

November 2024

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985



WELCOME TO FABACON

We have just weeks to go until FABACON 2024 in Gainesville, FL, on November 8, 9 & 10. Sign up now, and don't forget to finish your pieces for the item exchange and auction! **Pages 4-6**

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.

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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Florida-Strong: How to Help

After two hurricanes in a month's time, I'm more than ready to get back to normal, and that means crafting hot steel into useful and artistic projects instead of cleaning up after named storms.

I'm glad, as the fates would have had it, that we did not hold our conference in mid-October as we have traditionally. We dodged a big one with our selection of November for the conference this year.

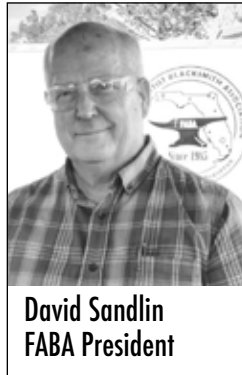
We've checked on the hotel and they are still ready for us having suffered no damage. However, collectively we (FABA) have not escaped unscathed. Two of the museums we support took some damage. I'm still seeking information on what their needs are in order to return their blacksmith shops to operational status, but I did see on Facebook that Barberville is already open for events. Crowley, on the other hand, is still recovering and making assessments.

At the individual level, it seems most of our membership have a lot of downed trees to clean up but no injuries.

James Worm's shop and shed got flooded, and the Bearded Brotherhood of Blacksmiths is helping him move some heavy equipment around on October 26th.

Tony Fenn had flooding from the first hurricane, and the Teeles helped him rip out drywall and insulation. The second storm wasn't as bad as the first, but the Fenns still have a lot of rebuilding to do. See Tony's full report, pages 12-13.

Although not FABA members, further afield in North Carolina, blacksmith John Norwood lost everything (home, shop and fiancée) and Blacksmith George Dixon lost his life due to the flooding from Helene. If you attend the SBA conference, you might know these people.



I feel a bit overwhelmed by all this and want to do something. On a personal level, I have been and will continue to be contributing to the recovery efforts through my church. As the leader of our organization, I am a bit stalemated. FABA does not have any policies or procedures in place for dealing with these kinds of tragedies. Consequently, at our board meeting on Friday night (during the conference), I will be proposing that FABA use some of our available funds to help out the museums and settlements that have been impacted by the storms. I hope to report our decisions at the general membership meeting on Saturday night.

We will also be drafting a process for accepting requests to assist individuals from our blacksmithing community in recovery from losses.

Finally, I will be placing a couple of empty toolboxes at the registration tent. These toolboxes will have names of individuals who have needs caused by the storms. Granted they are toolboxes, but gift cards are far more practical at this stage of the recovery. Contribute if you feel so moved. I will ship the boxes to the individuals at the end of conference.

By the time you get this newsletter it will be around two weeks until the conference. In spite of everything that has happened, I'm still optimistic and really looking forward to our event. So far, we have over 125 people signed up. It will be a great learning opportunity and a super occasion to see everyone again. Let's make some smoke and noise!

Until then, I hope and pray your anvil rings true. I look forward to hearing your stories. In many cases it's been more than a year since we've talked, and I'm sure everyone has some stories to tell.

— **David Sandlin, President**

FABACon News: Volunteers needed

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.

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 packing up 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!

— Lisa Anne Conner, Vice President and Program Chair



Ready to volunteer?

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.

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

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
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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	

Student special: Learn Blacksmithing



FABA Annual Conference 2024

FABA Con 2024 November 8-10, Gainesville, Florida - is the largest blacksmith event in Florida, in addition to three demonstration teams we are offering over 20 different classes. New classes have just been added! See <https://www.blacksmithing.org/fabacon> for event details, follow the special Student / Faculty registration link below to take advantage of the educational offer. Once registered you will be sent a link to use if you wish to sign up for our hands on classes. Special deals for veterans.

CLASSES OFFERED: Hammer Swing Ergonomics, Hammer Dressing, Introduction to Solid Fuel Forges, Blacksmithing Basics, Rivets, Forge welding, Heat Treating, Making tongs, Copper Flowers, Forged Hummingbirds, 2d/3d Skulls, Friction Folding Knife, Peter Pan Dagger, Attaching Knife Scales, Damascening, Knife Making with Peter Hill (Forged in Fire alumni).

