

CLINKER



BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FABA volunteer opportunities abound

FABA exists because of volunteers, and we are always looking for help, as many hands make light work.

It might be a little early to think about what you can do at the conference in November, but the sign-up list has been posted to our website. We know we will need teachers, people to set up and tear down, someone to run to the store to get something we forgot, someone to arrange for ice/water to be delivered/distributed ... well, the list goes on.

Maybe there is something we should be doing but haven't thought of. If you have a suggestion and can show us how to implement it; that too is appreciated.

But volunteer opportunities abound at more than the annual conference. Every meeting your regional coordinator runs requires effort: maybe a demonstrator, or someone to set up lunch, or organize Iron in the hat ... again, the list goes on.

Volunteer efforts do not need to hold to any regional boundaries either. A great example of cross-over assistance and sharing of knowledge happened this past month in the Far West when Craig Hines and Chris Cauthen drove over for the meeting on April 23 to teach us how to make a hacksaw.

Demonstrating for the public on behalf of FABA is also a place to volunteer. John Pfund, Doug Hayes and now Jay Dugan (Ram Forge Works) have all asked for demonstrators at various events.

The smithy at Heritage Village in Pinellas County is fairly typical of a demonstration request; just show up with your favorite hammer and tongs and talk while showing off your blacksmith skills. You don't have to demonstrate a big project. In fact, quick projects like nails and "s" hooks are usually better so the spectators can see an item made from start to end.

Just keep aware of the folks around you as you are demonstrating, stop working and talk to them (especially if they get too close). Show them that the art and craft of the blacksmith is alive, interesting and challenging. Next thing you know you have a new friend and FABA may have a new member.

Finally I'd like to ask you to consider working on the FABA board. Next month (June) I will be making a call of nominations that will run for 30 days. YES, you can nominate yourself. If you are interested in a position on the board but want to know more about it, please call the incumbent. You might even want to work with them for a while to see if that job is really for you. However, our incumbents often continue to serve simply because no one steps up to take over. So please consider volunteering for one of these important positions.

If you are worried about "stepping on toes," again I ask you to call and see if it is their plan to serve another term.

In 2022 we have the following positions to be elected with start service on Jan 1, 2023, and running until Dec. 31, 2025: Treasurer (YES, Doug is looking for a replacement!), Clinker Breaker Editor, Program Chair (Erin is looking for an understudy), SE Trustee, and NE Trustee. Plus we are still looking for a regional coordinator in the NNE (Jacksonville) area.

Volunteering will help you feel connected to those you are helping in the community, and I can't think of a better community to connect with.

Hope and pray your anvil rings true throughout the year.
— David Sandlin, President

*Keep the rhythm of the bellows;
 Keep the fire glowing red;
 Never forget your place, good fellow;
 Never you let the coals go dead.
 - Michelle Joelle, Poet, "The Blacksmith's Apprentice"*



Calendar of Events

The calendar includes events of interest to the blacksmithing community. The regions have no boundaries – everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can.

We hold regular meetings in each region on the following Saturdays of each month: NE-1st, NW-2nd, SE-3rd, Far West and SW-4th. The actual dates vary, so check the schedule noted in the regional reports.

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 meetings or events, please contact the Regional Coordinators:

Central Northeast Region	Heinrich Hole	386-848-6982	heinrich.faba@gmail.com
North Northeast Region	vacant	for questions, please email	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 conference Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/groups/2849587158637631; 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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SW Region Report

FABA Southwest headed down to our southernmost friends for a demo by Stephan Kalb in April.

It has taken us several years to get down to see Kalb IronWorks in action, but it was worth it. Stephen did a great demo and held us spellbound as he went through each precise step of making one of his magical dragon creatures. We all learned a lot from watching Stephen in action at the Koreshan State Park blacksmith's forge, just north of Naples, FL.

A bonus for everyone was meeting several new members who had never attended a meeting because of the long travel distance to our default home in Sarasota. We encouraged everyone to continue to meetup locally and arrange their own forge time with Stephen at Koreshan.



