

September 2026

CLINKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association



BREAKER

Established May 18, 1985



FABA CON CHALLENGES

REGIONAL CHALLENGE

Theme: Balance and Motion (with literal motion)

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 choose the 2027 conference theme!

EXCHANGE ITEM

Theme: Something that Whirls, Twirls or Spins

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.

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, Oct. 18th.

Judging: Hotel staff picks their favorite.

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!



Sign up for the
conference, banquet
and classes now!

**[blacksmithing.org/
fabacon](https://blacksmithing.org/fabacon)**

The FABA Conference website is up and running - huge thanks to Jessica, David, and all who had a hand in that - but the important part is that it is updating and changing as we add more details and even more Family Programs!

I am particularly excited to announce that in addition to Shiloh's Embroidery on Paper class, we will be having two long-time FABA ladies rejoin us to teach an Embroidery on Fabric session (which will include stamping and other embellishments)!

And to continue a theme, an expert professional costume designer and seamstress will be teaching an all-day Saturday class covering Period Shirts: From how to properly measure someone, to correct fabric choices, to actual flat-pattern drafting. Depending on the pace of the class, you should be able to get your mock-up done for a "master pattern" for you or for a friend! A session like this can cost hundreds of dollars, but we will be offering it at an incredible price - everything included other than the friend.

You will have to take both sessions, but will walk out with the information and plan to create correct/authentic shirts/tops for reenacting, whether it be a linen sark or a kirtle or a chemise (or a Seinfeld Poofy shirt?). So, check that website!

Some of these classes have come about because people have asked for a topic, and some because I or one of you reached out to an old friend, or a former member/attendee of a FABA conference. So, this is a gentle reminder: Take a moment, reach out to a friend and see what they are up to. Reconnect. Share a laugh or a tear. Catch up. Life *is* short - Live it!

— **Lisa Anne Connor, Program Coordinator**

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 & Greater Orlando / 3rd Saturday—SE & Gainesville / 4th Saturday—Far West & SW.

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

The regions have no boundaries — everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can!

The dates may vary, so check the schedule noted in the Regional Reports or on Facebook, or contact the Regional Coordinator.

Our meetings are informal gatherings around the forge. Prospective members are always welcome. Come for all or any part of a meeting, bring your tools or just watch. Most meetings run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and you'll want to bring a bag lunch if not otherwise noted. If you have any questions about events, please check the region's Facebook page or contact the Regional Coordinators:



Greater Orlando Region	John Hare	802-373-1190	legacy.john.hare@gmail.com
Gainesville Region	Jordan Borstelmann	352-727-8260	crookedpathforge@gmail.com
Central Northeast Region	William Thornton	386-916-6117	knifegsx@yahoo.com
North Northeast Region	Doug Hayes	910-330-7601	djhayes29@hotmail.com
Northwest Region	John Pfund	850-528-3280	johnwppfund@aol.com
Southeast Region	Peter Hill	651-635-6022	blazeblades561@gmail.com
Southwest Region	TBA	TBA	TBA
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.

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FABACon events to count on



The table is set! Our 41st conference happens next month, October 16-18, and we have a full plate of demonstrators, classes, competitions and great comraderie. Prices are lower and opportunities for a good time and a learning experience abound (see the table of conference classes on page 5).

After you have registered for the event, planned when to visit with our 3-demonstration teams and signed up for your classes, be sure to tell your friends and post your plans to attend on Facebook. Facebook is our #1 way to get the word out to the local community, and your posts are sure to attract the attention of this college town. Our mission is "to teach – to preserve" by getting fresh young Smiths to experience the fulfilling art and craft of blacksmithing, we perpetuate our mission by teaching the next generation.



David Sandlin
FABA President

At this conference you can count on all our regular events. Forging competition on Friday night. Iron in the Hat on Saturday at noon. Fellowship banquet, annual business meeting, and live and silent auction Saturday night.