- Special deal for college and technical Faculty and Students only!
- For \$30 you will receive a one-year FABA membership and a three day event registration, which includes access to all activities, including the open forges plus the ability to register for classes.
- You must show a student ID card from a Florida, Alabama or Georgia institution to be able to pick up your registration package, and the tickets to any classes you sign up for in advance. Early sign-up for hands-on classes is highly encouraged as we often sell out.
- NOTE: this program does not include banquet or lunch tickets. (may be purchased for an additional charge)

Conference Website: <https://www.blacksmithing.org/fabacon>

Student/Faculty Registration: <https://www.blacksmithing.org/students>





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

Special Meeting for the Central NE Region, Oct. 27

Where: Barberville Pioneer Settlement

When: Oct. 27 starting at 9 AM

Our usual meeting time in November falls on the date of the Pioneer Settlement's Jamboree so we will not be having a regular meeting. It would be great, though, if we could get some people willing to sign up to demonstrate blacksmithing for the event. Please call me at 386-848-6982 if you'd like to participate. Lunch and water are provided for all demonstrators. We need volunteers for Nov 2 & 3, but it's not mandatory to do both days.

Also, we are close to finishing the group project, but we need one more day to complete the assembly. That's why we'll be holding a special meeting on Sunday 10/27. We also could really use a little help with cleaning up the shop and giving it some semblance of organization before the Jamboree. If you'd like to help out, then we'll look forward to seeing you there. Lunch will be provided by myself for this meeting.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE 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 Region Report

I am looking for folks interested in hosting meetings for the Gainesville Region. We'll go back to the 3rd Saturday of the month starting in Jan of 2025. That meeting will be held at the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire! So much fun :)

I am also interested in hearing from folks what you would like to see happen at these meetings. Are there particular techniques you want to learn? More Demonstrations, or would you rather there just be Open Forges?

Shoot me an email at crookedpathforge@gmail.com.

— **Jordan Borstelmann, Coordinator**

NW Region Meeting Report

Hello everyone and greetings from the Northwest region. We just had our October meeting at Aunt Louise's Farm. This is their Fall season and we'll be here every weekend until it's time to pack up for the conference.

Craig Hines demonstrated making the tongs he and Chris Cauthen are going to teach the class for at the conference and I demonstrated making a trivit from railroad spikes.

I make two quite different looking styles, one short and stout, the other thinner and more graceful, but with a lot more work drawing it out. Either way it's some fun work making the mortises and tennons. I just use a hammer and tongs to make the tennons on the end of the spikes and use them to make the mortises.

About 20 people signed in at the meeting. We had pork sandwiches and corn on the cob from the farm kitchen for lunch and some of us stayed until they closed at 6 pm. The Northwest region will not have a regular meeting in November, as the second Saturday coincides with the conference.

In December we'll meet at Marcia and Craig Hines House and shop, and in January at Bettengers Welding shop.

In the meantime, we're getting ready for the conference. I hope to see you there!

— John Pfund, NW Coordinator



SE Region Meeting

Great turnout for today's meeting. We saw some people we haven't seen in a while. Work continues on the project for the conference. People also worked on their Journeyman requirements. Everyone was glad that the weather has finally cooled off. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the conference.

Get more info on the FABA SE Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/603288803747002

— Gary Becker, FABA member



Far West Report

It was a cool (for Florida) day under the pecan trees at John Butler's farm during the Far West meeting on Sept. 28. John has been a gracious host to us several times this summer and once again donated lunch for our event. We had 8 blacksmiths in attendance and a few casual observers. David Sandlin demonstrated forge welding and then crafted parts for his Peter Pan Dagger display board. Other members worked on parts for our regional competition project or items for the gift exchange.

Far West Schedule

Following the Conference, the Far West holds its annual forging competition at Timber Creek Distillery in Crestview, FL, on Saturday, Nov. 23.

This year when the hammer falls at 10 am, competitors will be challenged to make an axe in 5 hours. At 3 pm we will stop work and pack up our equipment as we wait for the judgement of the Timber Creek staff/owners at 4 pm.

