

October 2024

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985




Inspiration from Across the Sea



Prepping for conference

The North Northeast region met on Sept. 14th with a good turnout and several new visitors stopping by. **Page 12**



CLASSES OPEN

The demonstrators have been lined up and the FABACon 2024 class schedule has been posted! Class registration is now open for those who have registered for the conference. Sign up now! **Pages 4-5**

FABA president David Sandlin visited four forges while traveling in Sweden this summer, including a visit with blacksmith Lars-Göran Larsson, who specializes in elegant candle holders. **Page 3**

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.

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Inspiration from across the sea

As I write this there are less than 2 months until our conference and I'm excited. I hope you are too. If you have not checked out our demonstrators allow me to present a thumbnail sketch.

Doug Wilson has taught over 100 workshops on design and forge practices for schools, colleges, universities and blacksmithing organizations including Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Penland School of Crafts, Colby College, and Massachusetts College of Art. He has been a demonstrator at national and international blacksmithing conferences including six National Conferences for the Artist Blacksmith's Association of North America (ABANA). In 2020, he received the Maine Crafts Association (MCA) Master Artist Award.



David Sandlin
FABA President

Joseph Easttom is both a bladesmith and jeweler specializing in historically accurate and functional arms and armor using tools and techniques as period authentic as are economically justifiable. (He calls his press and grinder his "apprentices.") Joseph crafts some truly unique pieces that are both functional and artistic. His work includes various styles of engraving and acid etching, gold inlay and even setting precious gems into his creations.

Needless to say, I'm very much looking forward to meeting both of these amazing craftsmen.

I'm also looking forward to meeting of the FABA membership. I can honestly say I learn as much from each of you as I do from our demonstrators. Find more details and our ever-expanding list of classes in the Program Chair's section of this newsletter. After you sign up for the conference you will get an email conformation that contains a link to sign up for any of our 20+ individual classes.

I know it sounds exotic but I traveled to Sweden this summer. Full disclosure, I have to travel to Sweden almost every summer, we inherited the farm that has been in my wife's side of the family for now 5 generations. We grow trees, which in Sweden is a hundred-year proposition.

We cut an acre or two every few years and replant for the next generation. Usually, these trips involve a lot of work repairing fences, maintaining the house and other farm projects. That's not to say that we don't get out to do some exploring. This year I visited 4 forges.

First, I got to visit with Lars-Gören Larsson at Konstsmid. Konstsmid is part of the Emans Eco Museum.

In 2019 the Smed celebrated 100 years of operations. (smed and smide are Swedish variations on the word "smithy") During my first visit to the museum in 2018 I saw Lars-Gören Larsson's candle holders on display and for sale at the museum store. I was taken with their elegance; they have a smooth organic flow that reminds you of emergent water plants at the edge of a pond. I've made it a point to visit this forge every year I get back to the farm. This year (2024) Lars walked me through his process for producing his works of art. I plan to do a longer how to article in a future issue of Clinker Breaker about how Lars makes his candle holders, but for now pictures will have to suffice.



Konstsmid, celebrated 100 years of iron work in 2019. Lars-Gören has been here for 38 of those years.



KOL is charcoal. Lars-Gören is a master at managing the fire to get the most out of it with almost no fire scale!



Just a few of Lars-Gören's projects around the shop, he has crafted more than a couple of windvanes.



Lars-Gören with some of his elegant candle holders for sale at a local craft fair.

President's Message

A few weeks later, we drove south to the most southern part of the country and visited the town of Trelleborg. Granted its not Key West but, believe it or not, they do have palm trees! Trelleborg is also the name of a type of fortress designed and built by the first Christian/Viking king of Denmark; Harald Blatand Gormsen or Harald Bluetooth as he is called in English. (Yep, same name as the technology in your phone or computer.) The forge at Trelleborg is run by Dante, the resident blacksmith and a student of the arts. Reenacting and forging are all part of his summer job at this museum/fortress.



