

October 2022

# CLINKER



# BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985



## FABA CON 2022

Competitions, demonstrations and specialty workshops are planned throughout the weekend during FABA's upcoming conference in Gainesville, FL. Register today! Get more information, pages 9-11



# 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	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](http://www.blacksmithing.org); our conference Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/groups/2849587158637631](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2849587158637631); 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, 2023  
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REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



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# Spread the word: FABA CON 2022

We are off to a great start for FABA Con 2022!

Over 50 people have pre-registered for our event, and the classes are starting to fill. But we need your help. Touch base on the social media sites that you are most familiar with and let folks know about the conference. Include some pictures from past FABA events to gain some attention and direct them to FABA Conference Registration at [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org) for more information.

You might also want to add a link to this great video from last year's conference produced by John Hare of Burrows Forge (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FL3bDXayqQY> or search for FABA Annual Conference Trailer on YouTube).



David Sandlin  
FABA President



Places to post information about our conference need not include just the obvious blacksmith-oriented groups; think a little bit off the anvil. Historically oriented groups, reenactors, arts groups, pioneers, military pages, colleges ... all might be interested in spending a day or even the whole weekend at our conference. Bottom line is, Spread the Word! It's going to be a great event!

By the time you receive this issue of the Clunker Breaker, voting will be closed and we will announce results in the next issue. Please recall that we did not have anyone run for treasurer to replace Doug Hayes.

But all is not lost! Too late to make the ballot, Richard Wright volunteered to take over the treasurer job. Richard has been a member of FABA for over 20 years as well as ABANA and is a past president for the Kentucky Blacksmith Association. He used to have a shop in Sarasota in the same complex as Jerry Wolfe and did a couple of

demonstrations for the SW chapter back in 2002-2004.

Most importantly, Richard has a professional background in accounting and retired as the CFO for a major manufacturing firm that built windows (physical windows, not computer). He plans to be at the conference. Be sure to look him up and thank him for stepping forward.

John Hare (Burrows Forge) has been diligently working on opening our newest region for FABA, in the Orlando area at Valencia College. He has tamed the paperwork monster at the college and it looks like he, with the help of Kirk Sullens and Doug Hayes, will be able to hold the first meeting in September. He wants to keep the inaugural event small so they have an opportunity to work out the bugs, so look for a bigger announcement of their October event. Many thanks to John for all the effort it has taken to make this region a reality. We expect the region to grow quickly since we get an overabundance of our web traffic searches from Orlando.

Lastly, I have been asked to review "The New Spruce Forge Manual of Locksmithing – A Blacksmith's Guide to Simple Lock Mechanisms" by Denis Freechette (on YouTube as "DF in the Shop") and Bill Morrison (Spruce Forge). This beautiful 300-page book from Artisan Ideas press is a huge step up from the original comb-bound, Xerox-copied "Spruce Forge Manual of Locksmithing."

The most surprising find in this volume are the first 65 pages of the book, which are dedicated to "tools, techniques and procedures." This section is not the typical "how to set up your shop" stuff, but a more detailed look at forging that leads to bench work.

I won't give you a full review here as I've just begun reading; this looks to be not just a detailed reference on how to make 14 types of traditional/historic locks, but a book you will reference frequently for numerous specialized blacksmith techniques.

Hope and pray your anvil rings true throughout the year! See you at FABA CON 2022 in Gainesville, FL.

— David Sandlin, President

*Life's a forge! Yes, and hammer and anvil, too! You'll be roasted, smelted, and pounded, and you'll scarce know what's happening to you. But stand boldly to it! Metal's worthless till it's shaped and tempered! More labor than luck. Face the pounding, don't fear the proving; and you'll stand well against any hammer and anvil.*

—Lloyd Alexander, Author, *Taran Wanderer* (1967)



# Remembering FABA founder ‘Skeeter’ Prather

E. Charlton (Skeeter) Prather, MD, a founding member of FABA, passed away August 21, 2022.

When I first met Skeeter Prather, he was helping design the blacksmith shop at Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center in White Springs based on the Milton shop in Jasper where he learned to forge.

The next time I saw Skeeter, he was demonstrating in the new White Springs shop, and I was keeping hordes of school children from putting their hands in the fire. When the kids left, he gave me a piece of steel and his hammer and told me to make something while he went to the necessary. I was hooked!

But he didn't stop there. When my home shop stalled for lack of a stand to hold my fire pot, Skeeter showed up with a wood and steel stand that precisely fit the bill, then helped me to make my first (and current) hardie hot cut.

