

September 2023

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985



Greater Orlando Region's 1st Meeting



FABA's Greater Orlando Region held its first meeting in August under the direction of John Hare, the Greater Orlando Region coordinator. The gathering of about 20 people met at Valencia College (above), although the region's permanent home will be at UnderGround Metal Works in Maitland (pictured at left). Page 4

HELP! WE NEED YOU!

Please note FABA's slate of officers has some significant blanks. We need a new treasurer and a program chair by January 1, 2024. Please volunteer to lead either of these efforts. More info, page 5.



IN MEMORIAM

Ron Childers, FABA's NW Region Trustee, passed away peacefully on August 10, 2023, after a lifetime of teaching and mentoring. Learn more, page 7

Regional Events & Information



FABA has eight 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, Greater Orlando & Gainesville / 4th Saturday—Far West & SW.

The NNE meetings will be the 2nd or 3rd Saturdays (depending on the month) in 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:

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.

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FABA's loss, and a look ahead

It is with sadness that I announce that our Northwest Trustee and longtime member Ron Childers passed away this month. Ron exemplified what FABA is about, teaching others the craft in order to preserve the legacy of the blacksmith. He was instrumental in helping FABA become what it is today, and he could always be found at the Northwest Region meetings, showing young and old that anyone can be a blacksmith. He embodied our mission, "To Teach – To Preserve." Personally, I will sorely miss our telephone conversations with his insights on moving our organization forward.



David Sandlin
FABA President

In the spirit of teaching to preserve, I'd like to highlight several of the phenomenal classes that we have coming up at FABA CON 2023 this year. If you have attended a FABA conference over the last couple of years, you are probably already familiar with our classes Level 1 through 5. With the exception of Blacksmithing 1, these classes are meant to broaden one's experience with difference blacksmithing skills. If you have no experience with a blacksmith hammer, then Blacksmithing 1 is your entryway to the craft.

Blacksmithing I – Introduction, blacksmithing with coal

Blacksmithing II – Learning to use rivets (something has to hold your work together)

Blacksmithing III – Forge Welding (another way to make it stick)

Blacksmithing IV – Heat Treating (prevent broken blades and shattered tools, treat it right)

Blacksmithing V – Tong making (a coveted tool in any blacksmith's tool chest)

After introduction class #1, there is no need to take these or any other classes in order. Once you're comfortable with a hammer and hot steel, you're welcome to take any of the other 2-5 classes, or any of our diverse specialty classes. You can also work on your own project at the open forge tent.

Here is a sample of the few classes we're offering:

"Hummingbirds and Turtles" - Following their success with the regional challenge last year, Frank and Scott Teele will offer a class on making Hummingbirds and turtles. "Stumpy" was an impressive group project that won the Teele family honors last year, and I'm very glad they have chosen to share some of the tricks, tips and techniques that enabled them to execute such a fine work of art.

"Oxy-Acetylene Torch" - James Worm is leading this effort with a big emphasis on Oxy-Propane/Oxy-Acetylene safety. Safely handling a torch is a Journeyman requirement

and for your education we will have not one, but 3 torch classes this year! NOTE: Even though torch heating, cutting, welding and brazing are nowhere near as bright (intensive) as electric, for these classes we have made available a large number of dark protective goggles. We will also wrap this whole tent with some of our green sun shield material to abate any intense light that might cause a distraction. Even if you just come in to observe, please adhere to the instructors' directions to use these goggles as required, or you will be asked to leave.

James Worm is offering two class projects: Twisting a Candle Holder and Brazing Inlays.

Jacob Mudge and Mike Bettinger will also teach a torch class on "Copper Rose Accents."

Just for fun, Ben Thompson will offer a class on forging skulls. Over the course of this four-hour session, the participants, using a variety of hand-held chisels and shaping tools, will learn how to make two types of skulls, a 2D version from flat bar and a 3D from square stock.

LeRoi Price has tuned up his "Friction Folder" class and this year, in addition to teaching file work, his four-hour session will teach how to sharpen, heat treat, assemble, finish and engrave a friction folder that you can take home.

And we have the promise of even more classes to complement our 4 demonstrators! Leslie Tharpe will be hosting one of her unique classes. Craig Hines will be offering his insights on achieving ABANA Level I – a must attend for anyone looking to achieve this certification. Steve Bloom will discuss heat treating and Damascus forging, and the famous Ellen Durkan will provide us with a presentation on the evolution of her work. Plus, Peter Hill is offering a special knife class to some of our business sponsors.