Dante in his smed, several of his "artifacts" are on display on the anvil; "S" hooks and a blacksmith knife.



The forge: note the bellows blows air through a hole in the clay firewall, and there is an air gap between the bellows and the back stone.



The long house at Trelleborg. Actually, quite nice on the inside with a wood floor covering the areas outside of the fire pit.



The only remaining (reconstructed) gate at the Trelleborg. Originally there were 4 gates. Each on a cardinal point, standing astride the crossroads for the area.

The next day we visited the Foteviken Museum where I saw another forge, unfortunately there was no smith in residence that day. During casual discussions with the reenactment staff, I found out, that with prior coordination, if you show up in appropriate attire, they will accommodate you in the museum village and let you role play for as long as you want to stay. It helps to know a bit of history as you will get a lot of questions about Viking era blacksmith work.

Everyone at the museum village spoke English because the visitors were from all over. The leather crafter I spoke to was spending the weekend in one of the dozen reconstructed houses with his wife and two young boys. When the museum closes to the public he told me you have access to some modern conveniences like the showers and a kitchen. How's that for a road trip?



A sad day at the Foteviken Museum, no one there to work the bellows or strike the iron! Who wants to go help them out?



The latest in conveniences are available for your work, like this grinder. All you need is a thrall to power it.

During the last week of our visit, we were scheduled to fly out of Stockholm so we arrived a few days early to take in the city and to visit Birka, on the island of Björkö. In its day (750AD-950AD +/-), Birka was an important Viking Age trading center which handled goods from Scandinavia as well as many parts of the European continent and even as far as from the Orient. Birka is on the UNESCO list of world heritage sites, not just for its archaeological interest but it is also the location of the first Christian congregation in the Nordics. You take a two-hour boat ride to get to the site.

On the island they have a small museum, a restaurant serving Viking era meals, a guided tour of where the fortress was once located and a reconstructed village consisting of 4 to 5 houses and a few tents. In its hay day, the population of Birka ranged from 500 to 1,000 people.

President's Message



The forge, note how small the fire pot is.



Råstugan, the resident smith, at his forge. We could not talk long because the boat was about to leave.



His specialty was iron rings.



The cross at the top of the hill where the fortress once stood now designates this World Heritage Site's Christian history.



On the dock looking at the reconstructed village.



Unfortunately, this was NOT the boat we traveled by to get to the island.

Today it is populated by tourists and a few reenactors.

After a tour of the historical site, we spent some time talking to a young lady reenactor taking care of the goats and chickens and then tracked down the blacksmith, Råstugan of Råstugan's konstsmide (art forge).

Birka hosts the "world's strongest" Viking competition and other Viking themed events each summer. During this time the island's population significantly increases with hobby reenactors and onlookers; especially during June and July. Oh, if you want to spend the night and didn't bring your own gear they have a few "glamping" tents.

Until I see you in November, I hope and pray your anvil rings true. I look forward to meeting each of you and hearing your stories. In many cases its been more than a year since we've talked and I'm sure everyone has some stories to tell.

— **David Sandlin, President**

Reflections on a nail

I'm sitting in church this evening. The building is four times older than my county. These are "penitence pews," very narrow benches with straight up backs. No way to fall asleep during a sermon in this environment. My eyes drift around the building and I notice someone has carved "1699" into the pew back a couple of rows in front of me.

The church history pamphlet (thankfully in English) tells me that when the Danes attacked southern Sweden in 1612AD, all the wood items in the church had been burned, so I conclude the furnishing in the church we probably built sometime just before the carving was made by a bored parishioner.



I take closer notice of the nails and hinges, each one handcrafted, each nail with a classic rosette head, each one meeting its designed purpose, now over 325 years. I don't see any modern fasteners anywhere. Three centuries and the nail is still there, a timeless reminder of the excellence of a craftsman who cared enough to do a job that would last. Things like this make me wonder about the legacy I'm leaving. Will my work stand the test of time like that of this unknown craftsman? I can only do my best and pray it lasts.

