

**October 2025**

# CLINKER



Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

# BREAKER

Established May 18, 1985

# FABA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 10-12, Gainesville, Florida

07

10

14

36

Days

Hours

Mins

Secs



## See You Soon!

Scan the QR Code at right or open  
to pages 4-5 for information about  
FABA's 40th Anniversary Conference



## 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).

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 | 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 |

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# FABA voting & convention news

Our 40th anniversary conference is finally here! You can hardly imagine how much effort goes into creating this event. Organizing the classes and instructors, finding new classes, finding demonstrators, coordinating with the hotel, arranging for coal, propane, steel, meals, chairs, creature comforts, tee-shirts... the list goes on. Even before the conference starts hundreds of hours have been invested. I (We) cannot thank our team of volunteers enough for all they have done so far and will continue to do when we are on the field.

In the last few issues of the *Clinker Breaker*, I've talked the blacksmith and metal working classes that are being offered. The schedule has continued to evolve and more classes have been added. Unique to this conference is the number of "family friendly" classes that we are offering: several hot work glass classes (glass can be a great compliment to your blacksmith projects), baskets (great for holding small tools), make a crossbow (exciting!), dream catchers (don't let another dream get away), whip braiding (step aside Indy, we've got this), leather sheath crafting (got to have a place to put that knife you made in Peter Hill's class), how to wrap paracord (to make a comfortable knife handle) and making chain maille (to protect yourself from "that other guy"). All told there are 38 classes available. Plus our two demonstrators.

If you have not made time to check out the demonstrators here is a quick thumbnail sketch:

Chris Maybury and Elmer Roush will be demonstrating how they craft a colonial hatchet. Chris makes tools in a traditional way, including those tools used by his Viking ancestors. Elmer Roush, has demonstrated for us before and we know him as an expert in Viking age tools and axes. He has been forging, and teaching, No photo description available. for over 50 years. There is much to be learned from this team.



David Sandlin  
FABA President

Eric Velleca of Velleca Metal Design does a LOT of architectural work, combining blacksmithing and fabrication to achieve fantastic results. He and his team will be demonstrating for us a project that he is taking further south to be installed in a home here in the state. Along with demonstrating techniques Eric will spend some time talking about the business of professional blacksmithing.



Finally, Jordan Borstelmann will be doing a presentation on making a falchion, giving us some insights about the very in-depth class he took earlier this year.

Yes, there is a whole lot going on.

I was recently asked, "what is your favorite thing about conference?" I had to stop and think hard on that one. I invest a lot of effort into our organization and our conference is the pinnacle of that effort every year.

So, why do this? Personally, I learn a lot from classes, watching and listening to all the great people we have in our association who teach. But my attraction is certainly a lot more than just an education. I enjoy seeing the gallery and admiring all the fantastic projects you all make. But I can take a sight-seeing trip on Pinterest so that's not "it" either. There is the allure of living history: You can get a lot from a book but actually witnessing someone make something you only read about is illuminating, but YouTube can provide that too. So, what is it that keeps me coming back? I've only described the parts of our conference but not the soul.

To make the whole picture of our conference and the thing that keeps me coming back I have to conclude; it is you. You, the hundreds of individuals that attend FABA CON every year are the reason I enjoy the conference. I love your stories, the bits and pieces that make up life. The excitement you exhibit when you have made something new and are willing to share that information with all of us. The comradery that comes from our team, all working together to use an ancient craft to make the world a little better. I really look forward to seeing each of you at conference this year! See you soon.

— David Sandlin, President



# Celebrating 40 years

FABA Con 40 at the Gateway Grand in Gainesville is swiftly approaching! If you have not been to the website ([www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org)), please check back in. Classes and demonstrators have been updated, and you'll want to register as soon as possible to secure your class spots!

We have quite a range of classes and demonstrations this year, and we hope you join us to explore the opportunities and challenges!