You heard correctly, we have four demonstrator tents running simultaneously: Ellen Durkan: Wearable metals artist, Andrew Welton: Experimental archeologist demonstrating iron smelting, Matt Stagmer: Specialty bladesmith, and our own FABA demonstration team led by Tony Fenn, creating a unique project that will be auctioned off at Saturday night's auction.

Yes, FABA CON is going to be a great opportunity to continue the legacy that was started by a group of forward-looking visionaries in 1985: To Teach and Preserve.

In closing I want to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers who have stepped forward to teach at this year's FABA conference. We could not do this without you! If you're interested in volunteering, sign up at: <https://www.blacksmithing.org/conference> or send me an email. Hope to see you at FABA CON 2023.

– David Sandlin, President

Greater Orlando Region Gets Off The Ground

I'm happy to report that the Orlando chapter had a successful first meeting with nearly 20 attendees. We had mostly new faces with a handful of very helpful FABA members to keep things running smoothly. After a brief safety talk, I demonstrated a hook for the newcomers and helped some Valencia College students with rose petals. We had about 12 people forging on 4 anvils at a time (thank you Kirk for loaning Orlando a couple of your anvils), and several people walked away with hooks or rose petal blanks for future projects. Kirk Sullens and Steve Estenson donated some great iron in the hat items, which were a big hit.



The Valencia College location was a great start for our first meeting, however, due to scheduling and parking conflicts, Valencia will no longer be able to host future meetings on a regular basis.

I'm very happy to announce a new partnership with UnderGround Metal Works (pictured on the cover and above), operated by Jason Becker and Rob MacMillan located in Maitland. Jason has been a member of FABA for a few years, and some of you welders out there may know him from his Weld.com videos or his popular podcast, Arc Junkies.

UnderGround Metalworks is a great resource for FABA members looking to improve their welding skills (or learn new ones) through intimate weekend or week long welding classes. You can check them out on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/undergroundmetalworks.



Orlando Region Meeting, Sept. 16

Be sure to come out to our next meeting at UnderGround Metal Works, 660 W. Kennedy Blvd., Maitland, FL on September 16th at 9AM. The meeting is held all the way "in the back." Seating is limited, so bring a camp chair or two to share. We will be having a potluck style lunch and will continue with open forges to give our newbies some more time at the anvil.

— John Hare, Greater Orlando Region Coordinator



Regional Reports

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

Cameron LaFrance - Micco, 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.

Remember to Vote!

FABA elections are here!

Please visit www.blacksmithing.org/elections to cast your vote in FABA's 2023 elections! You will also have the opportunity to submit your name for treasurer or program chair.

On the ballot:

President: David Sandlin

Vice President: Lisa Anne

Conner

Secretary: Tia Kitchen

SW Trustee: Trez Cole

NW Trustee: Roger Bell



We Need You!

Members are also invited to write in candidates (or volunteer themselves) for the Treasurer and Program Chair positions. Email president@blacksmithing.org. **Please vote or volunteer today!**

CALL FOR BLACKSMITHS

Work on projects in a fully functioning 1830s blacksmith shop at a national historic landmark. Demonstrators are welcome to use materials and tools provided, or bring their own supplies. All blacksmiths must allow the public to watch them create projects.



LOOKING FOR TIME PERIOD DEMONSTRATORS AND NOVICES

- Seeking professional demonstrators or hobbyists
- Reserve shop space on Fridays and Saturdays
- Engage with the public and share the art of blacksmithing
- Experience is required; proof of working knowledge, safety and/or portfolio required

SEND PROOF OF EXPERIENCE OR PORTFOLIO TO FORTKING@OCALAFLL.GOV



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NNE Meeting, Sept. 9

The NNE region will meet at Iron Osprey Forge on Saturday, Sept 9th at 9 a.m. We will work on the group project for the conference and learn a bit about flowers and critters, with an open forge afterward.

Also, sometime in September we will have an open house at Veterans' Forge in Hasting and Robert Richmond can show us his new workshop. Check the Facebook group for updates.

Lastly, October will be the final prep for the FABA conference. We're still shooting for October 14th for all of the conference stuff. This includes open forge time for those working on an exchange item.