Many thanks to Stephan who capped a great day out by giving us a guided tour around the park.

Koreshan State Park offers a window into the lives of a unique and eccentric pioneer group that made its home under towering oaks on the banks of the Estero River.

In 1893, the Koreshans, a religious sect founded by Dr. Cyrus R. Teed, moved here and built a settlement based on a commitment to communal living and a belief that the universe existed on the inside of the Earth. Living celibate lives, the enterprising Koreshans established their own power generation, a farm, nursery and botanical gardens.

The park is home to 11 immaculately restored and nationally registered historic buildings erected by the Koreshans between the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

SW Region Meeting in June

We have not determined the meeting location for June (4th Saturday of the month). Please check the FABA SW page in early June for a meeting announcement at www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**





Central NE Region Report

Good morning!!! OMG did we have an awesome meeting in May. We had all kinds of activities going on. People got to work on their personal projects in the many open forges we have, exciting contests were had with loads of amazing prizes won, and then we even had a special guest. Mr Ryan Wolf chose to visit our region to check it out. If you remember, he was one of the primary demonstrators at our last conference. It was a pleasure to have him. About those contest, THANK YOU Jesse for all your hard work on putting the contest together. The prizes were phenomenal. Totally worth competing for. Thank you sir. Sadly we did not have an iron in the hat this month. Maybe June will see some juicy donations. I'd like to share with you all what iron in the hat is to me. First and foremost it is the communities method to share resources with the members who have less. What do I mean by that? Well, I can tell you that iron in the hat supplied my blacksmithing habit for no less than the first two years of my development. That table is what I relied on for a long time to get my hands on things I had no idea how to get, or even existed at all. Secondly iron in the hat is the primary way we fund the monthly meetings. That means the more juicy our table is the more I can put out on bringing a lil quality to the meeting. Mmmk. Back, to the meeting. We had great attendance again. All the forges were filled, the sound of non stop production all around. Pure music to my ears. I can't wait to do it again in June. One more thank you and then I'll let you go. To the people bringing food to the meeting, I freaking love you. It makes such a huge difference. Thank you all!!!

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**





Central NE Region Meeting, June 4

June 4th at the Pioneer Settlement in Barberville starting at 9 AM will be our next meeting in the Central NE region. It will be another open-forges style meeting with a non-zero percent chance of other activities developing between now and then.

Guys, it's going to be June in Florida, at our next meeting. Yes, I said that like a weather condition. This is serious. Get ready to drink some water and always stay conscience of your hydration levels.

We can still get our smithing done because a blacksmith can survive, but we gotta be smart about it. Never neglect hydration. It's your life on the line. On a positive note, there is never a shortage of water at FABA meeting so we'll be prepared.

Anyways, bring the project you're working on or something you'd like a bit of help with to the next meeting and we'll get it done. Cya there!!!

— **Heinrich Hole, C.NE Coordinator**

North NE Region Report

Here are some pics from the FABA demo in Ormand Beach, April 23 & 24. Jesse Allan and Doug Hayes did a two-day demo at the Ormand Beach Celtic Festival with lots of visitors and lots of interest.

— **Doug Hayes, FABA Treasurer**



Far West Region Report

In our last meeting, we were again graced by the presence of Chris Cauthen and our demonstrator, Craig Hines. He lead the instruction of making hacksaw frames and showed off his new titanium tongs.

— **Christopher Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**

Far West Meeting Schedule

The May 28th meeting (9AM-3PM) for the Far West will be back at [Timber Creek](#) with the task to make a sea creature for our contribution to the FABA Con 2022 auction. Bring or make your contribution and we will lay out the plan for how everything will be incorporated into our group project. Also, Cam & Aaron have warned us that a bottle of their best whiskey is at stake for the best creature! However no insight has been given as to how the competition will be set up, or how judging will be done. They promised an excellent drink selection & fun food options.

For the June 25th meeting we're keeping things simple with a meeting at [Traditions Workshop \(418 Green Acres Rd., Ft Walton Beach, FL\)](#). Food will be provided, and a demonstration on making a half-sphere will be conducted. Plenty of forges will be available, so if you're advanced, or beginner, stop on by!