As I write this column, the news is full of stories remembering last year at this time, and the devastating hurricanes that impacted so many of us. I hope that this season continues to treat us kindly, and that all of you remain safe.

As part of your clean-up and reassessment after last year, do you by any chance have that one pile of stuff that you keep thinking you will do something with? Donate it! We will have an entire tent area for the Iron in the Hat Raffle, and as the saying goes, "One man's trash is another's treasure." Handmade items are especially prized and would be welcomed as contributions to either the Auction or to the Silent Auction.

One of our annual conference traditions is the Ringing of the Anvil, in commemoration of those artists and craftspeople who have passed away. We also have a Memorial table, where we try to have pictures and remembrances of the departed. If you are aware of someone who has passed during this year, please let Jennifer Jhon know so that she can include a notice in the Clunker Breaker ([editor@blacksmithing.org](mailto:editor@blacksmithing.org)), and please consider sharing your memories and photos at conference.

On a personal note, I am greatly looking forward to our conference! The past 15 months have been a crazy whirlwind for me, and I have not had the opportunity to catch up with many of you. I cannot wait to see you all and to hear what is new in your lives. So, let's greet mentors and legends, share a hug, tell a story, hoist a toast, and make new friends! See you soon!

Register for Classes

Looking for the class registration link? Check your email! The email titled "Thanks for registering! Here are your tickets" includes the link to conference classes that must be used to register for the individual classes.

You can also get a look at the conference schedule and pre-register for bituminous coal for pickup at conference only at <https://www.blacksmithing.org/fabacon>

— **Lisa Anne Conner, Vice President**

**FABA CON 2025**  
**EXCHANGE ITEM**  
**SOMETHING THAT OPENS**  
  
**Theme:** Something that OPENS  
**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 open - locks, boxes, folding knives, lanterns, doors, tongs, wings, etc.

**FABA CON 2025**  
**CHAIRMAN'S**  
**CHALLENGE**  


**SKYLINES**  


**Theme:** Skylines

**Rules:** Three or more members must contribute to the piece; open to regions or sub-regions

**Judged on:** adherence to the theme; techniques used; quality of work; number of contributors

Winners receive bragging rights and get to pick the 2026 theme.

## FABACON Schedule

A quick thumbnail review of our current class listings:

### Friday AM:

Blacksmithing 1 (introductions)  
Blacksmithing 2 (rivets, making garden tools)  
Dragon bracelets with Christopher Sandlin  
Viking Era lock with David Sandlin  
Family program: Napkin Basket Making  
Family program: Glass & Fire 101-Intro to Beadmaking

### Friday PM:

Blacksmithing 1 (introduction)  
Copper Roses & Critters  
Friction Folding Knife with LeRoi Price  
Making Tongs for your Toolbox  
Pendants & Things with Ben Thompson  
Crossbow Class  
Family program: Bags to Baskets with Shiloh Thomas  
Family program: Dream Catchers  
Family program: Reed Basket Making  
Family program: Whip Braiding  
Family program: Glass & Fire 101-Intro to Beadmaking

### 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM: Forging Competition

### Saturday AM:

ABANA National Curriculum Level I (8 hours)  
Knife Making with Peter Hill (8 hours)  
Copper Bracelets & Bangles  
Forge Welding  
Leather Knife Sheath Making (8 hours)  
Hammer Swing Ergonomics  
Treadle Hammer Workshop with Kirk Sullens  
Family program: Glass Animals & More Beadmaking

### 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM: Iron in the Hat

### Saturday PM:

ABANA National Curriculum Level I (continued)  
Knife Making with Peter Hill (continued)  
Leather Knife Sheath Making (continued)  
Heat Treating  
Projects with Nails  
Treadle Hammer Workshop with Kirk Sullens  
Paracord Handles & Blade Embellishment  
Sword Presentation by Jordan Borstelmann  
Family program: Ribbon Flowers with Shiloh Thomas  
Family program: Bubbles in Design Beadmaking  
Family program: Dream Catchers



