

December 2023

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985



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	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.

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In search of a picture, plus 1,000 words

I have heard a lot of great things about the conference and really wish I could have been there.

My thanks to Lisa-Ann Conner for standing in for me this year and also for stepping up to be the next conference chairman. She did an excellent job as the conference chairman with the 2020 conference in spite of all the confusion generated by the national events of that year. With a clear road ahead for next year, I can't wait to see what she and her team will have organized for us in 2024.

Going through older Clinker Breakers, I notice that we used to share a lot more practical blacksmith information in those pages. Perhaps we don't do that now because social media leads us to believe we are carrying the legacy forward by simply sending static pictures into the ether.

Granted a picture "is worth a thousand words"; and when we see all the "likes" that our picture receives, we are lulled into the belief that we have advanced the craft.

But a picture without supporting documentation leaves a lot to be desired. The picture helps us to know that something great happened but we don't understand how we got to that point without some supporting dialog. Maybe someone can send me their notes on bronze inlays or how to forge a hummingbird? The pictures from the conference look great but don't tell me the story of how to get there.

Jordan Borstelmann clearly understands this need for conversation because he has just released a book – "Forging a Viking-era Bearded Axe" (Forging A Viking-era Bearded Axe: Borstelmann, Jordan: 9798860599352: Amazon.com: Books \$13.99).

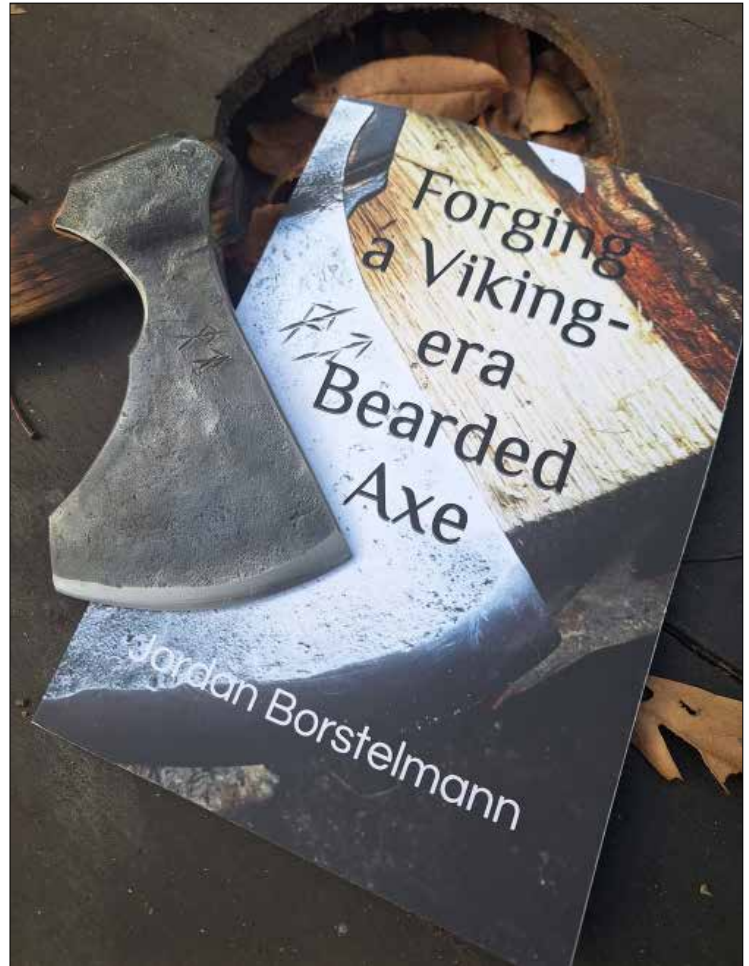
At just over 100 pages with lots of pictures Jordan has struck just the right balance between words and images. His book does a great job by first walking you through a lexicon of axe making, then the materials you will need and continues with how to make the tools necessary to make an axe.

After showing you how to forge the basic shape for the axe Jordan moves on to cover forge welding before he has you insert and weld the steel bit in place. He wraps up guiding you through the final forging steps to draw out the beard then neatly segues to the process of heat treating, hardening and tempering your latest tool.

