

December 2022

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985



FABACON 2022: The annual conference in Gainesville was a great success, and plans are already on the table for next year. From the Friday night forging challenge, above, to demonstrations and hands-on workshops, the weekend was full of forging, fun and friendship. (Photos provided by Rowdy Turner, Tony Fenn, Jessica Sandlin and Jennifer Jhon)



Regional Events & Information

FABA now has seven 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, 4th Saturday—Far West & SW. The NNE meetings will be the 2nd or 3rd Saturdays (depending on the month) in 2023, and the first Gainesville Regional Meeting will be Feb. 18, 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:

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.

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FABA CON 2022 thanks, successes

Team, you all did a great job putting together an excellent conference. Yes! FABA Con 2022 was a success on many levels. Financially we are looking very strong and costs were kept under control. We were able to supply the regions with coal for their monthly meetings, and we will have some funds for regional meetings to invite journeymen demonstrators in for educational presentations, plus we will be able to fully fund our two \$1,000 education scholarships in 2023.

We were able to recognize 5 new journeymen this year. We raised over \$200 for charity through the scrap bucket challenge (congratulations Tony Fenn and to his designated charity, the Crowley Museum & Nature Center in Sarasota). We announced our new veterans grant program (more details in the months ahead). Plus, we all had fun while we learned a lot of new skills and techniques.

Not all learning occurs in the formal setting under the tents. I noted on several occasions small group and one on one sessions occurring around our temporary campus. Pointers on stance and ergonomics for swinging a hammer, techniques for setting up a mobile shop, guidance on finishing your work ... the list goes on.

The demonstrators draw the crowds. The classes, both basic and advanced, meet specific needs. But the sidebar conversations are what really makes a conference like ours worthwhile. Everyone has something to share, everyone has a great story to tell. Thank you to everyone who shared a bit a knowledge.

Although I cannot possibly name and thank all the countless volunteers and instructors that made this event happen, I do want to give a public shout out to thank the team leads: Erin and Henrich for leading the charge. Tia, Jessica, Doug, and Richard for keeping registration and financials under control. Ben for finding our vendors. Greg for herding the cats and dogs in the gallery/auction. Kirk,



David Sandlin
FABA President



Jordan Thomas, Nathan Nettles and Ralph Nettles at the registration tent

Jordan and Matthew for keeping us organized on the field – setting up and tearing down. Finally, Hellen for saving our bacon when shipping for the coal broke down, we wouldn't have had a conference without you!

Looking Forward

For those who attended the conference dinner and general meeting, this might be old news, but mark your calendars to return to The Best Western Grand Gateway Grand on October 20-22 for FABA CON 2023. Erin has already signed up two of our demonstrators so the wheels are now in motion for next year.

Henrich will lead as program chair and Erin is now dealing exclusively with facilities/meals/hotel. Jennifer Jhon has volunteered to shepherd our family classes and is soliciting instructors.

But that's not all that needs to be accomplished. Many of our team members are planning to return, but they'd like some help. Specifically, we'd like someone to lead for T-shirt production and sales. We'd really like someone to take the lead for grants. If someone could pick up the ball for advertising and public service announcements, that would be great as that was one of our weakest areas this past conference. If you would like to be a demonstrator under the FABA tent or to teach an advanced class next year, please let us know, the sooner the better. I will do my best to connect volunteers with leaders or arrange for you to lead a specific team next year. Bottom line, we will need

Continued on the next page

President's Message (continued)

you on the team to create an even better conference.

As we get closer to the event, look for us to again open pre-registration, probably in July 2023. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to register. Even if you plan to volunteer, we need you to register so we can get you a shirt. Even if you have attended for years, we need you to register a week in advance to print your name tag. Probably most important, the hotel staff can only react so fast. We need you to pre-register for meals. We added 20% extra seats and meals to cover walk in registrations and still sold out. Adding that many meals on speculation is risky for a non-profit organization like ours, and the hotel wants a week's notice so they can schedule their staff. We want to save our efforts for building your educational programs. Pre-registration helps solve problems and prevents waste.

Lost and found

After every conference there are a few tools that wander off to explore new homes. So, if you check your equipment and find a red hand truck with solid tires that should not be part of your inventory, please give Regional Coordinator John Pfund a call; his hand truck has gone off on a joy ride.