### Sunday AM:

Blacksmithing 2 (rivets, making garden tools)  
Forge Welding  
Making Your Own Tongs for your Toolbox  
How to Repair a Broken Heart with David Sandlin  
(white smithing, working brass)  
Family program: Glass & Fire 101-Intro to Beadmaking  
Family program: Intro to Chain Maille

## FABA CON 2025



## CALL FOR GALLERY SUBMISSIONS

&

## 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.



## SW Region Meeting Report

We had 14 attendees at our August meeting at my workshop FishnChips Forge in Sarasota. We held the meeting in early September as late August conflicted with too many vacations.

It was another hot and humid forging morning, but we made excellent progress on our cross project with work done on tasks I set for the day. We worked on drawing out the bracket which will wrap around and hold a stained-glass center piece, and forged the tulips on the main cross arms. Then I demoed how to make collars which we will use at the next meeting.

About lunchtime the heat and humidity became unbearable, and it was a good time to stop, eat, and catch up on everybody's news. We will be focused on assembly and final cleanup at our next meeting.

Thank you to Jerry Wolfe and Jan Much for the photos.

Thank you to all who attended and who contributed to lunch.

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

## SW Region Meeting Schedule

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

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**



### Greater Orlando's Summer Break

Orlando is taking a break from the heat of the summer and will stay on sabbatical through the holidays. Meetings will resume in January at UnderGround Metal Works, 660 W Kennedy Blvd Suite A, Orlando, FL 32810 FL.

For information, contact John Hare at 802-373-1190 or [legacy.john.hare@gmail.com](mailto:legacy.john.hare@gmail.com).

— **John Hare, Orlando Regional Coordinator**

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### Far West Meeting Schedule

We are not planning another meeting in October but we do plan to meet for our now-annual forging competition held at Timber Creek on November 8th. The competition is early this year because we plan to be off Viking the next two weekends in November, then Thanksgiving and Christmas.

January 24, 2026 and February 28, 2026 meetings will be held at Traditions Workshop. We hope to have the BIG barn built on Christopher's property by then, so look for a new address as things progress.

For any meeting where we do not have a specific project or objective expect us to cover the FABA journeyman standards or parts of the ABANA National Curriculum as the year progresses.

— **David and Christopher Sandlin, Far West**

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### Central NE Region Report

We had a excellent August meeting where we worked on our group project for conference and are close to finishing it. We will have one more meeting before conference on Saturday, Oct. 4th, at Barberville Pioneer Settlement, where we will finish our piece.

### Central NE Region Meeting, Oct. 4

Where: Barberville Pioneer Settlement, 1776 Lightfoot Lane, Pierson FL, 32180

When: Oct. 4, 9 am - 4 pm

We will continue to work on our group project. The meeting will start at 9 am and lunch will be provided. Please check the FABA NE Facebook page for more info at [facebook.com/groups/381431599058683/](https://facebook.com/groups/381431599058683/), or contact William Thornton at [knifegsx@yahoo.com](mailto:knifegsx@yahoo.com). Thank you!

— **William Thornton,  
Central NE Coordinator**

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## Support our FABA business members

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### 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

Greg Hagen - Holland Anvils - Holland, MI  
John Elliot - Blacksmith Supply - Chester, VA  
Michael Oliver - Turn and Burn Metalworks - Lakeland, FL  
Mission San Luis - Tallahassee, FL

### IRON SPONSORS

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

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



### NW Region Meeting Report

Hello everyone and greetings from the Northwest Region. Our September meeting was held at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. We had 30 people sign in. We used the gym instead of the log cabin for our meal; other than that everything went according to plan.

We filled up the blacksmith shop with people using the forges and anvils, and others filled up the space in between with conversation and camaraderie.

I had asked for people to make tongs and put them in the raffle. At least one person did, thank you, Craig!