In the time given, you will need to forge your axe head and mount it to a handle. You can bring your own steel and handle or you can use the materials provided. Tools, forges, fuel, anvils, the power hammer and sander/grinders will all be available. Wood and a shaving horse, with draw knives, will also be available so you can fit your creation to a handle. Pre-cut mild and hardened steel will be supplied for making traditional wrapped steel axe heads as well as rail road spikes and/or 1" square steel blocks if your choice is to make a punched and drifted axe head. Rivets and scrap bucket steel are on hand if you have a more exotic design. And exotic is definitely a design consideration!

The criteria are simple:

1. It needs to look like an axe,
2. It needs to split a piece of firewood, and
3. The Timber Creek staff/owners are strongly influenced by the "cool" factor of your design.

So, will you strive to "just get it done" or will you go traditional with a hardened steel bit, or maybe full-on fantasy? Large or small, the choice is yours, but hammers are put to rest at 3 pm.

What's at stake? Bragging rights and a bottle of Timber Creek Spirits.

Stone fired pizza lunch will be available for purchase, and there is an axe throwing range available if you want to give your creation a workout (or you can use one of the axes they have for the range).

Timber Creek Distillery is located at 6451 Lake Ella Rd, Crestview, FL 32539. Expect to travel the last leg of your



A shark tooth crafted for the FABA Conference Exchange

journey on a dirt/gravel road. Call 408-439-0973 if you need further information about Timber Creek Distillery. Call, text or email Christopher Sandlin (850-865-9596 or kitwards@aol.com) if you have questions about the competition.

In December, the Far West stands down for Christmas.

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

SW Region Meeting Report

We have been a little quiet in the Southwest as we all have been dealing with the two storms.

But we had a great non-hurricane day representing FABA at the Sebring Pioneer Daze Festival.

The Teele family packed up two trucks with five anvils, two forges and a huge tent and gave me a lift to the festival (as my truck was drowned by Helene). The talented Teeles had a great display of wares for sale. The most popular item were steel roses made by Candy.

I guided a couple of attendees through making a basic hook, which resulted in a request by the lovely pink-haired lady Phyllis for a couple for her house. I hammered them out and delivered them to her, to her great delight.

Unfortunately we are not in good shape to have our end of October Southwest meeting, but we will regroup at the conference and plan the rest of the year. 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



Running From the Storms

By Tony Fenn, SW Coordinator

I hope you are all well and safe after 2 crazy hurricanes in 2 crazy weeks. I thought I would give you my update from Sarasota Florida.

After a lovely summer in Britain and messing about in Prague Czech Republic, my wife Jackie and I arrived back home in Florida where our house on Siesta Key FL had been deluged by Helena and had 3 good feet of water through it. Almost everything was a write off.

So Jackie and I, plus help from family and our great blacksmith friends, the Teele family, started the cleanup. We ripped out all the laminate flooring, the carpets from 3 bedrooms and 4 foot of drywall from the whole house. We then started to get all of the moisture out of the building with big fans from my workshop. If we weren't quick enough, black mold would take root and it was game over. So we worked like Trojans and we're almost done when..... Hurricane Milton turns up. Does a shimmy and lines up pointing smack at my house. You can't make this stuff up....

So we grabbed the few essentials we had left and put them into storage and then jumped in the car and headed North to Valdosta GA and safety where we sat that one out. Watching its progress we were expecting the worst and expecting no home to be left. God knows what would happen to the house. Watching the news on TV, amazingly Milton's progressed to hit Sarasota with the Eye going over our house and Siesta Key. This suppressed the storm surge which went south with its clockwise rotation (sorry guys), and its drop to a CAT3 meant the winds weren't catastrophic. So on the drive back we could relax a bit and we stopped over in Gainesville as the roads were insanely busy and we had a wonderful dinner with Jordan Borstelman and his wife Kathy. We cracked open a few beers ate some pizza and mused on what to do with our life after this.

On Saturday, we got back to a friends house in Sarasota who had power ! Then we went to check on our house. This time, the water came up about 6 inches around the house and into the garage, but we only had a few puddles inside, because it did leak in through the patio doors. There wasn't much left to damage as we had placed what was left in the house up on folding tables and some remaining counter-tops.