*Toiling,—rejoicing,—sorrowing,
Onward through life he goes;
Each morning sees some task begin,
Each evening sees it close;
Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's repose.*

Excerpt from "The Village Blacksmith" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

— David Sandlin, President



FABACon News: The Latest & Greatest

Happy Fall, y'all! I am sure I am not alone in looking forward to cooler, *drier* weather! Please do keep an eye on the website for the (fast approaching) Conference. Things are changing and updating constantly, and it is our best tool for getting out information all at once in a "central" arena. Yes, additional classes are being added; we just had to move some things around.

I am very excited to announce that Joseph Easttom, of www.plus5armory.com, will be demonstrating Spearhead Making with Forge-welded Socket; furthermore, he will be leading a Damascene Workshop on Sunday morning for a small group of students. This is a decorative overlay technique utilizing chisel crosshatching rather than knife gouging. Joseph believes it is a great technique for all manner of metalsmiths, not just blade makers. (If you look up "nunome zogan", a Japanese variant will come up.)

Again, HUGE Thanks to my entire team, with a special shout-out to Ben Thompson for all of his work with our Sponsors and Vendors!

To everyone who has already registered as a Volunteer, Bless You! To those of you who have not done so, there is still time! This will help us plan on Volunteer meals and beverages for Thursday set-up and for Sunday tear-down and load-out.

What else would a Volunteer be doing? Here is a partial list, but just remember: like so many jobs, "additional duties as needed"! If there is anything you cannot do (heavy lifting?), or are uncomfortable doing (handling cash?), just speak up. There are many ways to assist during the conference.

We need folks on Thursday, November 7, to help unload the trailers, and to set up the field under the direction of Kirk and Jordan. If you are able to join us that day, please bring work gloves and a hat, and wear sturdy shoes. We will supply beverages and lunch.

On Friday, we will still need some hands to assist with loading into the Gallery and Auction area, as well as any set-up areas we didn't have access to on Thursday.

In addition, during the Conference, we need people to replenish the water and ice in coolers, to take out the full trash bags and replace with new liners, to assist Jordan and Kirk should there be a need to track down/move/relocate tools and gear.



Ready to volunteer?

Please sign up on the website at <https://www.blacksmithing.org/contact-10> or email Vicepres@blacksmithing.org or Editor@blacksmithing.org

We are also looking for folks to help wrangle the bags of coal, and to assist Registration with the Iron In The Hat Raffle Ticket Sales!

On Saturday, the Gallery and Auction areas might need extra hands in setting up for our big night! And, in assisting with the check-out and clean-up process. Sunday, there will still be classes and demonstrations, but also a lot of packing out in stages. Hands will be needed to assist with everything from The Gallery and Auction, to the final coal sales and pick-ups, to the relocation and collection of tools and gear, and, of course, the final dropping of the tents and loading the trailers. Whew! Sound overwhelming? Just remember that saying about many hands making light work!

There is a place on the FABA Conference Website to register as a Volunteer, and Jennifer Jhon and I are sharing Volunteer assignments. Just drop one or both of us a note and let us know that you can help. Thank you.