Expect us to meet at the [Baker Block Museum](#) sometime in the early summer, date TBD. Other summer monthly meetings are still up in the air. Please email me if you have suggestions at Chris@traditionsworkshop.com.

However, the October 22nd meeting will be back at Traditions Workshop to prep the trailer for the November Conference, the forges are already reserved on that day for finalizing your team contributions to the event. As always there will not be a December meeting. — **Christopher Sandlin, Far West Coordinator**



Regional Reports



NW Region Meeting, June 11

The Northwest region will be holding our June meeting on the 11th. The meeting will be held at the blacksmith shop at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. The address is 17869 NW Pioneer Settlement Road, Blountstown, FL 32424.

Chris Cauthen, Craig Hines and I have been going to the settlement on odd weekends since the weather got cool and teaching a Blacksmith challenge class. Now that the temperatures are getting hot again, we're about to stop the classes for the summer.

At the meeting, we will give a demonstration based on the class and offer the chance to try some of the class projects on open forges. Typically we stop by a local seafood restaurant for a meal on our way home from the class, and that's what I'm suggesting for the meeting. Since we're not providing a meal at the meeting, I'm not going to run a raffle either.

The meeting starts at 9 am, and I will be sure to have coffee and donuts available when you get there and plenty water for the meeting. Feel free to bring a bag lunch or some snacks to help prolong the fun until we have to stop for a meal and go home.

If anyone wants to carpool, which I recommend, you can give me a call and I'll help arrange it. Hope to see you there!

— **John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator**



Join the conference team!

Planning Meetings

May 26 - 7 pm EST

June 13 - 7 pm EST

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91787060865>

or

Meeting ID: 917 8706 0865

+1 301 715 8592 phone

Walt Anderson Scholarship applications open

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 \$1000, 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 or statewide conference, 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: that an item made with the new knowledge be offered for auction at the Annual meeting.

Completed letters of application (electronic format appreciated, but not required) should be sent to:

John Butler, Chair, FABA Scholarship Committee,
777 Tyre Road, Havana, FL 32333
or jgbutler@sprintmail.com

Deadline for receipt is **June 30, 2022**. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final. The successful applicant will be notified.

Florida Folklife program seeks master artists and apprentices

The Florida Department of State's Division of Arts and Culture is seeking applications for the 2022-2023 Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Program. Expert practitioners of traditional art forms and persons with a strong commitment to learning and preserving folk and traditional arts are encouraged to apply.

The Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Program creates opportunities for apprentices to study traditional arts with recognized master artists. Traditional arts are expressions of shared community identity that reflect the values and aesthetics of the groups that practice them.

The application deadline is July 15, 2022.

Interested masters and apprentices must apply as a team by submitting the joint application to the Florida Folklife Program. The Florida Folklife Council will review applications and recommend apprenticeship teams to the Secretary of State. The selected apprenticeship teams will be announced by September 2022. The program provides a stipend and funds for supplies.

Interested applicants should contact the Florida Folklife Program by calling 850.245.6482 or 800.847.PAST.

Program guidelines and applications can be found at dos.myflorida.com/historical/preservation/florida-folklife-program/apprenticeship-program/

Support our FABA business members

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
David Sandlin - Traditions Workshop - Fort Walton Beach, FL

IRON SPONSORS

Scott Brown - Medieval Smith - Land O' Lakes, FL
Jordan Borstelmann - Crooked Path Forge - Gainesville, FL
Rick Smith - Gainesville, FL
Nicole Horenstein - High Springs, FL
Mark Fillmore - Naples, FL

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

Nov 4 - 6, 2022

FABA Conference



Where is the conference?

Best Western Grand Hotel and Conference Center
4200 NW 97th Boulevard Gainesville, Florida 32606

When can I register for the conference?

The conference registration will open July 1st. Registration can be found at <https://blacksmithing.org/>. Don't forget to update your membership at the same time.

When do workshops open?