Hammer on!

**— Doug Hayes,
NNE Coordinator**



SW Region Report

The Southwest Region did not have a meeting in July, although the region planned to meet Aug. 26.

Still, Blacksmithing went on. Tony Fenn visited with Elmer Roush in August to make a bearded ax. Elmer asked that Tony teach others his technique of making authentic axes—a promise he intends to keep.

The September meeting details have not been ironed out yet. Please check the FABA SW Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674 for more information, or contact me at antony.fenn@gmail.com.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

SE Meeting Report

Hello all, it's been a while! I had a couple newcomers come to the August meeting of the Southeast Region. They were good inspiration, and I was very hot at the forge.

The Southeast is still working on journeyman stuff for those interested, as well as other projects. We welcomed Tyler, Marty, Mateo, Quinn, Jimmy, Dean, Camron and a few others. We have had pretty good turnouts to the FABA meetings. Everyone is enthusiastic, and there are a few members planning to try to make the conference.

The SE Region meets at The Farm, 1566 S Military Trail, West Palm Beach, Fl.

Please check the FABA SE Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/603288803747002 for more information. Hope to see you there! Stay cool!

— **Peter Hill, SE Region Coordinator**



Far West Meeting Report

We did not have a very large gathering this month. It seems that the heat is too high for most people to want to spend the day anywhere other than the beach.

With the smaller group, we had several people work on finishing older projects that have been hanging around. We are hoping the next meeting will be cooler.

— **Christopher Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**

Far West Meeting Schedule

The **September 30th meeting** is at Traditions Workshop so we can prep the trailer for the pilgrimage to the annual FABA conference in Gainesville on October 20-22.

Our **October 28 meeting** will be back at Traditions Workshop so we can unpack the trailer and swap stories/ lessons learned from the conference.

November 18th is when we will have our annual forging competition at Timber Creek.

Hope to see you at most if not all these events.

— **Christopher Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**

Ron Childers, FABA Founder, NW Trustee, 1940-2023

James "Ron" Ronald Childers, our FABA NW Region Trustee, passed away peacefully on August 10, 2023, in Tallahassee, Florida where he was born on June 13, 1940, to the late Frank and Lucile Childers.



Ron was a man of extraordinary talents well beyond blacksmithing. He was a true teacher at heart with a wide breadth of knowledge and experiences and positively impacted countless lives throughout his 83 years.

From humble beginnings, he became an accomplished mechanic, scuba diver (Instructor), avid spear fisher, artifact hunter, airplane pilot (Instructor), carpenter, paralegal, investigator, explosives and demolitions expert, ballistics expert, farmer, welder, and last but not least, an accomplished passionate blacksmith. His ability to teach, coach,

mentor, and counsel others established a strong foundation for many to stand upon. His outlook on life inspired those around him to embrace their own curiosity and embark on their own adventures.

Ron is survived by his loving other half Karen Walker, his three children, Jane Childers Pitts, Catherine Ann Forester, and James Ronald Childers Jr, as well as his three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Ron's passion for FABA and blacksmithing compadres will forever be remembered in the NW Region. May his soul find eternal peace, and may his memory continue to inspire us all!

A memorial service will be held at 11AM on Saturday, August 26th, 2023, at Waukeenah Methodist Church, 81 Methodist Church Rd, Monticello, FL 32344, off of US27 South (casual attire please.).

In honor of Ron's memory, the family kindly requests that, in lieu of flowers, any donations be made to the Chaires Capitola Volunteer Fire Department or the Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA) to which Ron devoted a lot of time and energy and looked forward to the next meeting and fellowship.

FABA Announcements

Jerry Grice Scholarship 2023

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 Clinker 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 Dec. 31, 2023. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final. The successful applicant will be notified.

NW Meeting Report

The August meeting for the Northwest Region was held at Roger Bell's house in Tallahassee on Saturday the 12th. We had set up the Blacksmithing equipment in the shady area between the house and the lake on the previous Tuesday morning open forges. We had a good attendance, 34 people signed in.

We made charcoal during the meeting in a device known as Mr. Charcoal Maker Jr. and used it to fuel the four-burner forge. Three of the participants in the open forges were getting the first time forging experience. Lots of story telling and camaraderie amongst the old timers.