Kirk Sullens believes that one "Chinese" anvil went home in the wrong trailer, so please look around — they are kind of small and like hiding.

Also, I found this twisting wrench in my personal tool collection and would like to return it to the rightful owner (pictured above).

We try to color-code everything that goes in the trailers so the equipment returns to the correct trailer. For your personal gear, I highly encourage you put your touchmark on your equipment. No one plans to walk off with the wrong gear, but it does happen; and when it does, identifying marks make it a lot easier to get the items back to the correct places.

Closing

It was a great conference. Next year is already promising to be even better. I'm so very proud of you all, it's a great team!

Hope and pray your anvil rings true throughout the year. Until we meet again.

— **David Sandlin, President**

If you want to be good a something, you must be willing to be bad at it first. — Anonymous

SW Region Meeting Report

A SW FABA member needed our help in October so we gathered at Phil Pauley's workshop in Punta Gorda where Hurricane Ian had made landfall.

Phil Pauley is a 30 year blacksmith and long-time FABA member, but due to ill health and being overwhelmed with the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, he had decided to give up the craft he loves and sell all of his equipment and tools.

Before the hurricane hit, Phil had quickly piled all of his yard furniture and bits and pieces into his shop. He needed help to sort it all out BUT at the same time, he wanted to take the opportunity to sell his beloved equipment.

We had a good turnout and 10 of us went through everything and organized it into stuff to keep, stuff to sell and stuff for scrap. We also helped out by buying some of the pieces, and everyone acquired something of use to them.

We all pitched in and Phil was very grateful to everyone that we helped him get the place into an orderly state so he could have a public sale and then do a final clear out.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

SW Region Meeting, Dec. 3

The SW meeting will be on Saturday, Dec. 3rd, at my workshop, FishnChips Forge in Sarasota.

I thought we could have a go at making Christmas gifts such as bottle openers, or you can have a go at making a 'troll cross' necklaces.

FishnChips Forge is located at 5415 Ashton Ct., Sarasota, FL 34233. The location is close to I-75 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. Bronzart and the forge is located just behind CBS roofing.

Please bring something for Iron and Hat at this meeting and food or drink to share for lunch.

Keep an eye on our FABA SW page for any announcements at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**



NW Region Report

Our November meeting was held at Aunt Louise's farm. This was the same location as our October meeting, as both meeting days coincided with their fall season of seven weekends. We kept equipment set up and had some-one blacksmithing during all of their hours of operation, Saturday 10am to 6pm and Sunday 2pm to 6pm. For this meeting we had a pot of venison chili provided by Roger Bell, homemade bread, deviled eggs, baked beans and fresh picked tangareens all brought by other members. Only a dozen people signed in, so we skipped the raffle as there were not enough items donated or people to buy tickets. After lunch a few of us were able to fight off the urge for a nap, to carry on until they closed at 6pm. A big Thank You to Aunt Louise's farm for hosting us during their fall season, it's been a lot of fun!

NW Region Meeting, Dec. 10

The North West region will hold our December meeting at the home of Mary Ellen Anderson on the 10th. The address is 1221 Vista Road, Monticello, Florida 32344. This is our last meeting of the year and we are going to have a Christmas dinner type meal with Mike Bettinger bringing a smoked turkey and the rest of us bringing the sides and desserts to go with it. Mary Ellen is going to make Lima beans and will coordinate the other sides and desserts, to help us not duplicate or omit anything. You can call or text with her at 850-509-1225, if you want to let her know what you intend to bring.

Speaking of things to remember to bring, don't forget to bring something for the Iron in the Hat raffle. I'm looking for Christmas ornaments and gifts, especially ones that are hand made by you and will always get you free tickets! We're going to use Rex's equipment for the blacksmithing and I'm hoping for some volunteers to demonstrate something Christmas themed. Otherwise you'll get to watch me make nutcrackers. Cold weather meetings are my favorite of the year. I hope to see you there.

In other news from our region, some of us visited the Crooked River Lighthouse Lantern Festival in Carrabelle, FL, on November 19th and at the Old Tyme Farm Days event at the Spirit of the Swannee Music park on Nov. 25th and 26th. We're also going to restart teaching classes in December at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. We offer classes on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, so it will be December 3rd and 17th. I've included these events in my report to encourage other members to come out and participate with us.