Drop by the gallery on Saturday afternoon, not only to vote for your favorite piece on display, but also to visit with Ben Thompson and Leslie Tharp to get their take on the advantages and challenges of induction forging. That will also be a good time to visit Blue Moon Press and check out the books they have for sale.

Sunday morning, Shiloh Thomas has a fresh new family class for those who want to take a break from hammer and anvil: embroidery on card stock. Don't forget, tailgate sales will be held at the top of the field and will run throughout

the weekend, but you may need to move fast because there will be a lot of one-of-a-kind items, and it's first come, first served.

INTRODUCING THE APPRENTICE TOOLBOXES

At conference this year we are providing 4 toolboxes, one for each of our trustees. The toolboxes will have a few tools included, but you are encouraged to contribute more tools for a beginner blacksmith. Our four trustees are charged to award their toolbox to an aspiring apprentice sometime during the next year. Talk to your regional coordinator and trustee if you identify a promising individual who wants to Smith but needs tools to become successful. These boxes can be awarded at any time before the next conference.

MORE TOOLBOXES

At the request of Kirk Sullens, FABA Quartermaster, and in coordination with Heather, our assistant Field Supervisor, we have designed and built five tool boxes for the tools we carry onboard the trailers. These boxes are 15 inches tall and double as a place to hang tongs for easy access during a class or other event.

They have runners underneath so you can quickly lift with a hand truck for easy transport. With the lid closed, they work well as a seat. However, these tool-boxes lack two things. First, ring-style handles so when they need to be lifted, there is something to hold onto.

Second, even though these toolboxes were built with tongue and groove joinery, they will be taking abuse over the years and a wrap-around metal band would sure go a long way to improving their long-term stability. Does anyone have access to a steel strapping kit with a tensioner?

RINGS AND THINGS

I like making blacksmith jewelry. These are quick little projects that don't take a lot of resources and are highly



New toolboxes donated by Traditions Workshop



President's Message

appreciated.

Just the same, I was surprised and honored when my apprentice, Angee, asked if I would help her make her wedding rings. It had been her family's tradition that her grandfather would assist his children and grandchildren make their own wedding rings. Her grandfather has moved on to be with the Lord, and she asked me to help carry on this tradition. She had also advised her fiancé (Josh) that the only engagement ring she wanted was one made by him. We both had our work cut out for us.

Fortunately, Josh took the lead and made several rings over the last few weeks until he had one that they both liked. Last Saturday, Angee and I started making her rings out of silver that had been handed down from her grandfather. She wanted a simple design imprinted on a solid ring. "A solid ring." I was at a loss because I'd never made a continuous loop ring that was less than 5 inches across. Such is the nature of the iron worker. We decided to experiment with copper first. Some mistakes were made, and some copper was melted in the forge, but progress was also made and a design was settled upon.

Thankfully, at the point when we were supposed to silver solder the ring together, Josh showed up with lunch. I stepped back and the two of them worked together as a great team, first finishing the prototype copper ring and then moving on to crafting their own wedding bands. Josh even took time



Leaf ring by David Sandlin



to show me how to silver solder a seamless ring. I guess my biggest assistance was giving Angee and Josh a place to forge their dream.

Angee and Josh will be married by the time you read this newsletter. We wish them all the best at the conference. Angee will be helping Dawn Fortenberry teach the hairpin class Friday afternoon and will be supporting Rusty Osborn teaching the ABANA level 1 "flux spoon" on Saturday morning. Josh will be experiencing his first ever blacksmith conference.



Wedding rings by Angee and Josh

WE REALLY NEED YOU TO JOIN THE BOARD

Specifically, we need a program chair for next year's conference. We are also looking for a back-end webmaster and a regional coordinator for the southwest. Let us know if you are interested in any of these positions. Training will be provided; we are not asking anyone to do any of these jobs alone.

Until we meet again at conference #41, may your anvil ring loud and true!!