We had a spontaneous memorial for our recently passed trustee and longtime member, Ron Childers, when we stopped for the raffle and the meal. We collected \$219 in the raffle. The meal was two kinds of chili and fresh baked bread, with sides and desserts brought by our members.

Not too much more Blacksmithing happened after the meal as the need for a nap settled in for many. There was some tomahawk throwing after lunch and some of the firewood splitting for the charcoal making was done with a broadsword. In short, it was another great meeting. Thank you to everyone who attended helped to make it happen.

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**

NW Region Meeting, Sept. 9

Hello everyone and greetings from the Northwest Region. Our September meeting will be held on the 9th at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. The address is NW Pioneer Settlement Road, Blountstown, Florida 32424.

The PPS is a living history museum that has been a part of FABA since FABA started almost 40 years ago. We have been having meetings at the settlement and teaching classes there since the beginning. The PPS has an excellent blacksmith shop that has been devastated by a hurricane and rebuilt at least once since I've been a member of FABA. It has a built-in brick forge and four more portable forges, creating a space for teaching up to 10 students in a class.

I got to help teach some classes in the past and it was an important part of my Blacksmithing education.

A year or so ago I got the chance to teach the classes myself and I got the chance to change the format of the classes. The old way was to hold a stand-alone, one time class that taught all the students to make the same thing in the same amount of time. When it was over, everyone took their creation home and that was the end of it.



The new format is the Blacksmith Challenge. It is a on-going, open entry, open exit, move at your own pace system for learning Blacksmithing. We start with nails and hooks to learn the basics, but move right to making your own tools as fast as a student is ready. To make it easier to attend multiple classes, the settlement has reduced the price of the class by half for the second one and down to 1/3 price for the rest.

This has made a big difference in the nature of the classes! Students progress at their own pace and can pick up right where they left off when they return for another class. In a 10-student class, we have students at many different levels and it all works out. Much like a old time, one room classroom.

Big disclaimer here! I didn't do this by myself. Chris Cauthen and Craig Hines were helping all along and sometimes taught the class without me even being there. The students learn from watching each other and they help each other along as well.

We stopped the classes for the summer but are ready to start them in the weekends following our September meeting. We usually offer two classes a month on the first and third Saturdays, to work around our meetings and the Far West Region meetings.

For our meeting, we're going to offer a free class to anyone who wants to give it a try. First come, first served, up to 10 people. Any skill level is welcome and we have projects to fit them all. We're going to have the Iron in the Hat raffle and our meal in the log cabin by the gym for some air conditioned relief. We will supply the drinks and lunch meats and cheeses and bread to make sandwiches, and we request sides and desserts to be brought by members attending the meeting.

If you've never been to the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement, this is a good opportunity to come check it out. I hope to see you there!

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**

Gainesville Meeting Report

On July 29, 2023, the Blacksmithing community really stepped up and showed its true heart. Earlier in the month of July, Mark Armbrecht, blacksmith, farrier, musician, artist, husband, and a dear friend of mine, passed away.

He left behind a shop full of tools, sculptures, keepsakes, and quite a large number of round-to-its. His shop was in a storage unit, and with all the bills and expenses involved with his passing, his wife could not afford to pay the rent for very long on the shop. I was asked if I could help.

I put the word out that some help was needed, and on July 29th, over two dozen people showed up to help organize and clean Mark's shop. We raised over a \$1000 for his wife, cleared out the heaviest equipment, and scrapped all the extra steel. It really did my heart good to see members of this community band together. There are too many people to name, so I'll just say thank you to all!!



Gainesville Meeting, Sept 15

Our September meeting will be on a Friday evening, September 15th, starting at 4pm at Crooked Path Forge at 2308 NW 71st Place, Bay D, Gainesville, FL, 32653. Bring a few bucks and we'll order pizza!

— **Jordan Borstelmann, Gainesville Coordinator**



Central NE Meeting Report

I love August in Florida....said no blacksmith ever. It did at least provide us with an opportunity to practice one of the most important principles of successful blacksmithing, Drinking Plenty of Water.

Thankfully we're a pretty hardy bunch of people and we found our way through Florida's broiler setting.

Steve Estenson provided us with a highly informative instructional on how to progress from a mere image to a fully realized product. We also got to learn quite a bit about how to make scroll forms and then the scrolls they produce.

I believe the key lesson of the day was to make certain to accidentally ignite the paper your design is on and how it can be even more fun if the design is still in a book.