If you can't get to Crooked Path Forge to take Jordan's class on making the Viking-era Bearded Axe in person then his book will provide you with a path forward.



David Sandlin
FABA President



However, even if you are lucky enough to schedule an axe making class with Jordan, I'd still recommend reading the book so you will clearly understand the process and be able to focus on the beautiful product that you will create under Jordan's tutelage.

I was told the hardest thing about being President of this fine organization would be writing a monthly column. After two years in the job, I have to say that advice was wrong. The hardest part of the job of President is having to report to the membership the death of one of our members.

Tim Willingham died on Sept 22nd of colorectal cancer. He was a frequent member of the Barberville crew up until the last few years, when the sickness overtook him. We feel the loss and our hearts go out to the family. His bride, Nancy, has elected to donate his anvil, tools and blacksmithing books to FABA so we can continue to carry his legacy forward. We can only thank her for allowing us to take on this stewardship.

Hope and pray your anvil rings true throughout the year.

— David Sandlin, President

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.

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

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Cameron LaFrance - Micco, 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 Clinker Breaker and online.

LOST AND FOUND

The two items pictured below were found in the orange trailer when it came back from the FABA Conference.

There were no touch marks or other ownership indications on them, so this is a general question to the membership.

If they belong to you, please email david@traditionsworkshop.com.



Central NE Meeting, Dec. 2

Where: Barberville Pioneer Settlement, 1776 Lightfoot Ln, Barberville, FL 32105

When: Dec. 2 starting at 9AM

This month we're going to be doing a pot luck style lunch and open forges. If you've got a project you've been working on or want to start working on then bring it on in. Lets see what everyone's been up to and what they've been learning about. Cya there :).

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

SW Region Meeting, Dec. 2

Because of Thanksgiving we are moving our meeting to the next weekend. We will start at 10 AM on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, at my workshop – FishnChips Forge.

Let's forge some Holiday gifts. I'm thinking bottle openers, small creatures and decorations. Come with an idea in mind or grab something from my scrap pile and get creative.

Trez Cole and I will direct the effort, and demo if necessary. But 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 Rd, turn on to Ashton Ct. 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 in the Hat. I have enough bits and pieces collected so we will have a raffle this meeting. Please also dress appropriately and bring something to share for lunch.

Looking forward to another hot, tiring and absolutely fun day! Please check out the FABA SW Facebook group page for any upcoming meeting announcement at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674, or contact antony.fenn@gmail.com.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

Gainesville Meeting, Dec. 8

Gainesville will be having it's next meeting on a Friday night, Dec 8th, from 4pm to 9pm at Crooked Path Forge. The address is 2308 NW 71st Place, Bay D, Gainesville FL, 32653.

There will be a stocking hanger demo, and some materials available at the open forge for folks to make one themselves. Bring your own dinner!

— **Jordan Borstelmann, Gainesville Coordinator**

NW Region Meeting Report

The Northwest Region had our November meeting at Aunt Louise's Farm. This was the last weekend of their seven-weekend Fall season. It's been a busy fall for us all with some Saturdays having classes and demonstrations in three separate locations.

We had 19 people signed in at the meeting. We had open forges with some new smiths getting some hammer time in. Some hot dog skewers were made. We had barbecue pork sandwiches and steamed corn from Aunt Louise's kitchen and a couple great sides brought by members. Three new members paid their dues at the meeting.

A big Thank you to Aunt Louise and the whole crew at the farm for treating us so well and sharing their beautiful facilities with us!

The other two things that we've been doing are classes at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown and Stephen Foster State Park in White Springs, both of which will continue into the new year. With all that and the Conference, it's been a really busy month. Whee!

NW Region Meeting, Dec. 9

Season's greetings from the Northwest Region! Our December meeting will be held on the 9th at Mary Ellen Anderson's house in Monticello. The address is 1221 Vista Rd., Monticello, FL 32344. We're going to use Rex's forge and anvils to make some Christmas gift and decoration type projects.

Members should bring ideas to share and we'll have some projects ready to try. We're going to have a Christmas dinner type lunch. I'll pick up a spiral cut ham and members should bring sides and desserts to go along with it.

Again Christmas gift ideas and decorations are requested for donations for the raffle. Handmade by you items always get a free ticket bounty.

