

March 2024

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985



HOT PEPPERS NW Region report, page 5



LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

The Gainesville Region demonstrated at the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire last month. Report, page 6



FABACON 2024 DATES ANNOUNCED

Save the date for FABA's Conference in Gainesville Nov. 8-10. The FABA auction will include this etched hammer. Read about the process, page 3



GROWING BLACKSMITHS:

FABA's SE Region report, page 6

Regional Events & Information



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

The NNE meetings will be the 2nd or 3rd Saturdays (depending on the month) in 2024.

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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FABA Con 2024: Save the date

Our 2024 conference team, lead by Lisa-Anne Conner, has successfully negotiated the dates for our conference with Best Western Gateway Grand. Block your calendars for November 8, 9, and 10!

Granted this is a little later in the year than we usually host the conference but hotel availability in Gainesville is driven by the college football schedule. On the plus side we can expect some cooler weather, and the hotel has held down our room and facilities rates to the same as last year.

Since this is also Veterans Day weekend, we will be saluting our Veterans as we forge our future. Expect several activities during the conference to echo that keynote.

By the way the link to reserve a room is already active and will be posted to the conference section of our web site shortly; or you can use this link right now: https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.10281.html?groupId=R56LP2L9

The default reservation is Thursday night to Sunday. If you need to change those dates click "edit" on the upper right side of the screen to expose the menu that will allow you make a date change. If you plan to arrive on Wednesday, you will need to call the hotel to get the FABA rate for that night.

MORE FROM THE MONEY TREE

Thanks to Erin Harlow, our hard working hotel negotiator and grant writer, Alachua County has again shown how much they appreciate our 2023 event by giving us a grant for over \$3,000. We plan to pass those funds on to our 8 regional coordinators so they can improve your local programs.

Each coordinator is authorized to spend up to \$300 for local programing. These funds can be used to invite a special demonstrator or to build/purchase equipment. If your region elects to use funds for equipment (like building forges) please be sure to coordinate your plans with our Quartermaster – Kirk Sullens – so we don't have a duplication of efforts.

If your region wants to invite a demonstrator; the funds can be used to cover travel, lodging or a stipend. I recommend inviting one of our FABA members who has previously received a scholarship as this helps them complete their obligations for receiving those scholarships. Please DO NOT invite in an international demonstrator who will be awarded any of these funds, as this creates

immeasurable problems for us with taxes and regulations.

Regional coordinators who do not advise me of their plan to commit these funds by July 1st will have their allocation rolled over into the conference budget.

IGNORE YOUR SQUARE CANCELLATION

If you get a notice from Square that your account is cancelled, it is because when you renewed your account through our website, which is hosted by WIX, we have to cancel your account in Square or you will be billed twice each time you renew. We don't want anyone to be surprised. The Square cancellation is a good thing.

VIDEO ALERT

At the 2023 FABACON, Craig Hines gave us an excellent overview of what is required to fulfill the requirements for the ABANA National Curriculum Level I.

If you missed that presentation or if you just want some more detail about accomplishing the Level I requirements, tune into [Waters Ironworks - YouTube](#) and walk through with him on achieving his level I. Waters shows his work for each project that is required in the Curriculum. And soon he will have all the details covering his journey through Level II. I strongly suspect he will also be posting his Level III in the near future.

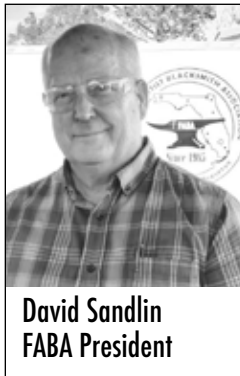
FABA AUCTION ITEMS

Sarah McMurray left one of her hammers in the orange trailer after FABACON 2023. She was supposed to reclaim it at the monthly FABA Far West meeting on January 27. However, she was in for a pleasant surprise!

