

August 2021

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FABA elections begin this month

Happy August, everyone! I hope everyone had a great 4th of July celebration, and everyone still has all of their fingers!

I can't believe it's almost time for school to start again and I will have to move my daughter back to Orlando for another year at UCF. This year seems to be flying once again. It truly does seem to go faster, the older I get.

I hope your summer is going well and you're able to work through the summer temperatures and humidity and accomplish your projects without too much discomfort.

Elections for your Board of Directors starts this month, with voting ending Sept. 15th. We have the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, SW and NW Trustees up for election this cycle. I believe those currently holding those positions will be on the ballot for re-election, except that David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator, is going to be on the ballot for President unopposed. I will move to the Past President position in January and will continue as Chairman of the SBA for the 2023 conference.

I appreciate everyone's work the past year and a half, especially with pulling off the conference last year during the Covid era.

Planning for our Annual Conference is under way and a change in venue is the biggest change. Our new venue is the Best Western in Gainesville, close to I-75.

The dates are October 8th through 10th with setup on Thursday, October 7th. Actually, the biggest change for the Conference is we have a Program Chairperson doing the planning.

Erin Harlow is getting acclimated with planning a blacksmith conference. She has much experience planning events for UF and is doing a great job.



Mark Stone

Registration will be setup in the near future online so lookout for that. Look for more information on the following pages in this Clinker Breaker.

Our Treasurer, Doug Hayes, along with David Sandlin, has been working on getting our membership information transferred and organized. If you experience any glitches with your membership information, Clinker Breaker, Dues, etc. let us know and we'll get it taken care of. Thanks, Doug and David, for your work on this.

We held our first meeting for the SBA (Southeastern Blacksmith Association) Conference on July 13th, and the dates for the conference are May 18-20, 2023. We are the lead conference and since the conference that was supposed to take place last May was postponed, we already have a lot of the planning taken care of.

Matt Jenkins of Cloverdale Forge (www.cloverdaleforge.com) and Liam Hoffman (www.hoffmanblacksmithing.com) will be our demonstrators.

We are expanding the time of our chapter demonstrations to three hours as the previous one and a half were not sufficient to adequately demonstrate with setup, etc. Stay tuned for more information!

Reach out to your Regional Coordinators for information on upcoming meetings and also look to your monthly Clinker Breaker for your regional reports and forecast.

I hope everyone is well and I hope you have a great August.

Keep yourself hydrated during the summer heat and keep your forges glowing and hammers swinging.

Mark Stone

FABA Elections

FABA Members,

It is time again, time to vote in FABA Elections!

Please use one of the following methods to vote:

#1. Email your completed ballot to Tia Kitchen at secretary@blacksmithing.org

#2. Return this ballot to:

Tia Kitchen

PO Box 542414

Greenacres, FL 33454

#3. Electronic voting information will be released shortly.

Vote in the way that is most convenient to you, BUT VOTE.

DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 15!!



	Nominee	Vote
President	Dave Sandlin	
Vice President	Lisa Anne Conner	
Secretary	Tia Kitchen	
Southwest Trustee	Trez Cole	
Northwest Trustee	Ron Childers	

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA)

is a not-for-profit organization chartered with the State of Florida and 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, <http://www.blacksmithing.org>, our Facebook Page 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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Calendar of Events

The calendar includes events of interest to the blacksmithing community. The regions have no boundaries – everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can.

We hold regular meetings in each region on the following Saturdays of each month: NE-1st, NW-2nd, SE-3rd, Far West and SW-4th. The actual dates vary, so check the schedule noted in the regional reports.

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 meetings or events, please contact the Regional Coordinators:

Central Northeast Region	Heinrich Hole	386-848-6982	heinrich.faba@gmail.com
North Northeast Region	vacant	for questions, please email	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	Dave Sandlin	850-974-1548	david@traditionsworkshop.com

Regional Report

SW Region Meeting, July 24

Our next SW meeting will be at Crowley Museum and Nature Center on Saturday, July 24th, starting at 10 am.

I will demonstrate making a sculpture, (probably something marine based), and then we will have an Open Forge session for those who want to get more of the summer heat.

If you plan to attend then please bring something to share for lunch or drinks.