— Lisa Anne Conner, Vice President and Program Chair

FABA CON 2024

Friday November 8th

| Morning 8-12 | Afternoon 1-5 |
|--|--|
| Blacksmithing 1 | Blacksmithing 2 – Rivets |
| 8-10, and 10-12 Solid Fuel Fire Management with Doug Hayes | Friction Folder Knife with LeRoi Price |
| Peter Pan's Dagger with David Sandlin | Forge Welding |
| | Copper Flowers with Jay Mudge & Mike Bettinger |
| Demonstrator Joseph Easttom – Spearhead with Forge-welded Socket | Demonstrator Joseph Easttom – Spearhead with Forge-welded Socket |
| Demonstrator Doug Wilson | Demonstrator Doug Wilson |
| FABA Demonstration Team lead by Tony Fenn | FABA Demonstration Team lead by Tony Fenn |
| Open Forge | Open Forge |
| Ribbon Flowers with Shiloh Thomas in boardroom | Bags to Baskets with Shiloh Thomas in board room |
| Drop Spindle, Making Yarn with Anna Sandlin in San Felasco | Dream Catchers with Delores Knerr in San Felasco |
| | Broom tying with Jeff and Brooke Mohr in Ballroom |
| | Friday Night Forging Competition Starts at 7PM |

Saturday November 9th

| Morning 8-12 | Afternoon 1-5 |
|---|--|
| Blacksmithing 1 | Blacksmithing 2 – Rivets |
| Alternating every hour, 8 & 10 Hammer Ergonomics and 9 & 11 Hammer Dressing with Doug Hayes | Copper Flowers with Jay Mudge & Mike Bettinger |
| Hummingbirds with the Teeles | 1-3 and 3-5, Veteran' Classes – Throwing spikes with Doug Hayes |
| | Knife Class with Peter Hill |
| How to make Tongs | 2D & 3D Skulls with Ben Thompson |
| Demonstrator Joseph Easttom – Spearhead with Forge-welded Socket | Demonstrator Joseph Easttom – Spearhead with Forge-welded Socket |
| Demonstrator Doug Wilson | Demonstrator Doug Wilson |
| FABA Demonstration Team lead by Tony Fenn | FABA Demonstration Team lead by Tony Fenn |
| Open Forge | Open Forge |
| Bags to Baskets with Shiloh Thomas in boardroom | Ribbon Flowers with Shiloh Thomas in board room |
| Drop Spindle, Making Yarn with Anna Sandlin in San Felasco | Dream Catchers with Delores Knerr in San Felasco |
| Broom tying with Jeff and Brooke Mohr in Ballroom Saturday 8 am | 6 PM Banquette, 7 PM Business Meeting, 8 PM Live and Silent Auction |
| Saturday at High Noon, World's Best Iron in the Hat Raffle | |
| | |

Sunday November 10th

| Morning 8-12 | Afternoon 1-5 |
|---|---|
| How to Handle Your Knife with David Sandlin | Strike camp, pack up and see you next year! |
| Forge Welding | |
| Heat Treating with Doug Hayes | |
| How to make Tongs | |
| Knife Clean-up Workstations Available | |
| Damascene Workshop with Joseph Easttom | |
| TBD | |
| Open Forge | |



FABA CON 2024 CHALLENGES

REGIONAL CHALLENGE

Theme: Medieval Folklore and/or Religion

Rules: Three or more members must contribute to the piece

Judged on: adherence to the theme; techniques used; quality of work; number of contributors

Winners receive bragging rights and get to pick the 2025 theme.

EXCHANGE ITEM

Theme: Something with TEETH

How it works: Bring a pre-made item to the conference that represents the theme. At the banquet, each person who brought something draws a name and gets to take home the piece that person made.

The theme this year is broad. Think about all of the things that have teeth - gears, saws, animals, skulls, zippers, pianos, combs, etc.

SCRAP BUCKET CHARITY CHALLENGE

How it works: Pay a small donation at the registration desk to pilfer the scrap bucket for your piece of metal. Make anything you want from that metal.

Rules: Only scrap from the bucket can be used; must be completed and in the hotel lobby front desk before noon on Sunday, Nov 10th

Judging: Hotel staff picks their favorite

Winner receives challenge proceeds to benefit charity of their choice.

GALLERY PEOPLE'S CHOICE

How it works: Bring an item to place in the gallery. Gallery visitors "vote" on their favorite throughout the conference. Make sure you get your piece there on Friday so more people can see it.

The winner of the people's choice is awarded \$75.00.