We had polished the hammer and cut out a decal so it could be electronically etched if she desired. Sarah was game for the idea, so one of our teaching demonstrations for the meeting was the electronic etching process. Sarah and Dawn Fortenberry worked together to etch both sides of this hammer. In the end, even though Sarah liked the results, she thought it best to donate the hammer to FABA as a future auction item. You can look forward to bidding on this at the auction on Nov. 9 in Gainesville. Don't forget to register and reserve your hotel room today!

Hope and pray your anvil rings true, be creative.

– David Sandlin, President



NNE Region Meeting, March 9

NNE Region will meet on March 9th. Location is TBD. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.faba.org>.

NNE Region Meeting Report

February was a busy day in the North Northeast Region. Ben Thompson worked with several folks on forging tomahawk/axe drift/mandrels from axles, and Doug Hayes worked others to start John Pfund's Blacksmith challenge. We also covered shaping handles, dressing hammers and new anvils and more. A fun day for all. Keep tuned for a future meeting and shop warming for Robert Richmond's Veterans Forge. The final pieces are coming together to open his shop for meetings.

— Doug Hayes, NNE Coordinator



NW Region Meeting Report



Our January meeting was held at Bettinger's welding shop. I was out in Washington State, pet sitting for my sister, so I missed the meeting, but I saw the pictures Dot took at the meeting and posted on Facebook, and it looked like everyone had a great time. Lots of great pictures. Thank you, Dot.

About 40 people signed in for the meeting. Chris Cauthen taught a pepper making class and five people made peppers! I want to thank everyone in the group who help make the meetings a success.

Group participation is a wonderful thing, it's what makes everything possible! As a regional coordinator, it's pretty obvious to me, especially when I have to be absent.

We just had our February meeting yesterday at Marcia and Craig Hines's house. Chris Belden was our demonstrator showing us newly learned forge-welding skills with Craig narrating. It was great!

Craig's shop is an awesome example that a blacksmithing shop can be well equipped and worked in without being cluttered. A little over 30 people signed in. Lots of good things in the raffle and especially lot of good things brought to share for the meal.

Sometimes the group brings more to a meeting, in a way

that I appreciate, don't fully understand and can't predict well at all. This was one of those times of abundance.

We rang the anvil at the meeting, as we sometimes do. This time was for Debbie Worley, Lou Prather and Mark Stone's mother. Ringing the anvil in memory of loved ones is something I really appreciate that we do.

Thank you Marcia and Craig for hosting and Chris for demonstrating. Thank you to everyone who contributes in so many ways. Coming to the meeting, bringing others. Donating handmade items, and other attractive prizes to the raffle. Buying tickets! Bringing your favorite dishes to share. Helping to set up and clean up. Taking pictures at the meeting and sharing them with the group.

NW Region Meeting, March 9

Our March meeting is going to be held on the 9th at Stephen Foster State Park in White Springs. We had a couple of meetings there last year and are ready for another. This location is a long drive from Tallahassee, 100 miles for me, but a very nice setting for blacksmithing and having a meeting. I'm going to be volunteering there for all of the weekends in March, and FABA members are invited to come and participate for all of them. Adults only for working and learning in the shop, but it's free for FABA Members. We're teaching classes on the weekends, and they are open to the public, campers and park visitors, still 18 and older, only \$25 per person for a 4-hour class.

All of this is built around the Blacksmith Challenge way of making our own tools. I've got a tool box of tools and the box itself almost finished, I think it will be for the meeting. We'll be demonstrating some of the techniques at the meeting and offering an opportunity to try them too.

We will have sandwich supplies available for lunch, unless you want to go to the local barbeque place. It's a good option, but you'll have to pay for yourself. We'll have a raffle at the meeting if enough people show up and bring something to donate. I encourage people from my region to carpool and share the ride. I also want to invite anyone who lives close enough to be willing to drive here, to consider coming out regularly and volunteering at the park. Any weekend is good and especially our meeting on the 9th. Our April meeting will be at Aunt Louise's Farm and our May meeting will be at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. At Aunt Louise's, we will be set up every weekend in April for members' participation, and we are still having classes at PPS, every first and third Saturdays, until we stop for the summer after the third weekend in May. Lots of good opportunities. I hope to see you there.

