

January 2025

CLINKER



BREAKER

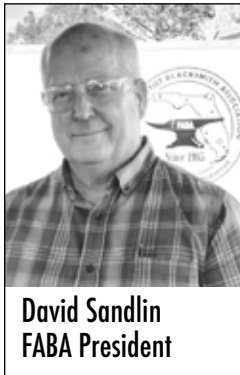
Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

A year to celebrate: FABA turning 40!

In 2025, the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association turns 40. You may not appreciate the uniqueness of our organization, but 40 years is exceptionally long-lived for an educational nonprofit. The sad statistic is that about one-third of the 501c3 organizations in the United States fail in the first decade of their inception, and over half “stall out” by becoming irrelevant.

Stalling out results when an organization ceases to have a vision for its future. I am thankful that FABA does have a clear vision, encapsulated by our simple but powerful mission statement – “to teach, to preserve.”



David Sandlin
FABA President

Every time we get together, in regional meetings or statewide events, our focus is on teaching new and old blacksmiths the tricks of the trade. My hat is off to the regional coordinators who put together the monthly opportunities to exchange knowledge and to our program chair with her team who host a truly world class educational event each year.

With our Facebook groups, www.blacksmithing.org, the Clinker Breaker, our Journeyman program, our ties to the ABANA National Curriculum, available publications (thank you, Blue Moon Press) and YouTube, we have even more opportunities to exchange information than ever before.

I'd like to encourage you, if you discover a good source of information, share it. That is how we all get better. Take notes. Did you know that when a Journeyman finished their three years of traveling studies, the first thing the master of the shop wanted to see was their notebook? Blacksmithing is better because we are willing to share what we learn/know.

Looking through my own notebook, I recognize I am safer in my workshop because someone showed me a better way. A few years back, I noted that someone had zip tied the tool to change disks on a angle grinder to the plug of

the angle grinder. Doing this means you have to unplug the angle grinder in order to use the tool to change the cutting wheel — a good practice since bumping the power switch on while working on the disk can result in a very bad day.

Another blacksmith had a Jackson full face shield they loaned to me when grinding, told me it was a good idea and you know what? He was right. I went and got my own face shield the next opportunity.

Also, from my notebook, I find other tidbits: At John C. Campbell, they teach that when making scrolls, in order to avoid kinks and flat spots, one should never hit the steel with the hammer twice in the same place or hold the scroll in the same place on the anvil for more than two hammer blows.

In Francis Whitaker's book “The Blacksmith's Cookbook – Recipes in Iron,” he advises when punching holes not to punch a round hole but to use a slit chisel that is about 40% longer than the diameter of the finished hole; this technique works really well!

At www.anvilfire.com, I learned that the correct length for hot collars is the distance around the item to receive the collar PLUS 2.5 times the thickness of the collar material, and the scarf (bevel) for the collar needs to be twice the collar's thickness.

From Black Bear's Forge on YouTube, I learned about the usefulness of the filing vice that can be inserted into the post vice. From my Grandma, I learned to “put the burned side of the biscuits down” so as to not highlight my mistakes.

No one has cornered the market on good ideas and by sharing what we know, we all get better.

Wow, 40 years. Our ruby anniversary, ruby red like the color of our fire. A fire that we pledge we will not let go out on our watch. Instead, let us continue to be the “iron that sharpens iron.” Let us dedicate ourselves in this, our 40th year, “To teach, to preserve.”

— David Sandlin, President

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).

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.

FLORIDA ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION#: CH38635 EXPIRATION: May 13, 2025
A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM
THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE.
REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

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SW Region Meeting Report

The Southwest Region had a great meeting in December. We christened my new shop in the Sawyer Business Park, Unit 213, 4023 Sawyer Road, Sarasota, FL. Thank you to all who attended and hit hot stuff with a hammer.

We knocked out a bunch of scrolley things and made great progress on our project for next year's conference. 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**



Gainesville Meeting, Jan. 25

The Gainesville meeting will be held at the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire on January 25th from 10am till 6pm, in Downtown Gainesville at Depot Park, 874 SE 4th St, Gainesville, FL 32601.

It is a free event, with plenty of food trucks and beverage options. Costumes are highly encouraged, but not required. Proper PPE is always required.

There will be a Blacksmithing Contest at 12:30, and again at 3:30, possibly with prizes!

There will be a February meeting in Ocala, at the Fort King Historic Site, from 9am to 5pm. The address is 3925 E Fort King St, Ocala, FL 34470. Once again, period costuming is encouraged, but not required. More details for this one as we get closer to the event.

Shoot me an email at crookedpathforge@gmail.com.

— **Jordan Borstelmann, 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 and to confirm meetings, especially during the holiday season, contact John Hare at 802-373-1190 or legacy.john.hare@gmail.com.