Thanks, Steve, for an excellent demo. After the demo, we all broke down to our own forges and worked on personal projects and enjoyed a nice meal of cold sandwiches.

Central NE Meeting, Sept. 2

Meeting location: Barberville Pioneer Settlement
1776 Lightfoot Lane, Pierson FL, 32180. (Near 17 & 40)

Date / Time: Sept. 2, 2023, starting at 9 am

Sept is going to be a fun month. We'll be focusing our efforts mainly on doing a regional project to submit to this year's conference competition. Two meetings is all we're going to have to put this together so let's get as many hands on deck as possible. While the exact details have yet to be worked out, Timmy Boyle is going to do a demo related to the skills necessary for our project. We're currently thinking about making flowers to go in a vase. This will be a hands on month so be sure to bring your tools and get ready to learn about blacksmithing flowers. Timmy will also be providing the main meal for lunch. Feel free to bring any side dishes or whatever you think we need to share. All donations in the food dept are welcome :)

Hope to see you there!

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

Registration open: Oct. 20-22 in Gainesville

FABA Con 2023

**Oct. 20-22, Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel,
4200 NW 97th Blvd, Gainesville, FL**

www.blacksmithing.org

This year's conference is going to be special. We have an amazing demonstrator line up and some pretty awesome new things we're bringing in. Let's start with the main demonstrators:

1. Ellen Durkan: Wearable metals artist

This is a wholly new-to-FABA genre and will bring in some serious diversity to what we think is possible with metal work. It's time to expand our horizons and learn to think in new ways.

2. Andrew Welton: Experimental archeologist

We've had iron smelting before but never like this. It's time now to see this process and hear about it from the perspective of a professional who has based their lives study on learning how smelting and item production was done in its infancy

3. Matt Stagmer: Specialty bladesmith & owner of That Works YouTube channel. Exotic shapes and precision grinds will be the name of this epic game.

4. FABA Special Project Demonstration Team. Also new this year is a multi-team, high-level sculpture project. These teams will be headed up by Francis 'Trez' Cole, Tony Fenn, Kirk Sullens, and David Ponsler. Seriously, I'm drooling in anticipation of what that particular team of guys can come up with. Best of all is the fact that the sculpture they produce will be made available in the conference auction. Get your bidding signs ready because this one is going to be unique.

Another new activity we're adding to the line-up is an oxy/propane torch safety beginner class. Torch safety is a big deal and learning it is the key to opening up new doors in production that would otherwise be locked shut. Torches have always intimidated me and this class is the the best way to get past that very reasonable fear.

We're expanding open forges. This year the open forge tent is going to be run by John Pfund and his crew in the NW region. You will still be able to use this area as always

to make whatever tickles your fancy but now there will also be some prepared projects that you can chose to do. These projects will have the necessary materials ready on hand so you need only bring your own hand tools and a desire to learn in order to participate. (Tooling in this tent is limited.)

Registration for classes is now open, so visit the website at www.blacksmithing.org to claim your spot!

Regional Challenges:

Flora & Fauna is the regional challenge theme for this year as picked by last years winners!!! The rules are simple:

1. The item produced must be primarily blacksmithed. It is acceptable to use powered tools and welders but the work they do must not be the focus.

2. This is a regional project and so there must be a minimum of 3 people who contributed to the project. More is better.

3. Iron is the focus of this competition, however other materials may be incorporated into the project. Refer back to rule 1 line 1 to answer your question about percentages allowed.

4. Have fun. Don't be so serious. Make sure that new guys contribution makes it into the project too. The competitions focus is really in the process, the people collaborating together, and the learning that occurs as a result. These values will be heavily weighted during the judging process.

5. Bonus points will be awarded for a roster of all involved in the project and maybe a short description of skills learned or used to achieve their part. If challenges for the group were overcome then we want to know. One page should do for this bonus point opportunity.

Trade item:

Anything Musical. Lets see it, peeps. What can you dredge up from the depths of your creative minds related to music? To be included in the trade item activity, one must simply bring an item they blacksmithed that is related to music and turn it in at the gallery before auction night.



Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
GAINESVILLE, FL
OCTOBER 20-22, 2023



FRIDAY, OCT 20

Workshops 8 am - 12 pm

- Blacksmithing 1 - Basics
- Blacksmithing 2 - Rivets
- Hummingbirds & Turtles w/ Frank and Scott Teele
- Oxy-Propane Torch Twisting Candleholder with James Worm

Demonstrations 8 am - 12 pm

- Forged Fashion, Ellen Durkan
- Smelting with Andrew Welton
- Specialty bladesmith, exotic shapes and precision grinds with Matt Stagmer
- FABA Specialty Project Demonstration Team

Seminars

- Evolution of an Iron Maiden with Ellen Durkan; 10:30-11:30 -San Felasco

Lunch Option 11:00 am - 1:30 pm - hotel concession boxed lunch options \$18

Workshops 1 pm - 5 pm

- Blacksmithing 3 - Forge Welding
- Skulls with Ben Thompson
- Oxy-Propane Braze Inlay Project with James Worm
- Friction Folders with LeRoi Price

FRIDAY, OCT 20

Demonstrations 1 pm - 5 pm

- Forged Fashion, Ellen Durkan Smelting with Andrew Welton Specialty bladesmith, exotic shapes and precision grinds with Matt Stagmer FABA Specialty Project Demonstration Team

Seminars

- Ribbon Flowers - San Felasco; 1 pm - 5 pm

Blacksmith Contest
6:30 pm

Novice, intermediate, advanced

Additional 8 am - 5 pm

- Vendors & Tailgate Sales - Field
- Open Forge
- Gallery, Region Challenge, Exchange Item viewing - Ballroom
- Auction viewing - Ballroom
- Scrap Bucket Charity Challenge viewing - Lobby



Funded in part by Visit Gainesville, Alachua County

SATURDAY, OCT 21

Workshops 8 am - 12 pm

- Blacksmithing 1
- Blacksmithing 5
- Copper Roses with Accents with Jacob Mudge

Demonstrations 8 am - 12 pm

- Forged Fashion, Ellen Durkan
- Smelting with Andrew Welton
- Specialty bladesmith, exotic shapes and precision grinds with Matt Stagmer

Seminars

- Heat Treating & Damascus with Steve Bloom, 10:30-11:30 am - San Felasco
- Ribbon Flowers - Boardroom, 8 am - 12 pm

Lunch 11:00 am - 1:30 pm - hotel concession tent (ticket required)
additional boxed lunch options \$18

Iron in the Hat, 12 pm-1 pm

- Purchase tickets at registration
- Bring a 24 case of water for 3 tickets; limit 3 cases

SATURDAY, OCT 21

Workshops 1 pm - 5 pm

- Blacksmithing 2 - Rivets
- Blacksmithing 4 - Heat Treating
- VIP Blade Experience with Peter Hill
- ABANA Curriculum with Craig Hines 3:00-4:00

Demonstrations 1 pm - 5 pm

- Forged Fashion, Ellen Durkan
- Smelting with Andrew Welton
- Specialty bladesmith, exotic shapes and precision grinds with Matt Stagmer
- FABA Specialty Project Demonstration Team

Seminars

- Woven Wall Hangings with Driftwood - San Felasco

Saturday Evening Meeting, Banquet, and Auction - Ballroom

- Banquet (ticket required), 6:00 pm
- Membership Meeting (no ticket required), 6:45 pm
- Auction (no ticket required) 7:30 pm

Saturday, continued

Additional 8 am - 5 pm

- Vendors & Tailgate Sales - Field
- Open Forge
- Gallery, Region Challenge, Exchange Item viewing - Ballroom
- Auction viewing - Ballroom
- Scrap Bucket Charity Challenge viewing - Lobby

SUNDAY, OCT 22

Workshops 8 am - 12 pm

- Blacksmith 3 - Forge Welding
- Mystery Workshop with Leslie Tharpe

Seminars

- Blade Etching - Matt Stagmer
- History of Smelting, Andrew Welton; tentative

Scrap Bucket Charity Challenge Judging - 12 pm
Hotel Lobby

Place your piece in the lobby before noon

Additional 8 am - 12 pm

- Vendors & Tailgate Sales - Field
- Open Forge
- Gallery Item Pickup - Ballroom

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President
114 Choctaw Cove
Valparaiso, FL 32580



September 2023

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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 Secretary,
C/O Sandlin
114 Choctaw Cove
Valparaiso, FL 32580

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DATE _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ I want B&W Newsletter by mail (quarterly) _____ OR Color Newsletter by Email _____