Workshops will open July 1st. Registration can be found at <https://blacksmithing.org/>.
Classes will be announced in the June Clinker Breaker.

How do I get involved?

We need your help! Become a volunteer for the conference. We need help with everything from set up, stocking coolers, to registration. If you are interested, please fill out the volunteer form at <https://blacksmithing.org/conference/> or contact Erin Harlow at fabaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com or join us during the conference planning meetings.

What about lodging?

Rooms are available at the Best Western for our special group rate of \$115 per night. Rooms are available for booking now and the link can be found at <https://blacksmithing.org/conference/>.



FORGING FUN



Exchange - "Catcher of Light"

The exchange is open to any member and skill level. Each smith creates a piece based on their interpretation of the theme and brings it to the conference. On Saturday afternoon before the auction, each person who brought an item will draw the name of another. The name that you draw is the person's piece that you take home. It might be from a beginner or one of our seasoned smiths, you just never know. "Catcher of Light" is this year's theme and open to your interpretation! Plan ahead and bring an item to exchange.

Creature Challenge

This year we are introducing a new challenge. We are asking each district or sub-district to create a piece as a team. This can be as large or small as you would like. A panel of outside judges will judge the pieces based on the criteria below. Awards will be handed out at the banquet. The winning team gets to choose the theme for the following year. Please consider donating your items to the auction. I hear whispers of some interesting collaborations out there! We hope to see submissions from each part of the state. This is a great project to work on at a monthly meeting.

Rules for team creature challenge

- Piece must be created by 3 or more team members
- Piece should be created between October 1, 2021-November 4, 2022
- Must include at least one forging technique
- Regions and sub-regions can submit more than one entry as long as they meet the other requirements
- Must be submitted at the FABA Conference gallery and auction area before noon on November 4, 2022
- Judging Criteria
- A team must comprise of at least 3 members and more points are awarded for more artists
- Artistic interpretation of the theme
- Materials and techniques utilized

Nov 4 - 6, 2022



SHARE & SUPPORT

Gallery

The gallery is a wonderful way to showcase your pieces. These can be pieces that were completed at any time. Perhaps you have a blade, art piece, home item, or other that you want to share with FABA members. Bring one or more items to the gallery to share! Items are judged by attendees and awarded prize money for People's Choice.

Auction

We need auction items! We have a few already and if you have an item you plan to bring, feel free to email a photo to me at fabaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com. When you drop off the auction item, we will need to know what the item is and what it is made from, who donated or made it, and the estimated value. The live and silent auction will take place on Saturday evening, November 5th immediately following the annual banquet. Tickets will be available for the banquet on the conference registration page when it launches. You do not need a ticket to attend the auction.

Iron in the Hat

Have scraps or interesting items laying around your shop? Bring them to the conference for Iron in the Hat. Tickets will be sold for items to be raffled on Saturday, Nov 5th from noon to 1 pm. Bring a 24 case of bottled water for 3 free tickets. Limit 3 cases per individual.

Vendors & Tailgate Sales

Interested in selling items at the conference or representing your business? There will be opportunities for both tailgate sales and vendor booths or tent sponsorships. Tailgating and vendor registration will open on July 1 and will be available on the conference website at <https://blacksmithing.org/conference/>.

For questions or comments, please contact Erin Harlow, program coordinator at fabaprogramcoordinator@gmail.com.

THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Doug Hayes, Treasurer
4255 US-1 S. Suite 18 #329
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June 2022

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WebMaster	Jessica Sandlin	fabawebmaster@gmail.com

FABA Membership Application: Membership begins when your application and \$30 membership fee is received. Membership is per family and lasts one year. Use your credit card to join or renew your FABA Membership via Square by going to www.blacksmithing.org and clicking the **JOIN FABA** button to access the Square payment system.

OR send the below application and your check to "FABA" for \$30 to FABA's Membership Secretary, John Butler, at: FABA Membership Secretary

NAME _____

John Butler

FAMILY MEMBERS _____

4112 Bell Lane

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

Pea Ridge, FL 32571

PHONE _____ CELL _____ EMAIL _____

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