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**

Central NE Region Report

It was good to see so many of you at our regional meeting in November. Well, I mean, the conference did happen on our meeting date, so I'mma just claim it as ours and you can't stop me. Mwahahahaha!!!

No really, the Conference went off without a hitch this year and it's all due to the efforts of the membership.

Thank you all so much for the time and energy that was donated to our cause. It feels really good to see so many people willing to be there for the gritty work.

I can't wait to do it again next year! Amazing demonstrators are already getting lined up. I'm so excited!

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

Central NE Meeting, Dec. 3

This month, we will be at Barberville Pioneer Settlement at 9 a.m., dedicating our demonstration to the betterment of our region's ability to blacksmith effectively.

Doug Hayes will be joining us as a special guest demonstrator to teach us about the intricacies of coal fire management and optimal use of the blower.



Photo by Rowdy Turner

We have a very high percentage of new users in our region at the moment and I personally think this is the best thing that could be offered to improve the region as a whole.

The demonstration isn't just for newbies either. After approximately 10 years in the craft and exclusively using coal fires, I still learn something new every time I hear this man talking about fire and air control.

Do yourself a favor and let this man teach you how to make blacksmithing far easier on yourself. With proper fire management comes optimal circumstances for blacksmithing and way way less energy expenditure. Work hard? Work smart? It's Your Choice. Cya there!!!

Learn more on the NE FABA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/www.faba.org.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

FABA Conference



Elmer Roush and Jordan Borstelmann



Roy Adams



John and Suzy Pfund



Tony Fenn with the Bearded Brotherhood



Chris Sandlin



Sammy Hayes teaches at the open forges



Ben Thompson



Steve Silvers and Peter Hill



Chris Cauthen Blacksmith

FABA Conference



Pete Braspeninx & David Ponsler



Ariel Underhill



NNE Region's Creature Challenge



Jessica Sandlin and Tia Kitchen



Kirk Sullens and David Sandlin greet a friend



Jacob Underhill



Glass & silver bracelet by Heinrich Hole and James Worm



Kirk Sullens, Lewis Riggelman, Trez Cole



Iron in the Hat



Ringing the Memorial Anvil



Elmer Roush

Conference photos provided by Rowdy Turner, Peter Hill, Tony Fenn, Erin Harlow, Ben Thompson, Jessica Sandlin and Jennifer Jhon

FABA Con 2022 Report

By Erin Harlow

The 2022 FABA Conference was a blast! We had participants join us from all over the state in Gainesville, FL, in November for fellowship, excellent demonstrations, vendors, workshops, and more. We would specifically like to thank our sponsors, vendors and demonstrators who travelled to the conference. We would also like to recognize the amazing volunteers who helped coordinate the conference and kept it running smoothly. Here's a few highlights:



DEMONSTRATIONS

Roy Adams, Christ Centered Ironworks
Demonstrating how to make an Ornamental Wall Hook.



Pete Braspeninx,
Phyre Forge
Demonstrating his process
for making unique art in
“Pensive and Precise:
Playing with Shapes.”



Elmer Roush, renowned axe and bladesmith
Working with his assistant Chris Maybury on one of the
three axe heads he made.

Photos by Erin Harlow, Ben Thompson, Tony Fenn and Rowdy Turner



FABA demonstrator Christopher Sandlin, the Far West
Regional Coordinator, demonstrates raising copper. He
also taught copper tinning at the conference.



Exchange

The exchange is always a fun way to stay connected to the conference throughout the year and also take home a piece from another artist. This year's theme was "catcher of light." Everything from the whimsical to the practical was at the exchange.

The 2023 exchange theme is MUSIC. You can make anything related to music.



Blacksmithing Challenge

A full crowd showed up for the Blacksmithing Challenge on Friday evening.



Scrap Bucket Charity Challenge

The Scrap Bucket Charity Challenge was a new addition to the conference this year. Smiths were able to select a piece of scrap metal and make whatever they wanted. The hotel staff enthusiastically judged the pieces. Tony Fenn was the winner with his cobra. He is donating the proceeds to the Crowley Museum.



