

May 2023

# CLINKER



# BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985



## 2023 Southern Blacksmith Association Conference



  
 Madison, Georgia  
 May 18 - 20, 2023

FABA's own Jordan Borstelmann will be demonstrating and John Pfund will be teaching tong-making at the 2023 SBA Conference in Madison, GA. Mark Stone is donating a knife, below, as well. Learn more, pages 3-4

### SPRING BLOOM

FABA's Sergio Cipriano and Kirk Sullens participated in an iron smelt recently led by Andrew Welton. Learn more about the results, page 12



# Regional Events & Information

FABA now has seven regions, and regular meetings are held in each region on the following Saturdays of each month: 1st Saturday—NE, 2nd Saturday—NW, 3rd Saturday—SE, 4th Saturday—Far West & SW. The NNE meetings will be the 2nd or 3rd Saturdays (depending on the month) in 2023, and the first Gainesville Regional Meeting will be Feb. 18, 2023. The regions have no boundaries – everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can! The dates may vary, so check the schedule noted in the Regional Reports or on Facebook, or contact the Regional Coordinator. Our meetings are informal gatherings around the forge. Prospective members are always welcome. Come for all or any part of a meeting, bring your tools or just watch. Most meetings run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and you’ll want to bring a bag lunch if not otherwise noted. If you have any questions about events, please check the region's Facebook page or contact the Regional Coordinators:

Gainesville Region	Jordan Borstelmann	352-727-8260	crookedpathforge@gmail.com
Central Northeast Region	Heinrich Hole	386-848-6982	heinrich.faba@gmail.com
North Northeast Region	Doug Hayes	910-330-7601	djhayes29@hotmail.com
Northwest Region	John Pfund	850-528-3280	johnwpfund@aol.com
Southeast Region	Peter Hill	651-635-6022	blazeblades561@gmail.com
Southwest Region	Antony Fenn	617-320-4781	antony.fenn@gmail.com
Far West Region	Christopher Sandlin	850-865-9596	Chris@traditionsworkshop.com

## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA)

is a nonprofit organization chartered with the state of Florida that is dedicated to promoting and expanding the horizons of architectural, artistic and practical blacksmithing while preserving the rich heritage of this craft.

FABA Officers and members assume no responsibility or liability for injuries or damage caused as a result of the use of any information, materials, design, techniques, etc., contained in this newsletter; our website, [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org); our Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/FloridaBlacksmiths](http://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](mailto:editor@blacksmithing.org). Materials submitted must be your own work, and citations of others must be clearly identified. By submitting materials, you are allowing FABA to edit, print and post them to FABA’s website. ABANA Chapter newsletters may reprint non-copyrighted material, if it is credited to the author and this newsletter. You need the publisher’s permission to reprint copyrighted material unless otherwise noted.

FLORIDA ARTIST BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION#: CH38635 EXPIRATION: May 13, 2023  
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# It's time to get back to work!

Tax season is ... well, thankfully behind us. But filling out paperwork does put a crimp in available forge time. Thankfully we have the Southern Blacksmithing Association Conference coming up in Madison, GA, on May 18-20 as an opportunity to make up for missed time at the anvil in April. See Mark Stone's article in this issue (page 4) for more details.

Not to steal Mark's thunder, I'm excited to announce our own Jordan Borstelmann will be one of the demonstrators! Jordan recently posted up some more exciting news – he will be teaching at John C. Campbell Folk School later this year! So seeing him at SBA or attending our Gainesville regional meeting this month will give you a preview of his upcoming class and help him get ready for this exciting opportunity.

Sometimes you might take on a job that is much more than expected. I know we have at my workshop as we are now into the sixth month of an artistic steel, aluminum and wood fabrication (not enough blacksmithing in this one). Estimating the size, cost and scope of a project is always challenging. Even more challenging when artistic elements on a larger scale are involved because you want to stretch to an objective that is just out of reach.



David Sandlin  
FABA President

Your next project may not be as big as what we're attempting here at my workshop but I hope it is bigger than your current comfort level. Only by challenging ourselves do we get better. I encourage you to attend a regional meeting, a class or a conference not to watch but to participate. Try something new and stretch your boundaries. Then after you've discovered a new technique or process, please pass it on! FABA offers two \$1000 scholarships a year that you can use to improve your skills beyond your comfort zone. All we ask is that you bring your new found knowledge back to our community in the form of an article for the Clunker Breaker and a demonstration at one of our regional or statewide events.

Or perhaps you already have some hard-won blacksmith experience you would like to share. Get with your regional coordinator to set up a date to demonstrate your skill or share our knowledge with your region. Or get with our program chair, Heinrich Hole, and ask to be put on the schedule for our annual conference. Your presentation does not have to be around a fire. We have plenty of inside opportunities available.