Everyone enjoyed the spaghetti we had for lunch. Suzy had made the sauce the day before and Pat helped us get the pasta cooked and served to the group. Ken and Bruce provided a deluxe salad and lots of others brought sides and desserts.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the meeting, including showing up and having a good time.

We're not going to have an October meeting as it would be in direct conflict with the conference. But we still have a lot going on!

The Fall season at Aunt Louise's Farm starts on the first weekend in October and runs through the second weekend in November. That last weekend at Aunt Louise's Farm will be our November meeting. I'll write more about it in the next month's Clinker Breaker.

In the meantime, every weekend in October and the first two in November, we will be set up at Aunt Louise's Farm for open forges-type blacksmithing. Aunt Louise's Farm is open 10am to 6pm on Saturdays and 2-6 pm on Sundays.

The equipment stays set up for the whole 6-weekend season and everyone is invited to come and participate as much they like. We provide the equipment and materials and lessons if you want them. Aunt Louise's even treats us to food and drinks while we are there.

This is such a good situation, I'm surprised we don't get more participation from the group. Maybe this year we will!

Speaking of a good situation, I'd like to remind everyone of the "Open Forges" we currently have going in our Northwest region.

Mike Bettinger is hosting open forges at his welding shop on Monday and Friday mornings. Sometimes they don't, though, because of doctor appointments and such, so people wanting to participate should contact Mike at 850-508-3592 to get on the notification list.

I haven't been to Mike's for open forges, but I hear they mostly do bladesmithing and often go out for lunch.

### North NE Meeting Schedule

October be a busy month finishing up the project, with meetings earlier in the month. The NNE meeting will be on Oct. 4th (same day as the Barberville meeting) and there will also be a catch-up workday on Sunday, Oct. 5th.

Conference is the following week and we'll get to see our friends from across the state.

Please check our FABA NE Facebook page for more info at [facebook.com/groups/381431599058683/](https://facebook.com/groups/381431599058683/), or contact [djhayes29@hotmail.com](mailto:djhayes29@hotmail.com). Thank you!

— Doug Hayes, NNE Region Coordinator



Jim Labolito is still hosting open forges on Mondays from 7pm to 9pm. Jim says anyone is welcome and everything is provided. His phone number is 850-567-6464.

Roger Bell (850-566-4629) is still hosting open forges at his house on Tuesday mornings. We usually get there between 8 and 9 a.m. and stay until noon or so. Sometimes we have lunch at Roger's.

The fourth and final place we have open forges is with Jeff Mohr in Crawfordville. Jeff has been hosting open forges since before he moved to Florida. It's always been on Wednesday evening, but we also tried some Thursday mornings, too. We're kind of shutting it down now as Jeff still travels to shows, and others (like me) often have a hard time making it there.

We're back to teaching classes at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement on first and third Saturdays of every month until the weather gets too hot again in May. These classes at Panhandle Pioneer Settlement are a good opportunity for club members to participate on many levels.

Less than a week until we have our yearly conference in Gainesville. I'm starting to get ready for it and I hope to see you there.

— John Pfund, NW Region Coordinator



## SE Region Report

It's finally getting a little cooler on the farm. Another new face came to check out what FABA is all about. We finished projects from last meeting. Everyone is excited about the upcoming conference. Looking forward to seeing all the great things that are happening this year.

The SE Region meets every third Saturday of the month at The Farm, 1566 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL. Just turn off Military at the pole painted red, white and blue, and follow your GPS or Google maps. It should get you there!

