

February 2023

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985



Timmy Boyle demonstrates a farrier rasp knife at the Central NE Region Meeting in January, page 6



FABA's SE Region members at a recent SE Region meeting, page 4



Introducing FABA's newest region, Gainesville. Meet the coordinator, page 8

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.

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, 2023
 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.



Table of Contents

- 2 Regional Coordinators**
- 3 President's Message**
- 4 SE Region Report**
- 5 SW Region Report**
- 6 Central NE Region Report**
- 7 Northwest Region Report**
- 7 Far West Region Report**
- 8 Introducing the Gainesville Region**
- 9 FABA Announcements**
- 10 FABA Officers/ Membership**

Keeping the fires burning

I had the distinct pleasure of having three high school students in my shop this past week. A local Christian School that I have had a long association with has a program called “JanTerm” where their students go out “in the real world” for one week of experience as interns with local businesses. This is the fifth year I’ve had their students intern at my shop.

Internships come in many flavors; the version I offer these students at my shop is a five-day intensive blacksmith course. In one work week we made nails, hooks, leaves, seahorses, BBQ forks, punch decorated bottle openers and Railroad spike knives (7 projects). They learned fire management, first aid and shop clean up. There were also demonstrations on forge welding, tying knots in steel, different types of twists that



David Sandlin
FABA President

they incorporated into their projects, and discussions on future projects they might attempt.

Lessons incorporated math (calculating areas, volumes and steel required for a project), some history, basic thermodynamics (fancy word for heat cycles in steel), and even some Bible (they are students from a Christian School).



All three of these students had a great time and are planning to join us for our next FABA meeting. A couple of their parents might be joining us too.

To do a class like this I give up a week of my time. The students pay for their materials but the rest is a donation.

I tell this story not to polish my own apples but as a conversation starter. I’d be interested in knowing what you are doing to keep the fires burning.

You don’t have to teach a free class, instead you might participate in an annual pioneer day program. Maybe you have an apprentice that you mentor on a weekly or monthly basis. Your student might be a veteran, senior citizen or disadvantaged youth, or maybe a family member.

Doesn’t matter who you work with. I just would like to know if you are passing the flame to keep the fires burning. After all that’s the mission of FABA – we teach, we preserve.

Membership stands around 240 families. We have had more and are currently building back from the time when we switched from Wild Apricot/PayPal to Square. Of course, 2020 didn’t help our membership numbers either.

If you find an opportunity to talk blacksmithing, be sure to invite the interested party to join us at a local FABA meet up. Also encourage them to join the fun by signing up for a family membership which includes our monthly Clunker Breaker. We’ve made it even easier to sign up and pay online.



They can also use this QR code to directly access our web site at www.blacksmithing.org.

Safety note

Once again I can confirm Carbon Monoxide detectors work!

This past weekend, due to cold weather with high winds in the panhandle, I had myself and two other smiths inside my workshop, we had the 10’x10’ rollup door open and a fan in the back of the shop to circulate the air.

After three hours of working we heard the Carbon Monoxide detector doing its job, warning us the O2 level was low. We evacuated the forge area, got a couple of more fans positioned in the door to pump fresh air into the shop and soon got back to work when the beeper stopped.

The warning signs of carbon monoxide poisoning can be subtle. But the condition can quickly become a life-threatening medical emergency. Very thankful I had the detector in place and it prevented what could have been a bad situation. How’s your shop set?

Hope and pray your anvil rings true throughout the year. Maybe see you at the Madison convention in May?

— David Sandlin, President

SE Region Meeting, Feb. 18

Hello from SE! We are working on projects, and we have two new members. Gary been coming for awhile, and he likes knives. Manny wants to make all his tools.

The February meeting will be Saturday, Feb. 18. We'll be continuing to work on journeymen requirements and personal things. I am working on a four-burner coal forge for our group, and I'm getting all the parts built. I'll send pictures soon. Keep Building, and stay safe!

— **Peter Hill, SE Region Coordinator**



Peter Hill, Steve Silvers, Sarah Walker, Gary and Manny



Gary, Manny and Southeast Region Coordinator Peter Hill

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.

SW Region Meeting, Jan. 28

Just a reminder that our January meeting will be on Saturday, January 28th, starting at 10 am, at the blacksmith forge at the Pinellas Pioneer Settlement at 3018-3026 31st St. S in Saint Petersburg, FL 33712. FABA member Jay Dugan from Ram Forge will be our host, contact him at 727-480-5611.

Please bring a food item or drinks for a Pot Luck lunch and an item for Iron in The Hat.

Trez Cole and I need to practice making an alligator for a demonstration for an up-coming festival in Sebring FL on February 11th, so that will be our demo at our FABA meeting. Come along and watch or join in as we will need some sledge hammer helpers.

We are planning to make the alligator out of 1/2" thick by 3" but have no real idea of how it will turn out. Note, this is smaller stock than what we intend for the festival.