We will also have an Iron in The Hat raffle at this meeting, so bring something interesting or useful for the raffle.

Please keep safety in mind and assess your attendance with respect to Covid-19.

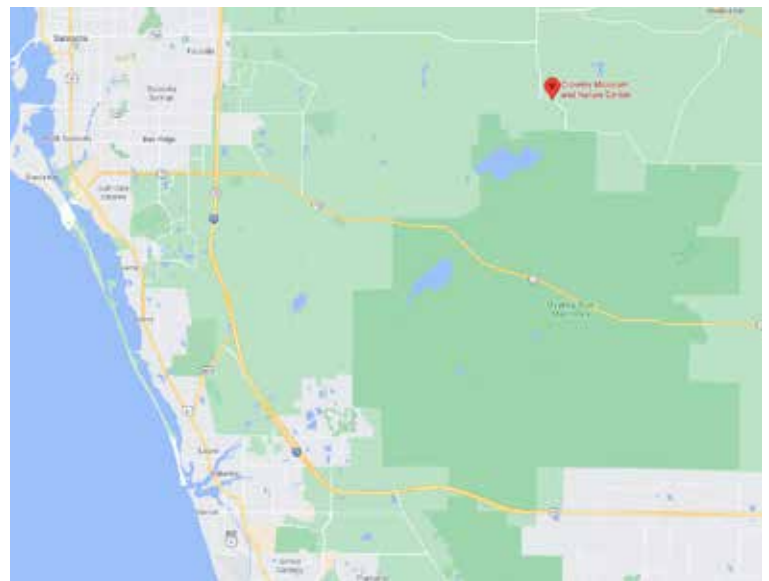
I'm looking forward to catching up with everyone and planning for future meetings.

DIRECTIONS: Interstate I75

Take exit #210 Fruitville Road and drive EAST 10 miles to the dead end. Turn RIGHT on Myakka road. Go 3 miles, Crowley is on your LEFT shown by a large wooden sign. If you travel over the bridge to the north entrance of Myakka State Park, you missed by a mile :).

DIRECTIONS: Route #70

WEST: Take route #70, exit #217B, travel to Verna Road. Turn RIGHT and travel SOUTH for approximately 6 miles to



the Crowley entrance on your left.

EAST: Take hwy #70 to Verna Road. Turn LEFT. Travel approximately 6 miles to Crowley entrance on your LEFT.

MORE INFO: <https://crowleyfl.org>

We have not yet scheduled a meeting for August. Please check our SW FABA Facebook page for a meeting announcement.

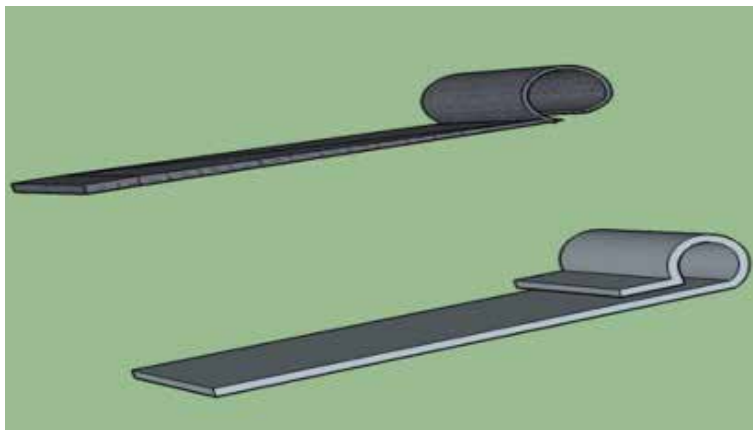
— Tony Fenn, SW Regional Coordinator

From the Journeyman's Notebook: Hinges

By Dave Sandlin, Far West Coordinator

Making a Strap Hinge and Hinge Pin: This is the most basic of hinges and is commonly used on the farm for utility shed doors and fence gates.

In Europe it is customary to wrap the metal from front to back ("over the hinge pin") and not to weld hinges as most smith made hinges are so much stronger than necessary that welding is not really needed. In fact the heavy barn hinges I've seen in Scandinavia often have the gap on the back where it doesn't show. However, on this side of the Atlantic, the standard traditional American hinge is wrapped from the back to front and then forge welded; or if light duty the hinges are just wrapped. Lightweight hinges can be made with a bender or a press but the version discussed here will be forged American style but un-welded.