The Christmas meeting at Mary Ellen Anderson's, it's a tradition. I hope to see you there!

— **John Pfund,
NW Region Coordinator**

Greater Orlando Meeting, Dec. 16



Orlando had another successful meeting in November with a great turnout at UnderGround Metal Works, 660 W. Kennedy Blvd., Maitland, FL. Jason from Underground MetalWorks cut up a bunch of coil spring for everyone that we forged out into tool blanks in preparation for our “Fundamentals in Heat Treating for the Blacksmith” series.

Next month’s meeting on December 16th at UnderGround Metal Works will be more of a classroom/lecture style

meeting with a demo focusing on heat treating junkyard/scrap steel. In January, we will take the blanks and everything we’ve learned to making punches, chisels, etc.

At our next meeting, we will have chairs set up in the AC inside UnderGround Metal Works, so it should be a nice relaxed environment, but please bring safety glasses.

If you are able, please bring something for the potluck; cookies, chips, sodas, etc., are all welcome!

We have plenty of extra stock to be forged out if you want to jump in, so don’t be shy and come on by.

— **John Hare, Orlando Regional Coordinator**



NNE Region Meeting, Dec. 9

At the North Northeast region FABA meeting, we will be doing holiday ornaments and two types of candle holders on Dec. 9 at Iron Osprey Forge in St. Augustine. There may be a small fee for materials for some candle holders. We’ll start at 9AM and go til mid-afternoon. And if you didn’t get enough Iron in the Hat at conference, we’ll have more at the meeting. Hope to see you there!

— **Doug Hayes, NNE Coordinator**



Far West Meeting Report

Far West Region held its annual forging competition at Timber Creek Distillery on Saturday, Nov. 11. Since it was also Veterans Day, the competition this year took a pugnacious slant. The objective was to make a knife out of a file in under 5 hours. The criteria was simple; you had to finish the project (form), it had to cut a pizza (function) and it had to be attractive to a Veteran (aesthetic). Since two of the competitors were actual veterans, David and Jack had a bit of an advantage. Just the same, we had eight people ready to give it a go when the hammer fell at 10:30 am. Experience ranged from novice to seasoned.



Great credit needs to go to our novice, Haley, who in spite of having to start over three times still finished a nice blade; however, 5 minute epoxy didn't really cure in 5 minutes so the scales on her project were done only just in time. Jessica was the record holder for the first to completion. She was done before lunch with her 1-inch-long mini blade called "cuteness," and she was able to use it to cut the stone oven pizza she had



for lunch. After lunch she then helped others with completing their projects. You have to love the spirit of cooperation we have at these events.

Mallet showed up with his tunes fully charged and ready for the competition sporting a 1/4"x3"x3 foot bar of brass for making the guard and wood for making the handle of his proposed blade - a Kris dagger! Ambitious!

Christopher selected a large farrier's rasp and started by knocking the large teeth down, making them look like scales. What was he up to?

David took a piece of 1/4" round stock and made a butter knife with a wrapped eye handle in about 15 minutes; this was immediately disqualified since it was not made of a file. He then started over with a large farrier's rasp.

Jack took a file that was approximately 1"x1/4" and proceeded to draw out the tang which became a handle that was then threaded back through a hole that he punched in the blade of the knife. Interesting take on the classic

medieval blacksmith knife. Dawn went heavy, crafting a blade that was over 3" wide with an integrated handle, the result was a very aggressive chopper.

As the day wore on, David made extensive use of the power hammer to draw out almost 2 feet of 1/4"x1/4" material from his rasp. He then forged the remaining material down to 1/4"x1" to become the future blade. Mallet formed the blade of his Kris with a straight tang and then went to work on the brass guard and handle. Christopher was busy rolling his rasp into a tube. Slowly his knife handle took form as he twisted the tube, forged a head on the hilt of the handle with a fork tongue to make a snake. He balanced the long handle with an equally long blade. Now the hammered down teeth of the file truly looked like scales.

David formed a straight back blade and then allowed himself to be distracted by teaching two junior apprentices how to make mighty mini swords out of duplex nails. With an hour left everyone was on the grinders/sanders except David and Mallet. Would they finish in time?