Regional Reports

NW Region Meeting Report

The September meeting for the Northwest Region was held at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. 15 people signed in. We started a fire in the Red Brick Forge and started the meeting. I had asked for people to bring in whatever they were working on lately and demonstrate it for the meeting. Several members had read the meeting forecast and were ready to work.

Jim Croft made a plant holder from a piece of 3/8 square stock, Brian Smelt made a Herb chopper from a old file, and Timothy Atteberry made a 12" ring from 1/2" round stock using forge welding.

Everything else, besides the blacksmithing, we did in the gymnasium on the other side of the settlement. We had coffee and donuts, the sign in sheet and the iron in the hat raffle set up in an air-conditioned place. And we made homemade pizza! I use the exact same recipe for making bread and pizza, and I made four loaves worth of dough. Several members had brought toppings and we all made pizzas as we like them and a batch of bread sticks too. It was great! This was our first time making pizza and I'm sure we'll do it again in the future.

Thanks to our demonstrators, Lloyd Wheeler for help with the meal and cleanup and especially the people who make the settlement the great place it is. We've just started back teaching classes again and will continue through the fall and winter: First and third Saturdays until it gets too hot again around May.

NW Region Meeting, Oct. 12

Our October meeting will be held at Aunt Louise's Farm. The address is 8101 Waukeenah Hwy., Monticello, FL 32344. Our meeting is on the second Saturday, which is Oct. 12th, but we're going to be at Aunt Louise's Farm every weekend in October and the first two weekends in November. This is their Fall season and we'll keep equipment set up onsite for the whole time.

They're open from 10 am to 6 pm on Saturdays and 2-6 pm on Sundays. On the day of our meeting we'll start at 9 am, even though they don't open until 10 am. For the meeting demo, I'm asking anyone who is teaching classes or demonstrating at the conference to give us a preview at the meeting. For the meal, we'll buy pork sandwiches and corn on the cob from Aunt Louise's kitchen and we should bring sides and desserts to go along with them. Don't forget to bring something for the raffle. As always, free tickets for something you've made yourself. Aunt Louise's Farm has a six-weekend fall season. FABA members are invited to attend and participate all of them. I'll be there a lot and I hope to see you there. — **John Pfund, NW Coordinator**

SW Region Meeting Report

It was great to see new and familiar faces and to catch up with everyone who attended the sale at David Reddy's workshop.

I'm just passing on this message from Kathy Reddy plus my personal thank you to all who came and chatted, ate some of Elijah's mums excellent baked cheese cake; and bought a bunch of useful tools and equipment.

Hi Guys,

I can't tell you how grateful I am to all of you for your work in preparing, pricing, and helping with the sale of some of David's blacksmith equipment. It wouldn't have happened without you. And I'm excited that James Hawse is going to buy the power hammer next weekend. I think that the demo hooked him!

Everyone has been so kind to me. And I saw how kind you were to the aspiring young blacksmith. There are good people everywhere.

All my best, Kathy

— Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator

SW Region Meeting, Sept. 28

The SW meeting will start a little earlier to beat the heat at 9:30 am on Saturday 28th at my workshop – FishnChips Forge.

At this meeting I will walk you through a commission window box project I'm working on, for a historic home in Sarasota. I will demo one of the decorative pieces - a fullered flower or a leaf. Then I'll open up the forge so you can have a go. Be prepared for the heat and stay hydrated.

FishnChips Forge is located at 5415 Ashton Ct. Sarasota FL 34233. The location is close to I75 at Exit 205, but, a little tricky to find. When on Ashton Rd, turn on to Ashton Ct. at the blue Bishops Aluminum building. Go past several auto body shops and then around the bend. FishnChips Forge is located just behind CBS roofing.

Please bring an item for the Iron and Hat raffle.

Please also dress appropriately and bring something to share for lunch.