— John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator

SE Region Meeting Schedule

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.



SE Region Meeting Report

We had new faces at the Jan. 20th meeting. Some creative projects were worked on. Marty and his two sons worked on various stages of their knives. Peter Hill showed different techniques using the grinder. Others forged multi purpose belt hooks and made plant hangers using Journeyman requirements.



SHOP FOR SALE

FABA member Ray Nager is closing his shop in Lakeland, FL, and looking to clear out the equipment there. The classified ad is at right, but more information is below:

- 2 gas forges
- 2 anvils, including a 274 lb. kohlsua anvil with double horns and an upsetting block
- 2 hydraulic presses
 - one 75,000 pounds of pressure
 - another doesn't have a tower
- 2 drawing/drafting tables
- a lot of bottles and propane tanks, tools, tongs
- 3 steel layout tables - one on wheels
 - one table is 4 feet wide by 12 feet long
 - one table is 5 feet by 7 feet, with 6-inch pipe legs with 1 1/2 inch thick steel top

(2) Hydraulic Units: 7.5 & 10 hp, 3ph w/controls, Lg Gas Forge, 20pr Spring Swages, 3T asst. steel, 17" South Bend Lathe, Asst. tongs & Clamps, Miller Plasma Cutter #2020, Drafting Table, (3) layout tables 2 steel, 1 aluminum, 313# Peddinghaus Anvil dbl horn, New 30HP for 3ph conversion. Call for pricing! Contact Ray Nager, Lakeland, FL, 863-398-4995, metal8481@yahoo.com

Central NE Meeting Report

February could not have gone better. We got all of our main goals accomplished and then some. Thanks to the guys that joined in with the fabrication crew, we now have a full line-up of sturdy student forges again. I'll provide pics after our next meeting when we apply a few finishing touch-ups.

I want to thank all the people that helped clean up the shop. We filled 8, yes 8 x 100 lb bags with used coal debris from the piles under the old forges and the bags were over filled. The poor little 1/4 ton truck I moved it with cried the whole way. Then, as if that wasn't enough, two of our guys spent the whole day non-stop pounding out items to donate to the Settlements store.

What can I say? It was a perfect day for the region and now we are in a much better position to move forwards. Special thanks to Kirk Sullens and Doug Hayes for leading the fabrication team and for providing a ton of raw materials and tooling to get the job done with. We would not be where we are now without you two :)

Greater Orlando Meeting, March 16

Greater Orlando meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at UnderGround Metal Works in Maitland, FL. The next meeting is 9AM to noon on March 16.

Please bring items for a potluck lunch.

For more information, contact John Hare at 802-373-1190 or legacy.john.hare@gmail.com.

— **John Hare, Orlando Regional Coordinator**

Central NE Meetings

The Central NE March Meeting is being canceled. I do not want to detract from the BBB Hammer in. This meeting is special and is serving a higher cause. I think our time will be best spent there for many many reasons. I'll hope to see you at the Brotherhood meeting :)

April will be our next meeting and it will be at Kirk Sullens' house in Lake Mary. There will be more details to post about that meeting when we get closer.

For now I'd like to point out that our April meeting lines up with the Settlements Spring Frolic. I would ask that some of our members sign up to demonstrate for the Frolic. Faba has had a pretty weak presence at the Settlements main events for a lil too long now and I'd really love to bring it back again to something like it's former glory. There was a time when the shop was completely filled with demonstrators and non-stop activities. It was a time before our region lost all of its senior smiths in what felt like the blink of an eye. Many great men were lost over the course of just a few years and our region has felt their absence in every way possible. We have been making our own new growth for the last several years however and I very strongly feel that our region is in a state where we are ready to make our presence felt again. If you feel the same way and want to be on the team that helps bring us back then please get a hold of me by whatever means you chose.