— David Sandlin, President



Forge utensils at conference with David Sandlin on Friday morning.

FABACon Report

First stop, <u>Registration</u> (20x20 tent)	Be sure to visit <u>Iron in the Hat</u> (20x20 tent), drawing starts at high noon, Saturday, October 17
<u>Demonstrator Steve Schwarzer</u> A Master Bladesmith since 1981, Steve Schwarzer has over 20 awards for his blades, his excellence and innovation, and his service to the community. In the '70's Steve started on the edge and now stays on the cutting edge. He pioneered many of the common Damascus techniques seen today. One of my favorite quotes by Steve is; "Fantasy is always correct" which is why he often uses fantastic creatures carved into the handles of his work.	<u>Demonstrator Joe Davis</u> Joe Davis, does very high-end custom work requiring traditional joinery; accomplishing projects like fireplace screens and architectural metal work. He has been running "Old School Crafts" for 25 years, often working with his two boys at his forge and foundry. His projects make use of multiple materials like copper, bronze stainless steel and, of course, iron.
<u>FABA demonstration team</u> led by Tony Fenn. The team project is creating a blacksmith angel. Stop by to check out the action!	<u>Open forges</u> are available to finish projects started in one of our classes.
<u>Teaching the Basics tent</u> Fri AM basic 1 start here for your first time forging Fri PM basic 2 Learn joining steel with rivets Sat AM basic 1 start here for your first time forging Sat PM basic 2 Learn joining steel with rivets Sun AM Forge Welding	<u>Teaching advanced basics tent</u> Fri AM Forge Welding Fri PM Tongs Sat AM ulu/herb chopper with Matt Shoemaker Sat PM Heat Treat - small knife blade forging and heat treating with Jordan Borstelmann Sun AM Tongs
<u>Advanced projects tent sponsored by Benchmark Abrasives</u> (AKA the torch tent) Fri AM TBD Fri PM Friction Folders with Leroi Price Sat AM Coffee Scoop with Christopher Sandlin Sat PM TBD Sun AM Gas welding workshop with David Sandlin	<u>Advanced projects tent sponsored by Traditions Workshop</u> Fri AM Forge Utensils with David Sandlin Fri PM Hair Pins with Dawn Fortenberry Sat AM ABANA level 1 Flux spoon with Rusty Osborn Sat PM Hammer Dressing/Ergonomics - Doug Hayes Sun AM TBD

Indoors: Saturday afternoon an open discussion and lessons learned using an induction forge with Ben Thompson and Leslie Tharp in the gallery.
Sunday morning class with Shiloh Thomas: embroidery on card stock.

In Search of: FABA Program Chair

As you know, this will be my last year as Program Chair. Please consider stepping up and volunteering.

Contact me if you are even thinking about it, and let's talk! Call Lisa Anne at 813-505-8041 or email GryfnSCA@gmail.com.)

— **Lisa Anne Connor, Program Coordinator**

FABACon Hotel Reservations

FABACon 2026 is returning to the Best Western Gateway Grand in Gainesville on Oct. 16-18. Hotel reservations are open now. Use this link to book at the discounted rate of \$129 a night.

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.10281.html?groupId=X95RX3D5

FABA's rate is a significant discount. Don't delay! Book your hotel room now.

Far West Meeting Schedule

All Far West meetings start at 9 AM with set-up followed by a short business meeting and a demonstration using either the FABA Journeyman standards or the ABANA Level I curriculum. Lunch will be available. Meetings end when we get too hot, too cold, too tired or it gets too dark.

September 12th will be at Traditions again so we can finalize our group project. Traditions Workshop is located at 418 Green Acres Rd., Fort Walton Beach, FL. We have added a meeting on October 10th so we can pack the trailer for FABA CON 2026.

We plan to hold a lessons-learned meeting on Oct. 31st so we can also unpack the trailer and swap stories about the conference. Plus, we need to reset the trailer for our last meeting of the year, which will be on November 7th.