Looking forward to another hot, tiring and absolutely fun day! Please check our FABA SW Facebook page for more info at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674, or contact antony.fenn@gmail.com. Thank you!

— Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator

Greater Orlando Meeting Schedule

Greater Orlando meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at UnderGround Metal Works in Maitland, FL.

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

— John Hare, Orlando Regional Coordinator

Gainesville Meeting, Sept. 27

The Gainesville Regional Meeting will be held Friday Sept 27th from 4 to 9pm. The address for the shop is 2308 NW 71st Pl Gainesville FL, 32653, Bay D Jordan's Cell is 352-727-8260.

We will be working on the group project for the Conference. We'll order Pizza for dinner

After the conference, meetings will be once again held on the 3rd Saturday of the month, instead of Friday.

To get in touch, please call or send me an email at crookedpathforge@gmail.com.

— Jordan Borstelmann, Coordinator

Far West Report & Schedule

October: Traditions Workshop in Fort Walton to prep the trailer

November 23: Timber Creek Distillery for a forging contest

December: No meeting to observe Christmas

**— Christopher Sandlin,
Far West Region Coordinator**

Central NE Meeting, Oct. 5

Where: Barberville Pioneer Settlement

When: Oct. 5 starting at 9 AM

We sure had a good productive meeting in September. I'm sure we'll be able to get into assembly for the regional project in October. Let's see how many people we can get together to make this happen.

I'll be providing lunch again but feel free to bring whatever you want to compliment it. Cya there :)

— Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator

SE Region Meeting

The Southeast Region had a great turnout for September's meeting. Members worked on Journeyman requirements, finished projects from last meeting, and brainstormed on what to make for the conference challenge so the team could start working on it. Phil Freda (the owner of the farm where we hold our meetings) spent about 6.5 hours making everyone a fabulous lunch of smoked pork ribs. We are always glad to see more new faces checking out what FABA is all about.

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

— Gary Becker, FABA member



North NE Region Meeting Report

The North Northeast region met on the 14th with a good turnout and several new visitors stopping by. The collective group settled on the final details for the conference project and then everyone got busy. Lots of work was done on the project and all the pieces have now been crafted. A lot of calculations and crafting went on with coal and gas forges busy inside and outside of the shop. Everyone had a good time and some folks stuck around til late afternoon. The Iron in the Hat was a success and some of our newest folks were able to add to their smithing gear or material.

North NE Region Schedule

There will be a FABANA NNE work day (not a regular meeting) on Sunday, Oct 6th, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Iron Osprey Forge. The next meeting will be later in the month, October 26th, starting at 9 a.m. Iron Osprey Forge is located at 102 Marshall Circle, St. Augustine.

— **Doug Hayes, NNE Region Coordinator**



Jerry Grice Scholarship applications open

This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Jerry Grice, one of our charter members. Its purpose is to further the craft of blacksmithing and is available to any FABA member in good standing.

The award is limited to the actual cost or \$1,000, whichever is lesser. It may be used for materials, tuition, lodging and transportation (paid at the rate of 43.2 cents per mile or the actual cost of public transportation, whichever is lesser).

A letter of application or a detailed email may be submitted provided the applicant answers the following questions:

1. What is your name, address and phone number?
2. How much experience in blacksmithing do you have?
3. How will this instruction help you with your blacksmithing craft?
4. What is the name of the school you wish to attend?
5. What is the name of the course and the name of the instructor teaching the class?
6. What costs will be incurred (tuition, lodging, transportation, etc.)?

Note: By accepting the Jerry Grice Scholarship, the applicant agrees to provide a demonstration of skills learned at a regular FABA meeting, and write an article concerning the learning experience, including a “how-to” article for publication in the Clunker Breaker.



The next item is not required but strongly suggested: An item should be made with the new knowledge and offered for auction at the Annual Conference.

Completed letters of application or emails should be sent to John Butler, Chair, FABA Scholarship Committee, 777 Tyre Road, Havana, FL 32333 or jgbutler@sprintmail.com.