Get more info on the FABA SE Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/603288803747002](https://www.facebook.com/groups/603288803747002)

— Gary Becker, member



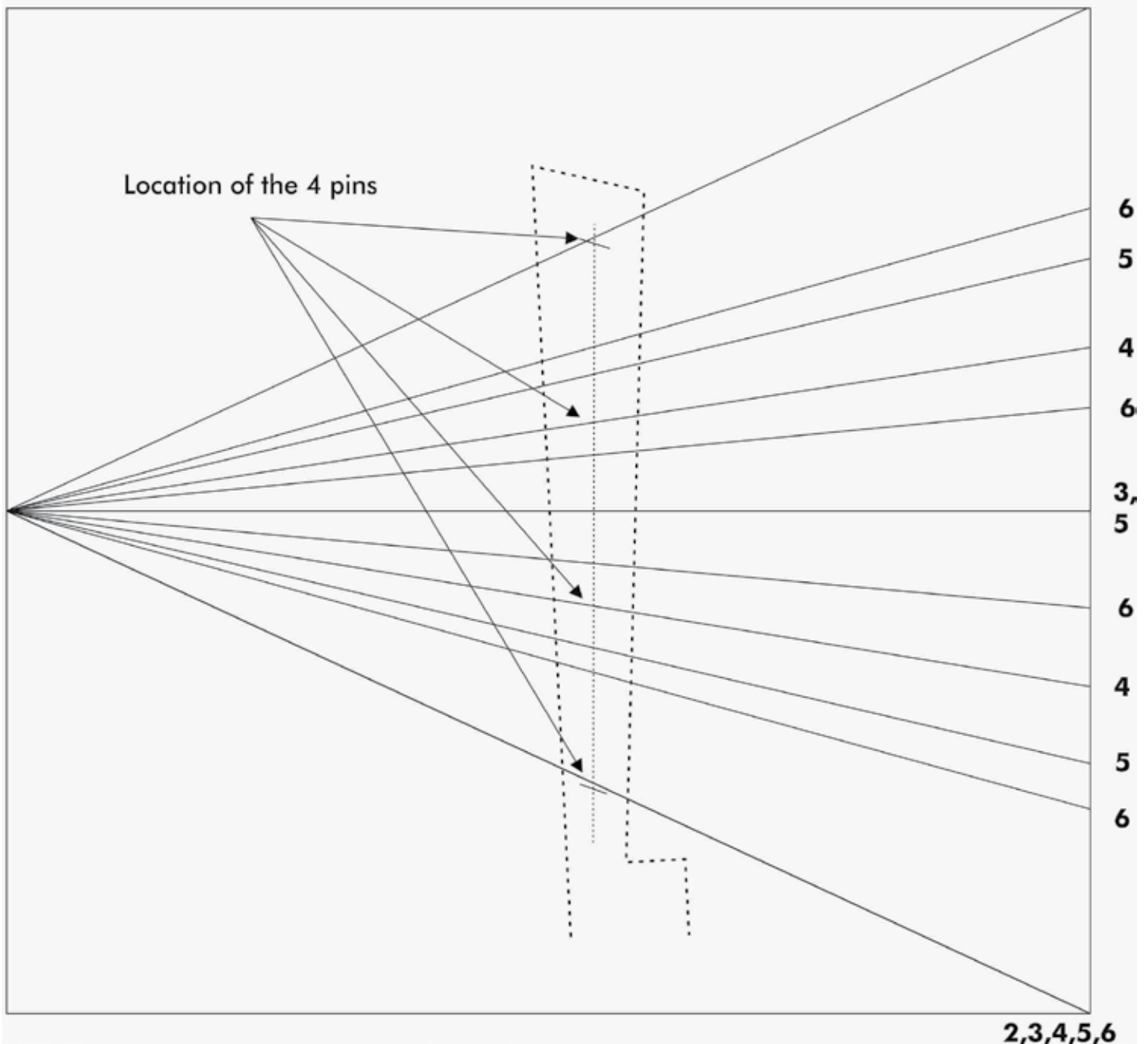
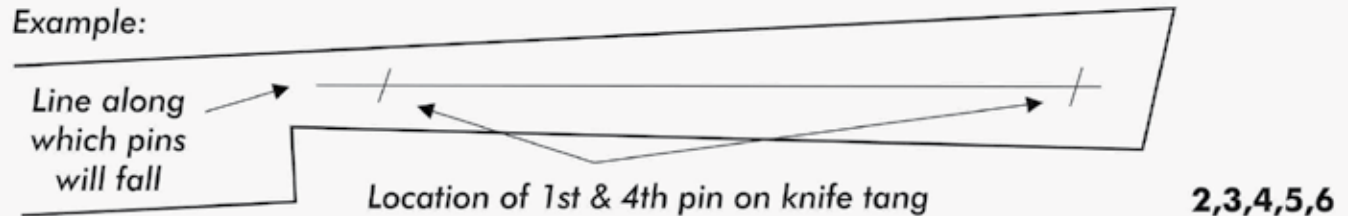