Maybe you have some experience in estimating larger scale jobs that inspire some artistic license? I know that is a program I'd like to attend before my next experience stepping outside my comfort zone.

Hope and pray your anvil rings true throughout the year, and hope to see you at the Madison convention!

### — David Sandlin, President

**Safety.** Recently met a smith at our local regional event who was wearing prescription wrap around safety glasses. He'd elected to use his vision insurance to purchase these custom glasses and they sure work a whole lot better than those safety glasses that are designed to go over your standard eyewear. Wrap around safety glasses are always a better option. Use them if you have them. If you don't then wear whatever safety glasses you have available, just be sure to wear something! Binocular vision is an important function, not just a spare.

**Side Bar:** I read an interesting tag line about using water on coal: "flames heat the smith, not the work." The point of the article was to use water to keep the coke from burning off prematurely as the gasses are extracted from the coal!



Steel over wood construction for a private "whiskey bar" we're building at Traditions Workshop, the design/style was inspired by bars seen in Star Trek and Star Wars. No, I don't have enough clamps.

# Join us at the SBA!

[SBAconference.org](http://SBAconference.org)

The SBA Conference in Madison, GA is a few short weeks away, May 18-20. The final touches are being applied and the loose ends being tied up of what should be a great conference. Great demonstrators, Liam Hoffman and Matt Jenkins will share their knowledge and techniques. Each of the seven chapters will be putting on 3-hour mini demonstrations. Jordan Borstlemann will be representing FABA in our time slot on Friday afternoon. FABA's own John Pfund and fellow instructors will be hosting anyone who wishes to learn to make tongs, and green coal classes for beginners will provide plenty of blacksmith viewing and forging opportunities.

We also have a full slate of family classes including Broom Tying, Basket Weaving, Woven Fiber Wall Hangers, Wire Jewelry, Ribbon Flowers, and Kumi Himo Japanese Braiding to give non-blacksmith attendees another activity to partake in.

Buck in the bucket, Tailgate Sales, Big Blu, Blacksmith's Depot, Blue Moon Press, provide plenty of opportunities to expand your toolbox and your library of blacksmithing knowledge. Greg Cuumba will also have the Gallery expertly presented with People's Choice voting on your favorite Gallery entry and also a blade competition for the most well-like blade submitted by each chapter. Peter Hill has volunteered a beautiful blade, pictured at right, for Florida's entry and auction. It will be a great to time to reconnect with distant friends and we hope to see you there.

For registration and more information, go to [SBAconference.org](http://SBAconference.org). See you there!

2023 Southern Blacksmith  
Association Conference



### Central NE Meeting, May 6

Location: Barberville Pioneer Settlement  
Date & Time: May 6th starting at 9am

Good morning, smiths. For the May meeting we're going to be stepping up a bit in our usual material size and will be making hammer heads. A couple of our regional members need smaller hammers that we don't have in our shop, so we're going to fix that problem. Need a tool, make a tool, right?

Come on out to join us for a practical lesson in providing for shop needs. Cya there.

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

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**

### Gainesville Region Report

The April 16th Meeting in Gainesville was a success. We had 17 people in attendance.

Jordan Borstelmann demonstrated how to make a fork. Members were provided with material so they could try their hands at forging a fork as well. It was a great learning experience for all. The Iron In The Hat brought in \$70.

The next Gainesville Regional meeting will be a slight field trip, as it will coincide with the Southern Blacksmiths Associations Bi-Annual Conference in Madison, GA, on May 18th.

Jordan will be on the road for a good part of June and July and is looking for someone who would be interested in hosting a meeting for the Gainesville Region for either of those months.

— **Jordan Borstelmann, Gainesville Coordinator**

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## FABA Announcements

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### FABA Treasurer Report

Hi there, your friendly interim treasurer here.

Things are going well, although I've had a couple of folks with membership and Clinker Breaker questions.

Please pass the word to your friends and fellow members that if they have not received a Clinker Breaker in their email (or one of the quarterly print editions) to please reach out to the [treasurer@blacksmithing.org](mailto:treasurer@blacksmithing.org) to let me know. The most common reasons this seems to happen is either we have an old address (email or physical) that hasn't been updated, or we've had a typo in the mailing program, or your membership has lapsed.

Our current program does NOT have a system that automatically sends out renewal notices. We did have that for a few years with the Wild Apricot membership program, but program changes led to other problems, including potentially costing us a good bit more money each year. We have not found a suitable replacement for that system yet, and so we do not have an automatic renewal notice system.

If you renew and use the automatic renewal / subscription / automatic annual payment button, the membership will renew automatically as long as the payment process is valid.