Deadline for receipt is December 31, 2024. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final, and the successful applicant will be notified after the vote.

Support our FABA business members

DAMASCUS SPONSORS

David Sandlin - Traditions Workshop - Ft. Walton Beach, FL
Jake Pytlik - Warehouse Services Inc. - Naples, FL
Doug Hayes - Iron Osprey Forge - St. Augustine, FL
Benchmark Abrasives - Flagstaff, AZ

STEEL SPONSORS

Greg Hagen - Holland Anvils - Holland, MI
John Elliot - Blacksmith Supply - Chester, VA
Michael Oliver - Turn and Burn Metalworks - Lakeland, FL
Mission San Luis - Tallahassee, 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? Contact FABA President David Sandlin at President@blacksmithing.org and include your business name, tag line, and contact information.

FABA Announcement

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association Veterans Scholarship Fund Application 2024

1. Recipients must be veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces (Navy, Air Force, Army, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force).
 - a. Individuals must be able to provide proof of service/separation (DD 214 or an appropriate ID)
2. Scholarship will reimburse 80% of a blacksmithing class/course(s) registration fee up to \$100 upon completion of the course, whichever is less. (for example, if the course(s) cost \$135, 80% of that is \$108, so the awardee would receive \$100; if the course(s) cost is \$95 then the awardee would receive \$76). Formula for determining award:
$$\text{Registration fee(s) \$} \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times 0.80 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{TOTAL (awardee would receive \$100 or less of total course registration costs)}$$
3. The coursework must be considered to be directly related to blacksmithing (not welding/fabrication). The FABA Scholarship Committee (defined in article 12 below) reserves the right to determine which coursework is appropriate during the review process.
4. The course instructor must be someone who regularly provides paid blacksmith instruction – in other words is recognized as a legitimate, accepted teacher. Classes at a recognized blacksmith conference (such as the FABA annual conference, The Southern Blacksmith Association biannual conference, SOFA, etc.) are acceptable and specifically at these events, 2 or more classes in one weekend could be stacked and counted as one ‘course’. So, for three (3) FABA intro courses at \$45 apiece, the total would be \$135; 80% of that would be \$108, so the award would be \$100.
5. Before awardee is reimbursed, he/she must provide some proof of completion (documentation of work produced, email from instructor and receipts from course costs). This scholarship is intended for course registration fees only, and does not cover materials or equipment unless those items are part of the course of instruction (i.e. a hammer making course). Students may apply for up to 2 courses per year, but not more than once per six-month cycle and for no more than 3 courses in total.
6. The student must apply for the scholarship prior to the beginning of class (not retroactive). The committee will meet February 15 and August 15 each year to review applications (every 6 months). Up to three applications will be awarded every six months. Coursework does not have to fall within the cycle the student applies, if the application is submitted prior to the start of the course (for example, the student could plan 1 year ahead). The FABA Scholarship Committee (defined in article 12 below) will make that determination during the application process.
7. In any 6-month cycle, preference will be made for beginner classes, then intermediate skill classes as the primary purpose of this fund is to assist veterans to begin their blacksmithing journey.
8. Applicants must be a FABA member to apply and while taking the class/course.
9. Funds can be applied to the FABA annual conference courses, or to similar classes from other guilds or organizations, within the United States. See article 4, above.
10. If anyone wishes to donate additional funds to this scholarship, they agree to abide by the rules above. In other words, future donors cannot modify or change the administration or award process for this scholarship. Any funds donated specifically to this fund will be considered encumbered for this purpose only.
11. Applicants will complete the application and submit their request via email to (add email contact) or through the electronic form on www.blacksmithing.org.
12. The FABA Scholarship Committee is comprised of a three-member panel of FABA members. At least one member of the panel will have military experience (active duty or reserve) and two others will be FABA Board members. The President, Treasurer and Vice-President will appoint the members of the Veterans Scholarship committee. Members will serve a minimum one-year term but may be reappointed multiple times.
13. Awardees will be notified via email and USPS the status of their application approximately two weeks after the committee meets.