We are going back to Timber Creek for our regional



forging competition. The competition project will be forging a bottle holder/display for a Timber Creek bottle of whiskey. You will have only 5 hours to produce your creation. Various sizes of steel bar and round stock will be provided or you can bring your own materials. You must register to participate in this competition! Unlike previous years, due to the fact that this is an innovative/artistic project, there will be no coaching/teaching during the competition (collegial support and striker team effort is still encouraged). Hope to see you there for some whiskey, pizza and an opportunity to win braggin' rights for another year.

After our Christmas break, we plan to reengage at Traditions Workshop for our meetings on January 23 and February 27. This will allow us to seek shelter if either of those days are bitter (that only happens once in a blue moon, but then it did snow in our part of Florida last year).

March 27 will once again be our fundraising knife class at John Butler's Family Farm. Maybe something different in 2027, like a friction folder out of a horse shoe and a file? Stick with us and see what happens.

— **David Sandlin, FABA President**

Far West Meeting Report

The breeze and the shade under the pecan trees at John Butler's farm were barely enough, but 7 blacksmiths and 3 observers persevered; at least until the hotdog lunch served by our gracious host.

Our focus was on making items for the gift exchange. As a demonstration project, Christopher choose to do the corkscrew pattern as demonstrated by Mark Aspery in his video "Blacksmithing Project: Forging a Corkscrew Freehand with Mark Aspery." We should note that Chris Cauthen also demonstrated this corkscrew project for us at John Butler's farm a few years back. Although it is a bit of a trick to "thread the needle" when creating the handle, the real WORK is drawing down medium carbon steel from 3/8" square to 1/8" round. Even with a striker, the drawing out takes a while and the heat/humidity of the day was not helpful.

The other trick in this project is forming the screw by hammering the coil round using the step of the anvil. Refer to the video (<https://www.youtube.com/live/n2jtf2VRdFY>) to see how this is done.

— **David Sandlin, FABA President**





Orlando Region Meeting, Sept. 12

The Greater Orlando Chapter will be meeting Sept. 12 at Daryl Bean's shop in Oviedo for our September meeting. Daryl is a lifetime member of the American Farriers Association and a Certified Journeyman Farrier.

Daryl has been attending the Orlando Meetings for several months with her (very cool) mobile forge working on various projects including some interesting animals. Daryl will be discussing and demonstrating some of the blacksmithing unique to the farriers trade and some of her dragon heads and small "critters."

9AM: Lunch will be provided

Location: 1800 Marsh St., Oviedo, FL 32865



We will be taking October off as our weekend falls on the Conference weekend (which I hope you are all attending!). Our next meeting at the regular Underground Metal Works will be on November 14th.

For information and future meeting dates, contact John Hare at 802-373-1190 or legacy.john.hare@gmail.com.

— **John Hare, Orlando Region Coordinator**



Central NE Meeting, Sept. 5

The next Central NE Region will be held on Saturday September 5th at Barberville Pioneer Settlement from 9am to 4pm. We will continue working on our group project and have open forges. As always, lunch will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Please check the FABA NE Facebook page for info: facebook.com/groups/381431599058683/ or email William Thornton at knifegsx@yahoo.com.

— **William Thornton, Central NE Coordinator**



Gainesville Region Report

The Gainesville Region had three new faces at their August meeting, and open forge fun was had by all.

The region has no meeting in September, and October will be at the FABA Conference.

Our next meeting will be Nov. 21 at Jacob Underhill's shop in Starke. The address is 6112 NW CR 233, Starke, FL. The meeting will largely be open forges. Bring your own lunch if you like. The meeting starts at 9 a.m.

For information and to confirm meetings, contact Jordan Borstelmann at crookedpathforge@gmail.com.

— **Jordan Borstelmann, Gainesville Regional Coordinator**

North NE Meeting Report

Only a few souls braved the heat, humidity and storms to attend the North NE Region regional meeting on August 8 at Iron Osprey Forge, but work was done on the regional project, and tips and tricks were shared.