# Project Report

Dr. Steve Bloom: Ironflower Forge: [sabloom@ironflower.com](mailto:sabloom@ironflower.com)

I first shared this idea in the Clinker Breaker in 2008 and have kept a copy in my shop since then. On a tang, draw a line representing where the pins will fall. Mark where the first & last pins will be. Place the tang on the diagram such that the marks fall on the outer edge of the diagram & the line runs vertically. Mark the location of the intermediate pins according to how many pins are to be used. WAY easier than calculating the distance between pins and then transferring that to the tang!

Example:



# Forging a flower from tubing

By Kirk Sullens

I first saw this flower demonstrated by Don Asher, a Missouri blacksmith, at a conference of Blacksmith Association of Missouri (BAM) in the early 1990s. I've since used it for many decorative projects, including headboards for beds, fireplace screens, mirror frames, gates, and railings.

For this example, I'll use 1" square tubing, but round tubing works just as well. If you use a heavy walled tubing, you have more meat to spread the flower petals sideward, but thin walled tubing will give good results.

When working with tubing, it's important to close off the end you'll be holding, to keep the chimney effect from heating up your handle and possibly giving you a bad burn. If you cool the hot end of the tube in water without closing off the held end, boiling water will shoot up through your handle, scalding you. You can hammer the end of the tube closed,

cover it with tape, as is done here, or stuff a bit of rag into the end. It all just keeps hot air or water from escaping through the tube, thereby heating up the tube.

Use a spring fuller to neck down the tube at an appropriate distance from the end of the tube to make flower petals of the length your project requires. In this case, I'm making a dogwood blossom, so I'll leave about 1" of the tube sticking out beyond the fuller.

I heat the end of the tube for 3" or 4", so that I don't lose heat too fast while fullering. Since the material is thin, it loses heat quickly. I begin by fullering lightly on each of the four flat sides of the tube to set the spot to deepen the fuller. Hit lightly at first, to keep from crushing the tubing. If I were using round tube,



I would still fuller on four sides to make a square which will be rounded out later. If I just roll the tube, I wind up bulging it and then chasing the bulge around and around the tube instead of necking it down.

Once the fuller is set, I'll work it a little harder to neck it down. When the tube is fullered approximately halfway, then I'll begin to turn it on the diagonals to forge it to octagonal, and then to round, until I've got it worked down to the size I want. In this case, I want a 1/4" opening in the tube when I finish fullering this portion of the project.

Here you can see that the hole is not quite round, yet. At this point I can roll it to make it round. As the fuller gets deeper, the long sides of the tube are upset into a smaller and smaller space, and this makes the wall get thicker as the hole inside gets smaller. Because of this thickening, the tube no longer bulges as you roll it, so you can wind up with an almost perfectly round





opening. But the size of the opening matters more than whether it's perfectly round, since you're going to fuller it closed later in the project.

When the hole in the center is  $\frac{3}{16}$ " to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in size, it's time to cut the individual petals out. For this, square tube is handy for flowers with four petals, because cutting down the corners of the tube gives you four evenly matched petals. Hacksaw down until the cut is just past the corner into the fullered area. Don't cut too far, or the base of the petal will be too thin, and you'll risk breaking it off as you forge or adjust the flower.