Hope to see you there. :)

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE 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

Cameron LaFrance - Micco, FL

Interested in being a FABA sponsor or expanding your sponsor listing? Please contact FABA President David Sandlin at President@blacksmithing.org and include your business name, tag line, and contact information for use in the Clinker Breaker and online.

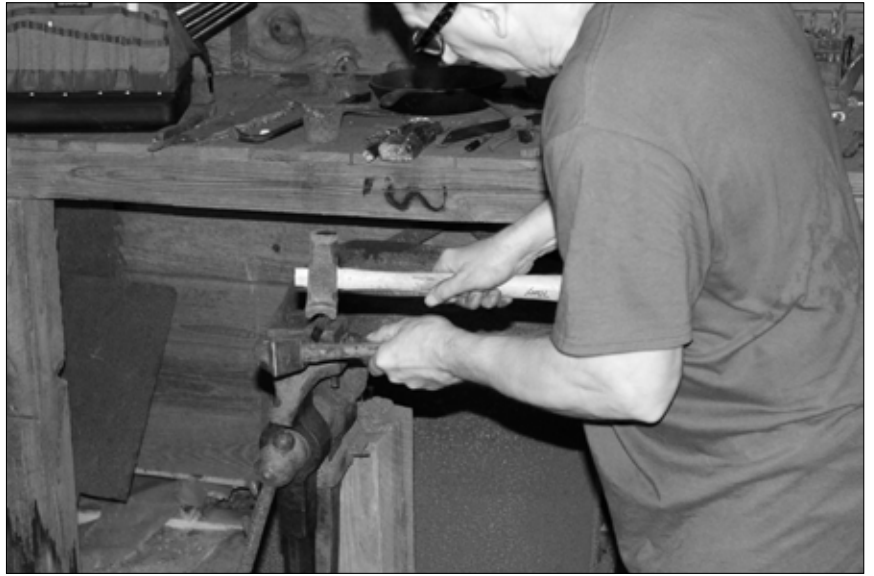
SW Region Meeting Report

At our January SW meeting, Trez and I demoed 'square corners' — again. It's a popular request as it's part of FABA's Journeyman requirements. It's fair to say that for me, square corners are tricky and have been my personal nemesis.

A few years ago, and after 4- or 5-years smithing, I was feeling that I had a good number of basic skills under my belt, so I decided to test myself with the target of completing the Journeyman list. Over many months I demoed my competency at the basics to Trez for signoff. Then I came up against square corners - not only in square bar but in round bar, (I thought the latter was a joke to catch me out, but no).

Just like we did at our recent meeting, I asked Trez to demo them.

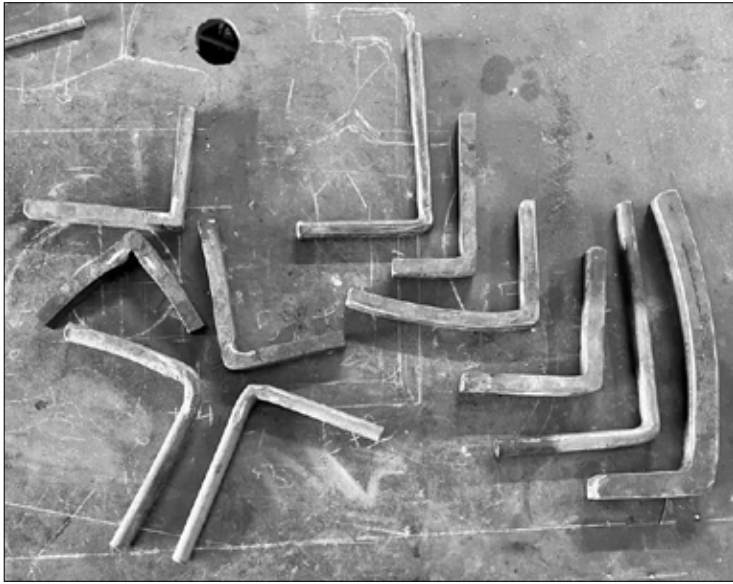
I then began to try it out. It's hard! So, I watched videos by Black Bear Forge, Mark Aspery and ABANA. I understood a little more, but it is still hard. I made many mistakes, but I kept every one of my attempts and looked at what was



wrong and understood why. Now and then I would work with Doug Rogerson, who was also seeking his Journeyman last year, and we would try a few more times. Sometimes I made a good one and kept it as my own measure of my success. (See the picture here of some bad attempts and some passable ones).