We worked outside with the coal forges which gave us natural (and fan-assisted) breezes, and it was actually quite pleasant with the sound of rain pattering on the overhang. Dan and Jason worked on some bird sculptures while Ben and Doug fabbed up a couple of tool ideas.



Then they worked on shaping some really weathered wrought iron from an old anchor (200-300 yrs old per the St. Augustine Lighthouse conservation crew - who also determined the anchor was too weathered from decades in the salt flats to be worth saving as an historical item).

The gang shared a nice lunch and then went back to work completing their items and getting the wrought iron ready for the next stage.

There will be two meetings in September, BUT the Days vary: the regular meeting on SUNDAY, September 13th, 10 a.m. til 3 p.m. The second (and possibly the last tune-up before conference) will be September 26 (Saturday) from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Both will be at Iron Osprey Forge, 101/102 Marshall Circle, St. Augustine, FL 32086.

Hope to see you there. Folks in the NNE can contact Doug for info on what to make in their home forges to add to the competition piece. And as a reminder, the exchange item is something that whirls, twirls, or spins. That leaves lots of room to be creative!

And for those who are limited at their home forges, contact Doug, and you can come work on projects at the shop as long as I am around. Note: I will be out of the country from Aug 18 until Sept 3rd and thus won't be able to provide any open forge time during that period.

Stay cool, but hammer on. Remember, blacksmithing is the COOLEST craft!

— Doug Hayes, North NE Coordinator



NW Region Meeting Report and Future Schedule

Hello everyone, and greetings from the Northwest Region. Our August meeting went well and according to plan.

We didn't have a raffle, but that's always dependent on what everyone brings to donate and it's easy to put off until the next meeting. We did have a great "Give Away," though.

It was fun watching people gathering "Treasures" to take home. You can fit a lot in a pickup truck or hatchback! I found a few things myself and I will remember Roger when I use them.

Having brunch, instead of lunch, worked out well. I think this is the first time I've tried it. I put the bread in the oven when I got there and we started eating it as soon as it came out. People brought just enough sides and desserts for everyone to get enough without a lot left over.

It was a nice fairwell to Roger's house. Thank you Roger and Family! We're not going to have a meeting in September. I'm ready to skip another summer month and everyone seemed to be okay with it when I announced it at the meeting. (Nobody complained). It's nice to take a break.

We're going to get busy in October, as usual. On October 3rd we're going to start the "Fall Season" at Aunt Louise's Farm. ALF is a "petting zoo, family picnic and pictures"

kind of venue, and we set up in a fenced-off area to provide a blacksmithing show for them. It's in the shade of a big oak tree with picnic tables close by, and this is where we'll have our October meeting on the 10th.

The next weekend is the Conference!

Aunt Louise's Farm fall season will continue until the weekend of November 14th, and we will have our monthly meeting there. During their season, ALF will be open on Saturdays 10am to 6pm, and 2pm to 6pm on Sundays.

We are invited to gather and blacksmith there anytime they're open. They don't charge us for admission and give us treats, too. When we have our monthly meeting there, we start at 9am, even though they don't open until 10 am.

I'll write more about it in the October newsletter.

The December meeting is at the Hines residence. January is at Bettinger's welding shop. February is at Mark Mason's.

I am happy to take a month off and looking forward to all the fun we're going to have in October at Aunt Louise's Farm and The Conference. I hope to see you there!

— John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator

SE Region Meeting, Sept. 19

The Southeast Region is working on finishing up our challenge project for the conference. This month, we had another new face learning all about FABA. Journeymen requirements are being completed.

The Southeast Region meets on the third Saturday at The Farm, 1566 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL. Just turn off Military Trail at the pole painted red, white and blue, and follow your GPS or Google maps.