Amazing, yes, but standard operating procedure for the “Johnny Appleseed” of blacksmithing in Florida.

As I became involved with FABA, I found that Skeeter had gotten many smiths started and not a few blacksmith shops. As he encouraged blacksmithing, so he tended FABA, making sure its history was preserved, recruiting editors for the *Clinker Breaker*, and organizers for the annual meeting.

With all he did, what I'll remember most about Skeeter was that he saw you, not the façade, but you, and made you feel appreciated even when he was pointing out your areas for improvement.

— David Reddy, former *Clinker Breaker* editor



John Butler presents Skeeter Prather with an award for distinguished service from FABA in 2008.





### Central NE Region Report

To say that our meeting in September was a good one would be the understatement of the year. The word “phenomenal” only begins to approach the level of amazing we experienced during Dr. Andrew Welton’s demonstration about iron smelting. Thank you, Sir. The region and myself are deeply indebted to you.

Our attendees were so wrapped up in the project that I had to hire a personal counselor for the food to deal with its abandonment issues. Almost nobody had time to spare for mere mortal needs like lunch. At the time the bloom was being pulled out, we had over 100 people watching.

A special thank you goes out to the individuals who came out for preparation day. Friday prep was both fun and highly educational. Of course, it presented its challenges. BTW, if you can avoid it, I’d recommend not planning to build a furnace on a day with a weather prediction of heavy sustained rain and thunderstorms. It’s totally fun attempting to dry a furnace when it’s being rained on .... sigh.

We learned a lot, though, and did manage to successfully construct a usable furnace. Thank you, once more, to Mr. Welton for an incredibly engaging demonstration. We look forward to any presentations you wish to do in the future.



### Central NE Meeting, Oct. 1

We’ll be at the Pioneer Art Settlement with a primary focus on getting our group project as close to completion as humanly possible. Malachi has provided us with a perfect log to base our scene on. I mean it guys, this log is special. Let’s bring in the pieces we took home to work on and make this project become a reality we can all be proud of. Forges will be available to those wishing to work on their own projects, but priority will be assigned to the project if our six forges are somehow not enough.

CYA there, my fellow smiths. I can hardly wait!.

Learn more on the NE FABA Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/www.faba.org](http://www.facebook.com/groups/www.faba.org).

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**



### NW Region Report

Our September meeting at Roger Bell's house was a great success. We had 29 people sign in, which is a good attendance any day, but especially so on a rainy day like we had. I got to demonstrate making "upset the boss" tongs and had a wonderfully captive audience, thanks to the rain. I was using the only forge we had going. It's a great little forge though. We call it the "old time forge" with a hand crank blower and no electric power. My favorite kind! Roger served us a fried fish dinner, thanks to Ken Weldon for operating the fryer and everyone who bought sides and desserts and donations for the raffle. Additionally we were celebrating birthdays. It was Roger's birthday and someone else's, too. I can't remember who, but you know who you are!

What a great way to celebrate a birthday, attending or hosting a FABA meeting. I overheard someone say, "best meeting ever" and I know just what they meant!