— **John Hare, Orlando Regional Coordinator**

NW Region Meeting Report

The December meeting at the Hines residence was a great one. The weather was cool enough that it felt good to sit in the sun for the meal. We had our Christmas dinner type meal for lunch. Marcia cooked three turkeys for us and everyone else brought just enough sides to go with it, and way more desserts than we could eat.

Craig showed us how to make bells, other members brought lots of good things for the raffle. I asked for Christmas themed items and I got them. Thanks everyone for participating!

The Christmas meeting at the Hines residence feels like a new tradition to me. Thank you, Marcia and Craig and everyone else who helps make our meeting work.



NW Region Meeting, Jan. 11

Our January meeting for the Northwest region will be held on Jan. 11th at the Bettinger welding shop in Tallahassee. The address is 3340 Garber Road, Tallahassee, FL 32303.

I'm going to miss this meeting again this year for the same reason as last year: I'm going to Washington state to house and pet sit for my sister. Billy Christie and Roger Bell are going to cover for me, setting up the sign in sheet and the raffle.

Mike's barbeque team is going to grill some chicken and baked beans for lunch, and we should bring other sides and desserts. Danny Schul is going to demonstrate making a grape vine and cluster wine glass holder. This is always our best attended meeting of the year, and I'm sorry I'm going to miss it.

Please be sure to sign in so I can see all who attend and don't forget to bring something to donate for the raffle. I'll be back for our next meeting. It's going to be at Roger Bell's house on February 8th. We've been having a lot of open forges activities in our region, and I'm going to write about it in the February Clinker Breaker.

— John Pfund, NW Coordinator



Regional Reports



Far West Report

The Far West held its annual forging competition at Timber Creek Distillery in Crestview, FL, on Saturday, Nov. 23. This year the challenge was to make an axe that was handled and capable of splitting kindling, to be judged by our hosts Aaron and Cam. Thanks to our special guest, Jordan Borstelmann, for joining us for the event. Turnout was far higher than we had anticipated. More than 30 people joined us, so we will be looking forward to and planning for a larger group next year. This year's winner was Dawn Fortenberry.

The January 25 and February 22 meetings will be at Traditions Workshop in Fort Walton Beach. We will be beginning to go through the projects in the Level 1 ABANA curriculum. Look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Far West Schedule

The first meeting of 2025 will be held at Traditions Workshop (418 Green Acres Road, Fort Walton Beach, FL) starting January 25 at 9 am. Christopher Sandlin will demonstrate the 4 types of tapers expected in the ABANA National Curriculum.

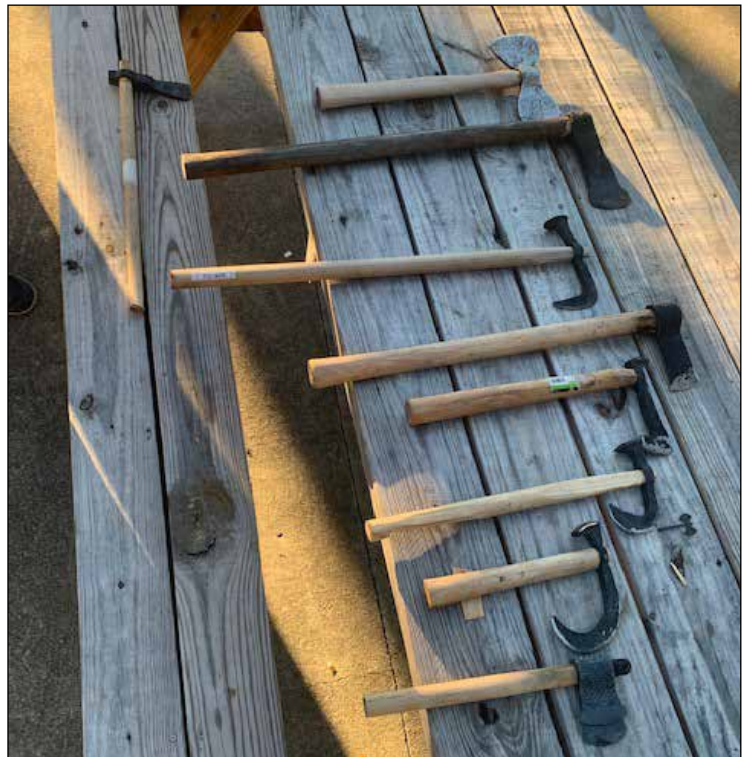
The February meeting will also be held at Traditions Workshop on the 22nd, again starting at 9am. We will be featuring Craig Hines demonstrating the ABANA National Curriculum Level I gate latch.