The huge piles of trash from Helene were all up and down the street but they actually didnt get blown through

windows, thank God. We had no power but had water and started the 2nd round of cleanup and moved even more of our furniture into the street.

Our flood insurance adjuster came last week and it looks like all but a few things to do with reconstruction of the structure are covered. But somehow we missed getting insurance for contents - ho hum.

At last, this week the huge pile of our furniture and sodden belongings was being cleared outside our house. I had to catch, a picture, of the fate of my beloved red sofa which was in my favorite spot in our kitchen.



There is not much left in the house, although we have kept it functional with a working kitchen sink and bathrooms, we are not living there. The AC is working as are ceiling fans so it is quite comfortable to work inside. The fridge went as did the washer dryer and dishwasher. (I helped a needy family load them into their truck so they could make a bit of money from them as scrap metal). We do have a working stove. We are also using the very solid wood built kitchen cabinets and countertops as they did not get moldy.

Member Report

Eventually the cabinets will be replaced as they did swell and delaminate a bit.

Most of our clothes, photo albums, and other keep sakes are in storage. About 500 LPs were destroyed by water and went in the debris pile.

All of the drywall has been pulled out to the studs throughout house so it looks as if nothings changed from 4ft up, and like a new construction from 4ft down.

As I said earlier, the laminate floors and carpets were ripped out really quick after Helene. Underneath we have terrazo floors which look like speckled marble. We are planning to have the terrazzo polished and use area rugs in the future.

We signed a contract with the same people who built our kitchen to rebuild everything. They started this week by preparing drawings and estimates for the permitting process with the County. Drywall, plumbing and electrical work all require permits. We are hoping rebuilding can start in about 3 weeks and really hoping that it will be complete by the end of the year.

We have booked an AirBNB starting Nov. 1 in a 2 bedroom house, with an enclosed back yard for our dog Dexter. It is east of Paynes Park and about a 20 minute walk to Main St. Sarasota. We will be there until the end of the year.

On a daily basis we are going to the house and Jackie is generally cleaning up and seeing if she can rescue any more furniture that we havent thrown out. I have the tedious task of pulling every nail and staple out of the exposed studs to make them construction ready, to save time when the contractors start work.

Thank you to our son-in-law who has done a great job getting our pool back from a deep brown muck, with fish swimming in it, to a crystal clear oasis - for the 2nd time. I may even take a swim in it this week !

Oh, and the point of giving you blacksmiths the update - my workshop is fine but I don't have the time to progress projects or meetings yet. Also my good old F150 truck was flooded in Helene. I tried jumping it, but it started to catch on fire, so I donated it to charity. We are in good spirits and don't need any funds or additional help - but thank you for offering.

See you at the FABAs Conference - Looking forward to a great and perfectly normal few days!

Cheers, Tony Fenn

Support our FABAs 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

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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 FABAs sponsor or expanding your sponsor listing? Contact FABAs President David Sandlin at President@blacksmithing.org and include your business name, tag line, and contact information.

Judy Berger Memorial Hammer-In

Just got home from the Judy Berger Memorial Hammer-in. It was a cool event, and I got to know people I've looked up to my whole career just a little better. As well as remembering Judy and her incredible contribution to modern blacksmithing, we also remembered George Dixon, who was recently killed in the flooding at Asheville, NC.

Demonstrators were Tal Harris, a protege of Francis Whitaker; Tom Latane, whose work is known around the world; Mark and Mindy Gardner, Mark for making tools and Mindy for her mastery of the treadle hammer; Ken Schwartz, lead blacksmith at Colonial Williamsburg; and me.

The setting was beautiful, as was the weather. As a Florida resident, it was nice to be chilly for a change!

— **Kirk Sullens, Quartermaster**



Open face power hammer dies by Clay Spencer



Show and Tell at the Judy Berger Memorial Hammer-In



Tom Latane demonstrates



George Dixon's jacket with one of his pieces



Hammer by Tom Latane



Mindy Gardner demonstrates



Feather by Mindy Gardner



Tal Harris pieces



Wally Yater

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.

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:
Registration fee(s) \$ _____ X 0.80 = _____ 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: _____

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President
114 Choctaw Cove
Valparaiso, FL 32580



November 2024

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Interim Treasurer	Dawn Fortenberry	Treasurer@blacksmithing.org
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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 _____