Get more info at: www.facebook.com/groups/603288803747002

— Gary Becker, SE Region member



SW Region, Aug. 22

SW August Meeting: Get ready to get HOT. Saturday August 22nd, 9:00 AM, at 103 Triple Diamond Blvd., North Venice FL 34275.

We will be working on our Balance and Motion Sculpture for FABA Conference. Led by Francis Trez Cole and Scott Teele. Please bring your own chairs and food for lunch. There is pizza close by. Bring water for hydration. There will be a shade tent. Bring something for Iron in the Hat.

Also, the Southwest Region is actively looking for a regional coordinator. Check www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674, or email treznokomisforge@gmail.com for updates or more information.

— Trez Cole, SW Region Trustee



VOTE IS OPEN IN FABA ELECTIONS

The FABA 2026 ballot is set, with candidates running for reelection for four posts, and an important-post-to-be-filled also on the ballot. Please visit www.blacksmithing.org/elections to cast your vote in FABA's 2026 elections! Or email your vote to Tia Kitchen at secretary@blacksmithing.org. The deadline to vote is

- Treasurer: Dawn Fortenberry
- Editor: Jennifer Jhon
- Program Chairperson: _____
- SE Trustee: Steve Silvers
- NE Trustee: Ben Thompson

FABA equipment upgrade: SALE

FABA now has 3 fully functional 2x72 sanding machines, making the 3 green 2x72 machines redundant.

The green machines will be for sale at conference so you can “try before you buy.” Prices will range from \$300 to \$500 depending on the quality of the machine.



Demonstrators Wanted

I have had a great time blacksmithing in Florida and attending two of our phenomenal conferences. Alas, I'm moving across the country to Washington State.

For the past few years, I have demonstrated at the Lake Wales Pioneer Days. This fall they will need someone new. The event is Saturday and Sunday October 24-25.

Please contact Bart Delcamp: bartdelcamp@gmail.com.

I also just learned that Zolfo Springs has Pioneer Days this fall on November 6-7 and they are looking for a blacksmith. Visit www.floridapioneerfestival.com.

— Paul Wiedorn

Support our FABA business members

DAMASCUS SPONSORS

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

STEEL SPONSORS

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Michael Oliver - Turn and Burn Metalworks - Lakeland, FL
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Scott Brown - Medieval Smith - Land O' Lakes, FL
Jordan Borstelmann - Crooked Path Forge - Gainesville, FL
Rick Smith - Gainesville, FL
Nicole Horenstein - High Springs, FL
Mark Fillmore - Naples, FL
Cameron LaFrance - Micco, FL

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

Jerry Grice Scholarship deadline Dec. 31

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 any FABA member who has been in good standing for at least one year qualifies to apply. The \$1,000 award may be divided evenly amongst multiple winners. If a single winner, 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 learned skills during a regular FABA meeting, and to write an article concerning the learning experience, including a “how-to” portion, for publication in the Clinker Breaker within 6 months of completing the class.

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, 2026.

Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final, and the successful applicant(s) will be notified after the vote.

The scholarship amount of \$1,000 may be split evenly among multiple candidates if deemed so by the FABA Board of Directors.

FABA Veterans Scholarship

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.

1. Recipients must be veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces (Navy, Air Force, Army, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force). Individuals must be able to provide proof of current service or honorable discharge with active duty ID or DD214.
2. Scholarship will reimburse 80% of a blacksmithing class/course(s) registration fee up to \$150 upon completion of the course, whichever is less. (For example, if the course(s) cost \$200, 80% of that is \$160, so the awardee would receive \$150; if the course(s) cost is \$175 then the awardee would receive \$140.) Formula for determining award: Registration fee(s) \$_____ X 0.80 = _____ TOTAL (awardee would receive \$150 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 reserves the right to determine which coursework is appropriate during the review process.

Get full scholarship and application information at www.blacksmithing.org/scholarships

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President

114 Choctaw Cove

Valparaiso, FL 32580



September 2026

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FABA Officers

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FABA Membership Secretary,
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