European (top) and American (bottom) strap hinges.

Material for the strap. ¼"x1" to 1-½" mild steel flat bar.

Additional tools. ½" Round drift; ¾" "bottom swage; ¼" hot punch (after getting burned I like my punches to have a handle)

Technique. Heat one end of the strap to a bright red heat and hammer or cut a nice chamfered end between 30° to 45°. Re-heat to a yellow heat and begin bending the strap very close to the end over a rounded edge of the anvil face, with the long side of the chamfer down. Turn the curve uppermost and continue forming until a neat eye is made, this is where the drift becomes handy. Reheat as necessary until you can form the eye, using the drift to keep the eye round and at the correct size. To finish the job put the ¾" bottom swage in the hardy and then replace the drift in the eye, so you can flatten the back of the strap using a red to orange heat.



Flatten the back of the strap hinge using a bottom swage with the drift inserted in the eye, work quickly and tap the drift out early as the cooling metal will shrink around the drift and trap it in place. (I don't show the swage inserted in the anvil in this diagram).

Mark out the holes as required; the first one should be about 1" to 1-¼" from the eye and the others more or less equally spaced. Heat the strap and punch the holes. Extra points if you place a long taper along the strap and ornament it with a spade, heart or other pattern.

Making the pintle for the strap hinge to ride on.

Material for each pin. 5/8" square 3-½" long square bar and a ½" x 2- ½" long round stock; both in mild steel. You usually need to make at least 2 pins. Alternately you can cut off a railroad spike for your square stock.

Additional tools. Punch; 1" bottom swage; bolster plate with ½" + hole; hot cut tool; optional set hammer.

Technique. Upset one end of the 5/8 square section in the 1" bottom swage until the end is 1" wide and just over ½" thick. If you are using a railroad spike you can simply smash the head of the spike down to create a rounded 1"x ½" area, but you will probably have to cut off some of the material as there is a lot of metal in the head of the spike. Now heat to a bright red heat and in this end punch/drift a hole fractionally smaller than ½" in diameter.

Next upset one end of the ½" round bar to about ¾" in diameter to give a mushroom shape then chamfer the other end of the bar. You now have the peg.

Heat the punched end of the square section to a bright red heat and drive the upset peg into the hole like you would a drift, settling it firmly into position; just don't drive it all the

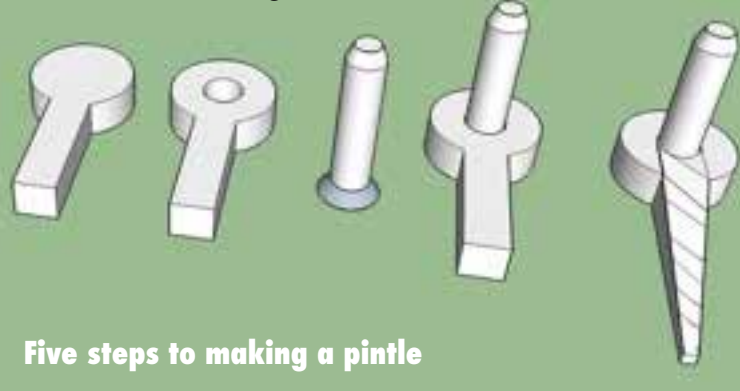
FABA NW Region member: William "Phil" Worley

Blacksmith/Bladesmith/ Phils Forge



I started my Knifemaking 4 years ago, and I love it. I make knives, tools, and many artistic trinkets. These can all be seen on my website, Philsforge.com. I make Mono steel or Damascus, leather or Kydex sheathing. Everyday carry with Clemson Tiger Paw mosaic pin and a Filet knife are in the photos above. I stabilize all my wood handles and hand-forge everything I make at Phils Forge.

Continued from Page 4



way through. Place the bolster plate over the hardy hole of the anvil having made sure that the 1/2" round peg will pass easily through the hole in the plate. On some anvils the hardy is small enough that you don't need a bolster plate, but it is a good practice to use a bolster to protect the anvil.