Now get some sort of wire to make the stamen of the flower. I often use 14 gauge soft tie wire, which is commonly available at hardware stores. Fold the end of the wire at about 1" to 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and bend it back and forth until you have about 5 or 6 parallel runs of wire. I prefer odd numbers of stamen, but do what you think will look best for your project.

Close it up into a relatively tight bundle, and clip off the extra wire. I use needle-nosed pliers to push the wire into the hole in the center of the tube about halfway.



If the wire is spread slightly wider than the hole, then the springiness of the wire will hold it in place until you can fuller the opening down tightly to entrap it.

Heat and fuller the tube down until it holds the wire tightly. Any wiggle in the wire will cause problems later.

Once the wire is trapped, you can heat and gently open the petals and trim the wires to whatever length you think is appropriate for your project.

Once the wires are trimmed, it's time to texture the petals.

I use the cross pein of the hammer to texture the petals, and work on the side of the anvil, with the tubing tilted at an angle to the anvil face so





that the corner of the anvil reaches as far up into the fuller as possible. It will be easy to hit the wire stamens accidentally, so be careful. You can even move them to the far side of the flower from your texturing to protect them, if necessary.

Because the tube walls are so thin, they lose heat quickly, so you're likely to only be able to texture one petal per heat. Work your way around the flower until all petals are textured.

The texturing will also flatten and hide the seam inside the tube. The petals will widen as you texture them, which is usually desirable. Be sure to texture all the way to the edges of the petals.

Then, I adjust the stamens to be evenly spaced, and I get out my torch with a fine welding tip (0 or 00) with a soft flame, and point it directly at the end of each wire, in line with the wire, to melt the very end into a tiny blob, smoothing out the sharp end of the wire where you clipped it with wire cutters.

I use an angle grinder with a flap sander to round the corners off of the petals. You could also do it with files, or with a



round chisel. If I'm making a dogwood blossom, I also melt a small notch in the center of the end of each petal. This is not necessary or desirable for most flowers.

At this point you give shape to the petals. You can use a ball pein hammer and a piece of wood to cup them, by heating the petal and using the ball to hammer the petal into the wood. This will make a lot of smoke, but will cup the petal nicely.

Occasionally, I will cup a petal from the back, so that they don't all appear the same.

In particular, I'll do this when I plan to have multiple flowers together in a project. I don't want them to look "cookie cut." Finally, I will roll the very edge of the petal in the opposite direction of the cupping; not too much, but enough to keep the flower from having a "static" feel.

Some projects will call for a dash of color, and brushing the hot blossom with a brass brush will give a nice contrast to the dark steel.

Now you can cut the flower off of the piece of tubing, and examine the back to see how tightly the fuller holds the wire trapped.

You can weld a stem on the back, now, or do whatever is necessary to integrate the flower into your project.

You can make complex flowers (those with multiple layers of petals) by leaving a larger hole in the bottom layers of petals through which you can insert the fullered area of the top layer, and tack weld them together from the back before adding stem, branch, or leaf. In this way, I've made iris, daffodils, and orchids.



# 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](mailto:jgbutler@sprintmail.com).

Deadline for receipt is Dec. 31, 2025. 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 \$1000 may be split evenly amongst multiple candidates if deemed so by the FABA Board of Directors.

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## FABA Veterans Scholarship Fund Application

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).
  - a. 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 \$100 upon completion of the course, whichever is less. 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.
3. Awardees will be notified via email and USPS the status of their application approximately two weeks after the committee meets.

Get full scholarship and application information at [www.blacksmithing.org/scholarships](http://www.blacksmithing.org/scholarships)



# THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President  
114 Choctaw Cove  
Valparaiso, FL 32580



**October 2025**

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## FABA Officers

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| Program Chair  | Lisa Anne Conner | FABAprgramcoordinator@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](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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