SW Region Meeting, March 23



Finally, I felt confident to demo my efforts to Trez and I just made it over the passing grade line. After a lot of work, I received my Journeyman certificate last year.

So, I made a couple more prior to our January meeting. This time I really thought about why I could do it the first time (it took me about 45 minutes and many heats).

Here is the learning advice I took to the meeting, which I think applies to all smithing techniques:

1) Look at what happened when you hit your stock.

Where did the metal go?

2) Do you need to correct anything?

3) What are you going to do next?

4) Repeat 1 through 3

5) Be patient, be thoughtful

Also remember that you came to watch a demo from an experienced FABA smith who happily gave you his knowledge, (teaching is FABA's main goal). "If you put this knowledge on a shelf, you have to take it down sometimes and play with it, or it's not worth anything."

If you are in another region, ask a FABA Journeyman for a demo of square corners.

See in the pictures, the techniques I used at the meeting with a bottom die and a top swage, to demo the mysterious 'square corner in a round bar.'

It was great to see after the meeting that SW member Paul Wiedorn patiently worked on a square corner with a square bar and got his signoff in his Journeyman booklet from Trez. Thank you to all who attended!

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

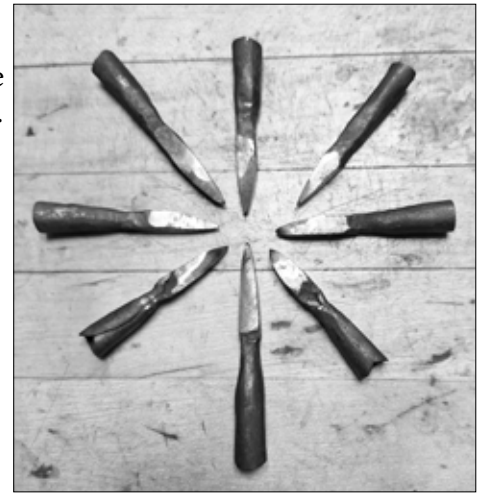
Our SW March meeting will be on Saturday, March 23, at 10 AM, and we will be back to Crowley Museum and Nature Center just east of Sarasota.

We will first have a demo by Paul Wiedorn, and then as we discussed at our last meeting, we will organize the forge so we can use the tools and anvils which were recently donated to the Museum.

Over the course of more than a decade, Paul Wiedorn introduced hundreds of new students to the art of blacksmithing at Chesapeake Forge in Maryland. At the March meeting he will show us how to forge a bodkin arrowhead as an excuse to talk about the finer points of tending a coal fire and about ways to reduce repetitive stress. See the picture of his work (at right).

Please bring safety eye wear and dress appropriately.

Please bring something for Iron in the Hat, and a food or drink item to share.



**Crowley Museum
and Nature Center**

www.crowleyfl.org

Address: 16405 Myakka Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

Telephone : (941) 322-1000

DIRECTIONS to Crowley Museum:

From the south or west: Take Fruitville Road (exit #210 off I75) and drive 10 miles to the dead end. Turn right on Myakka road. Go 3 miles, Crowley is on your left. If you travel over the bridge to the north entrance of Myakka State Park, you missed us by a mile.

From the north: Take I75 to route #70, exit #217B, travel to Verna Road. Turn right and travel south for approximately 6 miles to the Crowley entrance on your left.

From the east: Take Hwy #70 to Verna Road. Turn left. Travel approximately 6 miles to Crowley entrance on your left.

Please check our FABA SW Facebook page for meeting info at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674, or contact antony.fenn@gmail.com. Thank you!