If you are near Sebring, then you may want to come see Trez and I work on a large alligator sculpture. The 36th Annual Civilian Conservation Corps Festival will be at Highland Hammond State Park on February 11, from 10 am to 4 pm.

To get in the "alligator spirit" and to have some small items to sell at the CCC festival, a few of us have been making alligator-themed items. Trez made an alligator-shaped punch, and James Hawse and I have been making bottle openers.



Bottle openers from Tony Fenn (above) and James Hawse (left)



Trez Cole's alligator punch (above) and results (below)



— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

SW Region Meeting, Feb. 25

The SW February meeting will be on the fourth Saturday, February 25th. We have not yet set a location or time. Please check our Facebook FABA-SW group at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674 for information.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

Central NE Region Report

January's meeting straight up rocked. More than 30 people checked in to see Timmy Boyle's farrier rasp knife demonstration. Thank you good sir, the demo was outstanding. It's always exciting to see so many people sharing in the community and education that is our meetings.

Let's also thank Steve Estenson for bringing in his window grate for show 'n' tell. Getting to check out such a cool piece really added some character to the meeting. We'd love to see more work the membership has been up to. Feel free to bring in your current or completed projects to show. Nothing perks people's interest more than a good project to discuss.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**



Central NE Meeting, Feb. 4

February 4th at 9 am, we'll be meeting at Kirk Sullens personal shop at 33741 Cardinal Lane, Eustis, FL 32736. (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/SGDHgqvvdgcoqdenU6>)

Guys, we're about to get to see how one of Kirk's famous pea pod pointers are made. This is one of the coolest items I have yet to see constructed. Using one of these pointers to teach with feels good and will undoubtedly boost one's confidence. This item is also special in that its price can be tripled by simply calling it a wand.

That's not all folks. This month we get a double feature. Kirk is also going to demonstrate how to make a turtle. *Happy dolphin sounds*

What more could we possibly ask for? This month's meeting is going to be mind blowingly exceptional!!! Do I really need to say more? Cya there!

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

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**



NW Region Meeting, Feb. 11

Greetings everyone from the NW region. Our February meeting will be held on Feb. 11th at the Homestead Barn. The address is 519 White House Road, Monticello, FL 32344. This is our second time holding a meeting there and this time we're going to set up right outside the back door of the main building. Last time we set up under the wedding tree and got rained on while we were having our lunch. This time we'll have a sheltered place to set up our raffle and eat our meal. Also the bathrooms will be more convenient, and I'm hoping to use their oven to bake a couple loaves of bread to go with the venison stew that Roger Bell is going to make for us. Please bring sides and desserts to go along with it.

Since our meeting is only a few days before Valentine's Day, I'm asking for heart themed donations for the raffle, and we're going to work on heart themed projects during the meeting, too: heart-shaped hangers and etc.

I'm going to demonstrate how to make heart shaped nails and how to make one of them into a ring. We'll have the four-burner forge and four or more anvils set up, so come prepared to participate!



I'm looking for your heart themed creations and I have an idea for a heart tree made from a railroad spike, where the base is made from the head and looks like roots and the rest of the spike is split into branches that end in hearts. Maybe that's too ambitious, but think of it as a challenge!

It's going to be great. I hope to see you there.

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**

NW Region Meeting Report

Our January meeting was held at Bettinger's welding shop. We always have good attendance at Bettinger's, and this time was no exception, with 53 people signing in. Daniel Schul gave us a great demonstration of axe making, while others made good use of the open forges to work on projects or try blacksmithing for the first time. The weather was cold, but it was good to catch up with friends, and the meal was delicious and abundant, with the expertly grilled chicken and many favorite sides and desserts.

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**

Far West Meeting, Jan. 28

In the Far West region there was no meeting in the month of December because it would've conflicted with Christmas. Meetings will resume starting January 28, at Traditions Workshop on Green Acres Road in Fort Walton Beach, where we will be going through another part of the journeyman standards handbook learning how to make both square and hex head bolts. We are looking forward to having a great year and seeing all of the wonderful projects that everyone creates. Happy New Year, everybody!

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

Far West Region Meetings

The Far West Region meeting schedule for 2023:

January 28, 9-2 at Traditions Workshop. Far West Regional Coordinator Christopher Sandlin will demonstrate how to make bolt heads for those working on Journeyman.

February 25, 9-2 at Traditions Workshop. The demonstration TBD, but it will support Journeyman standards.

March 25, 9-2 at Traditions Workshop.

April 22, 9-4 at John Butler's Family Farm in Milton, FL. We will run this meeting as a FABA fundraiser, offering a class open to the public on how to make a Viking era utility knife.

In the works but not confirmed yet: a meeting at St. Michael's Brewery in Navarre FL, a visit to Baker Block Museum, a spring visit to Timber Creek Distillery (we got invited back early!), and some focus on our regional project for the competition at FABA CON 2023: "Florida flora and fauna."