Note: If you renew your membership but have changed your address/email/phone, that information may not make it to the current mailing list. The program does not have a feature that alerts us that the info is new, so we continue to send to the address we have on file.



So, for membership or Clinker Breaker issues, please reach out to the treasurer email, or you can reach out to David Sandlin (yep, our president) who is currently doing double duty covering the membership secretary position. (BY THE WAY — if you want to help out and enjoy record keeping, we can use someone in the Membership Secretary position!)

Again, please pass the word to your friends and fellow members since if we do have a bad address - they never see this information and they have to reach out to us.

— **Doug Hayes, Interim Treasurer**

## SW Region Report

What an excellent meeting we all had at the forge at Heritage Village in Largo.

Trez Cole demoed how to make a slot punch from spring steel and I demoed the joinery technique of a key and wedge join through a 1/2" square hole punched through 1/2" square bar, as taught by Pete Braspeninx of Phyre Forge at our last conference. After the demo, materials were provided for attendees who wanted to try their hammer skills. I think Pete would have loved to see you all working on his style of joinery. Big thanks to Doug and Jay for hosting us and to everyone who attended. It is always a pleasure to get together with the Southwest members.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**



## SW Region Meeting, April 22

On Saturday, April 22, at 10AM, we will be back to Crowley Museum and Nature Center just east of Sarasota. We will light up the forges in the restored museum blacksmiths shop.

At this meeting we will get back to Journeyman skills so come prepared if you want to demonstrate any skill for signoff by Trez.

Please bring safety eye wear and dress appropriately.

Please bring something for Iron in the Hat, and a food or drink item to share.

### Crowley Museum and Nature Center

[www.crowleyfl.org](http://www.crowleyfl.org)

Address: 16405 Myakka Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

Telephone : (941) 322-1000

**DIRECTIONS** to Crowley Museum From the south or west: Take Fruitville Road (exit #210 off I75) and drive 10 miles to the dead end. Turn right on Myakka road. Go 3 miles, Crowley is on your left. If you travel over the bridge to the north entrance of Myakka State Park, you missed us by a mile.

**From the north:** Take I75 to route #70, exit #217B, travel to Verna Road. Turn right and travel south for approximately 6 miles to the Crowley entrance on your left.

**From the east:** Take hwy #70 to Verna Road. Turn left. Travel about 6 miles to Crowley entrance on your left.

Please check our FABA SW Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674](https://www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674) for more information, or contact me at [antony.fenn@gmail.com](mailto:antony.fenn@gmail.com).

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**



Tony Fenn and Trez Cole demonstrate the Pete Braspeninx style of joinery at the SW Region meeting



## SW Region's 1st South Florida Farrier/Blacksmith Swap Meet Report

Here in South Florida, we thought it was time to bring Blacksmiths and Farriers together to watch and learn from each other. On Saturday, April 8, we held our 1st Annual South Florida Farrier/Blacksmith Swap Meet at New Farm Farrier Supply in Sarasota.

FABA Southwest brought our trailer and set up our large tent, a number of forges and our tire hammer for all day demonstrations and learning experiences.

A large number of Farriers pulled up their pickup trucks participated in tail gate sales and were joined with a great equipment showing by FABA member Harland Fisher.

Highlights of the meeting are:

- Earl Ellerbee, Treasurer of the Farriers Association gave an excellent demonstration of shoe-making
- Marcus Wise, former President of the Farriers Association, guided me through making my first shoe
- A number of FABA SW members kept us all entertained by continually working on demonstration pieces

We had a blast hanging out with our Farrier friends. I think everyone went home with some useful tool or at least a good covering of coal dust. It was great to roll out of the trailer — thanks to Doug Rogerson and Wade Chappell.

Thank you so much to Earl and Marcus for demoing for us.

I think with Marcus's guidance I managed a passable horse shoe shape. Thank you to chef Trez Cole for feeding us all lunch and of course to Eric Nygaard for his hospitality at New Farm Farrier Supply. Lastly, we wouldn't have a record if it wasn't for Jay Dugan taking great photos. What a team effort!

We are already planning next year and how to make the event even better and hope to get our FABA members from other regions to participate.

**— Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**



## NW Region Meeting Report

The April meeting for the NW Region was held at Aunt Louise's Farm. We had 25 people signed in and \$120 was collected in the raffle. This was our second weekend out of seven during their spring season.

We were working on making tongs during the meeting, no-tong tongs and EZ tongs too. About five or six pairs of tongs were started. I'm not sure if any were completed, but a lot of fun and learning was accomplished. We had, make your own cold sandwiches and sides for lunch. Nobody went back to work after lunch, rain was threatening but I think I was the "after lunch nap impulse" that sent everyone hurrying for home. Five more weekends remaining in the spring season at Aunt Louise's Farm with the last being our May meeting.