Point the chamfered end of the peg uppermost in the fire so you don't burn it off and take a full welding heat on the upset parts. When welding, heat the project slowly to give time for the whole mass of the job to reach welding temperature. At full welding heat remove the job from the fire, quickly pass the peg through the hole in the bolster plate and then hammer the upset end of the peg to complete the weld. After the initial blows a set hammer can be used to flatten the end neatly. Do any straightening needed and make sure that

the peg is at right angles to the shank of the job. The width of the plate should now be the same as that of the metal - 5/8".

Next, flip the work around take a bright red heat over the shank to make this pointed over a length of about 2- 1/2", then on the next heat lightly drive a hot set into the edges. This gives a ragged finish like a ring shank nail that will firmly fix the hinge peg into a wooden post. Only five or six cuts on each edge are necessary. Finally, true up the work, wire-brush it and allow it to cool.

On a final note. Doors (and gates) can be made self-closing by offsetting the top hinge outward by 1/4". Effectively the door swings "uphill" as it is opened. The lifting of the door also helps it clear the sill but the top of the frame must also be fitted with a bit of extra clearance. A clever smith can make the pintles with an angle in the joint at the pivot offset so that they appear straight. Be sure you and the carpenter both understand the logic. If special hinges are made they need to be marked TOP and BOTTOM (or middle).

Alternately the bottom of the pintle can be shaped before welding in the pin. You also have to tilt the bottom of the hinge. Granted it gets a little tricky when hand forging but I've used this technique on a heavy gate and it works well. Here as the hinge (in blue) is rotated on the pintle (in gray) and the door lifts. Gravity does the job again to close the gate/door. Be sure to keep this type lubed.



New Year, New Venue for FABA

The FABA conference is happening in Gainesville, Oct. 8–10, 2021, at the Best Western Gateway Grand right off Interstate 75. The address is [4200 NW 97th Blvd, Gainesville](#).

The hotel facilities are nice, and the field space is sufficient for what we need. This will be a good venue for this year. The class schedule is being developed, and we are going to be selecting our demonstrators soon.

We are keeping with the home-grown talent theme for this year as well (although someone within the neighboring states within driving distance could be considered as well, if you have a strong candidate).

If you have a special topic or request for a demonstrator or demonstration with follow-on class, please notify FABA Program Chair Erin Harlow or Treasurer Doug Hayes as soon as possible.

Online registration for conference, basic classes, coal sales, room reservations and more will be up by the end of July. Additional / specialty classes may be added later as they become available.

Please note that the cost of almost everything has gone up post-COVID, including hotel room rates. Our conference rates are: 2 double beds \$154/night plus tax, King Suite \$139/night plus tax. Suites are also available.

A word to the wise, the hotel is holding rooms for us, but this is Gator Homecoming weekend (down in the south end of the town), so you may want to book early. Just call the hotel (352-331-3336) and tell them you are with FABA to secure the conference rate. There is also camping available at the next I-75 exit.

If you are brand-new and want to get to know folks who can help you with the craft, jump in and volunteer! You'll make new friends and learn a lot along the way.

If you have helped before and are willing to help us run another successful conference, step up and give Erin a shout.

Keep your eyes and ears (and email notifications) open for the conference webpage to appear.



HOW TO HELP:

If you would like to help out in one form or another, please reach out to Erin or Doug. Some areas we can always use extra hands for include:

- Gallery
- Auction
- Teaching (contact Heinrich Hole)
- General assistance each day (GO-FERING)
- Check-in
- Iron in Hat
- Special event hands: Iron Smelt, Metal Casting, demonstrator assistants
- Hospitality tent
- Youth tent

CONTACTS:

Erin Harlow – coordinator
Erinharlow1215@gmail.com

Doug Hayes, treasurer@blacksmithing.org

Heinrich Hole, Heinrich.faba@gmail.com

Central NE Report

FABA NE has been learning new skills and polishing up old ones!

Knifemaker Jimmy Morrisey (Shamrock Knives) graciously opened up his shop to the FABA-NE contingent for a day of instruction and discussion on hardening and heat treating carbon steels for blades.