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

Introducing the Gainesville Region

I am Jordan Borstelmann, and I want to thank everyone involved in FABAs for entrusting me with the position of Regional Coordinator for the Gainesville Area. You could call it the North East West Central Region, but we all thought that was too complicated.



We will be having our first meeting on February 18th at 9am, at my teaching shop in Gainesville, 2308 NW 71st PL Gainesville FL 32653. All are welcome!

I am not sure yet what I will be demonstrating, but we will have something fun. More importantly this will be a chance for me to get to know the folks who will be coming out to these meetings and find out what it is YOU want to learn!

Since this is my first regional meeting I am organizing, I think it will be easiest for folks to bring a sandwich for lunch. I've got plenty of water, and an ice machine. I will be posting on the NE FABAs Facebook group, but not everyone is on Facebook, so I have an email list to notify people of when and where meetings will take place. If you want on that list, email me at crookedpathforge@gmail.com.

Here is a little info about myself and what I do: I am the owner of Crooked Path Forge. I have been serious about Blacksmithing since 2010. I had several blacksmithing experiences before then. My first experience was a 2 week beginners blacksmith course in 2004 at the Penland School of Crafts. I also apprenticed for a year, under blacksmith, Yaw Owusu Shangofemi, from 2008 to 2009. I didn't acquire my own shop to work from until 2010. From then on, I could and did forge nearly every day. I have been a full time blacksmith since 2018, running a forge at home for commission work,



and owning a separate workshop for teaching.

Most of my work is commissioned based. I make every item unique to the desires of the client, but filtered through my own artistic vision. Making hand-forged tools of all kinds is what I enjoy most. I have made housewares, camping supplies, kitchenware, and arms and armor, in addition to all the tools a blacksmith needs for their Craft. Knives and axes are my specialty. It's my intention to make items meant to endure. The product of my forge is meant to be an heirloom used for generations. It is very much a passion and a journey.



I have been teaching blacksmithing and bladesmithing since 2013. My focus has been mostly on workshops based around students walking away with a finished item. I stress safety first, of course, but also ensure that students have fun!

Accessibility is key to me. There is a lot about this craft that can be intimidating. I want all people to feel comfortable and safe in my shop, both physically and socially.

My motto is "Anyone can be a blacksmith." I've had students as young as 13, and as old as 76. I have even accommodated individuals in wheelchairs. I have taught over 300 students a year since 2016. Most of these students have never swung a hammer before.

BAM

31st Annual Ozark Conference April 27th - April 30th , 2023

Missouri State Fairgrounds
Sedalia, MO

pre-registration must be postmarked by April 1st



We will meet again at the Missouri State Fairgrounds (MSF) in Sedalia, MO. Located just 19 miles South of I-70 on US-65 at the junction of US-65 & US-50.

Questions? Contact: Ashley Farnsworth II
call/text 573-201-3923 or abfarn@embarqmail.com

~ Demonstrators ~

Nick Rossi, <https://nickrossiknives.com/>
Lisa Elias, <https://lisaeliasmetalstudio.com/>
Glenn Horr, <https://glennsforge.com/>
Vern Mesler, historicbridgerestoration.com

****Due to class limits, you must call in advance to secure a spot. Contact: Ashley Farnsworth II**

Volunteer wanted

FABA is looking for a volunteer to accept the position of Membership Secretary. This person will work with the Treasurer to maintain the membership records and send out renewal notices, etc. It's a job that requires some computer and communication skills and an estimated 10 hours per month of time.

If you're interested in helping out, please send an email to Richard at treasurer@blacksmithing.org. Thanks!

— **Richard Wright, FABA Treasurer**

2023 Southern Blacksmith Association Conference



Two great demonstrators, Matt Jenkins and Liam Hoffman, are slated to demonstrate May 18-20, 2023, in Madison, Ga. We will be having each of the seven chapters putting on a three-hour demonstration of their choice, plus Green Coal classes for aspiring blacksmiths or those needing to just pick up a hammer again after a hiatus. Family classes will offer up an alternative to blacksmithing for those attending who do not wish to pound hot steel. We will also have Big Blu onsite, which will be bringing a press for use during demonstrations and also for sale.

Learn more at the website, sbaconference.org.

Mark your calendars and plan to enjoy a great weekend of blacksmithing demonstrations and other activities. See you there!

— **Mark Stone, FABA Past President**

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Richard Wright, Treasurer
8156 SW 204th Ct.
Dunnellon, FL 34431



NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
Tallahassee, FL
PERMIT 329

February 2023

FABA Officers

President	David Sandlin	david@traditionsworkshop.com
Vice President	Lisa Anne Conner	vicepres@blacksmithing.org
Treasurer	Richard Wright	Treasurer@blacksmithing.org
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 temporary Membership Secretary at:

FABA Membership
Richard Wright
8156 SW 204th Ct.
Dunnellon, FL 34431

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 _____