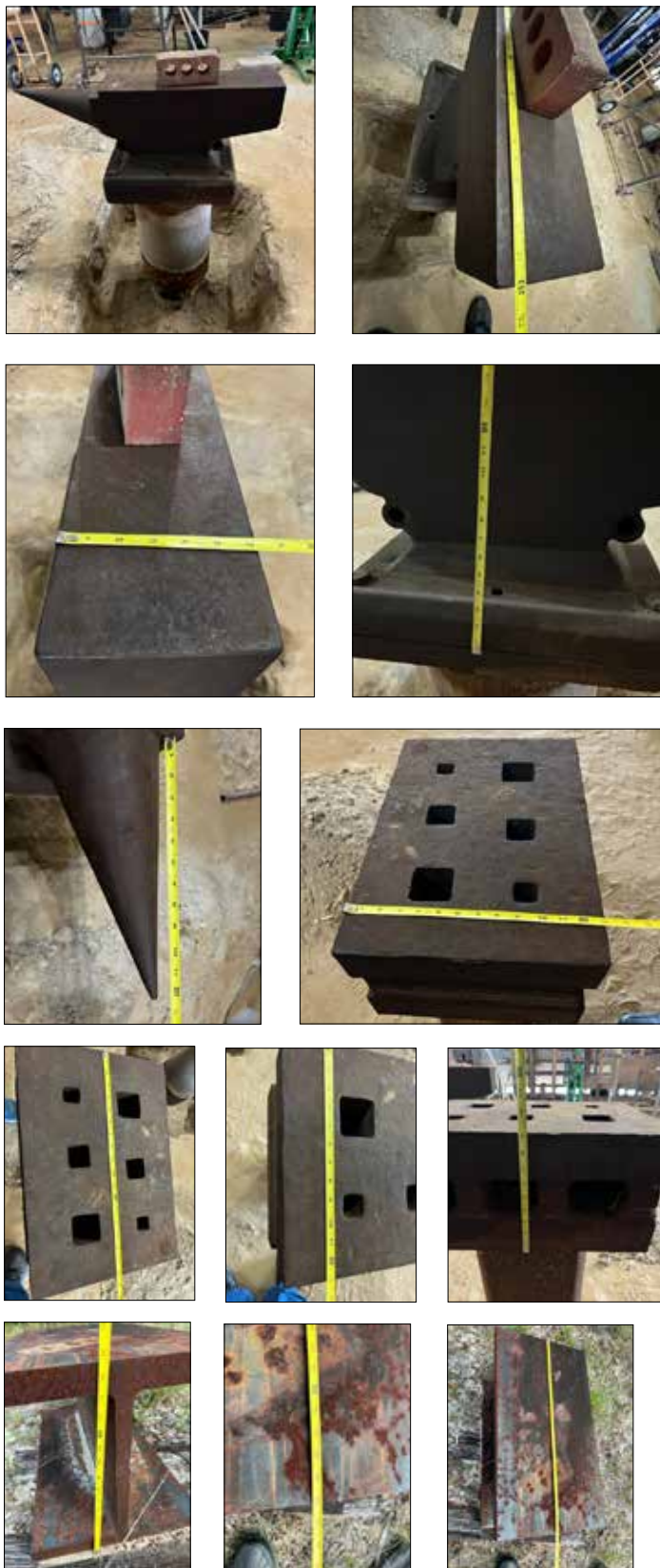
Trade item:

Anything Musical. Lets see it, peeps. What can you dredge up from the depths of your creative minds related to music? To be included in the trade item activity, one must simply bring an item they blacksmithed that is related to music and turn it in at the gallery before auction night.

— Heinrich Hole

FOR SALE

The following items are for sale by FABA member Ben Ferguson. Please contact Ben for more information at 850-835-4402. Ben is located in Freeport, FL.



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Jerry Grice Scholarship 2023

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 Dec. 31, 2023. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final. The successful applicant will be notified.

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President
114 Choctaw Cove
Valparaiso, FL 32580



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August 2023

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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 Square by going to www.blacksmithing.org and clicking the **JOIN FABA** button to access the Square payment system.

OR send the below application and your check to "FABA" for \$30 to FABA's temporary Membership Secretary at:

FABA Membership Secretary,
C/O Sandlin
114 Choctaw Cove
Valparaiso, FL 32580

NAME _____

FAMILY MEMBERS _____

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