Jimmy's shop is a well-equipped facility that he shares with his fellow bladesmith Chad M. Bowlin. Between the two, they produce a wide spectrum of blades and knives.

Jimmy's specialty is pattern welded steel, and that is then made

into professional-grade kitchen knives for the discerning chef. He also makes EDC knives and the occasional marking knife. Please do look at his website (www.shamrockknives.com/shop) for his incredible wares!

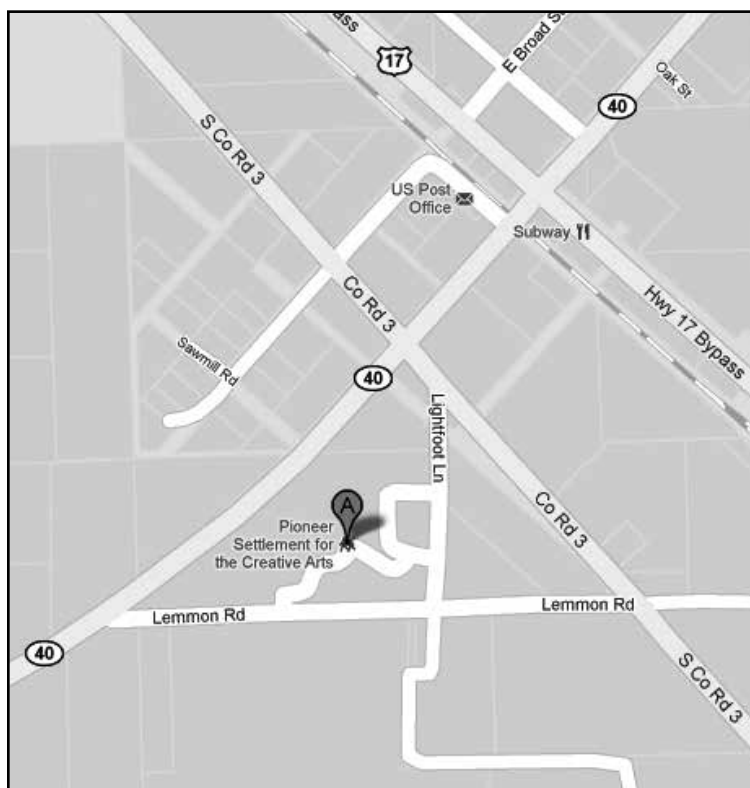
All of Jimmy's blades are forged to shape and finish ground. Thereafter, they are sanded and polished before the all important etching, which brings out the luscious patterns in the steel.

The most important part, though, was our discussion on proper heating, hardening, and tempering of blades. Jimmy made many salient points clear that many of us were either unaware of, or had little knowledge of. All in all, I think we came out with quite a bit more knowledge about the process, and an appreciation for the myriad things that can go wrong!

Of course, of great interest was the pattern welding process, which was thoroughly discussed, and the many fine examples of both bars, blades in progress, and finished blades.

John Burrows of Burrows Forge (<https://twitch.tv/burrowsforge>) graciously live streamed the entirety of the meeting. Remember these are unedited, and well, it's the gang, so don't expect a star-studded cast! What you will find is great information being discussed!

— **Albert Rasch, Central NE**



Central NE Meeting, Aug. 7

Our next meeting will be on August 7 at the Barberville Pioneer Settlement, 1776 Lightfoot Lane, Barberville. We will post an announcement soon on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/381431599058683>!



Far West Region Report

We had a great turnout for a summer session on June 26. Fifteen people were in attendance with potentially two new members. David Sandlin finally got to demonstrate his technique for hot collaring bars together (he was supposed to do the demonstration in April but we cancelled for weather).

After the demonstration, a couple of members tried their hand at making collars, but most got right onto their personal projects. We also continued work on the Viking era tool chest that will be auctioned in October.

— **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



Wayne accomplished this nice clip point knife, which is wrapped with leather cord.



Travis shows off the feather and trammel hook he made. Below, Travis making the feather.



James (above) watches the heat for his boarding axe. The boarding axe was made from a 2.5-pound Harbor Freight ballpeen hammer (left). The FAB power hammer became very useful for this project.