### Please join us!

On April 22nd, we're going to have a special work day at Jeff Mohr's shop to finish up on the double rocking chair we are donating to the Madison conference, so please note it on your calendar and come and help, if you can!

## NW Region Meeting, May 13

Our May meeting for the NW Region will be held at [Aunt Louise's Farm](#), 8101 Waukeenah Hwy, Monticello, FL 32344. This time we're going to be making "upset the boss" tongs and EZ tongs again.



All this tong making practice is going to pay off the following weekend in Madison, GA, when we offer a free tong-making class at the SBA conference.

This last day of the spring season and our May meeting will be on May 13th. We're going to grill hamburgers and hotdogs for the meal. Please bring sides and desserts to go with them and donations for the raffle.

Besides the meeting and all the weekends at ALF in April and May, Chris Cauthen and Craig Hines are still teaching classes at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. The last one before we stop for the summer heat, will probably be the first Saturday in May, the 6th.

On April 22nd, we're going to have a special work day at Jeff Mohr's shop to finish up on the double rocking chair we are donating to the Madison conference, so please note it on your calendar and come and help, if you can!

The new "open forges" on Tuesdays at Roger Bell's house is still going well. This past week I made us homemade pizza for lunch. Roger's address is 7685 Deepwood Trail, Tallahassee, FL 32317.

As I'm writing this forecast, I'm in Gainesville to attend the Gainesville region meeting on Saturday, April 15th. I'm looking forward to catching up with old and new friends and spreading the word about some volunteer opportunities at Stephen Foster State Park that I'm looking into.

— John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator

# Walt Anderson Scholarship 2023

This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Walt Anderson, 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 Walt Anderson 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](mailto:jgbutler@sprintmail.com).

Deadline for receipt is June 30, 2023. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final. The successful applicant will be notified.

## Jerry Grice Scholarship 2023

This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Jerry Grice, one of our charter members.

Its terms, award and conditions match the Walt Anderson Scholarship. Deadline is December 31, 2023.



## Far West Region Meetings

The Far West Region meeting schedule for 2023:

**April 22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at John Butler's Family Farm** 4112 CR-197A, Pea Ridge, in Milton, FL. We will run this meeting as a FABA fundraiser, offering a class open to the public on how to make a Viking era utility knife (\$110 for the class includes Sonny's BBQ lunch).

**May will be at the Timber Creek Distillery**, 6451 Lake Ella Road, Crestview, FL. We plan to initiate our project for the FABA conference that day.

**In June we take a break from our travels** and will be back at Traditions Workshop. July and August locations are to be determined. We are open to suggestions, especially if you are willing to host at your location.



**September 30th** (not the

23rd, told you there would be exceptions) 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**



## Support our FABA business members

### DAMASCUS SPONSORS

David Sandlin - Traditions Workshop - Fort Walton Beach, FL

### STEEL SPONSORS

Greg Hagen - Holland Anvils - Holland, MI

John Elliot - Blacksmith Supply - Chester, VA

Michael Oliver - Turn and Burn Metalworks - Lakeland, FL

Doug Hayes - Iron Osprey Forge - St. Augustine, FL

### IRON SPONSORS

Scott Brown - Medieval Smith - Land O' Lakes, FL

Jordan Borstelmann - Crooked Path Forge - Gainesville, FL

Rick Smith - Gainesville, FL

Nicole Horenstein - High Springs, FL

Mark Fillmore - Naples, FL

Interested in being a FABA sponsor or expanding your sponsor listing? Please contact FABA treasurer Doug Hayes at [djhayes29@hotmail.com](mailto:djhayes29@hotmail.com) and include your business name, tag line, and point of contact information for use in the Clunker Breaker and online.

## North NE Region Meeting Report

The NNE Region had a small group on Easter Saturday. But we had a good time, and the small group meant folks got a lot of practice with dressing and using punches, trying differential cooling to affect the symmetry of the hole and such. Then we opted to try out one of St. Augustine's food places for a nice lunch.

— **Doug Hayes, NNE Region Coordinator**



# Iron in Bloom

Sergio Cipriano and Kirk Sullens participated in an iron smelt in early April, led by Andrew Welton. They produced a 17 3/4 pound iron bloom from about 72 pounds of ore. After that, they experimented with a hearth refinement of swarf from a metal cutting bandsaw, producing a 1 1/2 pound puck of steel of at least medium carbon. A good time was had by all!

— Kirk Sullens



# THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President  
114 Choctaw Cove  
Valparaiso, FL 32580



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**May 2023**

## FABA Officers

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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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

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