Regional Reports



Then disaster! The 2x36 grinder self-destructed while Mallet was grinding his guard. David had fortunately finished grinding his blade with an angle grinder, and then polished it with a #2 file. He then proceeded to forge a small leaf on the excessively long tang of his project and finally started bending. Back toward the blade, then down, and around to create a basket guard mak-

ing a knife that looked like a short rapier with a small leaf that was brass brushed for an accent.

With 15 minutes left Mallet was almost in a panic using the angle grinder to finish his blade. Everyone joined in by counting down the minutes and the Kris hit the judges table right at 3pm, just in time! Now we waited for the decision.

Aaron and Jannet were our judges and they went back and forth over the blades of the finalists. One-by-one, a blade was laid to the side as our two judges agonized over their selection. Mallet's Kris was very cool but sadly it would not cut a pizza. Next, a handle was too small, or maybe too big. Or the curve was not quite right. Another blade gets put aside. It came down to the final three. David's handle/guard and blade was unique enough to qual-



ify. Jack's knife with his simple design just felt right in the judge's hand. Told you the two veterans had an unfair advantage. However, Christopher's snake handle knife was the judge's (and everyone else's) favorite. Show, Place and Win each got to take home a bottle of their choice from Timber Creek's selection.

Over the course of the rainy day, we had about a dozen visitors who stayed long enough to ask questions while standing in the rain. We were also pleased to welcome three members from the NW Region to our event.

They couldn't stay for the duration of the day so they didn't compete. But John Butler did have a set of finely crafted knives to show off as inspiration. Plus, he and Dot awarded David Sandlin his journeyman certificate.

So next year, November 16th at Timber Creek, will we see you there? Rumor has it the competition will be hatchets or tomahawks. Or maybe a dirk with a penannular brooch? Whatever the competition, the prizes will make the effort worthwhile!



Far West Meeting Schedule

Far West Region is proposing the following schedule: January 27, Traditions Workshop, 9-3, lunch provided by the workshop, donations appreciated. Discussion of our vision for the regional project – Medieval religion and folklore. Be ready to sign up to make your part.

February 24, Traditions Workshop, 9am-3pm. We will work on Journeyman projects.

March 23, John Butler's Farm, 9am set up, then from 10am to 3pm our annual FABA fundraising class, "How to Craft a Viking Era Utility Knife." Class cost will be \$120 with a lunch hosted by Sonny's BBQ included. We will have plenty of instructors but limit this class to 12 people.

April 27, we are in negotiation for a return to St. Michaels Brewery. Most likely the project will be a bottle opener. Public welcome to participate if they join FABA member (yes, this is a thinly disguised membership drive).

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May 25, return to Timber Creek Distillery, 9am set up 9:30, open forges until 3pm to work on the regional competition. Cam and Aaron encourage you to bring your projects to sell. They will keep your work on display over the bar, and attempt to sell it over the summer until we meet again at Timber Creek on November 16th.

June 22 and July 27 locations are TBD but most likely will be held at Traditions Workshop, 9-2.

August 24 will probably be back at John Butler's farm to make final contributions to the regional project.

September 28 will be at Traditions Workshop, 9-3, to finish our gift exchange (something with teeth) and regional competition projects and start packing the trailer for FABA.

As a bonus, if you are interested in working through the ABANA National Curriculum Level 1, we will host workshops on the Friday afternoons before we meet at Traditions Workshop in January, February, June, July, and September. These are not classes! More like the blind leading the blind as we work through Level 1.

FABA Con 2023 Report

FABA's 2023 Conference in October at the Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel in Gainesville was a success! The event featured Ellen Durkan, Andrew Welton, Jordan Borstelmann and other demonstrators, three days of classes, a Friday night forging challenge, a Saturday Iron in the Hat, the membership banquet and meeting, and a rousing Saturday night auction!

FABA's Special Project Demonstration Team—Francis 'Trez' Cole, Tony Fenn, Kirk Sullens, David Ponsler and Wade Chappell —created an alien scorpion, demonstrating a number of sculptural techniques during the course of the conference.

The Teele family repeated their Regional Challenge win, and many works were displayed in the Gallery.

Several late FABA members were honored during the Ringing of the Anvil at the FABA general meeting, including Clyde Payton, Ron Childers and Skeeter Prather.