David's hot-collaring demo (below)



Far West Meetings

Our July 24th meeting will be under the shade of the pecan trees at [Butler's Countryside Farm, 4112 Bell Lane, Milton, FL 32571](#), with focus on documenting your work for submission for the award of journeyman.

The August meeting will be hosted by Christopher Mallet at his house at [2331 Salamanca St., Navarre, FL](#), where we hope to dry run the “making a mini xiphos” class using cast aluminum.

September 25th, we will be back at Traditions Workshop to prep the trailer and equipment for the Ocala trip. Don't forget to bring your parts for the Viking Era tool chest, this meeting is when we will do our final assembly and place the tools in the chest.

Since we plan to be at the conference, we will skip our October meeting.

In November, we hope to meet again at [Timber Creek Distillery](#). We don't usually meet in December but be on the lookout for a number of blacksmithing demonstration events throughout the fall and early winter.

January and February will find us back at Traditions Workshop so we will have a place to retreat into if the weather turns bitter on us.

— **David Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



The Far West's lunch of “Georgia Smoked Sausage,” baked beans and potato salad was provided by Traditions Workshop and cooked up by Billy & Jennifer Hay.



NW Region Meeting, Aug. 14

Hello everyone from the Northwest region. I'm writing this from Washington state, where I am spending the next couple months trying to get away from our Florida summer heat.

I was feeling pretty confident about the whole beat-the-heat thing, and then we had the record heat wave here, and it was worse than Tallahassee! I had to resort to hosing myself with well water to cool off, just like in Florida.

Mercifully it's gone back to cooler weather here, but I am humbled by Mother Nature. Blacksmithing also helps me to be humble. But only when I get out and do it.

Speaking of Blacksmithing, the Northwest region is going to hold our August meeting on the 14th at the Tallahassee Museum, at [3945 Museum Road, Tallahassee FL 32310](#).

Mike Murphy is going to host the meeting for us with Roger Bell's help. They're going to do some interesting demonstrating for us, demonstrating about demonstrating! Yeah, it'll be great! Most likely there will be some open forges opportunity, too.

Be sure to bring something for the Iron in the Hat raffle. No need to bring food items, because we're going to use the money from the raffle to buy lunch from the Museum Cafe.

The meeting starts at 9 a.m. You won't need to pay to get in, you can come in the service gate or tell them at the front gate that you've come for the FABAs meeting. Plan to make a lunch menu selection when you sign in on the attendance sheet. The raffle will be drawn starting at 12:30 p.m., and lunch will follow.

I'm sorry that I'm going to miss it. Anyone who takes pictures and gets them in the Clinker Breaker can expect a rich reward in free raffle tickets at the next meeting.

— **John Pfund, NW Coordinator, still goofing off shamelessly in Washington State**

NNE Region Report

The North Northeast region has been pretty quiet this year as we have no Regional Coordinator to help organize things. Fortunately, Heinrich Hole has been doing an awesome job just a bit south and providing activities for our folks to attend. However, the NNE region of FABA did partner with Iron Osprey Forge and put on a day-long Open House for Veterans on July 10th.

This inaugural event was spearheaded by Robert Richmond, a Vietnam vet, FABA member and a regular at Iron Osprey Forge. Food and beverages were provided all day, with ongoing demonstrations outside of the shop and special 2-hour intro

classes for Veterans in the shop. Drop-ins were also able to get some forge time to make their own bottle openers.

Although this original turnout was just less than 2 dozen total, everyone had a good time, and this will become a quarterly event for St. Augustine. A special shoutout to Chris Cauthen who journeyed from Tallahassee to provide great assistance in set-up and teaching, and a special thanks to Ryan Rowe (season 4 of *Forged in Fire*) for providing a demonstration of his paper steel/copper damascus pattern welding process.

— Doug Hayes, FABA Treasurer



Ryan Rowe's steel/copper damascus



Regional Reports

SE Region Report

Here are some pics from the farm at FA-BA's Southeast Region meeting on July 17. Stay tuned to the region's [Facebook page](#) for August meeting details.

— Peter Hill, SE Coordinator



THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

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August 2021

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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:

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 _____

FABA

Doug Hayes, Treasurer
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