Contact Doug Hayes at djhayes29@hotmail.com or download an application at www.blacksmithing.org

FABA Veterans Fund Blacksmith Class Scholarship Application 2024

Overview:

The FABA Veterans' Scholarship Fund was established to help veterans to experience the world of blacksmithing. The intent is to assist veterans to get started in the craft with an experienced teacher to provide a guiding hand at the start of the journey, maximizing their learning experience. As such, it is not intended for those with intermediate or advanced skills to hone their craft – rather to assist beginners to learn the basics or to advance to some intermediate skills. First priority will be given to first-time students or early beginner level classes, and then to intermediate level courses.

Required Information:

Name: _____

Branch of Service: Army / Air Force / Navy / Marines / Coast Guard / National Guard / Space Force

Dates of Service: _____

Blacksmithing Experience: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Title of course: _____

Anticipated Cost/Tuition: _____

Location of course: _____

Instructor/school/conference information (website, email, phone): _____

What do you hope to learn from this course: _____

I agree to provide some proof of completion of the course in the form of photos, certificate, email from instructor and receipts from the course cost.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Complete and send a copy via email to: djhayes29@hotmail.com or mail physical copy to Doug Hayes 3541 Lone Wolf Trail St. Augustine, FL 32086. Applications should be received before Jan 30 or June 30 for each period.

Award Committee:

Approved by: 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____

Date of Approval: _____ Date Completed: _____

News from ABANA

Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America

The Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, promoting, and sharing technical skills and design excellence in the blacksmith community. We offer education workshops, technical and art publications, grants, awards, conferences, and exhibitions honoring the metal arts.

With Your Donation to ABANA

CLAIM YOUR GIFT

HELP FUND BLACKSMITH EDUCATION, EVENTS, AND EXHIBITIONS!



LEATHER TOOL ROLL UP



LEATHERMAN MULTI-TOOL



ANNIVERSARY PATCH



LEATHER CARD WALLET



HANDCRAFTED LEATHER TOOL BAG

ITEMS ONLY AVAILABLE THROUGH 2024

Visit abana.org/donations for details.

Online Exhibitions of Ironwork

Have you submitted work to one of our exhibitions yet? We've published the exhibition dates through the end of 2025 on our website to allow people time to plan ahead. Check out our schedule and if one of the show themes appeals to you!



Favorite Forgings of 2024:

Entry deadline February 1, 2025



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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X



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ABANA MEMBERS ENJOY:

- Discounts with blacksmith suppliers and everyday shopping
- TWO quarterly magazines
- Discounts on classes, events, and merch
- Eligibility for National Curriculum certification

ABANA.ORG/JOIN

TONG TUESDAY

GIVE AWAY!

Enter the drawing at abana.org/tongtuesday



Good Luck!
ABANA membership is not required.

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President
114 Choctaw Cove
Valparaiso, FL 32580



NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
Tallahassee, FL
PERMIT 329

October 2024

FABA Officers

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| President | David Sandlin | President@blacksmithing.org |
| Vice President | Lisa Anne Conner | Vicepres@blacksmithing.org |
| Interim Treasurer | Dawn Fortenberry | Treasurer@blacksmithing.org |
| Secretary | Tia Kitchen | Secretary@blacksmithing.org |
| Past President | Mark Stone | markham62@comcast.net |
| Trustee NW | Roger Bell | bellrgr@yahoo.com |
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| Trustee SE | Steve Silvers | SEtrustee@blacksmithing.org |
| Trustee SW | Trez Cole | nokomisforge@hotmail.com |
| Editor | Jennifer Jhon | Editor@blacksmithing.org |
| Program Chair | Lisa Anne Conner | 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 WIX 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 _____