And on Sunday, Ben Thompson won the hotel staff vote in the charity bucket challenge with his Baby's First Wand.



Special thanks to our many FABA conference photographers, including David Reddy, Dot Butler, Tony Fenn and Cat (Catherine) Hickman. Visit FABA online at blacksmithing.org for more conference photos.

FABA CON 2023



FABA CON 2023

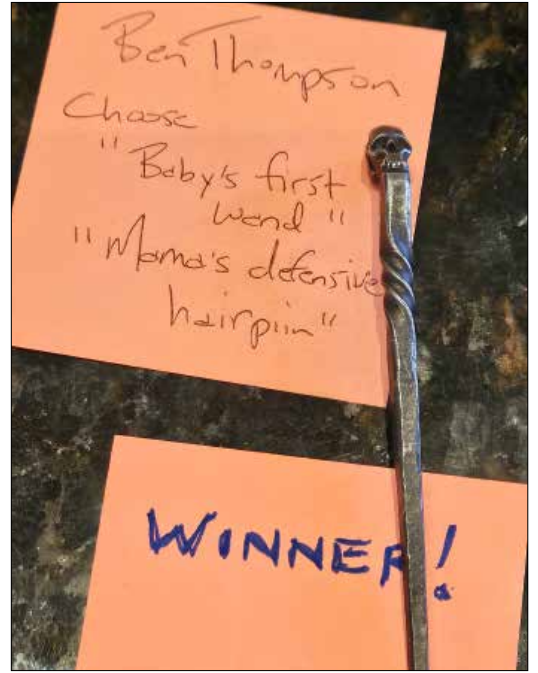


FABA CON 2023



FABA CON 2023





FABA's Honorary Doctorate of Metal Arts

The idea of Florida Artist Blacksmith Artist Association began in Madison, GA, in 1985 with the purpose to teach, promote and preserve. Following the Florida Board of Regents guidelines, FABA became an educational nonprofit association and incorporated in 1986.

We offer two educational scholarships each year. They are the Jerry Grice Scholarship and the Walt Anderson Scholarships, each offering \$1,000 to help train blacksmiths. Other avenues of education include our demonstrators and hands-on experience that are offered at monthly meetings and our Annual Conference. Our demonstrators and teachers come from regional, national and international backgrounds.

In accordance with the Florida Department of Regents, FABA may bestow the Honorary Doctorate of Metal Arts. This is a highpoint of FABA's education ladder. This award is bestowed on a "worthy recipient" who has contributed significantly to the mission and purposes of the organization and demonstrated a history of service. In 38 years, we have only endowed 20 with this award. This year, former FABA President Markham Stone was honored with the doctorate.

FABA's other honorees include the following:

- Thomas Raines, Monticello, 1986
- James Clifford Hawkins, Morrison, 1993
- E. Charlton Prather, Tallahassee, 1995
- Willard Smith, Blountstown, 1997
- W. Clyde Payton, Monticello, 1997
- Stephen Allen Bloom, Archer, 2001



- Timothy Edmund Ryan, Gordonville, TN, 2001
- Jerry Grice, Tallahassee, 2004
- Williams Robertson, Tallahassee, 2007
- Juan Alvaro Holbrook, Gainesville, 2008
- James Alvin Corbett, Barberville, 2011
- Jeffery William Mohr, Crawfordville, 2012
- John G Butler, Havana 2014
- Michael Lane Bettinger, Tallahassee 2015
- Francis Trez Cole, Sarasota 2015
- Kirk Sullens, Ocala, 2016
- William Christie, Tallahassee, 2018
- Jerry O. Wolfe, Sarasota, 2019
- Lewis Andrew Riggleman, San Antonio, FL, 2019
- Markham Stone, Tallahassee, 2023

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President
114 Choctaw Cove
Valparaiso, FL 32580



December 2023

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FABA Membership Application: Membership begins when your application and \$30 membership fee is received. Membership is per family and lasts one year. Use your credit card to join or renew your FABA Membership via Square by going to www.blacksmithing.org and clicking the **JOIN FABA** button to access the Square payment system.

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

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

NAME _____

FAMILY MEMBERS _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

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