### NW Region Meeting, Oct. 8

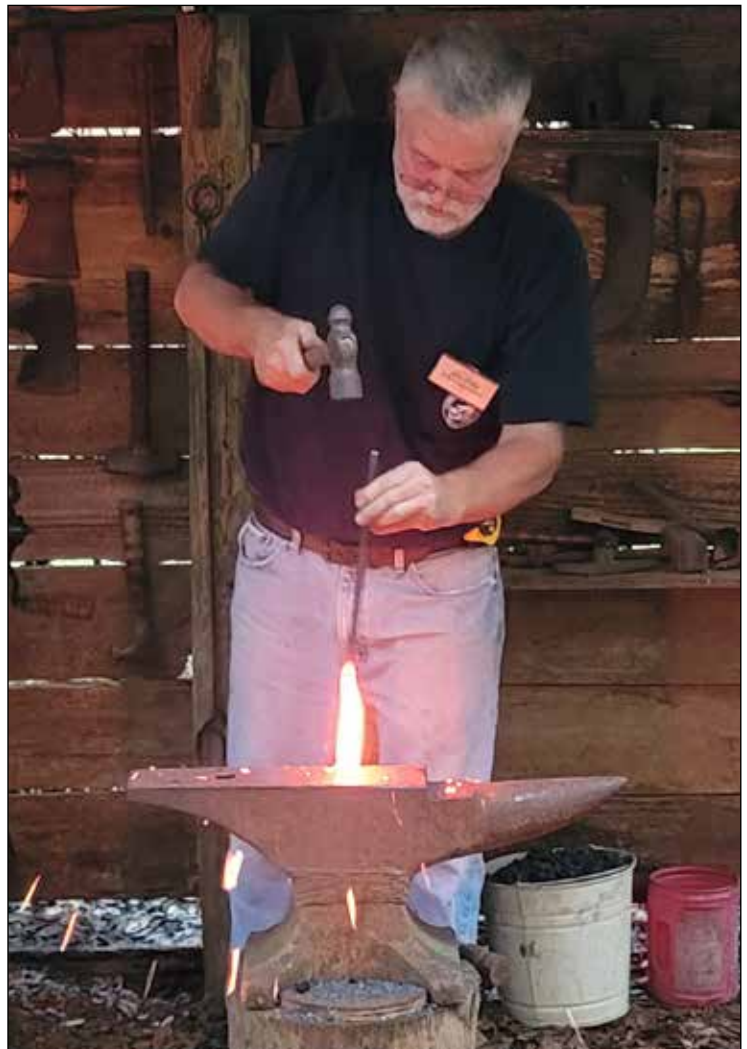
Hello, and greetings from the Northwest region. Our next meeting will be at Aunt Louise's farm on Oct. 8th, at 8101 Waukeenah Hwy., Monticello, FL. Aunt Louise's fall season runs for all 5 weekends in October and the first 2 weekends in November. We're going to have our blacksmithing area set up for the whole 7 weekends and have our November meeting there. Everyone in the club is invited to participate as much as possible. The hours are 10 am to 6 pm Saturdays and 2-6 pm Sundays. We're invited to hang out, practice our craft and sell products as much we want.

On meeting days we will start at 9 am, even though they're not open yet. We're going to have several open forges and a raffle. Lunch will be hot dogs and burgers cooked on the forge. Please bring sides and desserts.

We are going to have some schedule conflicts during this season. First weekend in November is the conference and the 3rd weekend in October is the Farm tour at Millstone Plantation, but with enough people involved, we can cover it all. Call me if you want to participate.

Hope to see you there!

**— John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**







John Pfund demonstrates for the Northwest. Photos by Chris Cauthen



### Far West Meeting, Oct. 22

The last hammer for the Far West Region before the FABA Annual Conference will be back at Traditions Workshop on October 22nd. This will be the last day to add your contribution to the team project before it is sealed up. We will also to prep the trailer for the conference.

Please email me if you have questions or need more information at [Chris@traditionsworkshop.com](mailto:Chris@traditionsworkshop.com).

As always there will not be a December meeting.

— **Christopher Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**

### Support our FABA business members

#### 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  
David Sandlin - Traditions Workshop - Fort Walton Beach, 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](mailto:djhayes29@hotmail.com) and include your business name, tag line, and point of contact information for use in the Clinker Breaker and online.



## SW Region Meeting Report

We had a busy and productive meeting at my workshop FishnChips Forge in Sarasota. It was a hot and steamy day, but 9 people turned out and forged despite the summer heat.

Trez Cole answered questions on Journeyman skills and then he and I demoed collaring. I demoed two ways of making collars. I showed a jig I made which can be adjusted to different sizes. Trez quickly demoed an alternative by cutting a slot into a piece of 1/4" plate and using it as a bending jig.

After the demo my two forges were used by attendees to get some practice. Doug Rogerson did a great job showing us he can make a good 'squared' corner using a round bar. Scott and Spencer Teele knocked out some example leaves, and a complete newbie member James Hawes, who hadn't hit steel before, made a hefty classic hook from 1/2" inch round bar.

Member John Hargett then gave us a demo of how to use top and bottom tools to make a tie down bracket, on 'Bridget' my tire hammer.

There was no September meeting for the Far West as Trez and I attended a week-long workshop at the Center for Metal Arts in Johnstown PA. We will be sure to bring back some cool skills to share with everyone.

Keep an eye on our FABA SW page for any announcements at [www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674](https://www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674). We will try and get one more meeting in before the annual conference in Gainesville.

**— Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**







## FORGING FUN



### Exchange - "Catcher of Light"

The exchange is open to any member and skill level. Each smith creates a piece based on their interpretation of the theme and brings it to the conference. On Saturday afternoon before the auction, each person who brought an item will draw the name of another. The name that you draw is the person's piece that you take home. It might be from a beginner or one of our seasoned smiths, you just never know. "Catcher of Light" is this year's theme and open to your interpretation! Plan ahead and bring an item to exchange.

### Creature Challenge

This year we are introducing a new challenge. We are asking each district or sub-district to create a piece as a team. This can be as large or small as you would like. A panel of outside judges will judge the pieces based on the criteria below. Awards will be handed out at the banquet. The winning team gets to choose the theme for the following year. Please consider donating your items to the auction. I hear whispers of some interesting collaborations out there! We hope to see submissions from each part of the state. This is a great project to work on at a monthly meeting.

#### Rules for team creature challenge

- Piece must be created by 3 or more team members
- Piece should be created between October 1, 2021-November 4, 2022
- Must include at least one forging technique
- Regions and sub-regions can submit more than one entry as long as they meet the other requirements
- Must be submitted at the FABA Conference gallery and auction area before noon on November 4, 2022
- Judging Criteria
- A team must comprise of at least 3 members and more points are awarded for more artists
- Artistic interpretation of the theme
- Materials and techniques utilized

# FABA Conference



**November 4-6, 2022  
Gainesville, FL**

**Best Western Grand Hotel and  
Conference Center**

Get the full Conference program, hotel information, registration information, a volunteer link, demonstrator profiles and more at [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org)

## Tickets available at Blacksmithing.org

<b>Member FULL 3-day</b> (includes banquet; access to workshops (add. fees may apply); access to open forge)	\$50
<b>Member 3-day</b> (ages 13+) (includes access to workshops (add. fees may apply); access to open forge)	\$45
<b>Member Day Pass</b> (ages 13+) (access to workshops (add. fees may apply); access to open forge)	\$15
<b>Spectator Day Pass</b> (ages 13+)	\$10
<b>Young smiths</b> (ages 12 under)	FREE
<hr/>	
<b>Non-member FULL 3-day</b> (includes banquet, access to workshops (add. fees may apply, access to open forge)	\$105
<b>Non-member 3-day</b> (ages 13+) (includes access to workshops (add. fees may apply); access to open forge)	\$75
<b>Non-member Day Pass</b> (ages 13+) (access to workshops (add. fees may apply, access to open forge)	\$25
<hr/>	
<b>Banquet Ticket</b>	\$30

Age restrictions are used to keep minors safe and apply to all workshops.

- Age 10-12 is only allowed to attend the Family Forge Class, with a parent. The ticket covers both the parent and the child.
- Age 13-15 may take any class, but parent or guardian must be watching at tent or in attendance in class.
- Age 16-17 may take any class, parent must be on conference grounds, but do not have to be standing with the child.

Registration is per person.

## Gallery

The gallery is a wonderful way to showcase your pieces. These can be pieces that were completed at any time. Perhaps you have a blade, art piece, home item, or other that you want to share with FABA members. Bring one or more items to the gallery to share! Items are judged by attendees and awarded prize money for People's Choice.

## Auction

We need auction items! We have a few already and if you have an item you plan to bring, feel free to email a photo to me at [fabaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:fabaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com). When you drop off the auction item, we will need to know what the item is and what it is made from, who donated or made it, and the estimated value. The live and silent auction will take place on Saturday evening, November 5th immediately following the annual banquet. Tickets will be available for the banquet on the conference registration page when it launches. You do not need a ticket to attend the auction.

## Iron in the Hat

Have scraps or interesting items laying around your shop? Bring them to the conference for Iron in the Hat. Tickets will be sold for items to be raffled on Saturday, Nov 5th from noon to 1 pm. Bring a 24 case of bottled water for 3 free tickets. Limit 3 cases per individual.

For questions or comments, please contact Erin Harlow, program coordinator, at [fabaprogramcoordinator.com](http://fabaprogramcoordinator.com)



# FABA Conference

**Workshops and demonstrators are subject to change without notice and at the discretion of the FABA Board.**

KEY	SW	Specialty Workshops
	S	Seminars
	D	Demonstrations
		Iron in the Hat/Registration
	B	Fundamental Workshops
	F	Challenges/FABA group project/open