Thank you to our 2022 Sponsors!

Blue Moon Press
Blacksmith Supply
Traditions Workshop
Veterans Forge - Hastings, FL



Partially funded by
Visit Gainesville, Alachua, FL



Workshops

LeRoi Price instructs, at right, during the Improving your Filing workshop.

Below left: A joint from Pete Braspenninx's workshop on slit drift joinery.

Below right: A project from Craig Hines' hacksaw workshop.





Regional "Creature" Challenge

Teams of three or more were challenged from the regions to work together over the year and develop a piece. The members did not disappoint this year. The winning team — the Teele Family from the SW Region — was selected with their piece "Stumpy," pictured above.

They earned bragging rights for the year and selected the theme for next year's challenge: "Flora and Fauna."

It must include both in some form or fashion, be completed over the next year, and include three or more members.

Good luck!



Gallery

The gallery had some amazing pieces, include a beautiful ornate lamp made by Mike Bettinger (pictured at right), a table, a war axe, and more!

Below: Fred Astaire octopus by Kirk Sullens



Above: Gallery piece by Craig Hines

Auction

At right: A catapult inspired candle-holder by Jordan Thomas with the shadow of a dragon made by Kirk Sullens in the background. Both were auction items.



Photos by Erin Harlow, Tony Fenn, Jennifer Jhon and Jessica Sandlin



FABA Treasurer Doug Hayes and SW Trustee Trez Cole

Treasurer's Report

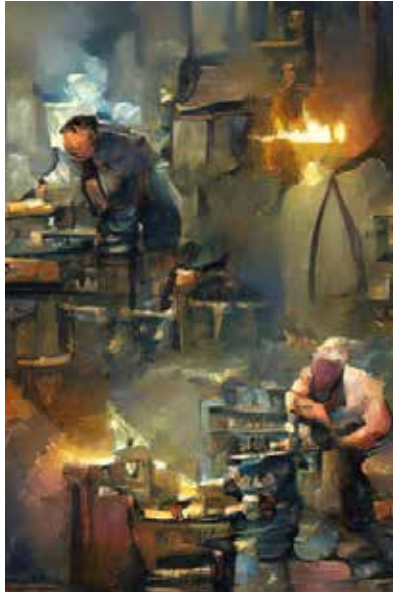
Folks, FABACON 2022 was a success, both from the viewpoint of the participants and financially, in that we have a surplus after paying all our bills. And unlike the past two years, we did not need to draw upon our reserve funds at any time. Thanks to all the folks who helped and who attended our event and participated in our fundraising events.

The transition of the treasurer position is beginning. Starting Dec. 20, please mail correspondence to the incoming treasurer, Richard Wright, at his address: 8156 SW 204th Court, Dunnellon, FL 34431

— **Doug Hayes, Treasurer**



A glass dragonfly made by Heinrich Hole and a digital painting by Tony Fenn were among the auction items at FABACON22 on Saturday night.



Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who donated to the 2022 auction!

2022 Vendors

Bearded Brotherhood of Blacksmiths
Blacksmith Supply
Blue Moon Press
Fiery Furnace Forge Blacksmithing
Ki Harrison School of Leathercraft
Kirk Moss Woodworking
Midnight Arts
Ram's Head Forge

Support our FABA business members

DAMASCUS SPONSORS

David Sandlin - Traditions Workshop - Fort Walton Beach, FL

STEEL SPONSORS

Greg Hagen - Holland Anvils - Holland, MI
John Elliot - Blacksmith Supply - Chester, VA
Michael Oliver - Turn and Burn Metalworks - Lakeland, FL
Doug Hayes - Iron Osprey Forge - St. Augustine, FL

IRON SPONSORS

Scott Brown - Medieval Smith - Land O' Lakes, FL
Jordan Borstelmann - Crooked Path Forge - Gainesville, FL
Rick Smith - Gainesville, FL
Nicole Horenstein - High Springs, FL
Mark Fillmore - Naples, FL

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

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

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



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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	SEtrustee@blacksmithing.org
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 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 _____

John Butler

FAMILY MEMBERS _____

4112 Bell Lane

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

Pea Ridge, FL 32571

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