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

Gainesville Region Meetings



The meeting for the Gainesville Region in February was held at the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire! Fun was had by all. It was an open forge for any member who wished to attend. We had several FABA members come through and swing a hammer for the patrons. Jacob Underhill even did some team striking with his son, Jace, while Justin Miller supervised.

There will be no March meeting for the Gainesville region, because it will be the Bearded Brotherhood of Blacksmiths annual Ball on March 1st, 2nd and 3rd in Starke, FL.

This year, the Ball is open to the public, which means FABA Members are welcome! Proceeds from the Ball will be donated to the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation.



EPIC HAMMER-IN

TO BENEFIT THE
NATIONAL PEDIATRIC CANCER
FOUNDATION

March 1 -3, 2024 Starke, FL

You're Invited

- Watch blacksmith demonstrations
- Participate in a class (additional fee donated to NPCF)
- Enjoy food trucks
- Camping available
- Family-friendly
- Support the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation

\$20 registration
(donation to the NPCF)



Located under the pecan groves at
19915 fl-16 Starke, FL 32091

BEARDED BROTHERHOOD OF BLACKSMITHS 2024

<http://beardedbrotherhoodofblacksmiths.com/>

Please register through this link, so we can be sure that the NPCF can see our support. <https://beardedbrotherhoodofblacksmiths.com/bearded-brotherhood-epic-hammer-in/>

The BBB will be hosting a forging competition which includes some fabulous prizes, many of which were donated by Holland Anvil. Some of these items may even end up in an iron-in-the-hat scenario.



For those of you analog folks, registration is \$20, with classes at \$100. Of that, \$80 goes to the NPCF and \$20 helps pay for the materials.

The Ball is at: 19915 Florida 16, Starke, FL

The event starts on Friday, March 1, at 10am, and concludes on Sunday, March 3rd. RVs and primitive camping are welcome. This is a big old party in a field. You are expected to be self sufficient when it comes to food and water. We have portapotties, we have well water. That's about it.

— Jordan Borstelmann, Gainesville Coordinator

Far West Meeting Report

The rain on January 27th did not dampen the spirits of the FABA Far West Region, and 17 members and guests assembled at Traditions Workshop for our monthly hammer in. First order of business was to return Sara's hammer that was found in the orange trailer after FABACON 2023. To her surprise, it was already polished and prepped to do electrolysis, which she agreed to and proceeded with. See page 3 for info on this project and her donation to FABACON 2024. After the demonstration of electrolysis etching, our group got down to business and decided on our project for convention in November. We all look forward to doing our parts for the team competition of medieval religion and folklore.

Jessica Sandlin, FABA's webmaster, taught a small class for visitors on making nails and hooks while David Sandlin demonstrated to members how to make a leaf ring. Jack ran a one on one class with Ron on



Above, Christopher and Jack coach Ron on how to twist a handle.



First time blacksmiths Jeff and Alexis make nails and hooks, tutored by Jessica Sandlin.



Above, Jessica works with Alexis on her first nail. Left, David demonstrates a leaf ring.

how to make a railroad spike knife.

Although Traditions Workshop supplied the food, it was Dawn Fortenberry who actually cooked the meal for us. Thank you Dawn! A good time was had by all and the meeting ran late, closing up just before dark.

At the February meeting at Traditions Workshop, the teaching emphasis will be on making tapers and punches in support of both our journeyman standards and the national curriculum. Hope to see more people there, and a little more sunshine.

— David Sandlin,
FABA President



Far West Meeting Schedule

Far West Region has planned the following schedule:

March 23, John Butler's Farm, 9AM set up, then from 10AM to 3PM our annual FABA fund raising 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 to the first 12 people who sign up so everyone will have access to the necessary tools.

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

May 25, return to Timber Creek Distillery, 9AM set up, 9:30AM open forges to 3PM. Bring your parts, or use the time to make your part for the regional competition project. Cam and Aaron also 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 in November.

— Christopher Sandlin, Far West Coordinator



THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President
114 Choctaw Cove
Valparaiso, FL 32580



March 2024

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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 _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____ EMAIL _____

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