## Conference Schedule

TENT	Fri AM	Fri PM	Sat AM	Sat PM	Sun AM
<b>1</b>	B1—basics	B2 - rivets	B1—basics	B2 - rivets	B5—tongs
<b>2</b>	B1.5—refresher	B3 - forge welding with Trez Cole	B3 - forge welding with Trez Cole	B4—heat treatment	B5—tongs
<b>3</b>	SW-Camp Knife with Jacob Underhill	SW-Camp Knife with Jacob Underhill (till 2 pm)  Forging Contest (6:30pm-8:30pm)	SW-Families at the Forge Family Program (Wands) with Luke Harlow	SW-Forge Welding Fundamentals: Getting Things to Stick with Roy Adams	SW-Wizarding World of Letter and Bottle Openers with LeRoi Price
<b>4</b>	D-10 Century Viking Axe with Elmer Roush	D-10 Century Viking Axe with Elmer Roush	D-10 Century Viking Axe with Elmer Roush	D-10 Century Viking Axe with Elmer Roush	
<b>5</b>	D-Pensive and Precise - Playing with Shapes – Pete Braspeninix	D-Pensive and Precise - Playing with Shapes – Pete Braspeninix	D-Pensive and Precise - Playing with Shapes – Pete Braspeninix	D-Pensive and Precise - Playing with Shapes – Pete Braspeninix	
<b>6</b>	D-Copper Moscow Mule Cup Demonstration by Chris Sandlin	D-Copper Moscow Mule Cup Demonstration by Chris Sandlin	SW-Copper ladle with Iron Handle with Chris Sandlin	D-Copper Tinning Demonstration by Chris Sandlin	D-Crocodile Dundee Knife Demonstration by Jacob Underhill
<b>7</b>	D-Forging an Ornamental Wall Hook, Demonstration by Roy Adams	D-Forging an Ornamental Wall Hook, Demonstration by Roy Adams	D-Forging an Ornamental Wall Hook, Demonstration by Roy Adams		
<b>8</b>	SW-Hinges with Jordan Borstelmann	SW-Gaylan Vester Hacksaw with Craig Hines, Chris Cauthen, Chris Belden	SW-Wall Candleholder with Chris Maybury	SW-Fire Lizard and Tool with John Pfund	F-FABA Group Project - The Forging Tree
<b>9</b>	F-Open Forge/weekend challenge	F-Open Forge/weekend challenge	F-Open Forge/weekend challenge	F-Open Forge/weekend challenge	F-Open Forge/weekend challenge
<b>10</b>	Iron in the Hat	Iron in the Hat	Iron in the Hat		
<b>11</b>	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
<b>FREE Seminars</b>		S—Leave Your Mark— Etching tools and blades—Leroi 3 pm—4:30 pm (San Felasco)		S-Gallery Walk with select artists 1:30 pm—2:30 pm (Ballroom)	
<b>Indoor Workshops</b>	SW-Leatherworking: Knife Sheaths (ballroom) 8:30 am - 12:00 pm	SW-Wood + Iron: Tips and tricks for selecting the right woods for your blacksmithing projects 1:00 pm—2:00 pm  SW-Leatherworking: Knife Sheaths (ballroom) 8:30 am - 12:00 pm	SW-How to pattern Damascus with Steve Schwarzer and Pete Hill 10:30 am—11:30 am  SW-Leatherworking: Knife Sheaths (ballroom) 8:30 am - 12:00 pm	ISW-mproving Your File Work with LeRoi Price 3:00-4:30pm  SW-Leatherworking: Knife Sheaths (ballroom) 8:30 am - 12:00 pm  Banquet 6:30 pm Auction 7:30 pm	

# THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Doug Hayes, Treasurer  
4255 US-1 S. Suite 18 #329  
St. Augustine, FL 32086



**October 2022**

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## FABA Officers

President	David Sandlin	david@traditionsworkshop.com
Vice President	Lisa Anne Conner	vicepres@blacksmithing.org
Treasurer	Doug Hayes	djhayes29@hotmail.com
Secretary	Tia Kitchen	secretary@blacksmithing.org
Past President	Mark Stone	markham62@comcast.net
Trustee NW	Ron Childers	Ron@munlaw.net
Trustee NE	Bill Harris	wrabh01@gmail.com
Trustee SE	Steve Silvers	
Trustee SW	Trez Cole	nokomisforge@hotmail.com
Editor	Jennifer Jhon	editor@blacksmithing.org
Program Chair	Erin Harlow	fabaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com
WebMaster	Jessica Sandlin	fabawebmaster@gmail.com

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

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

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 \_\_\_\_\_

John Butler  
4112 Bell Lane  
Pea Ridge, FL 32571