The March 22nd meeting will be at John Butler's farm, 4112 Bell Lane, Milton FL 32571. Start time will be 9am for setup and 9:30 for our annual fund-raising class: crafting a Viking era utility knife. This class session is open to the public. The cost is \$120/person with a maximum of 12 people. Lunch is included and will be provided by Sonny's BBQ.

Even if you are not taking the class, FABA members are encouraged to attend to act as safety observers and coaches. All profits will go to FABA.

The location of our April 26th membership drive is still to be determined, as are our meetings for May 24th and June 28th. Expect us to cover the FABA journeyman standards as the year progresses.

— **David Sandlin, FABA President**



Regional Reports



Winner Dawn Fortenberry



Regional Reports

SE Region Meeting

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, member



Regional Reports

Central NE Region Meeting, Jan 4

Where: Barberville Pioneer Settlement

When: 1/4/2025 9-4pm

Good morning, my fellow Smiths. For January we're going to be doing a small hand tools from coil spring demon-

stration. Materials will then be provided for you guys to make some of them yourself. Coil spring is an ideal material for these kind of tools because it's fairly durable and most importantly it's easily accessible. Lunch will be provided by myself alongside whatever sides you guys want to bring.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

Mark Your Calendars!

Save The Dates!

AABA Winterfest VII



January 17-18, 2025

Sculpture Tucson, Tucson, AZ

Demonstrators:

Victoria Patti - Door Knockers & House Numbers

Josh States - Advanced Blade Design

Frank Annighofer - Scrolls and Trivets

Dylan Cook - Education Tent

**Camping • Banquet • Gallery • Demonstrators • Lost Dutchman's Treasure Chest
Peer Competition • Blacksmith Games • Silent Auction • Education Tent**

More details and registration forms inside this issue or at <http://www.azblacksmiths.org>,

Greetings from FABA's new NE Trustee

Happy New Year! I wanted to take a moment to thank you, the membership and board, for allowing me to serve as NE Trustee. It is my great privilege to begin my term as NE Trustee on January 1.

Many of you may already know me, but for those of you who may not, I look forward to meeting you in person. I've been involved with FABA in a volunteer capacity for about 8 years, but have practiced blacksmithing and metalwork for most of my adult life. In the mid-1990s, while pursuing my undergrad in sculpture and attending a class at Penland, I participated in a historic iron conference with Albert Paley as the keynote speaker. I've been hooked ever since. The unlimited possibilities of forging as a technique still fascinate and surprise me daily.

FABA Trustees serve as partners with their respective Regional Coordinators to support activities and programs in their regions. Trustees are also voting members of the FABA Board, and therefore can help shape this great organization.

I want to represent the interests of and provide a voice for the Regional Coordinators and general members at that table. That said, I will endeavor over the coming year to get out and attend more meetings and hear from you directly. I also will be reaching out to each Regional Coordinator in our area to hear their thoughts.

I am reachable via email at thompsoncrafted@gmail.com via direct message on the [FABA-NE Facebook page](#) or by phone/text at 617-388-5695.



Ben Thompson, above left, coached his son to a win in the Friday night railroad spike knife forging competition at FABACon 24 in Gainesville.

What do you love about FABA (what are we doing well)? What would you like to see more of? How could we improve? I would love to hear from you. Thank you!

— Ben Thompson, NE Region Trustee

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.

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.

Apply for an ABANA Grant

As part of our commitment to help develop the skills and abilities of smiths in the community, we offer multiple educational grants for members.

See how ABANA can help provide funding for your next blacksmithing class.

Submit
an application today!



Visit
abana.org/education/grants
for details.



Check out the latest videos on the
ABANA YouTube channel!

TONG TUESDAY **GIVE AWAY!**

Enter the drawing at
abana.org/tongtuesday

Good Luck!
ABANA membership is not required.

6 Chances to Win in 2025

Call for Entries “Favorite Forgings of 2024”



Bare Root Bearing Blade
by Germ Logan



Figurines
by Annie Higgins



Roped Chasing Hammer
by Matt Stagmer

Submission deadline February 1, 2025

Enter at
abana.org

Images shown are from prior exhibitions.

ABANA MEMBERS ENJOY:

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

[ABANA.ORG/JOIN](https://abana.org/join)

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President
114 Choctaw Cove
Valparaiso, FL 32580



January 2025

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FABA Officers

President	David Sandlin	President@blacksmithing.org
Vice President	Lisa Anne Conner	Vicepres@blacksmithing.org
Treasurer	Dawn Fortenberry	Treasurer@blacksmithing.org
Secretary	Tia Kitchen	Secretary@blacksmithing.org
Past President	Mark Stone	markham62@comcast.net
Trustee NW	vacant	
Trustee NE	Ben Thompson	thompsoncrafted@gmail.com
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	FABAprgramcoordinator@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 _____